

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF LYMINGTON, BROCKENHURST & MILFORD-ON-SEA

Our Lady of Mercy & St Joseph
132 High St, Lymington, SO41 9AQ

St Anne
Rhinefield Rd, Brockenhurst, SO42 7SR

St Francis of Assisi
Park Lane, Milford-on-Sea, SO41 OPT

Parish Contacts:

Parish Office: Maryhouse, 132 High Street, Lymington SO41 9AQ. **Telephone:** 01590 676696.

Parish Priest: Rev David Adams; **Parish Administrator:** Lisa Thurston. **Email & Newsletter Items:** lymbrock@sky.com.

Website: www.nfwp.org.uk; **Parish Blog:** www.lymrcchurch.blogspot.com. **Registered Charity No:** 246871/2

School: Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Primary School, Ramley Rd, Pennington, 01590 672711. **Head Teacher:** Kirstie Richards

Chairs of Parish Pastoral Councils: Mike Reynolds, Lymington; Henry Mellor, Brockenhurst; Anthony Kirke, Milford on Sea

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Cathy Pickles (Lym); Susan McCabe (Brock); Rita Ford (Mil).

For the Sacrament of the Sick or Holy Communion to the Sick or housebound: Contact the parish office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

after 9.30am Mass on Saturdays in Lymington or by appointment

Masses & Services for the coming week

DAY	DATE	TIME	SERVICE	CHURCH	LITURGY	INTENTION	P
SAT	25 th	6.00pm	Mass	Our Lady	4 th Sunday of Lent	All Mothers - Natural & Spiritual	DMA
SUN	26 th	9.00am	Mass	St Francis	4 th Sunday of Lent	as per Celebrant	PWR
SUN	26 th	10.30am	Mass	Our Lady	4 th Sunday of Lent	People of the Parish	DMA
SUN	26 th	6.00pm	Mass	St Anne	4 th Sunday of Lent	Florence Esme Morrison RIP F/M	DMA
MON	27 th	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady	of the 4 th Week of Lent (P)	as per Celebrant	PWR
TUE	28 th	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady	of the 4 th Week of Lent (P)	Our Lady & St Joseph's School	DMA
WED	29 th	9.30am	Word & HC	Our Lady	of the 4 th Week of Lent (P)	N/A	
WED	29 th	10.00am	Mass	St Francis	of the 4 th Week of Lent (P)	Leila McFarlane RIP	DMA
WED	29 th	10.00am	Mass	St Anne	of the 4 th Week of Lent (P)	as per Celebrant	PWR
THU	30 th	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady	of the 4 th Week of Lent (P)	For those who are unwell	DMA
FRI	31 st	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady	of the 4 th Week of Lent (P)	For those suffering famine	DMA
SAT	1 st	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady	of the 4 th Week of Lent (P)	Joseph & Flora Weld RIP F/M	DMA
SAT	1 st	6.00pm	Mass	Our Lady	5 th Sunday of Lent	Harry Newenham RIP F/M	DMA
SUN	2 nd	9.00am	Mass	St Francis	5 th Sunday of Lent	as per Celebrant	PWR
SUN	2 nd	10.30am	Mass	Our Lady	5 th Sunday of Lent	People of the Parish	DMA
SUN	2 nd	6.00pm	Mass	St Anne	5 th Sunday of Lent	The Baker Family F/M	DMA

Forthcoming Special Collections:

25th/26th March
Clergy Assistance Fund
(Obligatory)

1st/2nd April
EMERGENCY CAFOD COLLECTION

Adoration & Silent Prayer at

Our Lady & St Joseph

Wednesday Evenings

7pm - 7.40pm

Mar 29th & April 5th

& repeated on

Thursday Mornings

10am - 10.40am

Mar 30th & April 6th

Each session 40mins including 20 mins teaching

NEW SIGHT TO THE BLIND The Gospels give a number of stories of Jesus healing the blind and giving them new sight. The healings are never just ends in themselves but are always related to the healing of inner blindness.

What is inner blindness? Jesus refers to it in the Gospel passage for today, John 9:41. In Mark's Gospel Jesus voices his frustration with his disciples saying: "Do you still not perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes and fail to see? Do you have ears and fail to hear? ... Do you not yet understand?" (Mark 8: 17-21). So there is a physical blindness and there is also a spiritual, inner or mental blindness. The full mission of Jesus is to cure our whole blindness.

There is an old saying: None are so blind as those who do not want to see. This gets to the heart of our problem. There is a lot we do not want to see. There are disturbing things, challenging things, demanding things and we are tempted to look away, we would rather not know because otherwise we would have to respond. Change is unwelcome especially if we have a vested interest in the "system". We fear any threat to our comfort or security, to our status and our self-worth. It is a whole lot easier not to see!

Again in John's Gospel Jesus gives us a diagnosis of the fundamental problem. It is interesting how modern and, sort of psychological, his words are. "How can you believe when you accept glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the one who alone is God? (John 5:44). This is repeated in John 12:42: *Nevertheless many, even of the authorities, believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they did not confess it, for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved human glory more than the glory that comes from God.*

(continued in adjacent column)

This affects every area of our lives, how we see ourselves, our relationships, our work, our politics, our religious affiliations and our economics. How is it, we ask, that gifted politicians and economists, accountants and financial managers didn't see the coming of the economic crisis that shook the financial world 10 years ago? The simple answer is that they didn't want to see the problems. They were looking for profit, growth, business, the next big deal etc. Only a very few voiced concerns but these were ignored. A prophet of doom is never welcome at a party celebrating good times.

The problem with wilful blindness of course is that it keeps us in an inherently unreal world. We are driven more by dreams, fantasies, illusions and wishful thinking than by the whole truth of a situation. This is why trouble is never far ahead. Profound imbalances, dysfunctions, injustices, whether it is in countries, or organisations or institutions like churches, can only be sustained for so long before something begins to break down. We are witnessing this at present in Europe, America and the Middle East.

The Church is also in danger. Some people with power and influence had been directing it backwards, leading a retreat into the past. The windows opened by Vatican II had gradually been closed again. A hankering after lavish costumes & rituals, after male clerical power & privilege, a need for security & a strong, tribal identity were driving this trend. It exploits people's nostalgia, anxiety and a cultivated, over reliance on outer authority. Pope Francis has been challenging this clericalism and trying to move the Church forward again. He has his enemies!

When Jesus asks; (Lk. 12:57) "Why don't you judge for yourselves what is right"? Our response is: But we have no confidence in our capacity to listen to & hear the Holy Spirit within. This is not really about musical or linguistic aesthetics. Diversity & richness of expression are never a problem. It is about fear, fear of the new, of the complex and difficult. If we have to admit to goodness, holiness and truth "over there" we will have to open doors, start listening & changing. What then becomes of "our" goodness, holiness & truth, that made us think we were better than others? (DMA)

St Francis, Milford-on-Sea

Anniversaries this week: Douglas Victory Hutchinson (26th), Kenneth Webdale (27th), Piotr Rowinski, Patrick Debonaire Maunsell, Ellen Elizabeth "Bela" Wesborn (29th), Raymond John Salt (1st)

Sick & Housebound: Kathleen Connaughton, Mike Halle & Hilary Sendall.

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI – INTERNATIONAL TWINNING PROJECT: - CHARITY DINNER on Thursday 27th April 6.30pm for 7.00pm at the Raft Rocks, Milford on Sea. The price is £18 per person for a delicious African themed two course meal with £5 going towards our charities. (payment on the night please). There will also be a fabulous raffle to raise additional funds. Please complete the booking form available in church and hand back to Roger or Liz by 24 April 2017.

HOLY WEEK LITURGY. We, at St Anne's, are starting to practise the Triduum music on every Monday until Monday 10th April. As last year, we meet at Cedric & Paddy Lark's home: Greenoaks, Wilverley Rd at 2.30pm. We would welcome anyone who enjoys singing at Mass. You will be offered refreshments after the work!

St Anne, Brockenhurst

Anniversaries this week: Florence Morrison (26th), Mary Jackson, Jill Laloi (28th), Mary Westby, Bridget Holland (29th), Cordelia McFadden, Clement Brand (1st)

Lenten Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 10am and will continue at this same day and time throughout the weeks of Lent, until Holy Week begins. More details later.

Please continue in your prayers to remember: Anna Hubbard and Bliss Morris.

Should you like to see a fellow parishioner, or indeed, receive Holy Communion, please don't hesitate to make yourself known to Father David or anyone that you may know in the parish. We will be very glad to follow up on your request.

KATHLEEN CONWAY RIP: Kathleen was the sister of Angela McAuliffe RIP. Kathleen lived on the IOW. Her Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday, 4th April at 12 noon at St Anne's. She was a very devout Catholic and lovely gentle lady. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

New Sunday Coffee Rota: Those who kindly give time to this parish service, please collect your new list from the back of the church before you leave today. If you mislay your list, remember that there is a copy on the kitchen notice board and another in the black folder in the church porch. Thank you for your willing help with this friendly ministry.

Missio Red Boxes: The missions have sent a certificate of thanks and a batch of postcards for Red Box holders which are available in the church porch. Our parish total was £651.75 and the national total came to an amazing £3,039,531. It again demonstrates that the small donations in the Red Boxes can make a big difference.

Gift Aid Envelopes: As the new tax year approaches, it is time to pick up your Gift Aid Envelopes which will be available at the back of the church after Mass. If you donate by direct debit or standing order you may still wish to take the envelopes which can be used for special collections and Easter and Christmas Offertory. Thank you to everyone who so generously contribute in this way.

Easter Preparations. The choir are looking for as much extra support from anyone who cares to help, even if it is just for Holy week and Easter. Seasonal sickness isn't helping us, so we're hoping to be able to go ahead in the short time left to us. We would whole heartedly welcome you! Just turn up at Cedric and Paddy's home, 2.30pm on Mondays.

Warmth for the Homeless: Don't forget to check coat cupboards and wardrobes for warm clothing that you really don't need to go on storing. Bring it along to our collection box at the back of the church. All too many **are** in desperate need, not so far from here!

Newsletter items to Paddy at greenoaks@waitrose.com by Thursday please.

All Parishes

DIVINE MERCY DAY OF REFLECTION - Saturday 22nd April: In preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday, (23rd April) a day of reflection led by Father Des will be held at Saint Joseph's, 8 Lyndhurst Road, Ashurst, Southampton, SO40 7DU on Saturday 22nd April 2016. Coffee and Tea will be available from 10.00am for a 10.30am start and the day will finish at 4.00pm. The cost of the day: £20.00 (lunch and the celebration of Holy Mass is included). Contact Father Des either by email: fatherdes@icloud.com or phone 02380 292337 and leave a message.

Our Lady & St Joseph, Lymington

Anniversaries this week: Herbert Cull, Pauline Stevens, Rosemary Pepler (25th), Ethel Woodford (26th), Patrick Carroll, Antoinette Hacker (27th), William Mate (28th), Palatiano Russell (30th), Tiffany Read (31st)

Sick and Housebound: Terence & Betty Isles, Marie Smith, Celine McCay, Mary Aylward, Patricia Mate. Prayers please for Kirstie Richard's father, Norman Hughes, who is seriously ill.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: every Friday after Mass or at 10.00am

MOTHERING SUNDAY -We welcome and honour everyone who nurtures or cares for another on Mothering Sunday. We have a prayer for all mothers in the Prayers of Intercession, with a formal blessing at the end of Mass. At the 10.30am Mass, to honour the mother of Jesus, we will surround the statue of Mary with flowers and a Marian hymn will be sung at Mass. Our Children's Liturgy group will present a flower to all the ladies in the Church and we have a simnel cake for everyone to enjoy after Mass in Joseph's Place. The Last Supper is represented by the 13 eggs on the cake.

A DAY OF REFLECTION for Ministers of Holy Communion is on 8th April in Joseph's Place. There are a few more places available for those who serve in other Ministries i.e. Ministers of the Word, Choir, Welcome, Flowers, Servers etc. Places will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis. If you would like to attend the day please let Cathy Pickles know a.s.a.p.cathypyx@aol.com or text to 07715 842006

ADORATION, TEACHING & SILENT PRAYER: on **Wednesdays evenings** (from 7.00pm to 7.40pm) in Lent, Mar 29th & April 5th. The teaching will be repeated on the **Thursday mornings**, between 10am and 11am, Mar 30th & April 6th. The total time for Adoration in each session will be about 40 mins. There will be about 20 mins teaching on silent (contemplative) prayer and about 20 mins for the practice of silent prayer. The prayer time will conclude with the silent blessing & reposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

HOLY WEEK LITURGY. We, at St Anne's, are starting to practise the Triduum music on every Monday until Monday 10th April (unless we are all so good, we can stop sooner!). As last year, we meet at Cedric & Paddy Lark's home: Greenoaks, Wilverley Rd at 2.30pm. We would welcome anyone who enjoys singing at Mass. You will be offered refreshments after the work!

HISTORY TALK: On the 4th April, there will be a talk given by John Avery, Southampton Heritage Talks, on Mary Seacole. She went to the Crimean War to help British soldiers at her own expense. She was a Jamaican business woman. The talk will take place on Tuesday 4th April at approx 3pm in Joseph's Place.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB - NEXT EVENT: is our day trip to Exbury Gardens on Monday 10th April. We look forward to seeing you. For information or transport, please call Fran on 678525 or Audrey on 670158.

All Parishes

CAFOD – EMERGENCY APPEAL – FAMINE IN EAST AFRICA & THE YEMEN: An emergency special collection will be taken on the weekend of April 1st/2nd. There are still plenty of CAFOD envelopes that can be used for Gift Aided donations.

YOUNG PEOPLE -Your Voice Matters – Mega Youth Poll: In 2018, Pope Francis will invite Bishops and others to Rome to talk about Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment. At this gathering they will discuss how the Catholic Church can accompany young people in their faith and help them to hear God's call. If you are aged between 13-29 years old, the Catholic Church in England and Wales would like to hear from you, we want to hear what life is like, your thoughts on faith and how you connect with the Catholic Church. To help you tell us we have created a Youth Poll that you can access using this link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/parish-youth-poll> If you're not in this age group but would like to help, please encourage the young people you know to respond to this poll by giving them the link. For queries about the Youth Poll please email: synod2018@cbcew.org.uk.

ETERNAL WISDOM – Spring, New Shoots and Spiritual Growth: on Saturday, 22nd April, 10am-4pm. The day costs £27 and is inclusive of a simple lunch and a booklet to take away. For all the details visit: <http://www.wisdomhouseromsey.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Eternal-Wisdom-leaflet-pdf.pdf> To book please contact Melanie on 01794830206 or email reception@wisdomhouseromsey.co.uk

MARRIED COUPLES: A Marriage Encounter Weekend is an opportunity to enrich your marriage. Apart from mealtimes and the concluding Mass, the weekend is spent together as a couple. There are no group discussions. Here is a tremendous opportunity to enrich your relationship away from the stresses of everyday life. The next Weekend to be held in this area is at Park Place, near Fareham from 19 to 21 May. For further details please look on our website www.wwme.org.uk