

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH In NEW MILTON

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

15 Mount Ave, New Milton. BH25 6NT.

Parish priest: *Father George Ngwa*

Church opening hours **07.30- 17.00 ( during winter)**



**2nd Sunday of Lent Year B 25 February 2018**

## *WHAT THE SEASON OF LENT DOES FOR A CHRISTIAN.*

Reading through the writings of Tom Hoopes (*a writer, husband and Father of 9 children in Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas.*) I felt happy getting some spiritual treasures from a fellow Christian on what this Holy season of Lent can do for us again. Let us share his thoughts.

We Catholics have a bad reputation. The world thinks of us as largely irrelevant and mostly negative. Society has become so extreme in its embrace of various forms of immorality, we are largely absent from many sectors of society, except to protest them. So we are looked on as the grumpy family member who sits glumly in the corner, interrupting his moody silence only occasionally in order to make things awkward for the people who are trying to have fun.

If Catholics truly are the people we are made out to be, Lent would seem to be our glory season, the time when we can really kill the fun. So it is helpful to recall that Lent is proactive and not reactive, positive and not negative, offensive not defensive.

### **1. Lent makes you more beautiful.**

No, this does not mean that Lenten fasting can improve your looks; The Lenten season brings out the beauty of the human being.

Did you ever notice that Mother Teresa is both one of the ugliest women who ever existed, and one of the most beautiful women who ever existed? To describe her features, you have to use the same words you use to describe a troll: wrinkled, leathery, stooped, bags under her eyes, an oversized nose etc. But no one who ever met her described her as “ugly.” She was suffused with a radiance that made you want to spend more time with her. She was filled with a deeper beauty than her features could account for.

Catholics believe soul and body are one, and that means, by uniting with God in prayer, everyone can be beautiful. The features of Mother Teresa didn't define her. What defined her was the “form” given them by her spirit. There is no one more attractive than someone who has turned their body, whatever body they have, into a vessel for a beautiful spirit.

We Catholics know this phenomenon is not confined to Mother Teresa. The parish lady who prays in the back of the church has a smile that can stop you in your tracks; the children coming back from the Sunday children's liturgy with joy in their eyes are delightful to see. If we pray, and really connect with Jesus Christ, we can get some of that same wisdom and innocence which, after all, they get from him.

### **2. Fasting means you don't have to settle.**

We are all sadly familiar with the feeling of disappointment. It is one of the defining feelings of our time. If we are poor we are disappointed because we fill our minds with images of wealthy happiness that are unattainable. If we are rich we are disappointed because nothing ever lives up to the expectations we have for it. We all want our lives to be better, bigger and more, but we are all sadly aware of life's giant lack.

When our soul is too big for this world we have two options: We can shrink our souls to the size of life's pleasures, or we can expand our awareness to the size of our soul. The more we seek futilely after material pleasures, the more we start to settle; we accept a modified joy, a compromised happiness, we figure “good enough” is as good as anything ever gets. Fasting in Lent is like shocking our system to make us remember that

life's pleasures are not all that there is. There is something greater, something that truly satisfies; Jesus found it in the desert. We find it in Church.

### **3. Lent gives you the one greatest happiness available to mankind.**

It is central paradox of life that the more we try to make ourselves happy, the less happy we are and the more we try to make someone else happy, the more happy we are. The more you grab at pleasure, the more it slips through your fingers; the more you give it away, the more it fills your heart. This works in every aspect of our life. In sports, seeking your personal glory and not the team's and all glory will fade; give glory to the teammates and your personal glory will grow. This isn't the reign of selfishness — this is "the law of the gift." "Man finds himself only by making himself a sincere gift to others," (cf. Vatican II. Lumen Gentium) By proscribing almsgiving in Lent, the Church is sharing the secret to happiness.

So as you live out your spirituality this Lent in prayer, fasting and almsgiving, don't think small and don't think negatively. You can easily go through Lent adding a hurried daily rosary, begrudgingly giving up wine, and searching for the food item in the supermarkets, but that kind of Lent is not spiritually profitable to anyone. Pray to become friends with Christ and become his light in the world, fast to make nothing but God satisfy you; and give so you can take the joy the angels do in the happiness of others.

Father George Ngwa

**Lenten lunches** will take place in the hall each Friday in Lent between 12-1.30. They will consist of soup, rolls, butter and cheese. Cost £3.50. Proceeds will go to the Parish funds. Thank you, Robin and team.

#### **From Bishop Philip on diocesan website.**

##### **Lent Fast Day was on Friday (second collection this weekend)**

Family Fast Day for Lent 2018 took place on Friday 23rd February. I encourage you to support this appeal both financially, if you are able, but also through **prayer**. This Lent CAFOD are working to combat malnutrition in Zimbabwe. Hunger can kill children, but CAFOD is providing seeds, fencing and farming training for families and communities so that everyone has enough to eat. This Lent your donations to our **Family Fast Day Appeal** will be matched by the UK Government. This means that your donations will be doubled, up to a total of £5 million, making double the difference, but your fundraising can only be doubled during the appeal period so please donate between 13th February and 12th May 2018.

##### **EWTN reflections from Walsingham**

I should like to draw your attention to this new EWTN GB series of Lenten Reflections from the Basilica of Our Lady, Walsingham - the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady. ( Available through the website)

##### **Adoremus - Liverpool 7th-9th September 2018**

The Bishops of England and Wales have called a Eucharistic Congress, *Adoremus* (which means 'let us adore'), to take place from **7th – 9th September 2018 in Liverpool** to which they expect some 10,000 Catholics to attend.

*Adoremus* will consist of:

- ◆ A one-day Theological Symposium on Friday 7th September. Admission will be by ticket only at a cost of £40. Canon Mervyn Tower, Canon David Oakley, and Sr Margaret Atkins will all give Key note speeches.
- ◆ A stage led conference on Saturday 8th September, at the Echo Arena, Liverpool for which admission will also be by ticket only at a cost of £40. The Key note speaker will be Bishop Robert Barron an American prelate of the Catholic Church, author, theologian and evangelist, known for his Word on Fire ministry.
- ◆ A Eucharistic Procession in the city of Liverpool on Sunday 9th September.

Our Diocese has a limited ticket allocation. It is essential that you **book your tickets NOW by emailing [congress@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:congress@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or phoning 07780 221686.**

**The deadline for ticket applications is Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March!**

## Chrism Mass Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March

A coach will be leaving from this Church in the morning of 27<sup>th</sup> March from the Hall car park and those wishing to join in the Celebration by Bishop Philip and the priests of the diocese at Portsmouth Cathedral please contact Catherine d'Espagnac, who is kindly organising it again this year, on 01425 615349.

**PALS MONTHLY OUTING - Wednesday Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> Please be at pick-up points for coach leaving - M.H.**  
**8:40 B. 8:45** Enjoy your day! Queries to Jane Gow -510 026

### Training Days for First Holy Communion Catechists

The **Formation for Mission** team is offering 2 training days for anyone interested in the new First Holy Communion programme, '*I want to make my Home in you*' which I commend to you and recently now published by Redemptorist Publications.

This programme integrates evangelisation and catechesis through the use of Scripture and beautiful silhouettes. Come and join us to discover the programme and receive training:

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March**, in Holy Family Church, Redbridge Hill, Southampton SO16 4PL, from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm for a morning session.

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May**, in St Bede's Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX, from 9.30 am (beginning with Mass) to 3.00 pm.

The material for the programme will be available for purchase at both these days.

E-mail Sr Hyacinthe: [ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) if you would like to attend either of these days. It is open to anyone interested even if not teaching at present. Johanna is going on 17<sup>th</sup> so there will be company.

**The Women's World Day of Prayer is on March 2nd. 2.30pm** It is a great opportunity for an ecumenical get together. It is being held in our Church so please can you attend if able. We cannot have an empty church!. The theme this year is that All God's Creation is Very Good!

PS I have only had 3 offers of help and not sure if anyone is offering any refreshments. So I know who is available there is a notice in the sacristy on the cleaning cupboard door for you to fill in if you can help on the day. I will need someone to do the collection as well. Thank you very much for your generosity as always.  
Johanna

### REMINDER – PILGRIMAGE TO ISRAEL AND JORDAN

There are a few places left on our Parish pilgrimage which departs on 1<sup>st</sup> June returning on the 10<sup>th</sup> June. The full itinerary is on the noticeboard at the back of the church, just by the Confessional. All are welcome and we already have different denominations joining us.

During this Lenten period you may like to give some thought to Christ's journey and think about the Holy Places we plan to visit as well as celebrating two feasts.

Please contact Fr George, or Johanna, on 01425 614968 or Katherine Dempster 01425 611643, to reserve a place. We are holding a pre-pilgrimage meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March if you are interested.

#### Basics Bank

As a Parish we are extremely generous with our donations to the Basics Bank. This note is to say that your contributions continue to be amongst the largest of all the parishes who give to this worthy cause, the organisers frequently comment on this and offer their sincere thanks.

We welcome all donations large or small, (but not fresh produce please) so from the team who deliver from Our Lady of Lourdes, Thank you.

God bless you all for your thoughtfulness and kindness.

Katherine Dempster

### June Savage RIP

June sadly passed away on Saturday so please keep all her family in your prayers.

Her Requiem Mass will be on 8<sup>th</sup> March at 11.00am. There will be no Mass at 10.00am. Please put the date in your diary.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent Year B 25 February 2018

<b>Sunday</b>	25	February	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent	<b>18.00</b> Vigil Mass – <i>Elza RIP</i> <b>10.00</b> Holy Mass – <i>Chris Brennan RIP</i>	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass
<b>Monday</b>	26	February		No Mass	
<b>Tuesday</b>	27	February	of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> week of Lent	18.30 Stations of the Cross <b>19.00</b> Holy Mass – <i>priestly vocations and all seminarians</i>	7 pm Tap classes in hall
Wednesday	28	February	of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> week of Lent	18.30 Stations of the Cross <b>19.00</b> Holy Mass - <i>John Williams RIP 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary</i>	Confessions after Mass
<b>Thursday</b>	1	March	St David	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction <b>10.00</b> Holy Mass – <i>Thomas Sheehan - healing</i>	Rosary intention for peace in the world
<b>Friday</b>	2	March	of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> week of Lent	09.30 Stations of the Cross <b>10.00</b> Holy Mass – June Savage RIP	Confessions after Mass Lenten lunch 12.00-13.30 Cost £3.50
<b>Saturday</b>	3	March	of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> week of Lent	09.30 Divine Mercy chaplet veneration of the relic of Sr Faustina <b>10.00</b> Holy Mass – <b>18.00</b> Vigil Mass –	Confessions after morning Mass & before Vigil Mass
<b>Sunday</b>	4	March	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent	<b>10.00</b> Holy Mass – <i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass

**Prayer to St Michael, said at the end of Masses.** St Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

Current Month live streaming Totals

Number of Viewers: 3225

Number of Unique 1080

Viewers:

Total Time Viewed: 898 Hours

Collections 17/18 February	
loose	£ 401.21
envelopes	£220.60
Thank you for your continued support	

	Sat 24 Feb	Sun 25 Feb	Sat 3 Mar	Sun 4 Mar
<b>Reader</b>	A Nash	M Tanner	B Dempster	S Ramsay
	P Thorpe	J Thomas	M Newland	J Thomas
<b>EMHC</b>	J Coyne	J Kurian	T Gearey	J Nichols
	M Newland	M Tanner	B Dempster	M Buckland
	N Coyne	A Joseph	K Dempster	S Salinger

New rotas are available don't forget yours. Weekday masses rota is in sacristy

**Parish priest: Father George Ngwa**

email: [gngwa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:gngwa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) emergency mobile: **07475753040**

**Parish office: 01425 614968** Hall Booking via Parish Office

[ololnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:ololnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Secretary: Johanna Thomas Wed/ Fri 10.45-12.00.

Our Parish Live streaming: <http://churchservices.tv/newmilton>

Website: [www.nfwp.org.uk](http://www.nfwp.org.uk)

**Safeguarding: Katherine Dempster Tel: 01425 611643 email: [katherine.dempster@btinternet.com](mailto:katherine.dempster@btinternet.com)**

**\*\*\*\*\*Mass change this week. On Wednesday it is in the evening not morning. \*\*\*\*\***