

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 0PT

Parish Contacts:

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

Parish Priest: Rev David Adams; **Parish Administrator:** Lisa Thurston. **Email:** lymbrockmil@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Website: www.nfw.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. Exec. Head: Gerida Montague
Chairs of Parish Pastoral Councils: Mike Reynolds, Lymington; Ian Holden, Brockenhurst; Anthony Kirke, Milford on Sea
Parish Safeguarding Representative: Vanessa Dugdale (Lym); Susan McCabe (Brock); Liz White (Mil).
PA to Pastoral Co Ordinator & Health & Safety Co ordinator : Linda Guilding; **Health & Safety Reps St Francis:** Colin Stack & John Parry . **For the Sacrament of the Sick or Holy Communion to the Sick or housebound:** Contact the parish office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

If needed urgently contact Fr David at the parish office.

Week: 5th April 2020 - 12th April 2020 ALL PUBLIC MASSES & SERVICES SUSPENDED

DAY	DATE	SERVICE	LITURGY	INTENTION	P
SUN	5 th	Mass	Palm Sunday Yr A (P)	Maureen Mary Gaillet RIP Anniv	DMA
MON	6 th	Mass	Proper of Holy Week (P)	John & Doris Christy RIP	DMA
TUE	7 th	Mass	Proper of Holy Week (P)	Hanora Teresa Dunne RIP F/M	DMA
WED	8 th	Mass	Proper of Holy Week (P)	Canon John Hally RIP F/M	DMA
THU	9 th	Mass	Mass of the Lord's Supper (8pm)	Michael Halle RIP Anniv	DMA
FRI	10 th	Liturgy	Commemoration of the Lord's Passion (3pm)	N/A	DMA
SAT	11 th	Mass	Easter Vigil Mass (8pm)	For the People of the Parish	DMA
SUN	12 th	Mass	Easter Sunday Yr A (W) (10am)	For the People of the Parish	DMA

JUDGMENT DAY

(Reflection by Fr Ron Rolheiser OMI, 9th March 2020. Fr Ron is an internationally acclaimed spiritual writer & retreat giver.)

We all fear judgment. We fear being seen with all that's inside us, some of which we don't want exposed to the light. Conversely, we fear being misunderstood, of not being seen in the full light, of not being seen for who we are. And what we fear most perhaps is final judgment, the ultimate revelation of ourselves. Whether we are religious or not, most of us fear having to one day face our Maker, judgment day. We fear standing naked in complete light where nothing's hidden and all that's in the dark inside us is brought to light.

What's curious about these fears is that we fear both being known for who we are, even as we fear not being known for who we really are. We fear judgment, even as we long for it. Perhaps that's because we already intuit what our final judgement will be and how it will take place. Perhaps we already intuit that when we finally stand naked in God's light we will also finally be understood and that revealing light will not just expose our shortcomings but also make visible our virtues.

That intuition is divinely-placed in us and reflects the reality of our final judgment. When all our secrets are known our secret goodness will also be known. Light exposes everything. For example, here's how the renowned poet and spiritual writer, Wendell Berry, foresees the final judgment: "I might imagine the dead waking, dazed into a shadowless light in which they know themselves altogether for the first time. It is a light that is merciless until they accept its mercy; by it, they are at once condemned and redeemed. *It is Hell until it is Heaven.* Seeing themselves in that light, if they are willing, they see how far they have failed the only justice of loving one another. And yet, in suffering the light's awful clarity, in seeing themselves within it, they see its forgiveness and its beauty and are consoled."

In many ways, this wonderfully captures it: When, one day, we stand in the full light of God, stripped naked in soul, morally defenseless, with everything we have ever done exposed, that light will, I suspect, indeed be a bit of hell before it turns into heaven. It will expose all that's selfish and impure inside us and all the ways we have hurt others in our selfishness, even as it will expose its opposite, namely, all that's selfless and pure inside us. That judgment will bring with it a certain condemnation even as it brings at the same time an understanding, forgiveness, and consolation such as we have never known before. That judgment will be, as Berry suggests, momentarily bitter but ultimately consoling.

The one nuance that I would add to Berry's idea is a something taken from Karl Rahner. Rahner's fantasy of our judgment by God after death is very similar to Berry's, except that, for Rahner, the agent of that judgment will not so much be God's light as it will be God's love. For Rahner, the idea is not so much that we will be standing in an unrelenting light that sears and pierces through us, but rather that we will be embraced by a love so unconditional, so understanding, and so gracious that, inside that, we will know instantly all that's selfish and impure inside us even as we know all that's pure and selfless. St Therese of Lisieux used to ask God for forgiveness with these words: "Punish me with a kiss!" Judgment day will be exactly that. We will be "punished" by a kiss, by being loved in a way that will make us painfully aware of the sin within us, even as it lets us know that we are good and loveable.

For those of us who are Roman Catholics, this notion of judgment is also, I believe, what we mean by our concept of purgatory. Purgatory is not a place that's separate from heaven where one goes for a time to do penance for one's sins and to purify one's heart. Our hearts are purified by being embraced by God, not by being separated from God for a time so as to be made worthy of that embrace. As well, as Therese of Lisieux implies, the punishment for our sin is in the embrace itself. Final judgment takes place by being unconditionally embraced by Love. When that happens to the extent that we're sinful and selfish that embrace of pure goodness and love will make us painfully aware of our own sin and that will be *hell until it is heaven.*

As a lyric by Leonard Cohen puts it: *Behold the gates of mercy, in arbitrary space, and none of us deserving the cruelty or the grace.* He's right. None of us deserves either the cruelty or the grace we experience in this world. And only our final judgment, the embrace of unconditional love, God's kiss, will make us aware both of how cruel we've been and how good we really are. *(for other reflections by Fr Ron Rolheiser OMI visit www.ronrolheiser.com)*

St Francis, Milford-on-Sea

Anniversaries this week: Samuel Randle (7th), Mother Mary Albert, Karl Heinrich Jansen, Michael John Peter Halle (9th), Anthony John Haywood (10th), William Murray (11th).

Sick & Housebound: Sr Rosaleen, Josie Warren, Richard Blacklock, Daphne Jones, Colin Stack, Joan Lloyd, Marjorie Horton, Sarah Bell, Alison Doubleday & Sean McVeigh.

MILFORD SECULAR PARISH COUNCIL has already set up a scheme to help with connecting helpers to isolators in Milford. If you are in isolation and need help they can be contacted on: Milford 644410.

ST FRANCIS WHATSAPP GROUP: Join on your smartphone or tablet. You need to download the WHATSAPP app (free) and then use the link below: You can add photos too if you want: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Gz27ZrWk8f9BWPoRbOuirO> Keep well in your isolations! Anthony

St Anne, Brockenhurst

Anniversaries this week: Michael George Lane (6th), Joseph Edward Walsh Woods, Dorothy Fanny Howland (9th)

Sick and Housebound: Please keep in your prayers: Sr Rosaleen, Helen Pignatelli, Edelweiss James, Sean Dunn, Linda Reardon and Mary Byrne.

Coronavirus & St Anne's – Message from the Parish Pastoral Council: We are working with **Brockcare**, a group run by the Anglican Church in Brockenhurst, which is coordinating help throughout the village. For parishioners who are living in Sway, a similar group has been set up, so we can ensure you get the help you need. If you have to self-isolate, we can arrange for shopping to be dropped off at your door, and/or for someone to keep in contact with you by telephone, in order to maintain a social link and to offer reassurance.

Here are the relevant contact details:

St Anne's: Ian and Aude – 623408; Madeleine and Paul - 622360

Brockcare: St Saviour's Church Office - 624584

(Open 10.00 - 12.00 Mon to Friday. At other times please leave a message and your phone number and someone will get back to you ASAP)
Joyce Kolaczowski (Brockcare) - 623329

FROM FR CHARLIE IN MALAWI: Greetings from Malawi! I hope you are keeping safe and getting used to all the enforced changes as a result of Covid 19. We are indeed living in extraordinary times. Let's hope and pray that the corona virus battle will soon be won although it seems things might get worse before they get better! Attached are some photos (**SEE THEM ON THE WEBSITE**) of the new classroom block at St Paul's Primary School. The block of classrooms was completed last Wednesday. Not sure when they will begin using them because all the schools and higher institutions of education are closed because of Covid 19. Thank you all once again for having supported this project in such a big way. I'm very grateful. I pray you all remain safe and that you take good care of yourselves. Please God the situation will soon begin to get better. Wishing you all a very happy Easter. God bless, Charlie smm.

100 CLUB: Feb winner: Dermot Lyons - £30; March winner: Josie Greenhalgh - £80. Congratulations everyone.

Any items for the newsletter to anna@boylemellor.co.uk to arrive EARLIER PLEASE - WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIME

All Parishes

CHECK OUR WEBSITE: www.nfwp.org.uk for more from Pope Francis, Cardinal Vincent Nicholls and our own Bishop Philip and for Masses on the internet.

PALM SUNDAY: Why not put a branch on the door of your house to express our connection with all Christians as we enter into the holiest of weeks. We may be physically isolated but not separated. We are united as the Body of Christ. We are the Church.

PRAYER REQUESTS: - phone or email the parish office & we will put them on our website.

HELPLINE FOR THE FRAIL OR VULNERABLE: from Hampshire County Council, available now to provide information and advice as well as practical support, for frail or vulnerable Hampshire residents. This system is working in conjunction with New Forest District Council and Lymington and Pennington Town Council for residents in our area.

The Coronavirus Hampshire Helpline -

Hantshelp4vulnerable - is 0333 370 4000.

The helpline is available seven days a week, from 9am to 5pm, and is for vulnerable people who do not have support from families, friends or their local community, and who need urgent assistance with practical issues.

Our Lady & St Joseph, Lymington

Anniversaries this week: Bishop Anthony Emery (5th), John Horan, Brian Webb, Mary Flood (6th) Bernard Turnbull, Lilian Cole, Martin James Gourlay (7th), George Mould (8th), Peter Brennan (10th), Gladys Bremner, Phillip Charles Lance Mc Cormack (11th)

Sick and Housebound: Jane Rayner, Sr Rosaleen, Gerry Heneghan, Anne Nyland, Deacon Anthony Cairns, Johnny Flood, Simone Cluett, Ramona Heath-Saunders, Concetta Losanno, Mai Wilson, Den Walker, Brian Choules, Len Harley, Marie Smith, Patricia Mate.

Hilary Hartley-Ayres RIP: one of our parishioners for many years, who has just died in the Birches Rest Home in Totton. I'm sure she will be remembered by some of our long-standing parishioners, because she was quite a character! she died quietly and peacefully at the Birches. The Church in Totton have been wonderful for all the years she was in the Birches. (from John Stephenson)

EASTER EGGS UPDATE: Should it happen that we can't distribute the Easter Eggs to lucky prize winners before they pass their "sell by date" (the eggs that is, not the prize winners!!), the eggs will be donated in good time to the New Forest Basics Bank. I hope that is OK with the generous donors.

BUILDING FUND UPDATE: so far we have 41 5yr pledges yielding £88K incl. Gift Aid; Total in Bank as at 02/04/20: £34,434.09.

BASICS BANK BUILDING IS VERY NEAR COMPLETION: We have a new fence & gate at the top of the church carpark (thanks to NFBB & Ray Stote) & the fir tree has been crown lifted.

All Parishes

SUPPORT FOR THE VULNERABLE & ISOLATED: Please can we all try to keep in touch with one another, especially those who are on their own, using phone calls, texts & emails. Practical help & support, if needed should be offered by those who are not high risk to themselves or others but hygiene and social distancing must always be observed. Help should only be accepted from persons who are known to you or who have been authenticated by someone you know. Do not answer the door to strangers and let all phone calls go to answer machine or voice mail unless you know and trust the caller. If anyone needs help and support please ring or email the parish office 01590-676696

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE PARISHES: For many of you this crisis will involve financial hardship and I do understand that. But, this crisis will also significantly affect the upkeep of our parishes. I'd like to **thank those who are continuing to contribute** by Standing Order or Direct debit. For those who use the envelope scheme or give cash each Sunday, perhaps you will consider setting aside an amount each week that you can afford. You could put the contribution in a marked envelope and keep it until such a time when it can be handed in. If you wish to contribute by Standing Order or Direct Debit instead please contact the parish office. Recent special collections: **Clergy Assistance Fund** (for sick & retired clergy) & the **Holy Places**.

EVERYONE IS DISPENSED FROM EASTER DUTY

OBLIGATIONS: Pope Francis & Cardinal Vincent have said that as it is not possible or advisable to access a priest we should pray to God directly expressing our sorrow for sin and our desire for forgiveness and then trust confidently in God's mercy. **See our website for full details.** Fr David will be available on the phone for counselling and reassurance. He will also be on call to administer the Anointing of the Sick in urgent cases.

FUNERALS: These are to take place only at the graveside or the crematorium with only close family in attendance. A more appropriate Memorial Mass or Service can take place at a later date when conditions allow. (For further details on all of the above go to the parish website).

MASSES ON THE INTERNET: You can find many daily Masses from different Catholic parishes available on the internet. Go to www.churchestv.com; www.churchservices.tv; www.mcnmedia.tv

Also here: <https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/holy-mass-online>. For Sunday Mass with Fr Denis McBride, Redemptorist scholar