

# 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 –



**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR "B" 17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2021**

## CALLED AND CHOSEN BY GOD

Our first reading today gives us the opportunity to meditate on the call of Samuel. This call which was rather dramatic than sensual was realised by Eli the Priest. The priest understanding that the Lord was calling the young boy helped him to answer the call. Thus, Samuel was called and chosen by God for a mission to be entrusted to him. The phrase “called and chosen by God” is used in a variety of ways. The Bible is clear that there are people chosen by God to do specific things. This simply means at some point God made the choice for something to happen according to His perfect wisdom, foreknowledge, and will. Because of this, God’s choices are perfect and will result in the fulfilment of His perfect will.

### **"What does it mean to be called by God?"**

The Bible often mentions people being called by God for a specific ministry or service. Paul was called by God: “Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God” (Romans 1:1; cf. 1 Corinthians 1:1). The Old Testament priests were called by God to their special work (Hebrews 5:4; cf. Exodus 28:1). To be called by God is to be chosen by God for certain purposes. When a person is aware of that call and surrenders to it, he or she starts living out God’s purpose for him or her (see Jeremiah 1:4–5; Isaiah 49:1; Galatians 1:15).

God called the entire nation of Israel to be “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Exodus 19:6). The church, redeemed by the blood of Jesus, is similarly called: “You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth” (Revelation 5:10). God’s calling of Israel was to show through them, God’s salvation to the entire world. But because Israel rejected that call and followed idols, they never flourished in the way God had intended them to be. His call now is to all those redeemed by the blood of Jesus to manifest to our world God’s mercy, grace, and salvation (Hebrews 12:14; Matthew 5:16).

God is far more involved with His universe than some would like to think. Even though He has given humankind the freedom to make choices, His choices have already been made and God’s gifts and his call to us all are irrevocable (Romans 11:29). We are called by God to salvation and this call to salvation involves conforming us “to the image of his Son. Those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified” (Romans 8:29–30).

Being called we are further called to grow in Christian virtue and serve God by good works; God gives us spiritual gifts to help us in our call to service. The Holy Spirit distributes the gifts as He sees fit and then calls us into a field of service that utilizes those gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1–11). For example, a young man may begin to have a burden for a particular foreign nation and its people. That burden was placed there by the Lord as part of His calling. The young man then begins to study that nation and enrolls in a missions-focused school. Once on the mission field, he is willing to suffer hardships and separation from family and friends because the call of God is his greatest motivation. Paul wrote, “I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel” (1 Corinthians 9:16). God had placed a call on Paul’s life from the moment he was converted (Acts 9:15–16). That call became his motivating force.

Jonah was called by God but refused to surrender to that call; instead, he ran the other way (Jonah 1:1–3). The Lord pursued His disobedient servant until Jonah submitted himself to the call. Knowing of Jonah’s disobedience beforehand, God had already prepared a great fish to swallow him and spit him out when he was humbled enough to repent (Jonah 1:17—2:1). After Jonah was back on dry land, the word of the Lord came to him again with the same call, giving him another chance to obey. This time, Jonah did. God is patient with His children, working with us until we see things aright.

Every Christian has a calling on his or her life. We were designed before the foundation of the world to be His workmanship, glorifying Him as we bring forth the fruit He desires (Ephesians 1:4–5; 2:10). God’s specific call to service usually begins with a burden for a particular need that relates to the kingdom of God. Some are called to the political arena or to end human trafficking. Others are called to be pastors, teachers, readers, acolytes, Bible scholars, or to a host of other avenues that honour the Lord. Each one utilizes the gifts the Spirit has given.

We discover our call to a specific area of service by walking closely with the Lord, practicing obedience, and offering ourselves as living sacrifices. As we develop sensitivity to His voice, we move forward with what we know. When our hearts are set on obeying the Lord, He confirms His call in a variety of ways with spiritual gifts and fruitful results. In following the call of God, we must be sure to obey His instructions in Scripture. When we are faithful to the call to obedience, He can call us to more specific areas (see Luke 16:10).

### **How is it possible to be called but not chosen?**

Some people hear the gospel message, but Satan, “the wicked one,” snatches it away before they can even begin to process it. Some people hear it and receive it joyfully but without conviction, only to let go of it as soon as it creates a conflict in their lives. Others hear it but neglect to give it the time and attention it needs to thrive. The seed only grows in those God the Father is calling *and* who choose to follow His way of life. In other words, not everyone hears the gospel of the Kingdom. And of those who hear it, not everyone understands it. And of those who understand it, not everyone accepts it. Many are called, but few are chosen.

Not everyone who heard this parable understood what Jesus was talking about. Although the entire multitude heard the same words, different reactions were taking place in those who heard the message. Some did not “hear” the call. Some *did* hear, but chose not to respond to the call. It

is important to note that within the context of God's plan of salvation for humankind, He is not opening everyone's mind to the truth at the same time. **Fr. George Ngwa**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **HOLY MASS BOOKING ON LINE DURING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

As the whole country is now in Lock Down it will still be necessary to restrict the number of parishioners in Church for each Mass to approximately 30, which means that you will need to book your place in advance. We now have an "on-line" booking system in place, which you can find by going onto our website at <https://www.nfwp.org.uk> - (scroll down left-hand column to CORONAVIRUS: Welcome to Our Lady of Lourdes, New Milton and click on CORONAVIRUS: How to book a seat for Mass). Alternatively the Links for all Sundays in January are as follows:-

January 24th - <https://forms.gle/oZDYva7FzioTTrRT7>

January 31st - <https://forms.gle/QcroYz8wZERbBCKu7>

If anybody does not have the facility to book on line, would they please contact Lizzie in the Parish Office on either a Wednesday or Friday between 12:00 noon and 3:00 p.m. Obviously, with the escalation of Covid cases nationally, things might change at any time, so we will try to keep you updated as soon as is possible!

### **2<sup>nd</sup> COLLECTION FOR THE CATHEDRAL (OBLIGATORY) – WEEKEND OF 23<sup>RD</sup> & 24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**

Next weekend we take the annual second collection in support of your Cathedral in Portsmouth Appeal envelopes will be available at all masses for those who do not have gift aided planned giving envelopes for second collections. This collection is the only support our Cathedral receives from the wider Diocesan family. Due to the lockdown and restrictions being imposed on many people travelling, a 'Give as you Live' page has also been created to enable you to donate online at:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/cathedral-annual-appeal>

Understandably, we all are aware that these are difficult times for us all, but please give generously to support your cathedral, gift aiding your donation wherever possible.

**GIFT AID** This is a good way of giving to our Parish because, provided you are a Tax payer, your donation will attract an extra 25%. If you are interested in joining the scheme, please contact Lizzie in the Office.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT during the COVID PANDEMIC.** Whether or not you are a Gift Aider and you would like to continue supporting your Church through this difficult time, you may wish to organise a Standing Order arrangement with your bank to pay your collection directly into our Church bank account. Details as follows: - Lloyds Bank - Sort Code 30-93-04, Account No: 00883116, Account Name – PRCDTR New Milton. Or you may prefer to give your donation directly to the Office. Thank you! If you do decide to pay money directly into our Bank Account, it would be very helpful for our Treasurer if you could write what it is for in the Reference Box when paying on line, i.e. Church donation, Intention, Cafod etc.

**2021 CHURCH DIARIES** Now available. Please pick up your copy from the Parish Office.

**The Verbum Dei Family in Southampton** is inviting you to an online encounter entitled, "What are you hearing? Fake News or Good News". The event will be held using zoom on Saturday 23rd January from 10.00am to 6.00pm. An Encounter is an interactive event involving some talks, some group discussions, some prayer and reflection. It will be lively and a lot of fun. We have built in some good breaks to avoid zoom-fatigue. During this day, we hope to encounter Christ more fully, by addressing three questions

- What is the aim and purpose of my life now in January 2021?
- Do I want to make a change and how am I going to do it?
- What will this change mean for me and how can I live my new relationship with Jesus?

We are going to use the experiences and the journey of the Apostle Paul to help us along this route. If you are interested then please register at [ukverbumdei@gmail.com](mailto:ukverbumdei@gmail.com). We are looking forward to welcoming you.

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021

Sunday Vigil	16	2021 Jan.	Vigil Mass of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B	18:00 Holy Mass - <i>Emile Hamon (RIP)</i>	
Sunday	17	Jan.	SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B	08:00 Holy Mass – 10:00 Holy Mass - <i>Marrymol Jofi (RIP)</i>	Day of Prayer for Peace
Monday	18	Jan.	Monday of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Week in Ordinary Time Year B		Beginning of the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity
Tuesday	19	Jan.	St. Wulstan Year B	18:00 Exposition 18:30 Rosary 18:50 Benediction 19:00 Holy Mass –	6:00-7:00 p.m. Rosary, Benediction
Wednesday	20	Jan.	St. Fabian Year B	10:00 a.m. Holy Mass – <i>Brigid Horan (RIP)</i>	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Thursday	21	Jan.	St. Agnes Year B	10:00 a.m. Holy Mass –	
Friday	22	Jan.	St. Vincent Year B	10:00 Holy Mass – <i>Roy Fittell (Intention)</i>	No Rosary and Benediction
Saturday	23	Jan.	Our Lady of Saturday Year B	10:00 Holy Mass –	
Saturday Vigil			Vigil Mass of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year “B”	18:00 Holy Mass – <i>Eileen Dean (Auntie Eileen) RIP</i>	
Sunday	24	Jan.	THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B	8:00 - Holy Mass – 10:00 – Holy Mass - <i>Marrisa Joseph (RIP)</i>	

**This Weekend: 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for the Cathedral (obligatory)**

**Next Weekend: 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for Racial Justice (optional)**

**Your continued financial support during these very challenging times would be very much appreciated**

**Parish priest: Father George Ngwa**

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

Parish office: 01425 614968 [lolnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lolnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Hall Bookings suspended during the Pandemic.

**Secretary: Lizzie Davies**– Office Hours 12.00h to 15.00h Wednesday & 10.00h to 13.00h Friday

Our Parish Live Streaming: <http://churchservices.tv/newmilton> Website: [www.nfwp.org.uk](http://www.nfwp.org.uk)

**Safeguarding Minister: Tony Harwood Tel: 01425 511 952 or email [hughharwood314@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hughharwood314@hotmail.co.uk)**

**PRAYER FOR THE RENEWAL OF OUR DIOCESE – ( to be said at home even with Church closure).**

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, we beg you to change us, to convert us and to make us holy. Fill us with a deeper faith, hope and love for you. Send into our hearts the cleansing fire of the Holy Spirit and powerfully renew all the clergy, religious and laity of our Diocese. Unite us in love and respect for one another and unify us as your one, holy people. Grant us a new passion and zeal for the Catholic Faith, for Mission, Outreach and Service. Help us to proclaim your Gospel generously to the poor and needy that many more souls may be saved by finding their way to you in your Church. May Mary Immaculate help us. May St. Edmund of Abingdon and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati pray for us. Amen

**Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel - 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**