

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:** office@lymbrockmil.org.uk. **Website:** www.nfwf.org.uk; **Parish Blog:** www.lymrcchurch.blogspot.com. Our parishes are part of & belong to the: **Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, Registered Charity No: 1199568. School:** Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Primary School, Ramley Rd, Pennington, 01590 672711. **Exec. Head:** Gerida Montague. **Chairs of Parish Pastoral Councils:** Magdalen Chadborn, Lymington; Ian Holden, Brockenhurst; Roger Maughan, Milford on Sea. **Parish Safeguarding Ministers:** Dr Wanda Fojt (safeguarding@lymbrockmil.org.uk); Henrietta Reynolds (safeguarding@brock.org.uk); Liz Price (safeguarding@sfmil.org.uk). **PA to Pastoral Co Ordinator & Dean & Health & Safety Co ordinator:** Linda Guilding; **For the Sacrament of the Sick or Holy Communion to the Sick or housebound; & for the Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Contact the parish office.

The Week: 4th May 2024 - 12th May 2024

DAY	DATE	CHURCH	TIME	SERVICE	LITURGY	MASS INTENTION (when applicable)	
SAT	4 th	OLMSJ	6.00pm	Mass	6 th Sunday of Easter	Clare Barry-Ball RIP F/M	DMA
SUN	5 th	St Francis	9.00am	Mass	6 th Sunday of Easter	People of the Parishes	DMA
SUN	5 th	OLMSJ	10.30am	Mass	6 th Sunday of Easter	Joseph & Flora Weld RIP F/M	DMA
SUN	5 th	St Anne	6.00pm	Mass	6 th Sunday of Easter	The Baker Family F/M	DMA
TUE	7 th	OLMSJ	10.00am	Mass	6 th Week of Easter	Francis Walker (Ints) - LH	DMA
WED	8 th	St Francis	10.00am	Mass	6 th Week of Easter	For those who are unwell	DMA
THUR	9 th	St Anne	10.00am	Mass	Ascension of the Lord, Sol	as per celebrant	DQ
THUR	9 th	St Francis	10.00am	Mass	Ascension of the Lord, Sol	Anne Caul RIP	DMA
THUR	9 th	OLMSJ	12 noon	Mass	Ascension of the Lord, Sol	Joseph Slavin RIP	DMA
THUR	9 th	OLMSJ	6.00pm	Mass	Ascension of the Lord, Sol	Jane Fletcher RIP Anniv	DMA
FRI	10 th	St Francis	12.30pm	Funeral	Funeral Service - Anne Caul RIP	N/A	DMA
SAT	11 th	OLMSJ	6.00pm	Mass	7 th Sunday of Easter	Harry Newenham RIP F/M	DMA
SUN	12 th	St Francis	9.00am	Mass	7 th Sunday of Easter	Peggy Murray RIP Anniv	DMA
SUN	12 th	OLMSJ	10.30am	Mass	7 th Sunday of Easter	Lily Pearce RIP F/M	DMA
SUN	12 th	OLMSJ	12.30pm	Baptism	baby Betty Di Maria	N/A	DMA
SUN	12 th	St Anne	6.00pm	Mass	7 th Sunday of Easter	People of the Parishes	DMA

CHOOSING TO REMAIN IN THE LOVE

It is only when job applicants are chosen for a job that they are free to take it or leave it. In applying they declare that they want the position; but wishes aren't choices. Only after acceptance have they the actual power to choose the job or not. That is why people forced by circumstances into a course of action always say, "But I had no choice in the matter."

When John talks about the love of God in today's readings, he is clear what he means - "this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us". The same message is underlined in the Gospel: "You did not choose me, no, I chose you". We don't have to turn up at an interview to discover if God will choose us or not: God has already made an everlasting decision to love us. God's love is not an issue, it is not a matter of speculation. It is there. God's love is first, and it is only because of the primacy of God's love that we have the power and the freedom to choose God. God has opted for us, he has declared his choice, he has taken us on. It is a decisive movement of love that began with the Father: "As the Father has loved me, so I love you. Remain in my love." The hope is expressed that we can come to appreciate God's choice of us. It is such good news that John is anxious to get the message through to us, simply and clearly. Can we remain in the love that chooses us?

God's love is based on choice: he loves because he chooses to love. The supreme example of that is in his Word, Jesus. If the supreme act of love is to lay down your life for the sake of others, Jesus shows that he could have no greater love. His love takes him to the cross, just as the Father's love raises him up. Jesus spends himself, he gives of himself until there is nothing left to give. He empties himself.

In everything that he did Jesus kept on choosing to love. He did not choose once upon a time; he chose to love at all times. It drained him. That self-giving quality of divine love is one that can be seen in the lives of many people. One doctor saw it in a way that he can never forget. As a young medical student he watched an unusual operation in a London hospital:

It was the first time that this particular brain operation had been carried out in this country. It was performed by one of our leading surgeons upon a young man of great promise for whom, after an accident, there seemed to be no other remedy. It was an operation of the greatest delicacy, in which a small error would have had fatal consequences. In the outcome the operation was a triumph: but it involved seven hours of intense and uninterrupted concentration on the part of the surgeon. When it was over, a nurse had to take him by the hand, and lead him from the operating theatre like a blind man or a little child.

That kind of self-giving and concentration on the needs of another reflect something of the quality of God's love in Jesus. Jesus hopes that we will choose to keep on giving ourselves in love, even when the giving hurts, even when we feel we have nothing left but our exhausted presence. But it's that kind of love that mirrors God's kind of love. As Jesus said himself, the love that costs nothing can be managed by anyone, for everything is on credit. The bill for authentic love is the giving of the self, the communication of the self, the handing over of the self.

We have to admit that few of us have the freedom or the power to accomplish this. We can only choose to try, confident that our struggle is backed by God's energetic love. Somewhere in the struggle we can hear the voice of God cheering us on. (From *Seasons of the Word* by Denis McBride)

St Francis, Milford-on-Sea

Anniversaries this week: Arthur Joseph Bishop (6th), Peter Igoe, Claire Patricia Weaver (7th), Andy Gage (10th)

Sick & Housebound: Jacquie Kirke, Barbara Mills, Kath Randle, Rita Ford, June Gow, Norah Sweeney, Sarah Bell.

SPECIAL PRAYERS, PLEASE: for Anthony & Judith's daughter-in-law, Jacquie, who is gravely ill.

PRAYERS PLEASE for John Boocock who is on end of life care in Lymington Hospital. And our thoughts and prayers are also with his wife Kate.

COFFEE MORNING: next Sunday, 5th May after Mass in the Maryland Room. All are welcome. And thanks to the Team.

MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP (MAF) Aircraft Visit: The MAF plans to bring one of their aircraft and a flight simulator to Milford village green on Bank **Holiday Monday 6th May** in order to advertise their missionary work. You can sit in the pilot's seat of a real Cessna 150 aircraft and try your hand at landing an MAF plane on the flight simulator. Please do try to support this event sometime during the day 10.00am - 4.00pm. Kevin Crook from MAF will be talking to us on Sunday, 5th May. I won't do a homily that day and Kevin will speak for under 10 minutes at the end of Mass.

ANNE CAUL RIP: A few years ago Anne moved down to Milford to be with family but because of health issues did not make contact with the parish. Her Funeral Service will be on Friday, 10th May at 12.30pm. There will just be a small group of family mourners in attendance.

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER MILFORD ON SEA: St. Francis needs a second person to represent our parish as a part of this group from the four Milford churches. It has the overall responsibility for organising all the joint Christian events in the village, ranging from Christmas carols to Good Friday on the Green. Meetings are usually monthly, in the mornings. If you are interested in helping with this please speak to Elisabeth Hall (01590 644839) or at church.

SUNFLOWERS: We are selling sunflower seedlings for £5 each. The money raised will be used to buy baby food which will be sent to Ukraine. Please ask Anthony.

St Anne, Brockenhurst

Anniversaries this week: John Joseph Boocock (5th), Vera Cassidy, Lance Reginald Day (6th), Lilian Le Chevalier, Frederick Matthews (8th), Paul Morris (11th)

Sick and Housebound: Please keep in your prayers: Paddy Lark, Susan McCabe.

PRAYERS PLEASE for Margaret Newton who has been unwell this week.

CAFOD APPEAL FOR SUDAN: Millions of families in Sudan, forced to flee their homes amid conflict, now face yet another urgent crisis – extreme hunger. Please give to CAFOD's Sudan Crisis Appeal in church or at cafod.org.uk/sudanappeal. Your donation will help CAFOD's partners to support more families with food packages and emergency cash payments as well as rebuilding water pipelines so clean water can reach communities who need it. Thank you for your generosity and prayers. This Sunday, at the end of Mass, Michael Janssens, our CAFOD rep. will give a short talk on the crisis in the Sudan. We will have a second collection on Sunday, 5th May for CAFOD.

BIRDSONG Sitting in St Anne's garden one morning this past week with a phone app to identify birdsong, we picked up the sounds of no less than 12 different bird species in the space of 10 minutes. Our Church garden is a wonderful haven for wildlife.

All Parishes

WEEKDAY MASS: AVAILABLE EVERY DAY at St Dominic's Priory, Shirley Holms, Sway, Lymington SO41 8NH; (what3words location: "props.auctioned.surfed"): All their Masses this week, Monday to Saturday, will be at 12.15pm. Sunday Mass is at 11am.

SR VERONICA'S WEEKLY REFLECTION: Hello and welcome to this week's reflection which helps us to understand God's all embracing love for the whole of humanity. St Peter invites us to be accepting to all people no matter what their religious or social background. This message will prepare us to go out to the whole world as the disciples were at the Ascension of Jesus. We go out in the knowledge that we will receive the help of the Holy Spirit.

<https://youtu.be/rehDyBil-cs?si=CjmuMxyYdrDKL7fb>

God Bless Sr Veronica OP

Our Lady & St Joseph, Lymington

Anniversaries this week: Cliff Borrell, John Szwaczka, Michael Heaps (4th), Thomas Augustine Feehan, Irene Shepperd, Annette Allars, Jeremy Giles (5th), Edith Theresa Mould, Jim Holder (6th), Bruna Baker (7th), Vera West (10th)

Sick and Housebound: Jo English, Fr Shaun Budden, Pat Leahy, Clare Bearcroft, Susie Wright, Joan McCafferty, Frances Riches, Ron & Rita Barrett, John & Nicki Collins, Frances Walker, Sean Dunn, Deacon Anthony Cairns, Simone Cluett.

JANE RAYNER RIP: Tom & Eileen Rayner's daughter, Jane, died peacefully last Sunday. Our thoughts and prayers are with Tom & Eileen & family. And may Jane rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

JOSEPH SLAVIN RIP: We were very sad to hear that Joe died in the early hours of Friday morning. He was being treated in SGH for a lung infection. Our thoughts and prayers are with Madge and Laren and the family. May Joe rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

HOT PRAYER: Mary Dunn will be giving a talk on prayer and the Holy Spirit on Thursday, 16th May at 7pm in OLMSJ. Mary will give a short introduction to the subject after Mass next weekend (11th/12th May)

FRIENDSHIP CLUB – As Monday 6th May is a Bank Holiday there will be no Friendship Club this week but we will meet next Monday, 13th May.

THANK YOU FROM THE SAMARITANS: for the £166.16p that was raised on their behalf by our Saturday Coffee morning team on 28th April

PRAYING THE ROSARY: In the Catholic Church, May and October are months traditionally dedicated to Our Lady and the Rosary. The Rosary is a form of prayer that helps us to reflect on the life of Mary and Jesus. During the month of May there will be an opportunity to say the Rosary as a group before Mass. If you would like to say the Rosary, it will start on Saturday 4th May at 5.40pm and Sunday 5th May at 10.10am at OLMSJ church. Just mention it to the Welcomers on duty when you arrive and they will direct you to the group.

CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE: The next meeting of the CWL will be on Tuesday 14th May at 2.15 in the parish rooms. Rini Stuttford will be giving a presentation of her wild life photography via the TV at approximately 3pm. This is a free presentation and all the parish is welcome. The CWL will be giving a donation from their funds to the Children of the Universe, a charity set up by the Stuttford family, in Africa

SUNFLOWER SEEDS: Thank you to everyone who took seeds home with them the other week. We should see a wonderful display of colour in the car park from the dwarf Sunflowers, and of course the bees and other insects will love them. Then there's the tallest Sunflower competition: Parish v School. Who will grow the tallest Sunflower? Prize for the winner. Watch this space!

BUILDING FUND UPDATE: On 26/04/24 Church Building Fund was £262,775.08.

All Parishes

CHECK OUR WEBSITE: www.nfwf.org.uk for resources to support us in our faith and in our care of one another.

SECOND COLLECTIONS: CAFOD's Sudan Crisis Appeal: Millions of families in Sudan, forced to flee their homes amid conflict, now face yet another urgent crisis – extreme hunger. Please give to CAFOD's Sudan Crisis Appeal in church or at cafod.org.uk/sudanappeal. Your donation will help CAFOD's partners to support more families with food packages and emergency cash payments as well as rebuilding water pipelines so clean water can reach communities who need it. **Thank you for your generosity and prayers. We will have a second collection on Sunday 5th May.**

World Communications Day 12th May 2024 (mandatory) Pope Francis' message for World Communications Day 2024 follows the theme 'Artificial Intelligence and the Wisdom of the Heart: Towards a Fully Human Communication'. He asks how we can remain fully human and guide this cultural transformation to serve a good purpose? You can read the full message here (<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wcd24-papal-message/>). The link for online donations <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/world-communications-day-second-collection-2024> The Second Collection for World Communications Day assists the Church to support this theme and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with people throughout the world.