

CHURCH UPDATE: A structural engineer made an inspection on Wednesday. Things are a lot worse than we thought. It appears that the whole of the façade above the arches has lifted, moved forward, and twisted. The lefthand “tower” is actually leaning forward. The most likely cause is that the ironwork holding the stonework together has corroded and expanded, pushing the edifice up and out. Within the next couple of weeks, scaffolding will be erected and a specialist will be making a close inspection to confirm whether or not this is the case. Once we know the root cause, the façade will be shielded, and we should be able to use the church again. Proper repairs will be carried out later and probably not completed until September/October. We will keep you informed at every stage.

MASS IN THE HALL: Thank you to Brian and Andy who spent quite a long time with Fr Bill preparing the hall for Mass last Saturday (including removing all the balloons and bunting from the week before), and to Joseph and the gang for re-erecting the marquee at short notice. We can comfortably fit 53 in the hall itself, which wasn't quite enough for Saturday evening Mass. On Sunday, we were able to seat another 53 outside, 15 of whom had a direct view of the altar. Everyone seemed quite happy with the arrangements and things went smoothly with seating and the distribution of Holy Communion. Many thanks to Brian who has done a marvelous job setting up the hall for live streaming with little more than a bulldog clip and a little ingenuity! Weekday Mass will continue to take place at noon until we move back into the church. Thanks to all of you for your good humour and wartime spirit!

ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSECRATION OF OUR CHURCH: Occurs this Thursday, which is a little ironic since we can't celebrate Mass inside it. It also leaves Fr Bill with a personal dilemma, since it is also the Memorial of his favourite Saint, Bede the Venerable, who lived in his town of birth, Jarrow (and that of our own bonny lass, Pat “Jarra Sparra” Clarke). What to do? Anyway, please consider coming to Mass on Thursday to give thanks for all that has gone before and all that the future holds for our lovely, if rather poorly, church.

JANE SLOMAN: Please pray for Jane who died recently. Jane's Funeral Mass will be offered on Friday 2nd June at 10.30am at St Francis of Assisi, Milford on Sea, SO41 OPT, by Fr. Bill.

OBLIGATORY SECOND COLLECTION: This weekend for the Catholic Communications Network.

CAFOD WRITES: Did you know that Church teaching says that we



should not only support those in poverty but also tackle the root causes of poverty? Pope Benedict XVI said that “Love — caritas — is an extraordinary force which leads people to opt for courageous and generous engagement in the field of justice and peace.” For decades CAFOD has spoken out against injustice. To find out more about our seeds campaign and get involved in tackling the root causes of poverty, please go to cafod.org.uk/latestcampaigns

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2023: Please pray for John, Joyce, Shanice, Lexie, Eli, and Victoria who will be celebrating their special day on Sunday 11th June: only three weeks to go!

FOOD BANK: Please make deposits in the hall kitchen for the time being.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR, MASS/SERVICE TIMES, AND PRIEST'S INTENTIONS
 CONFESSIONS — 5.30PM SATURDAY, (OR AFTER WEEKDAY MASS ON REQUEST)
 TEA/COFFEE AFTER SUNDAY MORNING MASS IN PARISH HALL

SUN 21 MAY	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A	VIGIL (SAT) SUN (AM)	6.00 PM 10.00AM	+David Holmes Malcolm Davies (wellbeing)
Mon 22	St Rita	No Mass		
Tues 23	Of Easter, week 7	Mass Rosary	Noon 6.30pm	Holy Souls
Wed 24	Of Easter, week 7	Mass	Noon	Paul & Gehane Gordelier (wedding anniversary)
Thurs 25	St Bede the Venerable DEDICATION OF OLOL	Mass	Noon	+Don & Agnes Campbell
Fri 26	St Philip Neri	Mass	Noon	People of the Parish
Sat 27	St Augustine of Canterbury	No AM Mass		
SUN 28 MAY	PENTECOST	VIGIL (SAT) SUN (AM)	6.00PM 10.00AM	+Susan Harries Fr. Marcin (Birthday Blessings)

20/21 May	Reader	EMHC	27/28 May	Reader	EMHC
Vigil	BD	KD	Vigil	GG	MH
10.00am	VJ	JN	10.00am	TR	JK

A warm welcome to all our visitors today. Please make yourselves known to one of our Meet & Greet Team, who will be happy to help you.

FR BILL WRITES: THE LITURGY OF THE WORD, PART 2. As I wrote last week,

PRIMARILY,
 THE FIRST HALF OF EVERY MASS IS
 THE PROCLAMATION OF THE
 WORD OF GOD WHO MEETS US,
 LOVES US,
 AND CHALLENGES US.

There are simple, practical steps we can take in order to be as receptive as we can to the Word of God at Mass. However, some might go straight out the window, because of the complexity and vagaries of life :). *Ideally, and I mean, ideally:*

- Each of us ought to come ready and willing to listen attentively, to meditate, and to respond to the Readings. Where possible, this means reading the Readings beforehand, arriving in good time, being centred, and ready to engage. (Babies, flat tyres, and domestic disasters do not always make this easy or even possible!)
- Readers must be well prepared beforehand. They must check that the *Lectionary* is set as they were expecting, and seek explanation if

not. They must be aware of seasonal variants and unusual formats. They must not rush: they must enunciate clearly, s-l-o-w-l-y, and with understanding: They must not rush from item to item.

- Prayerful pauses are actually required by the *Missal* and should be expected throughout, especially between Readings and before the Gospel. Standing as soon as the Psalm/Second Reading has finished is to be avoided. Just chill! There is no need to rise until the Gospel Acclamation (usually “Alleluia”) begins.
- The primary mode of receiving the Word of God at Mass is through **LISTENING: THE EAR**. So, reading aids (*People’s Missals* or *Mass sheets*) really ought not to be used at Mass except when needed by those who, for example, are hearing impaired.

Please see next week’s newsletter for information about provision of Mass sheets and alternatives.

PRAYER CORNER: Our prayers are asked for the following who are sick and/or housebound: Hazel Lessler, Lucy Lessler, T Steeles, Andrea Filler, Madelaine Newland, Robin and Isobel Hockey, Christine Houssiere, Dave Youngman, Barbara Williams, Joan Miller, Tony Thorpe, Malcolm Davies.

PARISH INFO-BAR

The Presbytery, 15 Mount Avenue, New Milton, Hampshire. BH25 6NT

General enquiries, Mass Intentions, and Hall Bookings
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 Wed. & Fri. noon-4.00pm
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In emergency, please contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator on 02394 216 486

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

Catholic New Forest website
www.nfwp.org.uk

Diocesan website
www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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