

THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY: Through fasting, almsgiving, and prayer, we prepare ourselves for the joyful festival of Easter. Through the Sacrament of Penance we allow God to purify our hearts. Through walking the Stations of the Cross we grow closer to Jesus in his Passion and Death. There are a few leaflets at the back of church to help us understand Lent better. They are free to take away (ignore 25p sign on front).

ASH WEDNESDAY: Is a day of fasting and abstinence. We are asked to eat less and to avoid eating meat (or equivalent for non-meat eaters). There will be Mass with Ashes at 10.00am and 6.00pm at OLOL.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Each Friday of Lent after 10.00am Mass.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE: 5.30pm every Saturday or after weekday Mass on request.

FIRST CONFESSIONS: Please pray for our Holy Communion group who will be celebrating the Sacrament of Penance for the first time on Saturday 24th at 12.30pm.



Image: www.ciudadredonda.org (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 ES)

WHERE DOES ASH WEDNESDAY COME FROM? Strangely enough, today, the observance of Ash Wednesday is peculiar to the Roman Rite. This is because of the Roman way of counting the days of Lent. It is not found in the Ambrosian Rite of Milan or in any other Catholic Western or Eastern Rite (for example, Orthodox or Coptic). It *is* observed by some non-Catholic Western churches, though, as a vestige of the *Rite of Sarum* widely used before the English Reformation and from which Cranmer sourced much of his *Book of Common Prayer*. The use of ashes to display penance is, of course, rooted in the Old Testament. We hear this in the First Reading for Ash Wednesday and in the Book of Jonah: the Ninevites put on sack cloth and ashes and neither ate nor drank. In the third century, the Church in Rome developed the custom of casting out penitents at the beginning of Lent, with a view to them being re-integrated at Easter. Here is a description of the ceremony:

On the first day of Lent, the penitents were to present themselves before the bishop, clothed with sackcloth, with naked feet, and with eyes turned to the ground; and this was to be done in the presence of the clergy of the diocese, who were to judge of the sincerity of their repentance. These introduced them into the church, where the bishop, in tears, and the rest of the clergy, repeated the seven penitential psalms. Then, rising from prayers, they threw ashes upon them, and covered their heads with sackcloth ... Then the bishop commanded the officers to turn them out of the church doors.

Gratian, Quoted in Evan Daniel, The Prayer-Book : Its History, Language, and Contents, sixteenth edition (London, 1892), 219. See The Penitential Psalms and Ash Wednesday Services in the Book of Common Prayer, 1549-1662 , Charles Whitworth. (openedition.org)

Today, we have it easy!

Fr. Bill, 11th February 2024

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 11 FEBRUARY	SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B	VIGIL (SAT) MASS	6.00PM 10.00AM	+Patrick S.Joyce (50th Anny) +Charles & Minnie Garbett
Mon 12	Feria, week 6	No Mass		
Tues 13	Feria, week 6	Mass	10.00am	+Peggy Tolliday
Wed 14	ASH WEDNESDAY	Mass with Ashes Mass with Ashes	10.00am 6.00pm	+Tony Thorpe People of the Parish
Thurs 15	After Ash Wednesday	Mass	10.00am	+Ros (in remembrance)
Fri 16	After Ash Wednesday	Mass	10.00am	Holy Souls
Sat 17	After Ash Wednesday	No AM Mass		
SUN 18 FEBRUARY	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B	VIGIL (SAT) MASS	6.00PM 10.00AM	+Tony Thorpe +Joan Hamon

10/11 Feb	Reader	EMHC	17/18 Feb	Reader	EMHC
Vigil (Sat)	KD	BD	Vigil (Sat)	Ld'E	Cd'E
10.00am	SS	JN	10.00am	CB	SS

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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Is taking a break today and next Sunday because of school half term.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER: If there is anyone who has asked to be included on the electronic Newsletter distribution list but who has not received their copy, would you please contact Lizzie in the Parish Office. Thanks.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY FRIDAY 23RD FEBRUARY: This Lent, our donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James, a fisherman in Liberia, with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Please give today online at cafod.org.uk or collect an envelope next weekend and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families.

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 Hockey, Dave Youngman, Barbara Williams, Joan Miller, Malcolm Davies, Fiona Fallon, Alice Loftus, Nicholas Donnelly, Churcher Family, Elouise Sargent, Evelyn Merifield, John Allen, Tony Hill, Marie Doolan.

KING CHARLES: We pray for His Royal Majesty as he undergoes treatment for cancer and for his return to duty when the time is right.

BERNARD OLIVER FIELD: Please pray for Bernard, who used to come to Wednesday Mass at OLOL before COVID, who has died aged 91. His Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 22nd February at Saint Francis of Assisi, Milford, at 10.30am followed by burial at All Saints Church, off Church Hill. If you are coming to the funeral, please telephone or text Ozzie on 07 535 202 460 (for catering purposes).

MASS INTENTIONS If you would like a Mass Intention said in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion, please complete a Mass Intention envelope and place it in the collection plate or hand to Lizzie in the Parish Office. Donation at time of booking please.

PARISH INFO-BAR

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

General enquiries, Mass Intentions, and Hall Bookings
 Lizzie Davies
[Wed & Fri, noon-4.00pm](http://Wed&Fri,noon-4.00pm)
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Parish Priest
 Fr Bill Wilson
 01425 614 968
wwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding Minister
 Jill Parsons
safeguarding.newm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
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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