

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES, NEW MILTON

SUNDAY 1 FEBRUARY
2026
FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

BLESSING OF THROATS: St Blaise was a 4th Century martyr bishop of Armenia who had a great gift for healing. One day, it is said, he was asked to heal a boy who was choking to death on a fishbone, which he did. Eventually, on St Blaise's feast day (2nd February) it became customary to ask his blessing as a preventative against diseases of the throat. The Blessing will be given during 10.00am Mass on Tuesday.

SS PAUL MIKI AND COMPANIONS: These martyrs were executed by the Emperor of Japan in the 16th Century at Nagasaki. We keep their memory on Friday. Here is an extract from a contemporary account of their martyrdom:

"The crosses were set in place. Father Pasio and Father Rodriguez took turns encouraging the victims. Their steadfast behaviour was wonderful to see. The Father Bursar stood motionless, his eyes turned heavenward. Brother Martin gave thanks to God's goodness by singing psalms. Again and again he repeated: "Into your hands, Lord, I entrust my life." Brother Francis Branco also thanked God in a loud voice. Brother Gonsalvo in a very loud voice kept saying the Our Father and Hail Mary. Our brother, Paul Miki, saw himself standing now in the noblest pulpit he had ever filled. To his "congregation" he began by proclaiming himself a Japanese and a Jesuit. He was dying for the Gospel he preached. He gave thanks to God for this wonderful blessing and he ended his "sermon" with these words: "As I come to this supreme moment of my life, I am sure none of you would suppose I want to deceive you. And so I tell you plainly: there is no way to be saved except the Christian way. My religion teaches me to pardon my enemies and all who have offended me. I do gladly pardon the Emperor and all who have sought my death. I beg them to seek baptism and be Christians themselves." Then he looked at his comrades and began to encourage them in their final struggle. Joy glowed in all their faces, and in Louis' most of all. When a Christian in the crowd cried out to him that he would soon be

in heaven, his hands, his whole body strained upward with such joy that every eye was fixed on him. Anthony, hanging at Louis' side, looked toward heaven and called upon the holy names – "Jesus, Mary!" He began to sing a psalm: "Praise the Lord, you children!" (He learned it in catechism class in Nagasaki. They take care there to teach the children some psalms to help them learn their catechism). Others kept repeating "Jesus, Mary!" Their faces were serene. Some of them even took to urging the people standing by to live worthy Christian lives. In these and other ways they showed their readiness to die. Then, according to Japanese custom, the four executioners began to unsheathe their spears. At this dreadful sight, all the Christians cried out, "Jesus, Mary!" And the storm of anguished weeping then rose to batter the very skies. The executioners killed them one by one. One thrust of the spear, then a second blow. It was over in a very short time." Ss Paul Miki and Companions, pray for us.

RESTORED CROSS: Still waiting for drier weather.

CRIB OFFERING: Last day for offerings today before crib is taken down.

GIFT AID: Please complete new forms available at the back of church. Thank you.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Reminder that parents need to fill in a registration form for their child to attend Children's liturgy. Forms (in pink) are at the back of the church.

LIVING ROSARY GROUP meets tomorrow (Monday) 5pm in parish hall. All welcome.

ANNUAL FIRE DRILL: Is due and will take place in the next few weeks.

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

1 SUN 1ST FEBRUARY	FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A	VIGIL (SAT) MASS	6.00PM 10.00AM	Thanksgiving +Elizabeth Sebastian
Mon 2	Presentation of the Lord	No Mass		
Tues 3	St Blaise	Mass	10.00am	No Intention
Wed 4	Feria, week 4	Mass	10.00am	People of the Parish
Thurs 5	St Agatha	Mass	10.00am	Holy Souls
Fri 6	Ss Paul Miki and Comp.	Mass Rosary	10.00am 10.30am	+John Williams (Anny)
Sat 7	Feria, week 4	No AM Mass		
SUN 8 FEBRUARY	FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A	VIGIL (SAT) MASS	6.00PM 10.00AM	+Yon & Pottackal Families Mary & Roy Tanner (health)

31 Jan/1 Feb	Reader	EMHC	7/8 Feb	Reader	EMHC
Vigil (Sat)	GG	KD, BD	Vigil (Sat)	TR	MH, KD
10.00am	MP	JP, JK, JN	10.00am	JP	JK, LD, SS

Please use this QR Code or card reader at back of church for general, second, and other collections, Mass cards, and candles. Many thanks.



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 at the back of Church and place it in the collection plate or hand it in to Lizzie in the Parish Office.

PARISH DIGITAL ARCHIVE; We are digitising our existing archive so that we can put a special page on our website. This is all part of our lead-up to the Parish's Centenary. Do you have any good quality photos or documents that might be relevant? We don't have many recent photos (after 1990-ish) but we will need permission from those on a photo if they are happy to be identified. Please see Fr Bill. Thanks.

PARISH REGISTER: If you regularly come to Mass, you may wish to be included on Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Register. If so, please pick up an application form at the back of Church .

PRAYER CORNER: Our prayers are asked for the following who are sick and/or housebound: T Steeles, Madelaine Newland, Robin Hockey, Barbara Williams, Joan Miller, Malcolm Davies, Churcher Family, Elouise Sargent, Evelyn Merifield, Marie Doolan, Mary & Roy Tanner, Gill Norris, Mary Dene, Philippe Hamon, John Hamon, Doreen O'Halloran, Liz Willis, Jenny Adams, Robert Myjak, Deacon Steve Bowler, Fr Kevin, Peter Caffyn, Peter Hawksworth.

CATHEDRAL COLLECTION:
Thank you for your donations that came to £128.67.

SECOND COLLECTION TODAY:
Racial Justice.

AIR AMBULANCE QUIZ NIGHT:
Our New Milton Mayor is hosting a Quiz Night & Raffle in support of his nominated charity Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance. Saturday 7 March 2026 starting at 7pm at Bashley Village Hall. Please call New Milton Town Council to book 01425 619120 before 26 February 2026.

LYMINGTON BASICS BANK: We continue to collect items for Lymington Basics Bank and any gifts you are able to give will ease the struggle of people less fortunate than ourselves. Tinned items, dry food, e.g. pasta and rice, sanitary items welcome. Thanks!

PARISH INFO-BAR

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

General enquiries, Mass Intentions, and Hall Bookings
Lizzie Davies
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Safeguarding Minister
Jill Parsons
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In emergency, please contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator on 02394 216 486

Live streaming
[http://churchservices.tv/
newmilton](http://churchservices.tv/newmilton)

Parish website
ourladyoflourdes.co.uk

A Parishioner's Blog
the247catholic.blogspot.com

Diocesan website
www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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