

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

SUNDAY 3RD MAY  
2026  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF  
EASTER, YEAR A

**TODAY'S FIRST READING: THE APPOINTING OF THE SEVEN:** These are often said to be the Church's first deacons. But what is a deacon? This is what the *Catechism* says:

*"At a lower level of the hierarchy are to be found deacons, who receive the imposition of hands 'not unto the priesthood, but unto the ministry.'" At an ordination to the diaconate only the bishop lays hands on the candidate, thus signifying the deacon's special attachment to the bishop in the tasks of his "diakonia." [servant ministry]. Deacons share in Christ's mission and grace in a special way. The sacrament of Holy Orders marks them with an imprint ("character") which cannot be removed and which configures them to Christ, who made himself the "deacon" or servant of all. Among other tasks, it is the task of deacons to assist the bishop and priests in the celebration of the divine mysteries, above all the Eucharist, in the distribution of Holy Communion, in assisting at and blessing marriages, in the proclamation of the Gospel and preaching, in presiding over funerals, and in dedicating themselves to the various ministries of charity. Since the Second Vatican Council, the Latin Church has restored the diaconate "as a proper and permanent rank of the hierarchy," while the Churches of the East had always maintained it. This permanent diaconate, which can be conferred on married men, constitutes an important enrichment for the Church's mission. Indeed it is appropriate and useful that men who carry out a truly diaconal ministry in the Church, whether in its liturgical and pastoral life or whether in its social and charitable works, should "be strengthened by the imposition of hands which has come down from the apostles. They would be more closely bound to the altar and their ministry would be made more fruitful through the sacramental grace of the diaconate."*

**Are you being called to the diaconate? Do you know someone who might be? Speak to Fr Bill.**

**BAPTISM JOY:** Please pray for baby Liam who will be baptized today at 11.30am at OLOL.

**PETER CAFFYN:** Peter's Funeral Mass will be offered on Tuesday at 11.00am at OLOL followed by Committal at Stem Lane Crematorium at 12.30pm. May he rest in peace.

**NORA SWEENEY:** Nora's Funeral Mass will be offered on Friday 22nd May at 11.00am at OLOL followed by interment at Milford Road Cemetery. May she rest in peace.

**PETER HAWKSWORTH:** Peter's Funeral Mass will be offered on Thursday 28th May at noon followed by Committal at Stem Lane Crematorium at 1.30pm. May he rest in peace.

**NEW PARISH ADMINISTRATOR REQUIRED:** For Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, New Milton. 8 (not 10 as advertised previously) hours per week on site, Salary: £5,358.08 per annum (FTE £25,116). For full details and application process please visit <https://catholicdioceseofportsmouth.peoplehr.net/Pages/JobBoard/Opening.aspx?v=4132a4c3-88d6-4732-954b-0f6491912a67>. Deadline for applications 3rd May 2026.

**PARISH OFFICE PROTOCOLS:** The office will be staffed on a temporary basis, at very reduced hours, until a new administrator is in place. Lizzie now has no access to the parish email so please do not use it to try to contact her. For non-urgent matters (Mass intentions, hall bookings, lost property etc) please continue to use the office email address (which will be monitored periodically) but do not copy Fr Bill in. For truly urgent matters only, please contact Fr Bill directly. Remember the adage, though, "A lack of planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on mine". Emails to Fr Bill starting, "I know Lizzie has retired but....." will not be well received!

**CENTENARY MERCH:** We are looking into providing fun and practical merchandise to mark our parish centenary in time for Christmas. Firstly, we need our children to draw brightly-coloured flowers or animals on A4 landscape paper. The images will be used to create centenary tea towels. So, please have a go, put your first name (only) on your picture, and hand in to Johanna at children's liturgy or in church. We're sure they will make great presents for all the family. We'll also be offering mugs, calendars, and more.

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 3RD MAY	5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A	VIGIL (SAT) MASS	6.00PM 10.00AM	Krishi & Ishan (birth thanks) +Joseph George
Mon 4	The English Martyrs	No Mass		
Tues 5	Of Easter, week 5	Funeral Mass	11.00am	+Peter Caffyn
Wed 6	Of Easter, week 5	Mass in hall	10.00am	+Thresyamma Joseph
Thurs 7	Of Easter, week 5	No Mass: polling day		
Fri 8	Of Easter, week 5	Mass in hall	10.00am	+Sr. Ancy Maria
Sat 9	Of Easter, week 5	No AM Mass		
SUN 10TH MAY	6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A	VIGIL (SAT) MASS	6.00PM 10.00AM	The Cassley Family (Int.) John & Lizzie (80th Birthday)

2/3 May Reader EMHC  
 Vigil (Sat) BD none  
 10.00am NM LE only

9/10 May Reader EMHC  
 Vigil (Sat) AB none  
 10.00am OB JN

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



**CHURCH INTERNAL**

**REDECORATION:** Work has now started in the nave. Weekend Masses will take place as usual in church, but weekday Masses will be in the hall, except for Peter's funeral. For safety and security reasons, there is strictly no unauthorized access to the church during the week.

**HOLY COMMUNION:** During the redecoration there will be equipment stored down the Lady Chapel side aisle, making movement and Communion under both kinds difficult. For that reason, until the work is complete, Communion will only be offered under one kind.

**POLLING DAY:** Local Elections, this Thursday. It is part of the Church's teaching that all who are able have a duty to vote in civil elections. We have that opportunity to do so this Thursday. Don't forget to bring photo ID.

**NB:** No Mass this Thursday due to hall being used for Polling.

**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, Anne Harries, and Pat Newman.

**PLEASE WELCOME:** Mgr Paul Townsend and Fr Paul Lyons who will be offering Masses next weekend. There will be no Confessions next Saturday.

**BARBARA WILLIAMS:** Would welcome our prayers especially this week as she undergoes surgery.

**MANY THANKS:** To Anne and her team for the wonderful celebration for Lizzie last Sunday, and to Johanna for the huge cake.

**MESSAGE FROM LIZZIE:** Thank you all so very much for a wonderful send-off last Sunday. I can imagine the amount of work that went into my party, thanks to Anne and her little team of helpers, and thank you Johanna for the beautiful cake: how did you guess that pink is my favourite colour!! Thank you also to everybody who contributed to my beautiful flowers, champagne, and very generous cheque. God bless you. Lizzie

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGES TO LOURDES, AND ASSISI/TURIN.** Please see the diocesan website for information about these events:  
[www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**PARISH INFO-BAR**

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

**General enquiries, Mass Intentions, and Hall Bookings**  
 Temp. Parish Administrator  
[ololnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:ololnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Parish Priest**  
 Fr Bill Wilson  
 01425 614 968  
[wwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:wwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Safeguarding Minister**  
 Jill Parsons  
[safeguarding.newmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding.newmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)  
*In emergency, please contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator on 02394 216 486*

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

**Parish website**  
[ourladyoflourdes.co.uk](http://ourladyoflourdes.co.uk)

**A Parishioner's Blog**  
[the247catholic.blogspot.com](http://the247catholic.blogspot.com)

**Diocesan website**  
[www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

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