

St Michael and All Angels Catholic Church

437, Dunsbury Way, Leigh Park, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 5BD, 023 9248 4323
Parish Priest Canon Gerard Flynn, The Presbytery, 83, Bramdean Drive, Leigh Park, Hants, PO9 4RR
gerardflynn@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Rev. Nick O'Neill noneill@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary Ellen McCarthy leighpark@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Minister Anne Iheanacho 07979 963477

Newsletter for the Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time *3rd October 2021*

The scriptures at Mass

God makes man and woman for each other.

The bond of marriage means they are no longer two but one. (Genesis 2:18-24)

*By entering fully into human life, and by experiencing the bitterness of death,
Christ became a brother and a saviour to all people. (Hebrews 2:9-11)*



*Christ teaches that the marriage bond comes from God and is indissoluble.
(Mark 10:2-16)*

A Vocation Prayer *O God, you sent your Son, Jesus, to bring eternal life to all who believe. I join him in praying for labourers for your harvest. May your Holy Spirit inspire men & women to continue his mission through your priesthood, diaconate, religious life & lay ministry. May this same Spirit make known your will for my life. Amen*

The Induction of Fr Joe Gruskiewicz as Parish Priest of Havant and Emsworth will take place with Evening Prayer at 7 pm on Wednesday 6th October at St Joseph's, Havant. You are welcome to come and join in on this great occasion!

A Mass on St Luke's Feastday for all healthcare professionals
will be celebrated by Fr Joe McNerney, Bishop's Healthcare Adviser,
at 7.30 pm 18th October at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth.
This is arranged by the Catholic Medical Association of Portsmouth.
Everyone who works in healthcare will be most welcome.

Our Liturgies this week

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available during the half hour before Mass.

Thank you for continuing to wear a face-covering, use sanitiser & sit where advised.

Saturday 2nd October, The Holy Guardian Angels

6 pm Mass for the intentions of the Parish

Twenty-Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time, 3rd October

Prayer of the Church Week 3

10 am Mass Pat Clegg RIP

11.30 am Mass Christian White's intentions (request of Val Perry)

Monday 4th October, St Francis

10 am Mass intentions of Marie & Colin Cooper

Tuesday 5th October, Feria

12.15 pm Chapter Mass at St John's Cathedral

Wednesday 6th October, St Bruno

Canon Gerard celebrates a Year 7 Mass at Oaklands School.

10.30 -11.30 am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 7th October, Our Lady of the Rosary

9 am Mass Glen Wareham intentions

Please note the time of this Mass. This allows Canon Gerard to attend the Council of Priests.

Friday 8th October, Feria

Canon Gerard has a medical appointment today.

Saturday 9th October, St John Henry Newman

10 am Mass David Callaghan RIP

Jesus Youth pray with us again today.

6 pm Mass for the intentions of the Parish

Sunday 10th October, Twenty-Eighth of Ordinary Time,

Prayer of the Church Week 4

10 am Betty Snelling RIP (Ronald's request)

with the baptism of Teddy Tyler-Severs

11.30 am Lyn Olden RIP (request of Eileen Brawn)

Rosaries wanted please

St Thomas More School would be grateful for any rosaries you might have to donate for the children to use. If you have suitable rosaries please leave them with our Parish office or take them direct to school for the attention of Mrs Takacs.

Welcome to Rose Charlotte North baptised last Sunday. Please pray for several families whose children will be baptised here during October and for Katharine Etheridge and Debenjan Ghosh, whose wedding is at St Michael's on 30th October. Please also pray for all parishioners in particular need at this time.

First reading Genesis 2:18-24

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed: 'This at last is bone from my bones, and flesh from my flesh! This is to be called woman, for this was taken from man.' This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

Psalm 127(128)

May the Lord bless us all the days of our life.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper.

May the Lord bless us all the days of our life.

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,

around your table.

May the Lord bless us all the days of our life.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.

May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life!

May you see your children's children.
On Israel, peace!

May the Lord bless us all the days of our life.

Second reading Hebrews 2:9-11

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind. As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.



Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord: consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 10:2-16 Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.' People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

Our beautiful church If you would have a couple of hours a month to spend in our beautiful church, cleaning it, with other kind volunteers, to make sure that it is truly worthy of our worship, please let Canon Gerard or the Parish Office know.

The Acts of the Apostles Phone or text Kathy 07899 788146 for more details of a DVD course, led by Jeff Cavins, on this wonderful account of the beginnings of the Church.

Forthcoming collection 16th & 17th October Foreign Missions

Cafod Fast Day was last Friday 1st October. Tim Collins, our Cafod representative passes on this information from Cafod: *Our local experts help people all over the world to adapt to climate change and protect our common home. By donating to CAFOD this Family Fast Day you can help communities affected by the worst impacts of the climate crisis. Donate online through the CAFOD website or by using a CAFOD envelope. You can also easily give via text. Text CAFOD10 to 70580 to donate £10*. Or choose to give any whole amount between £1 and £20 by texting CAFOD, followed by the amount you would like to donate, to 70580.*

Cash for CAFOD

During October, there will be a collecting box in the working sacristy for your donations of jewellery, stamps, mobile phones, currency and gadgets. The items are recycled to provide much need cash for the work of CAFOD.

Please be generous.



Recycling Collection
Jewellery, foreign money, mobile phones and stamps.
"Raise Money for Your Charity"

Jewellery
Currencies & Coins
Stamps
Mobile Phones & Gadgets

Jewellery
Currencies & Coins
Stamps
Mobile Phones & Gadgets

Recycling
FOR GOOD CAUSES

The poster features images of various items: a necklace, a watch, a mobile phone, a camera, a laptop, a stack of coins, and a stack of stamps. A circular arrow graphic is at the bottom right.

Homily for 27th Sunday in OT Year B

Mark 10:2-12

It's quite a simple message in the Gospel today but also what many in our society and culture might find revolutionary. God is the designer and author of marriage; He is the best one to tell us what marriage actually is, and what we should or shouldn't do in light of his definition.

Our own definitions of marriage have failed us. We need God to teach us.

Here's the definition: Marriage is a divinely-forged oneness. It is a holy and sacred bond in which kinship is created. That same sacred bond is what forms our covenant faithfulness to our spouse while pointing to the unshakeable and unconditional love of God for His people through Jesus.

Those of us married need to live in the light of this very definition. Specifically, a realisation how each spouse is being called to walk in that covenant of faithfulness, and that our example of the ultimate expression of faithfulness was the servanthood and sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

In the Gospel today, the Pharisees are coming once again to test Jesus and this time on the subject of divorce. Although Moses had permitted divorce, Jesus is clear that it was because so many people were "unteachable" and in another translation that it was because of the people having "hardness of heart."

And isn't it true that many marriages suffer due to one or both spouses having this same hardness of heart and rejecting God's desires?

Too many men and women in marriages that although have the knowledge of what Jesus expects them to do in that situation or circumstance, decide that they are unwilling to forgive their spouse and will elevate their own pain and their own rights over and above the will of God. This is a heart growing hard.

Arguments become the basic mode of communication and then both husband and wife grow emotionally distant while different priorities pull the marriage apart, finances might be tight, the bedroom resembles a battleground, unforgiveness and bitterness can fester..... but Jesus is there to lovingly and gently take divorce off the table and calls us to soften our hearts through the power of His own spirit.

Jesus gives the Pharisees his main argument against divorce: "God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide."

This is black and white and a stark warning from Jesus. Marriage is God's masterpiece, and nobody can break it, smash it up or get rid of it.

If you recognise that God is the one who builds his church and weaves all the believers together in Christ, how should that affect your attitude and your thinking towards this body of people? When you recognise that God is the maker of the sky, the sea, the land and creatures, how does that affect your treatment of His creation? When you recognise the God is the one who knits a baby together in a mother's womb, how does that affect our view of pregnancy, planned or unplanned?

And if we recognise that God is the author of our marriage, of every marriage, that our covenant union is a result of God's unifying power, then how does that change the way we treat our marriages?

I know that there are people here that suffered through a divorce or are maybe going through something like that now. My intention is to strengthen us for the present and not stir up the past.

The main message and target audience for this Gospel are married couples. So, whether you are newly married, in your second, third or sixth marriage, God is calling you to live in the light of his definition of marriage.

Now, I'm a big boy. I know what life is like. I know what is going on out there in the world and within our churches. A lot of what we read, teach and believe might sound like a load of old nonsense to many, many people in society. Some people in the church might feel the same way.

At the end of the day, what I say is not important, but what is absolutely critical is what God says and what God is speaking in to your heart.

When we look at the definition and teachings of marriage, we have all failed in one way or another. And that very often, we fail to reflect the glory of God as we should. We fail to reflect his faithfulness and we fail to trust God.

Myself as a husband that has failed in more ways than I care to remember, I know that I need the salvation, strength and leadership of Jesus in my life and in my marriage.

So let me finish by going back to the two key words of that marriage definition.... Unshakeable and Unconditional.....isn't that our hope? Isn't that our comfort? No matter what, God will never leave us, He will never wrong us, He will never forsake us. His love and kindness are everlasting.... Exactly what we need to demonstrate in our marriages.

It is only with Jesus and through Jesus that we can enjoy the one marriage that will last forever.

With love and prayers,

Deacon Nick

For help and support with marriage please visit:-

<https://wwme.org.uk/>

<https://www.loving4life.co.uk/>

<https://www.retrouvaille.org.uk/>

St Michael and All Angels Patronal Feast

The Feast of our Patrons,
St Michael and All Angels

We celebrated with jacket potatoes, face-paint and wonderful company as the sun poured down on more than eighty parishioners last Sunday!



Holy Michael, Archangel, defend us in the day of battle; be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust down to Hell Satan and all wicked spirits, who wander through the world, for the ruin of souls, Amen.

Waterlooville & Fareham Life Group 100 Club

September winner Cathy Graham, Havant - £60

October winner Mrs Tyler, Buckland - £25

Parish Bank details If you wish to make a payment to our Funds the BACS details are:
PRCDTR Leigh St Michael, Lloyds Bank
Sort code : 30 93 04, Account number : 00882004
It would be useful if you could let us know of the payment so that we know its source.
Thank you for all your generous support for our Parish and its Mission.



A Lifeline for Marriage!

Has Covid put you under more stress as a couple? Is your marriage become stressed, unloving, cold? Do you argue more? Do you want to improve your communication? Have you separated, divorced, or are you thinking about it? Do you want to try again? The Retrouvaille programme may be just what you need! The next programme commences with the weekend 21st – 24th October 2021. For more information telephone or text 07887 296983 or 07973 880443. Complete confidentiality is assured.
email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com Website: www.retrouvaille.org

St Thomas More's Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School, currently have a vacancy for a cleaner. 6 hours per week (52 weeks). For more details and an application pack please see school website: <https://www.st-thomasmores.hants.sch.uk/vacancies> or e-mail the School Business Manager on a.wingfield@st-thomasmores.hants.sch.uk