

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH In NEW MILTON

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

15 Mount Ave, New Milton. BH25 6NT.

Parish priest: *Father George Ngwa*

Church opening hours **07.30- 17.00** (during winter)



1st Sunday of Advent

Year B

3 December 2017

THE NEW CHURCH CALENDAR **REFLECTIONS AS WE BEGIN A NEW LITURGICAL YEAR**

As we begin a new Church Calendar this Sunday we may want to ask the question: Why do we celebrate different seasons in the church? Why not treat every Sunday, and every time of the year the same? The church year with its observances of different times in the life of Christ, from anticipation to joy to sorrow and death and then joy again, gives us an opportunity to reflect on God's presence at different moments and the re-dedication needed in all the days of our lives. We come together as church to journey together comforting and strengthen each other. One could say the church year reflects the circle of life with all its ups and downs, all things ordinary and extraordinary. For everything, there is a season, it says in the book of Ecclesiastes and it seems good and important to give each thing in our life its proper time and space. We enter the celebration of this liturgical year, by looking ahead to all the celebrations in our Church calendar, and by being conscious in these moments; and by praising God who transcends time and space and all our various life experiences.

ADVENT: The church year begins with Advent. The word "advent" comes from the Latin "adventus" meaning "arrival" or "coming," particularly of something having great importance; and this is a season to prepare for God's coming into our lives – not only as the baby in the manger, but as God, three in one, who seeks to touch us in the here and now, and who ultimately will gather us all in the heavenly kingdom. The main theme during the Advent season is hope.

CHRISTMAS: The season of Christmas is joyful. We celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ – and we rejoice that God chooses to become one of us, vulnerable and very approachable. God becomes man, the word becomes flesh. Our Saviour is born. Also included during this period are the celebrations of: Holy Family and the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God.

EPIPHANY: After Christmas, lasting 12 days, after Christmas Day, we enter the season of Epiphany. Epiphany the glorious appearance commemorate and celebrate the appearance of God's glory among us revealed to the 3 Wise Men. The feast of the Baptism of Our Lord is celebrated after the celebration of Epiphany.

LENT: Lent is the time beginning with Ash – Wednesday culminating in Holy Week, the week before Easter, during which we commemorate the suffering and death of Jesus Christ. Traditionally, we observe 40 days, because Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness, fasting, praying, and discerning his call and his role as the Son of God. The time of Lent is a similar time for us. As we reflect on the suffering and death of Christ, we are called to discern our role and our ministry in the shadow of the cross. It is a time of prayer, fasting and of sacrificial almsgiving.

EASTER: The Easter season starts on Easter Sunday to the 7th Sunday after Easter – including Divine Mercy Sunday and Ascension Thursday. On Easter day, we celebrate the resurrection of Christ, and God's victory over death, which includes our death as well. Jesus' resurrection is the most important event we as Christians believe in, and thus Easter, in a sense, is the most important season on our church calendar. Take Easter away, and nothing else has any meaning. The very early Christians realized this, and made Easter the very first holy day on the Christian calendar. Our faith stands and falls with Easter. It is a season to rejoice and to celebrate life, and this is the reason we are called an Easter People. People full of life, joy and hope.

PENTECOST: Pentecost signifies the coming of God's Holy Spirit among the disciples who were discouraged and without orientation in the days following Jesus' death and resurrection. The Holy Spirit moved them, out of hiding and into the places where the proclamation of Christ in word and deed was needed. In a sense, the celebration of Easter continues on Pentecost Day.

TRINITY SUNDAY: With the coming of the Holy Spirit, God's manifestation as the Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is complete. We celebrate God, three in one and one in three, who reaches out to us in many different ways. God is a relational God, and this we commemorate and celebrate on Trinity Sunday. And we confess this mystery of the triune God every time we confess our faith.

ORDINARY TIME: After Trinity Sunday, we enter the long season in the liturgical year also called the ordinary time, which lasts into November, with All Saints Sunday the only standout Sunday, in early November (1st November) The ordinary time on our church calendar is a reminder that God comes to us even, through the special and through the ordinary times. Also celebrated within this time are feasts of Corpus Christi, Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven, Remembrance Sunday and Commemoration of All the Faithful departed – All Souls.

CHRIST THE KING: Christ the King Sunday is a fairly recent invention in 1925. When Europe experienced a rise of fascism and unhealthy nationalism, and people more than ever followed idols as their Gods; Christ the King Sunday at the end of our church year ties it all together and reminds us: Christ rules our lives, and we are called to abandon all the idols we worship, and follow Christ alone.

Father George Ngwa.

Message of His Holiness Pope Francis on the FIRST WORLD DAY OF THE POOR continued....

3. Yet there have been times when Christians have not fully heeded this appeal, and have assumed a worldly way of thinking. Yet the Holy Spirit has not failed to call them to keep their gaze fixed on what is essential. He has raised up men and women who, in a variety of ways, have devoted their lives to the service of the poor. Over these two thousand years, how many pages of history have been written by Christians who, in utter simplicity and humility, and with generous and creative charity, have served their poorest brothers and sisters!

The most outstanding example is that of Francis of Assisi, followed by many other holy men and women over the centuries. He was not satisfied to *embrace* lepers and give them *alms*, but chose to go to Gubbio to *stay* with them. He saw this meeting as the turning point of his conversion: "When I was in my sins, it seemed a thing too bitter to look on lepers, and the Lord himself led me among them and I showed them mercy. And when I left them, what had seemed bitter to me was changed into sweetness of mind and body" (*Text 1-3: FF 110*). This testimony shows the transformative power of charity and the Christian way of life.

We may think of the poor simply as the beneficiaries of our occasional volunteer work, or of impromptu acts of generosity that appease our conscience. However good and useful such acts may be for making us sensitive to people's needs and the injustices that are often their cause, they ought to lead to a true *encounter* with the poor and a *sharing* that becomes a way of life. Our prayer and our journey of discipleship and conversion find the confirmation of their evangelic authenticity in precisely such charity and sharing. This way of life gives rise to joy and peace of soul, because we touch with our own hands the *flesh of Christ*. If we truly wish to encounter Christ, we have to touch his body in the suffering bodies of the poor, as a response to the sacramental communion bestowed in the Eucharist. The Body of Christ, broken in the sacred liturgy, can be seen, through charity and sharing, in the faces and persons of the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters. Saint John Chrysostom's admonition remains ever timely: "If you want to honour the body of Christ, do not scorn it when it is naked; do not honour the Eucharistic Christ with silk vestments, and then, leaving the church, neglect the other Christ suffering from cold and nakedness" (*Hom. in Matthaem, 50.3: PG 58*).

We are called, then, to draw near to the poor, to encounter them, to meet their gaze, to embrace them and to let them feel the warmth of love that breaks through their solitude. Their outstretched hand is also an invitation to step out of our certainties and comforts, and to acknowledge the value of poverty in itself.

4. Let us never forget that, for Christ's disciples, poverty is above all a *call to follow Jesus in his own poverty*. It means walking behind him and beside him, a journey that leads to the beatitude of the Kingdom of heaven (cf. *Mt 5:3; Lk 6:20*). Poverty means having a humble heart that accepts our creaturely limitations and sinfulness and thus enables us to overcome the temptation to feel omnipotent and immortal. Poverty is an interior attitude that avoids looking upon money, career and luxury as our goal in life and the condition for our happiness. Poverty instead creates the conditions for freely shouldering our personal and social responsibilities, despite our limitations, with trust in God's closeness and the support of his grace. Poverty, understood in this way, is the yardstick that allows us to judge how best to use material goods and to build relationships that are neither selfish nor possessive (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Nos. 25-45). To be continued....

Deacon Stephen will be here on Sunday 17th December when we have a chance to officially say goodbye to him.

Pre Christmas party will take place in the hall after Mass on Saturday 16th December.

1. Bring a plate of food to the hall on Saturday morning to be shared by all at the party.
 2. Own drink, soft drinks will be provided.
 3. There will be a raffle, tickets £1 or £5 a book on sale from now.
 4. prizes for the raffle would be appreciated. Bring to the sacristy where they will be collected.
- Help needed on the Saturday morning to setup hall. If the men and boys could decorate the hall please on the Sunday prior to the party. Decorations will be in the hall to use for the decor. Posters will be in the hall and church this week. The ukulele group who performed before will attend again to provide music and carols.

HOW SECURE IS YOUR HOME?

The Blue Lamp Trust is a FREE service available to the vulnerable and elderly in our communities. As a registered Charity it offers a FREE OF CHARGE home security and survey check to assess work needed to make your home safe and secure. Any items required such as locks, spy holes, window alarms, door chains, smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms can be fitted free of charge. Even if you have a burglar alarm it is well worth considering a survey. The service is supported by Exxon Mobile and ex staff from the police, fire service and ex service personnel.

Call FREE OF CHARGE on 0300 777 0157 or visit www.bluelamptrust.org.uk

Help required. Is there anyone willing to organise and put up 2 shelves in the Office as storage is getting tight. Please contact Johanna. Thank you.

IMPORTANT The PARISH OFFICE will be closed this week. Messages can be left on the answer phone or emailed. Thank you.

Treasurer's Update.

For November Parish Income and Expenditure (excludes special collections) was as shown below. There were 5 Sundays this month. Special thanks to those who have increased their Offertory giving or have joined the Gift Aid scheme.

INCOME	
Offertory	£3673
Votive Candles	£305
Fish & Chip Supper	£228
Hall Income	£189
Other	£63
Total	£4458
EXPENDITURE	
Diocese Levy	£1564
Clergy	£1198
Church/Liturgy	£835
Presbytery/Grounds	£280
Hall	£109
Insurance/Other	£202
Total	£4188

Monthly figures Church Streaming – number of viewers 3813, unique viewers 1268 total time viewed 1050 hours number spending over 5 mins 688

Sunday	3	December	1 st Sunday of Advent	18.00 Vigil Mass - <i>Holloway Family</i> 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass
Monday	4	December	St John Damascene		5.45 Rosary Group
Tuesday	5	December	of the 1 st week in Advent	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass – <i>Sheila Feasey 90th birthday</i>	
Wednesday	6	December	St Nicholas	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Catherine d’Espagnac, birthday</i>	
Thursday	7	December	St Ambrose	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Mary & Jack Loftus RIP</i>	Rosary intention for peace in the world
Friday	8	December	Immaculate Conception of the BVM	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Hilary Sendall’s intentions</i>	
Saturday	9	December	St John Diego Cuahtlatoatzin	09.30 Divine Mercy chaplet veneration of the relic of Sr Faustina 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Richard Sloman, health & guidance</i> 18.00 Vigil Mass – <i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	Confessions after morning Mass & before Vigil Mass
Sunday	10	December	2 nd Sunday of Advent	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Manuel Caneda, thanksgiving for recovery</i>	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass

Prayer to St Michael, said at the end of Masses. St Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection 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 cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

Christmas masses: Christmas Vigil is Sunday 24th December at 8pm with carols starting at 7.15pm. Christmas morning at 10.00.

Collections 25/26 November	
loose	336.88
envelopes	232.00
Thank you for your continued support	

	Sat 2 Dec	Sun 3 Dec	Sat 9 Dec	Sun 10 Dec
Reader	B Coyne	J Thomas	A Nash	S Ramsay
	T Gearey	M Tanner	P Thorpe	J Thomas
EMHC	J Coyne	A Caneda	R or M Yon	A Joseph
	M Newland	J Kurian	C d’Espagnac	J Nichols
	B Coyne	M Tanner	M Harwood	M Buckland

Parish priest: Father George Ngwa

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Parish office: 01425 614968 Hall Booking via Parish Office

lolnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Secretary: Johanna Thomas Wed/ Fri 10.45-12.00.

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

Website: www.nfwp.org.uk

Safeguarding: Katherine Dempster Tel: 01425 611643 email: katherine.dempster@btinternet.com

