

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**



4th Sunday of Advent

Year B

24 December 2017



Photos taken on Sat 16th
December at the Christmas
party.



Manuel and Antonia
celebrated 45 years
since they were
married in this
Church.

Christmas, a Family Feast, is one of the most important days of the Church year, second only to Easter itself. It is the feast of the incarnation, the feast of God becoming flesh (the Latin "in carne" means "enfleshment"). It is a uniquely Christian teaching that the Divine freely chose to become one of us. Because of this belief, God is not only Transcendent, but also wholly Immanent, Emmanuel (God-with-us). While remaining Transcendent (meaning we must rise above our present condition to reach Him), He is at the same time Immanent (meaning He is with us as we rise toward Him). Every Eucharist is like Christmas where the bread and wine are transformed into His flesh, His Body and Blood, and, in a sense, He is born anew on the altar.

The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him.

The Christmas tree and the Nativity scene are popular symbols of the season and a tradition in many Christian homes. It is also traditional to exchange Christmas gifts with family and friends as a way to honour God the

Father's gift of his only son to the world. Having received the gift of Christ, we naturally want to pass that gift along to our loved ones and keep the celebration of Christmas in the family - **but how?**

Catholic Families Worship Together—The Eucharist is the source of our love and the sign of the intimacy to which we are called. Therefore, as a family, this Christmas we must attend Holy Mass and we actively participate in parish activities leading up to Christmas. We also recognize that as fallen persons, we struggle to be the loving community we are called to be. Therefore, as a family, we must celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation (go to confession) to receive God's healing and grace so we might better live his vision of love in our lives and homes.

Catholic Families Pray Together. As “domestic church” we recognize that we cannot love one another as God loves us unless we ask him, together, to teach us what this means. Therefore, in addition to our individual prayer life, we gather together as husband and wife / husband and wife and children as a family for prayer to the infant Jesus. In that time, we praise and thank God for his blessings, we ask him for the grace to love each other and the world better, we seek his will for our lives, and we pray for both our needs and the needs of the Family of God. We recognize that, **“the family that prays together, stays together.”**

We remember that Catholic Families are called to Intimacy with each other. Tertullian, one of the Fathers of the Church once proclaimed, “The world says, ‘Look at those Christians, see how they love one another!’” The Christian life is first and foremost a call to intimate communion. We recognize that families are “Schools of Love.” Therefore, as a family, we constantly challenge ourselves to seek and discover new ways to be even more open with and loving to each other as husband and wife, parents and children. We recognize that children are to be a visible sign of the loving union between husband and wife and we work to make this a reality in our homes both in the quality of our relationships and in our openness to life. Further, we must cultivate marriage and parenting practices that make each member of the family—husband and wife, parents and children—willingly open up to one another and seek to freely give themselves to create a deeper “community of love” and practice all the virtues that help us live life as a gift.

God wants to change the world through our families. We allow ourselves to be part of his plan for changing the world in two ways. First, by striving to exhibit in every way possible in our daily interactions as husband and wife, parents and children, the love and intimacy that every human heart longs for. We must show the world that this love is a possible dream worth striving for. Second, we will carry this love outside the home by serving the world-at-large in a manner that is responsible and respectful of the integrity of the family unit. We do this by committing ourselves and our families to the intentional practice of all the corporal and spiritual works of mercy within the home and outside of it. To this end, we must foster a regular catechises back at home.

Fr. George Ngwa

Remember that the Christmas Collection is for the priest. ***No matter where you attend Holy Mass – in your parish or out of your parish so please be generous in thanksgiving.***

Through a generous donation, Bishop Philip is able to give to all of you attending the Masses this Christmas, the gift of a book, Matthew Kelly's Rediscover Jesus. Please make sure you receive yours. Please can all those taking Holy Communion to the Sick at the weekends please pick up extra copies for them. Thank you.

A big thank you to Colin Hayley and Tapper Funeral services who purchased and had delivered our beautiful Christmas tree this year. It is a lovely shape and bushy. It also seemed to grow two foot when it was put up, compared to when it was by the side door! We are all very thankful for this very kind service they have been providing for us each year.

STOP PRESS The diaries are now available! 20pence each. EMHC please can you make sure the housebound receive one for free.

Saturday 16th December was the Christmas party. See photos on front page. A big thank you to all the organisers, (sorry no photo of Robin),

hard workers and everyone who supported it by attending, entertaining, donating raffle prizes and buying tickets. The total raised will be advertised in the New Year. A few prizes have not yet been collected.



Thank you all so much for volunteering so promptly in assisting at the Christmas Masses. All is filled in except there are no WELCOMERS down, at present, to help at Mass on Christmas Day. But remember, we need more to help at the side entrance. Please consider helping even if it is only for this day.

Will at least one welcomer from each day please speak with Johanna BEFORE the day as there are some additional instructions for you. Thank you again.

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

Sunday	24	December	4th Sunday of Advent	18.00 Vigil Mass - Emanuel Saliba RIP 10.00 Holy Mass – Missa Pro Populo 15.30- Blessing of Christmas Bread OPLATKI (Polish community) 19.15 Carols leading to:- 20.00 Vigil Mass -intention for all mothers and expectant mothers	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass
Monday	25	December	Nativity of The Lord	10.00 Holy Mass - Missa Pro Populo	
Tuesday	26	December	St Stephen	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass – Timothy Butler RIP	
Wednesday	27	December	St John the Evangelist	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – Br James Ryan RIP	Rosary intention for the sick of the parish
Thursday	28	December	Holy Innocents	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – Thanksgiving for Rosary group	Rosary intention for peace in the world
Friday	29	December	St Thomas of Canterbury	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – Charles & Minnie Gorbett RIP	
Saturday	30	December	Sixth day within Octave of Christmas	09.30 Divine Mercy chaplet veneration of the relic of Sr Faustina 10.00 Holy Mass – intentions of Paul & Gehane Gordelier 18.00 Vigil Mass – William & Sylvia Buckland RIP	Confessions after morning Mass & before Vigil Mass
Sunday	31	December	Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	10.00 Holy Mass – Missa Pro Populo	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass

Collections 16/17 Dec	
loose	444.41
envelopes	253.80
Thank you for your continued support	
Christmas crib offerings are for the Friends of the Holy Land this year.	

	Sat 23 Dec	Sun 24 Dec	Sat 30 Dec	Sun 31 Dec
Reader	M Hobbs	C Fradd	K Dempster	M Tanner
	C d'Espagnac	H Fawcett	J Marriott	J Thomas
EMHC	R orM Yon	M Tanner	M Newland	P Clarke
	F Fallon	A Joseph	B Coyne	S Salinger
	J Thomas	J Nicholls	J Coyne	A Caneda

Parish priest: Father George Ngwa

email: gngwa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk emergency mobile: 07475753040

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

Holy Family, Jesus Mary & Joseph Year B 31 December 2017

Sunday	31	December	Holy Family – Jesus Mary & Joseph	18.00 Vigil Mass - <i>William & Sylvia Buckland RIP</i> 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass
Monday	1	January	Mary, Holy Mother of God	10.00 Holy Mass - <i>John Gow RIP</i>	
Tuesday	2	January	St Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass – <i>Andrew Doolan, health & wellbeing</i>	
Wednesday	3	January	The Most Holy Name of Jesus	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Jack & Mary Loftus RIP</i>	Rosary intentions for the sick of the parish
Thursday	4	January	of Christmastide	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Peggy Tolliday RIP</i>	Rosary intention for peace in the world
Friday	5	January	of Christmastide	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Bill & Mary Hodgkinson RIP</i>	
Saturday	6	January	of Christmastide	09.30 Divine Mercy chaplet veneration of the relic of Sr Faustina 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Patrick Sheehan RIP</i> 18.00 Vigil Mass of the Epiphany– <i>intention of Maria Alonso</i>	Confessions after morning Mass & before Vigil Mass
Sunday	7	January	Epiphany of the Lord	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass

The Feast of the Holy Family

is the Diocesan day of prayer for all children and vulnerable adults and victims of abuse. Mary and Joseph provided a safe home environment for Jesus. Let us pray that the Church in all her contexts will be a safe haven for our children and for the vulnerable.

For all their efforts, let us thank God for the work of our diocesan safeguarding Coordinator, for members of the Safeguarding Commission and all parish safeguarding representatives.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

	Sat 30 Dec	Sun 31 Dec	Sat 6 Jan	Sun 7 Jan
Reader	K Dempster	M Tanner	J Marriott	S Ramsay
	J Marriott	J Thomas	B Coyne	J Thomas
EMHC	M Newland	P Clarke	C d'Espagnac	J Kurian
	B Coyne	S Salinger	M Harwood	M Tanner
	J Coyne	A Caneda	R or M Yon	A Joseph