

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 **8:00am - 4.00pm**



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR "C" 16TH DECEMBER 2018

Ways Advent brings to us the True Meaning of Christmas— Part 2

3. It moves our faith forward. *“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.” Luke 2:8-9*

We all have our favourite part of the Christmas story, but Advent begs us not to forget the minute details. For instance, the angels appeared to shepherds the night Christ was born. Shepherds smelled like their sheep! They were not the most glamorous in society, yet the angels sang to them of the Saviour being born. It's common to remember the manger scene, but do we know about the crucial conversation three kings had with Herod, and the alternate route they took home to protect the Saviour King as a result. Searching for details to the story moves our faith forward. The living, breathing, and active word of God begs us to be convicted by every detail.

4. It makes us remember. *“He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.” Luke 1:54-55*

Christmas memories bring a mix of joy and sorrow. As we sift through scenes of Christmas' past, we see living proof of God's love in our lives. We can trace the tracks of the people He placed as extensions of His love. We are God's people, whom He is merciful towards forever, as the above verse in Luke mentions. Meditating on the rich history of the nativity scene creates a feeling of connectedness to all those who have gone before us, anticipating the Messiah's first, and now second coming.

5. It creates tradition. *“And Mary said, ‘My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me - holy is his name.’” Luke 1:46-49*

Mary was touched God saw and remembered her, and now we prayerfully recall her note of thanksgiving and promise in the verses above. The traditions we choose to pass on say quite a bit about our faith. Cookie exchanges, parties, family drives to look at Christmas lights, and other traditional gatherings bring us together. The opportunities to love people abound in the Advent season. Advent challenges us to remember each other. As we prepare our hearts to welcome the Saviour, it reminds us to reach out to the lonely and make memorable traditions that spread God's love.

6. It puts us in His presence. *“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.” Luke 1:68.* *“Glorious,”* sung by For King and Country, puts us in the middle of God's presence during Advent. Immanuel, God with us, is the pinnacle of our Advent preparation. The chorus sings, *“He is the chorus to every song that we were born to sing. He is the rhythm of your heart so let the beat begin.”* Whether in corporate worship or driving down the road, sing out! Marvel in what He has created for us to witness and experience. Worship doesn't have to be singing Christmas carols. It's creating space to stop and sit with Him, marvel at Him, and allow Him to replenish our thirsty souls.

7. It teaches us about Him. *“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, ‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.’”* **Matthew 2:1-2.** The three kings were educated men that made a point to follow a star they knew meant much more than all the others. Advent materials educate our walk through the Scriptures of the Advent season. Each day, God’s Word has the capacity to reveal a new bit about Him we didn’t know before. Underline words that are repeated and look deeper into the meaning of everyday words in light of the Advent season. Words like noel, joy, merry, and Immanuel. Peering further into the meaning of them enlightens our hearts. Look at familiar pieces of Scripture in other translations and paraphrases to see them in a new light.

8. It convicts us to change. *“Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God.”* **Luke 1:30.** Noah and Moses also found favour with God. (**Genesis 6:8; Exodus 33:12**) Favour, in the original Greek text, means grace. The Advent season begs us to meet God in the pages of Scripture with the intent of growing in grace. Christmas is about new birth, celebration, hope, and miracles. Grace, granted to us by Jesus’ death on the cross, allows us stand in God’s presence a new creation. Growing closer to Him during the Advent season convicts us to desire a heart like His.

9. It reminds us Whose we are. *“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.”* **Isaiah 9:2.** We are God’s holy people, set a part and loved so completely and sacrificially that He gave His only Son for our souls. In exchange for the restoration Christ offers us through salvation, we spend eternity with our Heavenly Father. Resetting to that perspective is important. Embracing that truth is crucial to our spiritual growth. Advent is attacked with over-doing, but it’s what He did that matters most. Christ is the greatest gift. Remembering we are His and resetting our perspective during Advent helps us relax into our purpose, renew our strength, and increase our ability to trust Him.

10. It ushers in hope. *“All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel’ (which means ‘God with us’)”* **Matthew 1:22-23.** Many memes about saying goodbye to a year filled with trials fill social media in this season. The pain in and of this world is undeniable. Advent reminds us God is in control. Hundreds of years spanned the Old Testament prophecies of Jesus’ birth with the New Testament occurrence of His entrance into this world. For centuries, people struggled to see the big picture, but God had a plan. We struggle to see the big picture through our pain and need Advent to re-focus on the gift of hope Jesus is to us. God’s plan is unfolding, and Christ will return. Just as sure as He was born in the manger to fulfil prophesy, so He will return and restore the earth. Advent tunes our hearts to Hope.

Fr. George Ngwa

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULES

Monday 24 th December – Christmas Vigil Mass	Christmas Carols -7:30 p.m. Vigil Mass – 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday 25 th December – Christmas Day Mass	10:00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS LITURGY: Please could any 2 Readers volunteer as lectors for our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: There will be a retiring collection at the end of this Mass for our traditional Christmas Flowers.

THE LIVING ROSARY GROUP: The living Rosary is a spiritual family which envelopes us in daily prayer of the Rosary. We follow Pope Leo XIII in praying the Rosary for the defeat of War in a united world joined in

prayer. The entire Rosary consists of 4 parts; the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and glorious Mysteries. In each of them are five particular names of the Mystery – all together twenty Mysteries. Therefore, a Living Rosary consists of twenty people, each of whom offers daily, one decade of the Rosary and a change of this is made every month on the day we hold our meetings. Meditation on these Mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary is the source of countless graces and helps us to fully love and serve others.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES LIVING ROSARY GROUPS:The two Living Groups meet on the First Monday of every month at 5:45 p.m. (Excluding Bank Holidays.) The meeting takes about 30 mins. In which time, each person will be given a decade of the Rosary to pray each day until the next meeting. Additionally, members can request for prayers for particular intentions which is included in the monthly Petitions. New members are always welcomed. However since the Rosary has only twenty decades which are assigned to twenty members corresponding to the number of members per group, your name will be placed on a waiting list for. Please contact Mary Tanner, if you wish to join on 01425 614391

PARISH 12 NIGHT PARTY:Saturday 5th January 2019 after the 6:00 p.m. Holy Mass in the Parish Hall. A moderate charge of £5.00 per head.

THANKS EVER SO MUCH: Our Lady of Lourdes Parish New Milton is grateful and ever so much to TAPPERS FUNERAL SERVICE, for the providing us with our usual Christmas Tree.

On Whom Will You Rely in the Coming Year 2019 ?

“And Joshua said unto all the people [of Israel], . . . choose you this day whom ye will serve; . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:2, 15).

It was late fall and the Indians on a remote reservation in South Dakota asked their new chief if the coming winter was going to be cold or mild. Since he was a chief in a modern society, he had never been taught the old secrets. When he looked at the sky, he couldn't tell what the winter was going to be like.

Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, he told his tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the village should collect firewood to be prepared. But, being a practical leader, after several days, he got an idea He went to the phone booth, called the National Weather Service and asked, *‘Is the coming winter going to be cold?’ ‘It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold,’* the meteorologist at the weather service responded. So the chief went back to his people and told them to collect even more firewood in order to be prepared. A week later, he called the National Weather Service again. *‘Does it still look like it is going to be a very cold winter?’ ‘Yes,’ the man at National Weather Service again replied, ‘it’s going to be a very cold winter.’* The chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of firewood they could find. Two weeks later, the chief called the National Weather Service again. *‘Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?’ ‘Absolutely,’* the man replied. *‘It’s looking more and more like it is going to be one of the coldest winters we’ve ever seen.’ ‘How can you be so sure?’* the chief asked. The weatherman replied, *‘The Indians are collecting a load of firewood’*

Now, while that's a cute story and probably tells you more truth about the weather service than you want to know, there's a real lesson here to ask as you move into a new year. **In the coming year, just who or what are you going to rely on for leading and advice?** Who will you serve? Where will you place your trust? What do you consider to be your sources of wisdom? **While millions are making resolutions, most of which will be broken within thirty days,** I challenge you to focus on the questions above and answer them with true sincerity. If you get advice from the right places, serve the right leading, place your trust in the right source and get your wisdom from the right places, the day to day decisions will take care of themselves.

Joshua challenged his people to choose who they would serve but said that for him and for his house, they would serve the Lord. So many people today place their trust in what the world calls wisdom, but the Psalmist said it best: *“Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.” (Psalm 20:7).* **In the coming year, pray that we all may do nothing less.**

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR "C" 16TH DECEMBER 2018

Sunday	16	Dec.	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C	<u>18.00</u> Vigil Mass of Third Sunday of Advent - For Maria Alonso 10.00 Holy Mass – Martha Connelly	Coffee & Tea in Hall after Mass
Monday	17		3 RD WEEK OF ADVENT		
Tuesday	18	Dec.	3 RD WEEK OF ADVENT		PENITENTIAL SERVICE 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday	19	Dec.	3 RD WEEK OF ADVENT	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – Brigid Horan RIP	Confession after Mass
Thursday	20	Dec.	3 RD WEEK OF ADVENT	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – Jack & Mary Loftus RIP	
Friday	21	Dec.	3 RD WEEK OF ADVENT	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass - Charles and Minnie Garbett RIP	Confession after Mass
Saturday	22	Dec.	3 RD WEEK OF ADVENT	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass - Ned Horan <u>18.00</u> -Vigil Mass of FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C - For Elza RIP	Confession after Mass 17.30 Confession
Sunday	23	Dec.	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C	10.00 Holy Mass – Emanuel Saliba RIP	Coffee & Tea in Hall after Mass

IMPORTANT – MASS OFFERINGS/INTENTIONS. If you would like Holy Mass said for your Intention(s), then please take one of the envelopes on the shelf by the Confessional and fill in your details, add an offering and place it into the general collection at one of the weekend Masses. The next available day will be booked in the diary. If you wish a specific date, please give plenty of notice and phone the office during opening times or call in to check the date is available. Thank You!

Collections 10/11 Nov.		Sat. 15 Dec..	Sun. 16 Dec.	Sat. 22Dec.	Sun. 23 Dec.
loose	£377.51	Reader P. Thorpe	C. Barrett	J. Marriott	P. Caffyn
envelopes	£247.75	M. Hobbs	S. Salinger	M. Newland	P. Caffyn
		EMHC B. Dempster	J. Kurian	M. Newland	A. Caneda
		K. Dempster	Akhil Joseph	M. Harwood	M. Tanner
		M. Harwood	S. Salinger	F. Fallon	J. Nichols
Thank you for your continued support					

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: Lizzie Davies Wed & Fri 10.00h-14.00h

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

Website: www.nfwp.org.uk

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

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