

## 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 7:30am - 5.00pm



**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR "C" 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2018**

### ADVENT, IT'S COLOURS AND MEANING TO CHRISTIANS



"When we await at home a visit from a loved one, we prepare everything with care and happiness. In the same way we want to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord: to wait for him every day with solicitude, to be filled with his grace when he comes," Pope Francis said Dec. 10. Vatican City (CNA/EWTN News)

Advent is traditionally celebrated the four Sundays before Christmas as a means of preparing our hearts for the miraculous birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The word Advent is derived from the Latin *adventus*, which means coming. It is the telling and re-telling the story of why God came into this world, (the Incarnation), and also pointing and looking forward to His coming again. Christians typically celebrate the season by lighting the ceremonial Advent candles and

reading Scriptures. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9: 6,).

The wreath is always in the shape of a circle to represent God's eternity, His unending nature. The evergreens symbolize life. We as Christians have eternal life once we have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

Nestled inside the wreath of evergreens are five candles, each representing a significant aspect of the Christmas story. The first three candles are purple to represent preparation, the fourth candle is pink to represent joy, and the last is white to represent Christ. Each candle also has an individual meaning.

**FIRST CANDLE – (purple) THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE –** We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. "And again, Isaiah says, 'The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:12-13

**SECOND CANDLE – (purple) THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION –** God kept his promise of a Saviour who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation

means to “get ready”. Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! “As is written in the book of the

words of Isaiah the prophet: ‘A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God’s salvation.’ (Luke 3:4-6)

**THIRD CANDLE** – (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY** – The angels sang a message of JOY! “...and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. 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. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests.’ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.’” (Luke 2:7-15)

**FOURTH CANDLE** – (purple) **THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE** – The angles announced the good news of a Saviour. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” (John 3:16-17)

**FIFTH CANDLE** – (white) “**CHRIST CANDLE**” – The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! Being placed in the center of the ‘empty space’ also is a physical reminder that Christ came down from heaven and entered into our world for our salvation. When the candle is lit, it reminds us that Christ is the light of the world! After all, Christ is “the Light that came into the world” to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (cf. John 3:19-21). His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’” (John 1:29) ... **To be Continued.**

*Fr.*

*George Ngwa*

### **WHEN WE LOSE PEOPLE DEAR TO US**

This is true in death and in Life let us meditate on this

Rania Naim In this article sees a reason why God brings us closer to certain people and henlet them go:

People always say you can’t really explain why you feel a certain way about someone. Why you click with some people more than others or why you suddenly feel connected to a stranger. I feel like God brings us closer to certain people because these are the people we need in our lives right now. These are the people who will either teach us important lessons about life or about ourselves.

There’s a reason why God moves your heart toward a specific person and a reason why you get attached to certain people more than others. When I look back, there’s not one person I got really attached to who didn’t have something valuable to teach me or didn’t play a major role in my life. And the irony is, most of these people were *temporary* because their duty was to show me a different way and then set me free.

Sometimes the stage of your life determines what kind of people you attract and I think that's the beauty of faith, God sends you the people you need at exactly the right time. He gives you the answers you were looking for through these people. He enlightens you by bringing you closer to people who bring out the best in you. He helps you when you're struggling by pulling you closer to those who are capable of digging you out of your darkness.

**It's just that sometimes we try to turn these temporary people into forever people but that's not their role. They're not meant to stay in our lives forever. God called them to be there for us for only a short period of time. God called them to be in our lives so they can make us better for the ones who are meant to stay forever.**

The problem is we become frustrated when these people leave because we can't let go. We don't understand why God would take away something so beautiful or someone who healed us but if you look at it from the perspective that if these people overstayed their welcome, their beauty will fade away, their love will die, their story will not be inspiring anymore and they will turn into a burden we're not meant to carry, it will all start making sense.

The essence of letting go is *faith*. Faith that this story is better left the way it is. It's better left the way God wrote it. Maybe rewriting it will ruin the story. Maybe changing it will not give you a happy ending. Maybe these people are angels sent to you to teach you a lesson or heal you or make you a better person and when their time is up, they fly away. They're meant to be placed in someone else's life.

**Maybe these people are also teaching you how to let go, how to detach, how to realize when someone's part in your story is over and have faith that the next person God brings you closer to is exactly who you need, even if you don't know it yet.**

Because I know that the day we meet the person who is meant to stay forever, we'd be able to spot them from a mile away, we'd recognize them in a crowded room because we finally understand the difference between someone who touches our hand and someone who touches our *soul*

**Bible Mathematics: We are not to add to the Bible,  
Nor to subtract from it, but to rightly divide it.**

**If you think you are too small to do a big thing,  
try doing the small things in a big way.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIVING ROSAR GROUP** – Next meeting for the members of the Living Rosary group is Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 5:45 p.m. in the Parish Hall

**VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED TO CLEAN THE CHURCH ON A MONTHLY ROTA BASIS** – usually in groups of 4 or 5. If you can help, please phone Robin Bantin on 01425 838 227. Thank you!

**CAFOD World Gifts – the true spirit of Christmas Giving**

Give a gift that will change a life . There are gifts for every budget from Happy Queen Bee at £4 to Help a Refugee child at £46. Each CAFOD World gift has been chosen for the real and lasting difference it makes to families living in developing countries . Catalogues are available at church or you can buy online at [cafod.org.uk/worldgifts](http://cafod.org.uk/worldgifts)

## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR“C” 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2018

Sunday	2	Dec.	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C	18.00 Vigil Mass of First Sunday of Advent <i>MPP</i> 10.00 Holy Mass – For the Birthday of Catherine	Coffee & Tea in Hall after Mass
Monday	3		1 <sup>ST</sup> Week OF ADVENT		
Tuesday	4	Dec.	ST. JOHN DAMASCENE	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass-	
Wednesday	5	Dec.	34 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – Mary and Jack Loftus RIP	Confession after Mass
Thursday	6	Dec.	1 <sup>ST</sup> Week OF ADVENT	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – Catherine d’Espagnac Birthday Intention	
Friday	7	Dec.	ST. AMBROSE	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass - Private Intention of Fr. George Ngwa	Confession after Mass
Saturday	8	Dec.	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass -  (18.00 Vigil Mass of SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C -	Dedication Mass with Bishop Philip Egan in Reading.  17.30 Confession
Sunday	9	Dec.	2 <sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C	10.00 Holy Mass – Evelina Sibayan 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. 01 Dec..	Sun. 02 Dec.	Sat. 08 Dec.	Sun. 09 Dec.
loose	£401.28	<b>Reader</b> P. Thorpe	C. Fradd	M. Newland	C. Barrette
envelopes	£225.00	T. Gearey	C. Fradd	T. A. Nash	C. Barrette
Thank you for your continued support		<b>EMHC</b> M. Newland	S. Salinger	J. Thomas	S. Salinger
		M. Harwood	A. Caneda	F. Fallon	A. Caneda
		J. Thomas	J. Nichols	T. Gearery	J. Nichols

**Parish priest: Father George Ngwa**

email: [gngwa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:gngwa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) emergency mobile: **07475753040**

**Parish office: 01425 614968** Hall Booking via Parish Office

[lolnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lolnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Secretary: Lizzie Davies** Wed & Fri 10.00h-14.00h

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

Website: [www.nfwf.org.uk](http://www.nfwf.org.uk)

**Safeguarding: Katherine Dempster** Tel: **01425 611643** email: [katherine.dempster@btinternet.com](mailto: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