

## 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**



2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR "C" 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018

### **POPULAR ADVENT TRADITIONS– Part 2**

- 1. Advent Wreath:** One of the most popular ways to celebrate Advent is with an Advent wreath or Advent candleholders. Four candles (three purple and one pink and one white), are used to count down the weeks until Christmas. Each Sunday of Advent one of the candles is lit and special prayers are said..
- 2. Advent Dinners:** Make the Sundays of Advent into something special. Prepare a nice meal and invite over family & friends. This would be a great time to light the candles on your Advent wreath and invite all to join in the special prayers for that week.
- 3. Prepare Seasonal Food:** Many historically Catholic countries have traditions of preparing food that goes with the liturgical seasons, especially Advent and Christmas.
- 4. Advent Devotional Reading:** There are lots of great Advent books that take you deeper into the profound theology of Advent. God comes to us as a Child, and this is amazing to think about! Going through each day with devotional reading is one of the best ways to spiritually prepare yourself for Christmas, the birth of the King of Kings.
- 5. Special Prayers:** Adopt special prayers during the Advent season. You can often find them in Advent devotional books. There is also the St. Andrew Christmas Novena which is traditionally prayed from the feast of St. Andrew (November 30<sup>th</sup>) until Christmas Eve.
- 6. Advent Calendars:** Another popular way to celebrate the Advent season, especially popular with children, is the Advent calendar. Counting down the days to Christmas helps children to anticipate patiently and to focus on waiting for the baby Jesus to be born. You can purchase one or make one as a fun craft time for kids.
- 7. Advent Music:** Make your own playlist of music appropriate for Advent which anticipates Christ's birth. Find a list of Advent music in our Church hymn book
- 8. Nativity Scenes:** Nativity sets are a classic tradition and are great to display during the Advent season. To make the display especially poignant, wait until Christmas Eve to place the Baby Jesus into the scene.
- 9. Jesse Tree:** If you have kids, the Jesse Tree (named after the father of King David, the ancestor of Jesus, as mentioned in Isaiah 11) is a fun biblical activity during the Advent season which prepares for the birth of Christ and his mission. It's fun for kids and great catechesis. It goes through the

ancestry of Jesus and how all of his ancestors played a role in salvation history. The tree created can then be used as a holiday decoration.

**10. Advent Penance Services:** Advent is known as the “little Lent” and is therefore a time for penitential practices. Many Catholic parishes have special penance services for Advent. Confession is an important part of preparing room for the coming of Christ into our hearts, that is, allowing Him to draw us into deeper conversion.

**11. Small Sacrifices for the Christ Child:** Because Advent is known as the “little Lent,” prayer, alms, and sacrifices are also a part of Advent season. Just as the Magi laboured through a long journey to worship and gave precious gifts to the Christ Child, so we can do the same; we can give the Baby Jesus our sacrifices during the Advent season.

**12. Almsgiving:** Good deeds and generosity have always been an important part of preparation for Christmas. Advent is a great time to practice spiritual and corporeal acts of mercy such as Christmas gifts for disadvantaged children, volunteering at a nursing home or soup kitchen, visiting the sick in a hospital, or simply inviting people into your home who may have no friends or family of their own to celebrate the holidays with.

**13. Celebrate the Advent Saint Feast Days:** Celebrate the saints of the Advent & Christmas season. In addition to St. Andrew’s feast day on November 30th—the Advent kick-off—there are other saints with feast days during Advent that have special cultural traditions associated with them. St. Nicholas Days on December 6th, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (a Holy Day of Obligation) is December 8th, Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day is December 12th, and St. Lucy’s feast day is December 13th.

**14. Christmas Tree Blessing:** When you finish decorating the Christmas tree, bless it with this Christmas tree blessing.

**15. Adopt a Cultural Tradition:** There are also other Advent traditions that you can incorporate into your celebrations this year, such as the Oplatki Christmas wafer from Poland and Eastern Europe, and the La Posada introduced by missionary Augustinian friars in Latin American countries. Fr. George Ngwa

## Ways Advent brings to us the True Meaning of Christmas

1. It makes us pause. *“Mary treasured up all these things and pondered the in her heart.” Luke 2:19.* It is only in the shadow of Advent that the miracle of Christmas can be fully understood and appreciated ...The promise for Israel and the promise for the church is Jesus Christ; he has come, and he will come again. Pausing to prepare our hearts during Advent makes us grateful and ready to worship Jesus. We must never forget the important choice He made for us. Advent reminds us to think daily about Who He is and what His birth meant to humanity. When we take that margin, worship will flow from our grateful hearts.

2. It keeps us focused. *“He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth.” Luke 1:14-17.* The above verse speaks of John the Baptist and reminds us of the culminating preparation that preceded Christ’s birth on earth. Advent keeps us focused on why we are celebrating the season. Just as He created rest on the seventh day, He brings Christ’s birth to the forefront of our minds each year. As we start making resolutions for the next year, He begs us to stop and remember what’s most important – Jesus. Without Him, we will endlessly strive yet never be satisfied. He should be at the center of our goals and aspirations. “The season of Advent is marked by themes of

self-reflection, anticipation, hope, and, ultimately, joyful celebration of the Saviours coming.” ... **To be continued.**

**Fr. George Ngwa**

## **Why Doesn't God Heal Every Sickness, Disease, and Illness?**

**James 5:13 – 15** *Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.*

we do believe that God heals, but we should also believe that healing is not always the only path that He chooses for us. Sometimes His perfect plan for our lives is to allow us to suffer and experience disease, illness, and hardship. The reason for this is that He can often teach us things through suffering that we would never be able to learn through a book or seminar, or through comfort and prosperity.

Paul had a problem with his eyesight that God never healed. When Timothy was sick, Paul told him to drink wine. The Lazarus who was raised from the dead eventually died later. Paul says that he had a thorn in the flesh which he prayed for God to remove over and over again, but God never removed it. Job suffered because God had a whole bigger purpose for him than mere comfort on this planet. And Job's suffering was not the result of a lack of faith.

Some of the greatest blessings in this world come from God's power in the midst of trials. God changes us, moulds us, strengthens us, and builds us through hardship. And there is nothing like the experience of being comforted by God alone in that dark hour.

We must realize that sometimes it's just not God's plan to heal or to fix a problem quickly for us. And that's ok. He still loves us. He still has a plan. And He still has a profound purpose for that pain that can end up blessing us beyond anything we could ever imagine. He may also be using us in our sick condition to bring his love and presence to other people who might quietly be looking at our reaction to sickness.

Often God chooses to heal! But sometimes He teaches us more and draws us closer when we walk the dark mile of suffering. But to experience such blessing, it is important that we run to God and not away from Him in the midst of the storm.

### **SEVEN THINGS YOU WILL NEVER REGRET**

- Showing kindness to an aged person.
- Destroying a letter written in anger.
- Offering the apology that saves a friendship.
- Stopping a scandal that was wrecking a reputation.
- Helping a boy/girl find himself/herself.
- Taking time to show your parents consideration.

**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 CORDINATOR NEEDED:** Many thanks to Margaret Hobbs who gave in her resignation yesterday after some year of service. Please let Father know of your willingness to help bring joy to God's children all over the world.

## 2 SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR "C" 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018

Sunday	9	Dec.	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C	18.00 Vigil Mass of First Sunday of Advent <i>Missa Pro Populo</i> 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Evelina Sibayan RIP</i>	Coffee & Tea in Hall after Mass
Monday	10		2 <sup>ND</sup> WEEK OF ADVENT		
Tuesday	11	Dec.	ST. DAMASUS	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass- All Souls of friends and family members of Yon	
Wednesday	12	Dec.	OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Hilary Sendall</i>	Confession after Mass
Thursday	13	Dec.	ST. LUCY	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>For Douglas Yon RIP</i>	
Friday	14	Dec.	ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass - Janet Bright	Confession after Mass
Saturday	15	Dec.	2 <sup>ND</sup> WEEK OF ADVENT	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass -  18.00 Vigil Mass of 2 <sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C - Maria Alonso	17.30 Confession
Sunday	16	Dec.	3 <sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Martha Connelly</i>	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. 08 Dec..	Sun. 09 Dec.	Sat. 15 Dec.	Sun. 16 Dec.
loose	£413.57	<b>Reader</b>	M. Newland	C. Barrett	P. Thorpe	C. Barrette
envelopes	£207.00		A. Nash	C. Barrett	M. Hobbs	S. Salinger
		<b>EMHC</b>	J. Thomas	M. Tanner	B. Dempster	J. Kurian
Thank you for your continued support			F. Fallon	Joseph Kurian	K. Dempster	Akhil Joseph
			T. Gearey	A. Caneda	M. Harwood	S. Salinger

**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.nfwp.org.uk](http://www.nfwp.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