

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 **07.30am – 4.00pm**



**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR "A"
1ST DECEMBER 2019**

Advent, Manger And Second Coming of Jesus Christ



The readings in the early Sundays of Advent always carry forward the "end of the world" theme from the last Sundays of the previous year, the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, and the Feast of Christ the King, the 34th and final Sunday of the Liturgical year. This links each ending year with the approaching one. Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the "Sunday of Hope" in God and His Son, Jesus Christ, through whom God has promised to save and redeem His people.

Today we begin our yearly re-enactment of the drama of our salvation, starting with the mystery of the Incarnation (Christmas) and culminating in the celebration of Christ's ultimate victory (Christ the King). It is our yearly pilgrimage through the scenes and events of our history of salvation. Advent is a time for looking both backward and forward. We look backward as we prepare to celebrate the historical birth of Jesus. At the same time, we look forward to his *Second Coming*, as we prepare ourselves to welcome him into all areas of our lives during the Advent season.

One Bible scholar has estimated that there are 1,845 references to Christ's second coming in the Old Testament and 318 references in the New Testament. We see the traditional signs of Advent in our Churches: violet vestments and hangings, no flowers, only green plants in the Sanctuary, the Advent wreath and sometimes the empty manger. We light a candle on this wreath each Sunday until all four are lit. These signs remind us that we are waiting for the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and lives in love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness. Let us remember that Advent is at once a celebration of the Christ who was, who is and always will be. In other words, Christ has come once, he will come again; indeed, he has never left, but is continually present in his Church.

Second Coming of Jesus Christ

No one knows when is the second coming of Jesus Christ. It is plagued by many false teachings. Many prediction books have even been written saying the exact day when Jesus' return is going to happen. These books mislead a lot of people and they may even sell a lot of copies as we all welcome all these hypes too soon.

But one thing is certain: When someone predicts the day or time of Jesus Christ's second coming, it is wrong in itself. Do you know why? Because only God the Father knows when the second Coming of Jesus will happen – Yes, even Jesus doesn't know when this second coming is going to happen.

Jesus told His disciples: *“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” “Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with the hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.” “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.”* (Matthew 24:36, 40 & 42)

We should keep watch - We can either stay idle and simply wait for Jesus coming but that is not what Jesus expects from us. Jesus wants us to “keep watch.” This is done by knowing what the Bible reveals about upcoming events and comparing those to what is happening these days, around the globe. 100 biblical passages discuss the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

S-E-C-O-N-D

S – Sudden : Only the Father knows the correct time. And it's to happen very suddenly, quickly – just as a lightning flash in the sky. *Matthew 24:27 says, “For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.”*

E – Essential : Second coming of Jesus Christ is one of the main pillars of Christian faith. When the time is ripe, Jesus The King is to come again in all the glory for the final judgement.

C – Christ's Final Judgement : As the Bible says, Jesus will be the final judge of the world (John 5:22, Acts 10:42 and 2Timothy 4:1). Some of the additional verses describing the second coming, resurrection of the dead, millennium, and final judgment are located in Acts 17:31, 1Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 and Hebrews 10:27.

O – Obvious : Billions of people live on Earth. Only God knows what percentage are true Christians. The condemnation applies only to people who have had the Gospel presented to them, so that they fully understand the ideas, and then they reject it anyway. If they have never heard it, they are not condemned. And if they don't understand it, they are not condemned. Each religion has its set of laws, laws for the good of humanity. People who follow those, are indeed following the same principles of Christ's teachings and in a way they are also Christians.

N – No One Knows : No one knows when the second coming is to happen. In Matthew 24:36, Jesus said only God the Father knows when. God is outside time. God already knows every prediction regarding Jesus' return that has ever been or will ever be made. Since Jesus said that no one knows about that day but the Father, its simple, **NO ONE REALLY KNOWS!**

D – Doubters Beware : As the second coming of Jesus Christ closes in on us, by that time, there will be increasing and widespread doubt about whether Jesus was even real. People will start wondering if God really exists and many believers will leave the Christian faith (2 Thessalonians 2:1-4, 1 Timothy 4:1-2, and 2 Peter 2:1-3). Do you think we're already seeing these signs?

Fr. George Ngwa

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LIVING ROSARY GROUP: Members of the this group are reminded to attend the meeting on Monday 2ND December in the Parish Hall at 5:45 p.m.

VOCATION SEEKER EVENING – Friday 6th December, 7.00 – 9.00 p.m. at The Sacred Heart Church, 41-43 Portland Street, Fareham, PO16 0NF (easy access via road, train & bus). The Diocesan Vocation Seeker Group meets monthly, on the First Friday of the month, for food, prayer, reflection & friendship. For info/invitation please contact Fr. John Cooke 01329 318 869, or email to vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk, website www.portsmouthvocations.org.uk

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & DECORATIONS

At this time of the year we usually ask for a donation towards the Christmas flowers plus any additional decorations we put in the Church over the festive season. We will be making a collection after the Vigil Mass and Sunday Mass on 30 November and 1st December or the following weekend. Whatever you could afford it would be most welcome. Thank you! From Veronica Jan and Kathy

BOURNEMOUTH ORATORY – SACRED HEART CHURCH - THE ACADEMY OF THE ANNUNCIATION opens in December with 4 study days on *The Blessed Virgin Mary in Sacred Scripture* from 10am to 5pm on Wednesday 4th and (repeated) on Saturday 7th, and the second day on Wednesday 11th and (repeated) on Saturday 14th. See the Posters. Visit the Academy website for our launch in the Year of the Word: Website: <https://www.aoa-edu.com/new-advent-study-days-announced/> Email: enquiries@aoa-edu.com Telephone: 07742 150006

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL TREE & MEMORIAL SERVICE - Tuesday December 17th at 2pm at St Marks Church, Highcliffe - A.V. Ridout Funeral Directors have sent out an invitation, please see Noticeboard at the back of Church for details.

READERS' DAY WORKSHOPS – 7th & 14th March 2020 at St. Dominic's, Sway - To mark the Year of the Word the diocese of Portsmouth is launching Readers' Training Workshops. Our Pastoral area has been booked in for the workshops at St. Dominic's Priory, Shirley Holms Road, Lymington SO41 The course is over 2 days – 1.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and Readers have to attend both sessions. The course finishes with commissioning and an award of a Diocesan Recognitio. There are limited places, so to make sure you get a place, please email Chris Peacock: readers@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk as soon as possible. **All Readers – please find your personal envelope in the post box at the back of the Church**

CAFOD – The True Spirit of Christmas Giving. Whether it's teaching someone to read or giving enough seeds to grow a year's worth of food in a vegetable garden, **World Gifts** has a perfect gift for everyone. This year change lives around the world and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas giving with **World Gifts**. Please find Booklets and Order Forms at the back of the Church.

ST PETER'S SCHOOL – The Governing Body of St. Peter's School, St. Catherine's Road, Southbourne, as required by regulations, is conducting a consultation on the proposed admissions arrangements for the School Year 2021-22 (*for entry in September 2021*). For more information, please see the Statutory Notice on the noticeboard at the back of Church. If you have any comments about the proposals, you are invited send them to Mrs S. Wallace-Abbot, the Clerk to the Governing Body on swo@st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk or post to Mrs S. Wallace-Abbot, Clerk to the Governing Body, Admissions Consultation, St. Peter's School, St. Catherine's Road, Bournemouth BH6 4AH **no later than 31st January 2020.**

ADoRE 2020 THE GOD WHO SPEAKS – are we listening? 2020 is both the Year of the Bible and the year when England is rededicated as "Mary's Dowry". The 2020 Alton Day of Renewal Programme is available at the back of Church. Come and enjoy a mini-retreat of spiritual refreshment and renewal, focussing on Renewal and Mission. Information is also available at www.altonrenewal.com or from Alastair Emblem on 01252 714 809.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR “A” 1ST DECEMBER 2019

Saturday	30	Nov.	Vigil Mass of the 1 st Sunday in Advent	18.00 VIGIL MASS of the First Sunday of Advent – <i>John Hamon (for return to good health)</i>	Coffee & Tea in the Hall after Mass
Sunday	01	Dec.	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year A	10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Blessy (Birthday Thanksgiving)</i>	
Monday	02	Dec.			
Tuesday	03	Dec.	St. Francis Xavier	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass - <i>Eduardo Brion (RIP)</i>	
Wednesday	04	Dec.	Wednesday of the 1 st Week in Advent	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Aleyamma (RIP)</i>	Confession after Mass
Thursday	05	Dec.	Thursday of the 1 st Week in Advent	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Pauline, Cathy & Kit (RIP)</i>	
Friday	06	Dec.	St. Nicholas	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Catherine d’Espagnac (Birthday)</i>	Confession after Mass
Saturday	07	Dec.	St. Ambrose	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Johanna (successful operation & outcome)</i>	
Saturday vigil Mass			Vigil Mass of the 2 nd Sunday of Advent	18.00 - Vigil Mass of the 2 nd Sunday in Advent - <i>Mary & John Loftus (RIP)</i>	Confession 5.30 pm
Sunday	08	Dec.	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year A	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Ray Tiller & Philipa Tiller (RIP)</i>	Coffee & Tea in the 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 23/24 2019		Sat.30 Nov.	Sun.01 Dec.	Sat.07 Dec.	Sun.08 Dec.
Loose	£309.20	Reader T.Gearey	S.Ramsay	M.Hobbs	A.Veluthedathu
Envelopes	£215.00	G.Gordelier	S.Salinger	A.Nash	Annice Joseph
Thank you for your continued support		EMHC M.Newland	J.Nichols	F.Fallon	M.Buckland
		C.d’Espagnac	S.Salinger	J.Thomas	A.Caneda
		M.Harwood	M.Tanner	M.Newland	S.Salinger

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 Wednesday 12.00h-16.00h & Friday 10.00h-14.00h

Our Parish Live streaming: <http://churchservices.tv/newmilton> Website: www.nfwp.org.uk

Safeguarding Minister: Tony Harwood Tel: 01425 511 952 or email hughharwood314@hotmail.co.uk

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