

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



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR "A" 8TH DECEMBER 2019

Pope Francis urges people to create Nativity scenes with their families

"They help us to relive the history of what took place in Bethlehem"



Angel with Mary and Joseph in a traditional school nativity play

Pope Francis has urged Christians to set up as many Nativity scenes as possible this Christmas. Setting up Christmas cribs is a simple reminder of "God's tender love" and "helps us to relive the history of what took place in Bethlehem."

"I wish to encourage the beautiful family tradition of preparing the Nativity scene in the days before Christmas, but also the custom of setting it up in the workplace, in schools, hospitals, prisons and town squares," "It is my hope that this custom will never be lost and that, wherever it has fallen into disuse, it can be rediscovered and revived."

The Nativity scene's starry sky respects the Gospel's account of Jesus' birth but also reminds people that even in darkness "God does not abandon us. From the time of its Franciscan origins the Nativity scene has invited us to 'feel' and 'touch' the poverty that God's son took upon himself in the incarnation. Jesus was born in poverty and led a simple life in order to teach us to recognise what is essential and to act accordingly. When we place the infant Jesus in the manger, the Nativity scene suddenly comes alive. God appears as a child, for us to take into our arms. Standing before the Christmas crib, we are reminded of the time when we were children eagerly waiting to set it up."

Pope Francis – "Advent a time to make peace in the soul, family, neighbourhood"

As we get into the second week of Advent, Pope Francis wants us to meditate seriously, how Christians can prepare for Christmas by building peace in one's soul, in the family and in the world through humility. He is urging Christians to prepare themselves for Christmas this Advent season by being humble and trying to build peace in their soul, in their family and in the world. Delivering a homily at Mass, the Pope said that peace-making consists in not talking evil of and harming others, a bit like imitating God, who humbled Himself.

Isaiah the prophet: Pointing to the pastoral scene evoked by Isaiah in the first reading, where the wolf and the lamb, and the leopard and the kid live side by side harmlessly, the Pope said the prophet speaks about the peace of Jesus that transforms life and history, which is why He is called the "**Prince of Peace**".

The soul: Advent, therefore, is the time to prepare ourselves for this Prince of Peace by being at peace with ourselves, our soul, that is often in anxiety, anguish and without hope. For this, one needs to start with oneself.

Today the Lord asks us whether our soul is at peace? If not, then we should ask the Prince of Peace to pacify our souls, so we can meet Him, because we are so used to looking at the souls of others rather than our own.

Family; After being at peace with our soul, it is time to be at peace at home, in the family, the Pope said. There is so much sadness in families with much struggle, "small wars" and at times disunity. *Therefore Christians must examine themselves whether they are at peace or at war in their families or against others, whether there are bridges or walls that separate.*

World: In the world where there is much war, disunity, hatred and exploitation. Christians should ask themselves what they are doing about creating peace in the world by working for peace in the neighbourhood, in the school and in the workplace.

The Pope urged Christians to ask themselves whether they find excuses to make war, to hate, to talk ill about others and condemn or are they meek and try to build bridges.

Children too can ask themselves whether at school they bully a companion they dislike because he is a little hateful or weak, or they make peace and forgive everything.

Peace-making like God: Peace, is never still but always moves forward. It starts with the soul, and after making its journey of peace, returns to the soul. Making peace is a bit like imitating God. When He wanted to make peace with us and forgave us, He sent His Son to make peace, to be the Prince of peace. To be a peacemaker one does not have to be wise and learned and study peace. Peace is an attitude that Jesus speaks about in the Gospel. Jesus glorifies God because he has hidden these things from the wise and learned and has revealed them to the little ones.

Christians must make themselves small, humble and be the servant of others. "The Lord will give you the ability to understand how to make peace and will provide you with the strength to make it,"

Stop short of "small wars": Whenever there is the possibility of a "small war" at home, in the heart, at school or at work, we should stop short and try and make peace. "Never, never wound the other. Never," *As Christians start by not speaking ill of others or firing the first cannon. We become men and women of peace, carrying peace forward.*

Choose prayer and charity over consumerism "Resist the dazzling lights of consumption, which will shine everywhere this month, and believe that prayer and charity are not lost time, but the greatest treasures, This is the drama of today: houses full of things, but empty of children.

Pope Francis celebrated an Advent Mass with Congolese immigrants, in which he warned against the selfish attitudes in a society where "consumerism reigns." *"Consumerism is a virus that affects the faith at its root because it makes you believe that life depends only on what you have, and so you forget about God," he warned. "The meaning of life is not to accumulate."*

"When you live for things, things are never enough, greed grows and others become obstacles in the race and so you end up feeling threatened and, always dissatisfied and angry ... 'I want more, I want more, I want more,'" he said. "One has many goods, but no good is done."

Fr. George Ngwa

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Monday 9th December. There will be a Holy Mass at 10.00 a.m. on Monday to celebrate the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

MASS TIMES over the Christmas Period –

24th December – Christmas Eve 7.30 p.m. Christmas Carols 8.00 p.m. Christmas Night Mass

25th December - Christmas Day – 10.00 a.m. Holy Mass

31st December – St. Sylvester – 6.00 p.m. Thanksgiving Vigil Mass

1st January 2020 – Wednesday 10.00 a.m. Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

Living Rosary Group Will those members of the Living Rosary Group who didn't attend either of the meetings last week please make a note that the next meeting will be at **17:45 on Monday 6th January 2020**. Until that meeting please recite the Mystery which follows on from the one you were given at the November meeting. In the meantime if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me directly. Thank you! Fr George

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

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 – 10.00 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 Recognition. 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. If anyone would like me to put their name down with Chris Peacock, please pop into the Office during Office hours. Lizzie!***

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 swa@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**.

Engaged Couples Event – 15th February 2020 – Bishop Philip would like to invite any engaged couples, who are under instruction preparing for marriage in Church in 2020, to a special **Engaged Couples Breakfast & Blessing at the Cathedral**. For further information please contact Lizzie in the Parish Office.

Live Streaming Stats. For November - Number of Viewers 3,914 Number of Unique Viewers 1,059

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR “A” 8TH DECEMBER 2019

Saturday	07	Dec.	Vigil Mass of the 2 nd Sunday in Advent	18.00 VIGIL MASS of the 2 nd Sunday of Advent – <i>Mary & Jack Loftus (RIP)</i>	
Sunday	08	Dec.	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year A	10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Ray & Philipa Tiller (RIP)</i>	Coffee & Tea in the Hall after Mass
Monday	09	Dec.	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Our Lady (for favourable results in the Elections for the Country)</i>	
Tuesday	10	Dec.	Tuesday of the 2 nd Week in Advent Year A	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass - <i>Mary Tanner’s 80th Birthday (grace & blessings)</i>	
Wednesday	11	Dec.	St.Damasus I	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Rosamma Joseph (RIP)</i>	Confession after Mass
Thursday	12	Dec.	Thursday of the 2 nd Week in Advent Yr. A	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Johanna (for a successful operation)</i>	
Friday	13	Dec.	St. Lucy	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Peggy Tolliday (RIP)</i>	Confession after Mass
Saturday	14	Dec.	St. John of the Cross	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>For healing of a broken family</i>	
Saturday vigil Mass			Vigil Mass of the 3 rd Sunday of Advent	18.00 - Vigil Mass of the 3 rd Sunday in Advent - <i>Brigid Horan</i>	Confession 5.30 pm
Sunday	15	Dec.	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year A	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Catherine d’Espagnac (Baptismal Anniversary)</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 30Nov/1Dec. 2019		Sat.07 Dec.	Sun.08 Dec.	Sat.14 Dec.	Sun.15 Dec.
Loose	£414.30	Reader M.Hobbs	A.Veluthedathu	C.d’Espagnac	C.Barrett
Envelopes	£204.50	A.Nash	Annice Joseph	G.Gordelier	C.Barrett
		EMHC F.Fallon	M.Buckland	K.Dempster	Akhil Joseph
		J.Thomas	A.Caneda	T.Gearey	M.Tanner
Thank you for your continued support		M.Newland	S.Salinger	B.Dempster	Joseph Kurian

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