

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH In NEW MILTON

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

15 Mount Ave, New Milton. BH25 6NT.

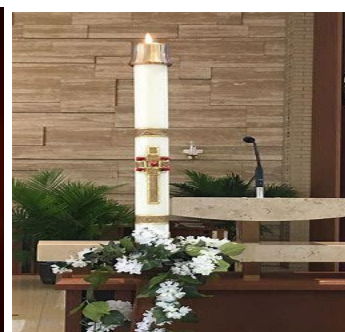
Parish priest: *Father George Ngwa*

Church opening hours **07.30am – 4.00pm**



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR "A"  
15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2019

## Why Do Catholics Use Candles?



Walk into any Catholic Church, and it's impossible to miss seeing candles. There are candles on the altar, a special candle near the tabernacle, and candles in front of images or statues of the Sacred Heart, Our Lady, St. Joseph, or various other patron saints, etc. Go to a baptism, and there will be a huge decorated candle as well as candles for the godparents to hold. Attend an Easter Vigil, and there will be the same large candle, and small candles for the whole congregation. Then the blessing of throats with candles on the feast of St. Blaise ... altar servers holding extra candles during the proclamation of the Gospel at Mass ... and the list goes on.

***Why do Catholics use so many candles? - The Significance of Candles in the Liturgy*** - The word "candle" comes from the Latin verb *candeo* meaning "to shine, glow, or burn." As early as the eighth century, the word "candle" was introduced into the English language specifically in relation to liturgical practices. Throughout Church history, the candle has represented Christ: the perfect candle, ***THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD***.

Traditionally, liturgical candles are made of beeswax, and this is no accident or coincidence. The worker bees who gather the pure nectar of flowers don't participate in the reproduction of the species. They are solely responsible for gathering the nectar and feeding the baby bees, since reproduction is left to the queen bee and drone bees. Because virgin worker bees dedicate their lives to the creation of the wax and the nourishment of the hive, these bees have come to represent Our Lady, the Virgin mother who gave birth to the pure flesh of Christ, with Christ's pure flesh being symbolized by the pure beeswax. What a detailed, beautiful symbol of this reality. Besides the general significance of candles, there are particular reasons why different candles are used for different parts of the liturgy.

***Altar Candles*** - The use of candles on the altar appears to have begun before the 12th century. While the main use of candles has already been established (to remind us of Christ as the light of the world) altar candles also bring to mind the reality that many of the persecuted Christians in the first centuries celebrated Mass secretly at night or in the catacombs, with the only light being candlelight.

Candles may also be used in the entrance and recessional processions of the Mass, and be carried to where the Gospel is read, as a sign of triumphant joy in the presence of the words of Christ. Candles are actually so

important to the proper dignity and celebration of the Mass that it is normally deemed a grievous offense to celebrate Mass without any candlelight.

On a very practical note, the number of candles lit on the altar tells us which Mass is being celebrated or even who the main celebrant is ( a bishop or a priest). Sunday Masses and Solemnities have more candles than memorials and daily Masses, and sometimes more candles are lit for special feast days.

***Sanctuary Lamp*** - The sanctuary lamp is placed in the church in the vicinity of the tabernacle, to remind the faithful of Christ's real Eucharistic presence. Often a red light or cover as this is visibly seen and distinguished from other candles/light in the church. In the Old Testament, the book of Exodus describes how God commanded the Israelites to crush pure oil from olives. They were to burn it perpetually in a lamp before the Tabernacle of the Testimony, which is the tent where the Ark of the Covenant and the sacred vessels for worship were kept (Ex 27:20). If this lamp signalled to the people a sacred presence, then how much more should we be aware of the holiest space in a Catholic Church, where God is truly present in the Eucharist?

***Candlemas or Presentation*** - On February 2<sup>nd</sup> we celebrate the Presentation of Christ in the Temple and the Purification of Mary. (Traditionally, this day has been called Candlemas.) At Christ's Presentation, Simeon proclaimed, ***“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”***

Because of this bold statement of Christ as the light, the church chooses this feast day to have a special yearly procession and blessing of candles.

***Votive / Devotional Candles*** - We light candles before images and statues of Our Lord, Our Lady, and the saints, not as an attempt at worship, but as a symbol of the light of faith with which we ask for God's help. The flame also alludes to the Old Testament offering of a burnt sacrifice, made in petition, adoration, or reparation for sins.

We usually see this type of candle in churches, but many people also choose to use devotional candles at home and place them in a prayer corner or on a table while they pray. While we can certainly pray and petition without candles, the physical act of lighting a candle, is a chance for us to bring our entire person—body, mind, heart and soul—into the act of praying.

***Candles in Celebrations, Blessings, and Dedications*** - Candles play a part in the blessings of ashes and palms, the dedication of churches and cemeteries, and the Mass of a newly ordained priest. Candles are also present at every sacrament except that of Penance.

In all of these cases, the candles represent the enlightened and sacred character which is brought to all these items, places, and events by Jesus Christ, the True Light.

***The Mass and candle magic*** - This is where we find some confusion and misinterpretation with the use of candles at Mass. Catholics see the colour of a candle just in relation to the season of the Roman calendar. Using certain colours to make a prayer “more potent” or something is superstition with is condemn by the Church. It is okay to use certain colours for symbolic reasons (e.g. advent wreath and the candles depicting the 4 weeks of advent as celebrated, nothing more nothing less. Each of the four Advent candles represents one thousand years in salvation history, from the time of Adam and Eve to the birth of Christ. As the four weeks of Advent progress, we light another candle each Sunday to represent our proximity to the glorious feast of the Light of the World's birth.) It should never cross our minds believing and thinking that the colour affects the efficacy of the prayers offered.

Colours play an important role in our lives and even when we do creative work or meditate, we can lend distinctive vibrations and focus our intentions better through the burning of different coloured candles. Indeed; candle “magic” is a much-studied science and art (which many feel is associated with black magic or witchcraft. Candle magic is based on the same principle as that of colour therapy on the human psyche. This is not so in the Catholic Church because the use of candles is not for therapeutic or magical reasons.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MASS TIMES over the Christmas Period –**

**24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve 7.30 p.m. Christmas Carols. 8.00 p.m. Christmas Night Mass**

**25<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day – 10.00 a.m. Holy Mass**

**31<sup>st</sup> December – St. Sylvester – 6.00 p.m. Thanksgiving Vigil Mass**

**1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 – Wednesday 10.00 a.m. Solemnity of Mary Mother of God**

### 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

**READERS' DAY WORKSHOPS – 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 [swo@st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk](mailto: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 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020.**

**Engaged Couples Event – 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

### PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2020 – 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> July

Bishop Philip has extended an invitation for parishioners to join him in Lourdes in July next year. The cost for a 4 night stay, return flights from Bournemouth Airport to Lourdes, 4 nights full-board hotel accommodation and full religious programme facilitated by Joe Walsh Tours in conjunction with Portsmouth Diocese, amounts to £695.00 per person sharing. Please see poster and booking forms at the back of Church

**PORTSMOUTH YOUTH DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES – 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> July** under the leadership of Bishop Philip Egan - £545.00 per person sharing.

For further information, please contact Fr. P.J. Smith on 07780 221 686 or via email on [lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR “A” 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2019**

Saturday	14	Dec.	Vigil Mass of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent	<u>18.00 VIGIL MASS</u> of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent – <i>Brigid Horan (RIP)</i>	Coffee & Tea in the Hall after Mass
Sunday	15	Dec.	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year A	10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Catherine d’Espagnac (Baptismal Anniversary)</i>	
Monday	16	Dec.			
Tuesday	17	Dec.	Liturgy of the Day	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass - <i>Nemesio Llagan (RIP)</i>	
Wednesday	18	Dec.	Liturgy of the Day	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>D’Espagnac Family Christmas Mass</i>	Confession after Mass
Thursday	19	Dec.	Liturgy of the Day	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Biill &amp; Mary Hodgkinson (RIP)</i>	
Friday	20	Dec.	Liturgy of the Day	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Elza (RIP)</i>	Confession after Mass
Saturday	21	Dec.	Liturgy of the Day	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Phillip Sloman (RIP)</i>	
Saturday vigil Mass			Vigil Mass of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	18.00 - Vigil Mass of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent - <i>Ned Horan (RIP)</i>	Confession 5.30 pm
Sunday	22	Dec.	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year A	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Emanuel Saliba (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 7 & 8 Dec. 2019		Sat.14 Dec.	Sun.15 Dec.	Sat.21 Dec.	Sun.22 Dec
Loose	£392.47	<b>Reader</b> C.d’Espagnac	C.Barrett	D. McCourts	S.Salinger
Envelopes	£158.00	G.Gordelier	C.Barrett	T.Gearey	S.Ramsay
		<b>EMHC</b> K.Dempster	Akhil Joseph	M.Newland	S.Salinger
		T.Gearey	M.Tanner	M.Harwood	M.Buckland
		B.Dempster	Joseph Kurian	J.Thomas	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** Wednesday 12.00h-16.00h & Friday 10.00h-14.00h  
 Our Parish Live streaming: <http://churchservices.tv/newmilton> Website: [www.nfwp.org.uk](http://www.nfwp.org.uk)  
**Safeguarding Minister: Tony Harwood** Tel: **01425 511 952** or email [hughharwood314@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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**