

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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR "A" 22ND DECEMBER 2019

- ✓ **CHRISTMAS A FAMILY FEAST. - DUTIES OF FAMILY MEMBERS**
- ✓ **POPE FRANCIS TO CHILDLESS MARRIED COUPLES: DON'T JUST HAVE PETS - HAVE KIDS**

As we celebrate Christmas, the theme of FAMILY is ever so recurrent and so invites us to make some personal reflections.

Sacred Scripture repeatedly underlines the importance and centrality of the family. The book of Genesis narrates the creation of the first man and woman, and the family is portrayed as having a central role in creation. Other Old Testament books speak of the love to be found in the family, which is also where children are taught wisdom and the virtues.

The Church sees in the family "the first natural society, with underived rights that are proper to it, and places it at the centre of social life." (No. 211) The family founded on marriage between a man and a woman is important both for natural reasons, as the principal place of interpersonal relationships, and also for supernatural reasons, as a divine institution. For each individual the family is the cradle of life and love where they are born and grow. Furthermore the climate of affection that unites the family is also where we learn about truth and goodness.

Moreover, the family unit is a community of persons where moral values are taught and the spiritual and cultural heritage of society are passed on. The family is also essential in ensuring people are strong in their commitments and promote both social responsibility and solidarity.

Given its vital importance the family has priority over society and the state. Every social model that intends to serve the good of man must not overlook the centrality and social responsibility of the family. Marriage is more than a simple agreement to live together but is a social instrument and the principal means for helping each person to grow in an integral manner.

Duties of Family Members (*From the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Simplified* (2214-2233)

Honour Coming from Gratitude - Children (whether minors or adults) must honour their parents because of God's fatherhood. This respect must be nourished by a natural affection born from their common bond. This filial piety derives from gratitude toward those who have enabled the children to grow up in wisdom and grace. "With all your heart, honour your father and do not forget the birth pangs of your mother" (Sir 7:27).

Respect by Obedience - This respect is shown by obedience. "My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching" (Prov 6:20). "A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke" (Prov 13:1). A child should obey his parents in all that they ask. Pupils should obey the directions of their teachers and others entrusted with their care. A child should not obey a particular order which he is convinced in conscience is morally wrong.

Role of Grown Children - Grown children must give parents whatever material and moral support they need in their old age and illness. "Whoever honours his father atones for his sins, and whoever glorifies his mother lays up treasure. Whoever honours his father, will be gladdened by his own children, and when he prays, he will be heard" (Sir 3:3-5).

Other Family Members - Respect promotes total family harmony between siblings and toward the elderly. "Grandchildren are the crown of the aged" (Prov 17:6). Christians owe special thanks to those (parents, grandparents, pastors, teachers) who have given them the life of faith. "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice" (2 Tim 1:5).

The Primordial Parental Responsibility - The procreation of children brings about the duty of their moral and spiritual formation. Therefore, the parents' right and duty to educate children is primordial and inalienable. Parents must see their children as children of God and educate them in God's law.

Parents fulfil this duty by creating a home filled with tenderness, respect, and fidelity, in which the virtues of self-denial and sound judgment are taught. Parents (primarily by their own good example) must teach their children to subordinate material desires to spiritual ones. "He who loves his son will not spare the rod" (Sir 30:1). "Fathers, bring your children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Eph 6:4). In the home, parents must teach communal responsibilities, turning their children away from degrading influences that ruin society.

Grace from the Sacrament - By the sacrament of marriage, parents receive the grace to evangelize their children. They must initiate them into the mysteries of faith and associate them with the life of the Church. A good family supports the children's faith throughout their life. Parents must begin this education in faith in the earliest years. Family catechesis must precede and accompany other forms of instruction. The parish is the privileged place for the family's liturgical life and catechesis (for children and parents).

Contribution by the Children - Children contribute to their parents' growth and holiness. All must love one another and forgive one another. At first, parents take care of the physical and spiritual needs of young children. Later, the parents must educate them to the right use of reason and freedom.

Rights of Parents - Parents have a fundamental right to choose their children's school according to their convictions. They should choose those schools that help them as Christian educators. Public authorities must guarantee this parental right.

Rights of Grown Children - As adults, children have a right to choose their profession in life. In this choice, they should trust their parents and seek their advice. Parents must not pressure their children into a choice of a profession or of a spouse. They should, however, give judicious advice in these questions. Those who forgo marriage to help parents or to follow their profession contribute greatly to the human family.

A Person's First Responsibility - Although important, family ties are not absolute. God calls each person to a vocation and parents must respect this call. "He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me" (Mt 10:37).

Being Jesus' disciple means belonging to God's family and doing God's will. "For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother" (Mt 12:49). Parents should welcome their child's call to the priesthood or to virginity for the sake of the kingdom.

Pope Francis to Childless Married Couples: Don't Just Have Pets - Have Kids

In a homily Pope Francis encouraged married couples to not limit their love to their personal pets but to extend to having their own children. He also challenged married couples to resist a "culture of wellbeing" which he suggested had "convinced us it's better not to have children."

The Pope, suggested that too many married couples had bought into "the culture of wellbeing" which tells adherents to "see the world, go on holidays; you can have a house in the country and be carefree."

Maybe that lifestyle was one that was "better, more convenient, to have a little dog, two cats; and the love goes to the two cats and the little dog," conceded **Pope** Francis but, "eventually this marriage gets to old age in solitude, with the bitterness of loneliness. It is not fertile; it does not do what Jesus does with his church: he makes it fertile."

Fr. George Ngwa

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS TO YOUR PRIEST – wherever you find yourself attending or celebrating Christmas, please do remember that the offering is for the Priest and be generous. This is the decision of the Episcopal Conference of England and Wales.

OFFICE CLOSURE OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD – The Office will be closed over Christmas and will re-open on Friday 27th December. If you have any queries during this time, please contact Fr. George direct. I would like to thank you for your patience and take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Peaceful and Joyous Christmas. Lizzie Davies

CHRISTMAS MAIL BOX - *Please check the Mail Box at the back of Church for your Parish Christmas Cards.*

CHRISTMAS FLOWER & DECORATION APPEAL. Over the past two weekends we asked for donations towards the Christmas flowers and decorations. I am delighted to say that the amounts collected totalled £488.46. The generosity of this Parish never ceases to amaze me and I hope that you will be very pleased with how our small team of flower arrangers enhance the beauty of our lovely church.

This amount of money more than helps with the extra cost of flowers and materials at this time of the year so rest assured that any funds not used will be transferred to our Easter flower fund. On behalf of Veronica Sacco, Jan Marriott and myself, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a joyous, happy and peaceful Christmas with friends and family. God bless you all. Kathy Dempster

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY – READERS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

	Tuesday 24th December	Wednesday 25th December
Readers	Brian Dempster	Shelley Salinger
	Gehane Gordelier	Madeleine Newland
EMHC	Tony Gearey	Joseph Kurian
	Joseph Kurian	Maria Buckland
	Katherine Dempster	Mary Tanner

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR “A” 22ND DECEMBER 2019

Saturday	21	Dec.	Vigil Mass of the 4 th Sunday in Advent	<u>18.00</u> VIGIL MASS of the 4 th Sunday of Advent – <i>Ned Horan (RIP)</i>	Coffee & Tea in the Hall after Mass
Sunday	22	Dec.	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year A	10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Emanuel Saliba (RIP)</i> 16.00 Philippino Mass	
Monday	23	Dec.			
Tuesday	24	Dec.	Liturgy of the Day THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD – Solemnity	19.30 Christmas Carols 20.00 Holy Mass - <i>Kathleen Hawkins (well being)</i>	
Wednesday	25	Dec.	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Anna Mathew (RIP)</i>	Confession after Mass
Thursday	26	Dec.	ST. STEPHEN	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Magdalena Maynard (Birthday Blessing)</i>	
Friday	27	Dec.	ST. JOHN	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Brother James Ryan (RIP)</i>	Confession after Mass
Saturday	28	Dec.	THE HOLY INNOCENTS	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>John Leonard (RIP)</i>	
Saturday vigil Mass			Vigil Mass of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	18.00 - Vigil Mass of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph <i>Jack & Mary Loftus (RIP)</i>	Confession 5.30 pm
Sunday	29	Dec.	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH Year A	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Betty & Denis Bolland (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 14/15 Dec. 2019		Sat.21 Dec.	Sun.22 Dec	Sat.28 Dec.	Sun.29 Dec.
Loose	£399.24	Reader D. McCourts	S.Salinger	K.Dempster	P.Caffyn
Envelopes	£168.00	T.Gearey	S.Ramsay	B.Dempster	P.Caffyn
Thank you for your continued support		EMHC M.Newland	S.Salinger	C.d’Espagnac	M.Tanner
		M.Harwood	M.Buckland	F.Fallon	Joseph Kurian
		J.Thomas	J.Nichols	T.Gearey	A.Caneda

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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