

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 –



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR "B" 29TH NOVEMBER 2020

"What is an advent calendar? How does an advent calendar relate to Christmas?"



FROM ADVENT



TO

CHRISTMAS

The word Advent has a Latin origin meaning 'the coming,' or more accurately, 'coming toward.' For Christian believers, Christmas is one of the greatest events in the yearly cycle, being the celebration of the greatest gift ever given by God to mankind. That gift was Jesus, the Son of God Himself, born into this world in human form and coming to live among us to show us the true nature of God, experience human joy and sorrow along with us, and finally, going of His own will to die a horrible, agonizing death. In this way the price was paid for all human sin that had cut us off from our Holy God and Heavenly Father, resulting in our complete and total reconciliation with Him.

Centuries ago, the importance of this event caused many Christians to feel that it was inadequate merely to mark off only one day on the yearly calendar for celebrating this incredible gift from God. Believers had (and still do have) such a sense of awe and overwhelming gratitude and wonder at what happened that first Christmas that they felt the need for a period of preparation immediately beforehand. They could then not only take time themselves to meditate on it, but also teach their children the tremendous significance of Christmas.

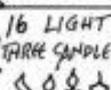
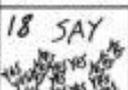
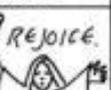
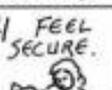
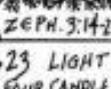
At first, the days preceding Christmas were marked off from December 1 with chalk on believers' doors. Then in Germany in the late 19th century the mother of a child named Gerhard Lang made her son an Advent Calendar comprised of 24 tiny sweets stuck onto cardboard. Lang never forgot the excitement he felt when he was given his Advent calendar at the beginning of each December, and how it reminded him every day that the greatest celebration of the whole year was approaching ever nearer.

As an adult he went into partnership with his friend Reichhold and opened a printing office. In 1908, they produced what is thought to be the first-ever printed Advent Calendar with a small coloured picture for each day in Advent. Later on, at the beginning of the 20th century, they hit on the idea of making the pictures into little shuttered windows for the children to open day by day in order to heighten their sense of expectation.

The idea of the Advent Calendar caught on with other printing firms as the demand swiftly increased, and many versions were produced, some of which would have printed on them Bible verses appropriate to the Advent period. By now the Advent Calendar had gained international popularity, and children all over the world were clamouring for them as December approached. Unfortunately, the custom came to an end with the beginning of the First World War when cardboard was strictly rationed and only allowed to be used for purposes necessary to the war effort. However, in 1946, when rationing began to ease following the end of the Second World War, a printer named Richard Sellmer once again introduced the colourful little Advent Calendar, and again it was an immediate success.

Sadly, with the wane of Christianity in Western nations, the Advent Calendar, although still enormously popular with all children, has lost its true meaning. Many, many children and their parents have no idea of the history of the little calendar or its true purpose, which is to prepare us for the celebration of the advent of the Christ-child. Even if they do know, most would not care. Also, the makers of today's Advent calendars are anxious only to sell their product, and the majority of these neither know nor care about the meaning and purpose of Advent. Their calendars depict Santa Claus and his reindeer, snowmen, holly, mistletoe, and all the secular trappings of Christmas behind the little windows, often along with a piece of chocolate. Fortunately, however, Christian printers are still with us to manufacture calendars for children from Christian families that unfold the story of the nativity with each window that is opened. We, as Christian believers, pray that one day the whole world will be aware of the incredible wonder of the true meaning of Advent and Christmas.

ADVENT COUNTDOWN CALENDAR FOR CHILDREN

ADVENT						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2 LIGHT ONE CANDLE.  LK. 3:1-6	3 LEND A HAND.  ISA. 35:3-6	4 BE PATIENT.  ROM. 8:24,25	5 PRAY FOR PEACE.  TREE OF LIFE PS. 122	6 GIVE IN SECRET. ST. NICOLA'S  MT. 6:3,4	7 SEE THE GROWTH.  ISA. 11:1-3	8 KEEP HOPING.  HEB. 11:1
9 LIGHT TWO CANDLES.  MAL. 3:1-4	10 EAT WITH CARE.  MK. 1:1-8	11 WITNESS.  JN. 1:6-8	12 WATCH FOR ANGELS.  PS. 91	13 SEE THE LIGHT.  JOY ISA. 9:2,3	14 CHOOSE YOUR PATH.  PS. 25:4,5	15 FINISH IT.  PHIL. 1:3-6
16 LIGHT THREE CANDLES.  ZEPH. 3:14-20	17 REMEMBER REFUGEES.  PS. 137:4	18 SAY  LK. 1:26-38	19 REJOICE.  LK. 1:46-55	20 SEE WHAT'S NEW.  ISA. 43:19	21 FEEL SECURE.  MIC. 5:2-4	22 MAKE ROOM.  LK. 2:1-7
23 LIGHT FOUR CANDLES.  ISA. 7:10-14	24  JN. 1:14	WHEN DOUBT OR SARCASM FILLS THE SOUL, COME, O LONGED FOR PROMISED WORD. WHEN LIES AND FALSEHOODS TAKE THEIR HOLD, COME, O TRUTH THAT MUST BE HEARD. WHEN FEAR IS STIRRED WITH WORDS OF HATE, COME, O PERFECT LOVE TO REIGN. OUR HEARTS WITH FERVENT HOPE AWAIT: COME, O CHRIST, BE BORN AGAIN.				

DEVOTIONS BY MERRY MATTERS © POEM DESIGN BY THOMAS MOUNTS © ADVENT 2018 © WWW.THOMASMOUNTS.WORDPRESS.COM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19 Pandemic

The current Government lockdown restrictions are being lifted from Wednesday 2nd December but Hampshire is still governed by Tier 2 Covid Restrictions. This means that we will be returning to the arrangement for Masses which was in place before this latest lockdown. Therefore, as from Wednesday 2nd December 2020 parishioners will be able to attend Holy Mass on Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:00 a.m., Sundays at 8:00 a.m and 10.00 a.m.. All other Masses will be available via Live-Streaming at <http://churchservices.tv/newmilton> and the Church will be open for *Private Prayer* on Wednesdays and Fridays after Holy Mass till 3:00 p.m.

It will still be necessary to restrict the number of parishioners in Church for each Mass to 30, therefore, you will need to book your place in advance. We now have an “on-line” booking system in place, which you can find by visiting our Website at www.nfwp.org.uk/our-lady-of-lourdes-new-milton and clicking onto the appropriate link. This will be available for all Sundays from Sunday 6th December onwards. If anybody does not have the facility to book on line, would they please contact Lizzie in the Parish Office on either a Wednesday between 12:00 noon and 3:00 p.m. or on a Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Thank you!

NEW FOREST BASICS BANK (NFBB) First of all thank you to those who have given personal money donations through our church. These were gratefully received by NFBB. Thank you also to those of you who continually contribute with goods. We have been asked to donate, where possible, tinned meat/chicken/vegetable pies. Varieties made by Fray Bentos cost £2.00 each through any supermarket. Tinned vegetables are always needed. These items too are always welcome:- Jay cloths, washing up liquid, baby food, nappies for all toddler ages, toothpaste, tooth brushes, laundry detergents, tea, coffee etc., and as we move towards Christmas, seasonal goods. Thank you for your continued generosity. God bless you! Katherine Dempster

CAFOD World Gifts

This Christmas why not buy gifts that will change lives and bring happiness! CAFOD's World Gifts are a range of virtual gifts that transform the lives of those living in poverty overseas. New gifts this year included Keep Clean £6 (soap and washing powder for family) and Emergency Food £50 so please look online <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> Many thanks for your support.

GIFT AID This is a good way of giving to our Parish because, provided you are a Tax payer, your donation will attract an extra 25%. If you are interested in joining the scheme, please contact Lizzie in the Office. Also she has quite a few unclaimed boxes of G.A. envelopes in the Office. Please let her know if you need any more! For Office times, please see page 4 of the Newsletter.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT during the COVID PANDEMIC. Whether or not you are a Gift Aider and you would like to continue supporting your Church through this difficult time, you may wish to organise a Standing Order arrangement with your bank to pay your collection directly into our Church bank account. Details as follows: - Lloyds Bank - Sort Code 30-93-04, Account No: 00883116, Account Name – PRC DTR New Milton. Or you may prefer to give your donation directly to the Office. Thank you! If you do decide to pay money directly into our Bank Account, it would be very helpful for our Treasurer if you could write what it is for in the Reference Box when paying on line, i.e. Church donation, Intention, Cafod etc.

THE MISSIO & MILL HILL MISSIONARIES, RED BOX APPEAL – Sadly, due to the Covid Pandemic, this charity has suffered substantially this year. The Missio Calendars will be delivered to Red Box holders via post after the end of lockdown on 2nd December but if anyone else would like to have a Missio Red Box and a calendar, please let Lizzie know in the Parish Office. We are also keen to find volunteers to collect Red Boxes after the Pandemic is over. *Is there anyone out there who could devote a bit of their free time to help?*

NEW FOREST DISABILITY – Do you or a family member have difficulty using your bath or find stairs and steps difficult? New Forest District Council offer grants and loans for adaptations to your home that could help make life easier. Please contact the Private Sector Housing Team at NFDC on 02380 285 151 for further details or collect a flyer from Lizzie in the Parish Office.

LIVE-IN CARER/COMPANION - If you know of anyone who needs live-in care or companionship, please call Helen on 07867 978 558. Helen can offer excellent references, has DBS clearance and her own vehicle.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR “B” 29TH NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday Vigil		28	Nov.	Vigil Mass of the 1 st Sunday of Advent Year B	6.00 p.m. Holy Mass – <i>For Souls in Purgatory</i>	
Sunday		29	Nov.	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YearB	10:00 Holy Mass - <i>Mary Conway (RIP)</i>	
Monday		30	Nov.	ST, ANDREW	10:00 a.m. Holy Mass – & Prayers for the Faithful Departed	
Tuesday		01	Dec.	Tuesday of the 1 st Week of Advent Year B	18:00 Exposition, 18:30 Rosary, 18:50 Benediction 19:00 Holy Mass– <i>Betty & Denis Bolland (RIP)</i>	6:00-7:00 p.m. Rosary, Benediction and Holy Mass
Wednesday		02	Dec.	Wednesday of the 1 st Week of Advent Year B	10:00 a.m. Holy Mass – <i>Janet & the Wright Family (for wellbeing)</i>	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Thursday		03	Dec.	St. Francis Xavier	10:00 Holy Mass – <i>God’s Blessing for the continued good health & wellbeing of the Churcher Family</i>	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Friday		04	Dec.	Friday of the 1 st Week of Advent Year B	10:00 Holy Mass- <i>Beryl Crittall (RIP)</i>	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Saturday		05	Dec.	Saturday of the 1 st Week of Advent	09:30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10:00 Holy Mass – <i>Concetta Iovina RIP</i>	
Saturday Vigil				Vigil Mass of the 2 nd Sunday of Advent Year “B”	6:00 p.m. Holy Mass – <i>Jean & Ray Carlile (Anniversary RIP)</i>	
Sunday		06	Dec.	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B	10:00 - Holy Mass – <i>Mary & Jack Loftus (RIP)</i>	

Your continued financial support during these very challenging times would be very much appreciated

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Parish office: 01425 614968 ololnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Hall Bookings suspended during the Pandemic.

Secretary: Lizzie Davies– Office Hours 12.00h to 15.00h Wednesday & 10.00h to 13.00h Friday

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 FOR THE RENEWAL OF OUR DIOCESE – (to be said at home even with Church closure).
O Sacred Heart of Jesus, we beg you to change us, to convert us and to make us holy. Fill us with a deeper faith, hope and love for you. Send into our hearts the cleansing fire of the Holy Spirit and powerfully renew all the clergy, religious and laity of our Diocese. Unite us in love and respect for one another and unify us as your one, holy people. Grant us a new passion and zeal for the Catholic Faith, for Mission, Outreach and Service. Help us to proclaim your Gospel generously to the poor and needy that many more souls may be saved by finding their way to you in your Church. May Mary Immaculate help us. May St. Edmund of Abingdon and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati pray for us. Amen

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel - 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