

# 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 –



**FEAST - HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH YEAR "B" 27<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020**

## THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY IN OUR WORLD TODAY

In the first years of his pontificate, Pope John Paul II directed his attention to what he perceived to be a critical challenge to the well-being and integrity of human society: the relationship between man and woman and the fruit of their human and sacramental union—marriage. John Paul's Wednesday audiences on what has come to be called his 'theology of the body' were a necessary backdrop and foundation for his teaching on marriage and the family. The importance of this teaching already had been recognized by the bishops at the Second Vatican Council, who in writing the Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World (which the Bp. Karol Wojtyla who later became Pope John Paul II helped to author), identified marriage and family as the first 'urgent problem area' to be addressed in Part II of the constitution.

The Council Fathers recognized that marriage and family is the foundation of human society. If that foundation fails, society collapses. The response to Pope Paul VI's encyclical on the transmission of human life, *Humanae Vitae* (1968), was a clear indication that the Church's long-standing teachings in this area were being subject to scrutiny and criticism, even within the Church. Pope John Paul II sought to present a thorough reasoned response to these issues, first, by developing his 'theology of the body', and then by calling a synod to discuss the family. One fruit of this synod is John Paul II's apostolic exhortation on *The Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World* (*Familiaris Consortio*)

### What is a Christian Family?

What we can definitively say is this: God is the originator of the family and continues to be. The ideal, established at the beginning of humanity, is for one man and one woman to join in a spiritually and physically committed union for a lifetime, conceiving and rearing children (Genesis 1:27–28; 2:18, 21–25; Matt. 19:1–12).

*"A Christian family is a group of people who are related to each other through marriage, birth, or adoption and are committed, first and foremost, to the person and work of Jesus Christ, faithfully witnessing to the love, power, and forgiveness of God to a watching world in its unique time and place."*

The family is one of the most basic building blocks of society, and one that constantly develops cultural cracks that must be repaired. Christian families, especially, face additional layers of difficulty—the struggles of maintaining unchanging scriptural values in a culturally dynamic world; because of this, Christian families face some serious issues—ones which must be faced and dealt with in order to thrive.

**Divorce** - Divorce rates have steadily increased over the past few decades, and splitting up is more commonplace and acceptable than ever before—sometimes even applauded. With the shrinking of religious ties, the stigma of divorce has ebbed away, creating a culture where commitment has become only a word. Still, though, divorce is disruptive and messy, and has profound effects on both the involved spouses, and their children. Children of divorced parents have higher rates of delinquency, academic failure, and violation of state laws than children of unbroken homes.

Christ spoke on the topic, saying that "What God has joined together, let no one separate". As a Christian, it's important to remember the commitment inherent to marriage, both when considering marriage, and

when years into it. Remember that we are all human—divorce affects Christian families at almost the same rate as secular ones. Keeping in mind that your spouse is a flawed human being who will sometimes fail alleviates a lot of tension, and keeps us from holding on to unrealistic expectations—especially as Christians.

**Anti-Christian Culture** - Family is about love, about commitment, and about compromise—it's not about stark individualism. When we put God first, allowing that vertical relationship to inform our horizontal relationships, we are better able to live in a state of humility and service to our loved ones. As we move into an increasingly post-religious society this message of “me first” will only grow stronger. That, combined with increasing moral relativism, work to undermine the very foundations of Christianity. But think of this as an opportunity for your family—an opportunity to shine, to show the world how good God is through the love and unity of your family.

**Called to be Different** - Christian families are held not only to a different standard than others, but to a higher as God wants it to be. When we recognize this, we can see all issues and face them, employing scriptural principles to overcome them, we become who God wishes us to be, and in doing so, we do the very best we can for our families. God wants us to be happy, and to have a great family life and we should never forget that.

**Fr. George Ngwa**

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## **A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FOR A TOUGH YEAR - 2020**

***Dear Brothers and Sisters,***

As Christmas brings us glad tidings, so too do thoughts of those we care about the most — family, friends, and the people who make a difference in our lives. So as a family of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish New Milton, I am sending you love and plenty of Christmas cheer and greetings and to your family and loved ones

When someone you love has had a more difficult year, you may want to send more than just the usual season's greetings hence the reason I am also writing to you so as to share with you all the thoughts of a year which many considered was not spent as we were more often in lockdown, quarantining, shielding and isolation ourselves from our loved ones.

The year 2020 has been a very remarkable period in the lives of all of us and a period in history we can all call weird. While we were preparing to conclude our Lenten observances and to joyfully celebrate Easter - the resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ as an Easter people, we were greatly hit with a pandemic of unimaginable magnitude and consequences. We thus became much separated from each other and all we had was pain, misery, but our faith held us on. Now we are at Christmas.

Christmas is a season of hope, and we pray that the upcoming New Year brings a fresh start for everyone. Therefore let us be hopeful. Christmas is a celebration which is renewed in every family, parish and community that receives the love of God made incarnate in Jesus Christ. Like Mary, the Church shows to everyone the Child whom she bore in her womb and to whom she gave birth. Let us bow down before the Lamb, let us worship God's goodness made flesh, and let us allow tears of repentance to fill our eyes and cleanse our hearts. This is something we all need!

Where God is born, hope is born. He brings hope and where hope is born, persons regain their dignity. Where God is born, peace is born. And where peace is born, there is no longer room for hatred and for war. Where God is born, mercy flourishes. Mercy is the most precious gift which God gives us, especially

during this year of the Bible in which we are called to discover that tender love of our heavenly Father for each of us.

May the Lord enable all who have been affected in anyway by the covid-19 pandemic in particular to experience his merciful love, which heals wounds and triumphs over evil. May our generosity and encouragement be readily felt to all those facing extreme poverty. May God repay all those, both individuals and states, who generously work to provide assistance and welcome to the many people helping others to build a dignified future for themselves and for their dear ones, and to be integrated in the societies which receive them.

During this Christmas period, may the Lord grant renewed hope to all those who lack employment, health to all who are sick and may he sustain the commitment of those with public responsibilities in political and economic life, that they may work to pursue the common good and to protect the dignity of every human life.

This Christmas then, let us together rejoice in the day of our salvation. As we contemplate the Crib, let us gaze on the open arms of Jesus, which show us the merciful embrace of God, as we hear the cries of the Child who whispers to us: "I am Emmanuel" - ( God is with us )

Dear brothers and sisters, thank you ever so much for the work and all that you are doing for Our Lady of Lourdes Parish New Milton and for Portsmouth Diocese and for me too. Thank you for your contribution to the basic food bank which shows your dedication to the call of discipleship and to evangelization. May God in his fatherly love richly bless you all. Merry Christmas and a healthful prosperous new year.

**Fr. George Ngwa**  
Parish Priest

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **HOLY MASS BOOKING ON LINE DURING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

Hampshire is governed by Tier 2 Covid Restrictions at the moment, therefore, it will still be necessary to restrict the number of parishioners in Church for each Mass to 30, which means that you will need to book your place in advance. We now have an "on-line" booking system in place, which you can find by going onto our website at <https://www.nfwp.org.uk> - (scroll down left hand column to CORONAVIRUS: Welcome to Our Lady of Lourdes, New Milton and click on CORONAVIRUS: How to book a seat for Mass). 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.

#### **MASS TIMES OVER CHRISTMAS & OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS**

<b>OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS</b>		
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	10:00 a.m.	
Vigil Mass Holy Family	6:00 p.m.	
Sunday - Holy Family 27 <sup>th</sup> December	8:00 a.m.	
	10:00 a.m.	
Monday – Holy Innocents 28 <sup>th</sup> December	10:00 a.m.	<b>No Rosary, Benediction</b>
Tuesday – 29 <sup>th</sup> December	10:00 a.m.	<b>Rosary and Benediction</b>
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	10:00 a.m.	<b>Rosary, Benediction</b>
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> December	10:00 a.m.	
	4:00 p.m. – thanksgiving Mass for the end of the year	<b>No Rosary, Benediction</b>
<b>Friday – Holy Mother of God 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021</b>	8:00 a.m.	
	10:00 a.m.	<b>Rosary and Benediction</b>

**OFFICE CLOSURE** The Parish Office will be closed on New Year's Day, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. If anyone has any urgent queries, please contact Fr. George direct. Thank you for all your good wishes and I wish you a very happy and joyous Christmas. Lizzie

**FROM BISHOP PHILIP - CLERGY CHRISTMAS DONATION** This Christmas we celebrate and give thanks for all the dedication, guidance and care our priests give us throughout our Diocese and in each Parish. If you would like to give a gift to support our Parish Priest – Father George - in his vocation and mission, please visit our Parish Website or click on the link <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/new-milton-clergy-christmas-collection>

## FEAST - HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH YEAR "B" 27<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020

Sunday Vigil	26	Dec.	Vigil Mass of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph Year B	18:00 Holy Mass – <i>Fr. Marcin (Intention)</i>	
Sunday	27	Dec.	THE HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH	08:00 Holy Mass – <i>Br. James Ryan (RIP)</i> 10:00 Holy Mass - <i>Jeanette &amp; John Patching (RIP)</i>	
Monday	28	Dec.	THE HOLY INNOCENTS Year B	10:00 Holy Mass - – <i>For the Private Intention of the Donor</i>	
Tuesday	29	Dec.	ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY Year B	18:00 Exposition 18:30 Rosary 18:50 Benediction 19:00 Holy Mass – <i>Fr. George</i>	6:00-7:00 p.m. Rosary, Benediction
Wednesday	30	Dec.	Liturgy of the Day Year B	10:00 a.m. Holy Mass – <i>Peggy Tolliday (RIP)</i>	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Thursday	31	Dec.	Liturgy of the Day Year B	10:00 a.m. Holy Mass - <i>For the Private Intention of the Donor</i>	4:00 p.m. end of year Thanksgiving Mass -
Friday	01	Jan.	MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD	10:00 Holy Mass – <i>For the Private Intention of the Donor</i>	No Rosary and Benediction
Saturday	02	Jan.	Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen	10:00 Holy Mass – – <i>For the Private Intention of the Donor</i>	
Saturday Vigil			Vigil Mass of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas Year "B"	18:00 Holy Mass – <i>Christina Cole (87<sup>th</sup> Birthday Blessings)</i>	
Sunday	03	Jan.	SECOND SUNDAY of CHRISTMAS YEAR B	8:00 - Holy Mass – <i>For the Nixon &amp; d'Espagnac Families</i> 10:00 – Holy Mass - <i>Barry Gissane (Intention)</i>	

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

**Parish priest: Father George Ngwa**

email: [gngwa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:gngwa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) Emergency mobile: **07475753040**

Parish office: **01425 614968** [lolnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lolnewmilton@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](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 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**