

## 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 –



**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD YEAR “B” 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2021**

## MY BAPTISMAL RESPONSIBILITY, DUTY AND OBLIGATION AS PARENT(S)



Today we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. We remember that Jesus told Nicodemus that no one can enter heaven unless he/she is born from above (cf John 3:1-21). Baptism is the gateway for a licit and valid reception of all the other Sacraments. During the rite of baptism, after the parents request the sacrament of baptism for their child, the priest or deacon states, *“Parents and godparents, you have asked to have your child baptized, in doing so you are accepting the responsibility of bringing him/her up in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to teach him/ her to keep God’s commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbour. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?”* Then, before the pouring of water, the instruction to the parents is repeated: *“Make it your constant care to bring your child up in the practice of the faith.”*

To raise one’s child in the Catholic faith may be a responsibility, duty or obligation, **but it really is a privilege, joy and honour. Our faith is our single greatest treasure, and to pass on the gift of faith is the greatest gift parents could ever give their child.** This responsibility flows from the understanding of who is the ultimate owner of the child. Most parents realize that their new-born child is a miracle. God is the creator who gives life and forms the child in the mother’s womb (Ps 139:13). God is the original parent and owner of the child, while the mother and father are biological stepparents and have the child on loan from God. In the Jewish tradition, children are consecrated to God (Lk 2:23), and in the Christian tradition, they are baptized.

The offering (Lk 2:24) recognizes God as the author and giver of life, and it serves as the parents’ request to keep the child. God accepts the offering, but God has terms and conditions for the parents: “You are

to raise your child on my behalf; to teach your child to know, love and serve me; and to prepare your child to accept my plan for his or her life.”

God is love, and one of the parents’ most important duties is to teach their child about the love of God. This is not done with a lesson in a book or a video, but by example in the genuine love that the parents have for each other, and by experience of the love the parents have for their child.

The parents are the leaders of the domestic church, the basic unit and foundation of the Church, and their full, active and conscious practice of their faith is an ongoing lesson on how to be a dynamic Catholic. The child learns the faith through assimilation. Because the parents love God, the child learns to love God. Because the parents pray each day, the child learns to pray. Because the parents go to Mass each Sunday, the child learns the importance of going to Mass, the value of communal liturgical prayer and how to behave in church. And because the parents practice the virtues in their daily living, the child learns how to live a Christian lifestyle.

Most children who are baptized are too young to fully understand the gift of faith they are receiving. It is the parents and godparents who are passing on their own faith to their child. This is why it is important that the child be brought up to understand and appreciate the amazing gift they have received at baptism.

Parents and godparents make a solemn promise to do this as part of the baptismal ritual. This promise should be fulfilled in many ways:

**Bring your child to church.** It is important to begin bringing your child to church, especially to Mass each weekend. Even at a very young age, a child begins to pick up the environment of faith and will experience the great love of God at Mass. Many parents feel uncomfortable bringing their young children to Mass, because they may make a lot of noise. For me the problem is not the noise children make – no; the worrying thing is when they are crying and screaming unattended to. Sure that is a language communicating their pain, uncomfortable condition and pain and they must be attended to as we do when watching our favourite TV/Movie programmes and don’t need to be disturbed.

**Teach your child to pray.** Times for simple prayer each day help a child to develop a relationship with God and the habit of conversing with God. A few memorized prayers (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be) or prayers in the child’s own words for loved ones or for special needs can be an effective way to pray in the morning or at bedtime. Saying grace, thanking God for your food at mealtime, is also recommended. Special practices can mark the different seasons of the Church year, such as lighting an Advent wreath, setting up a Christmas manger scene in your living room, or “giving up” something for Lent.

**Teach your child what we believe as Catholics.** Introducing your child to the beauty of our Catholic faith can be done at a young age and helps your child’s spiritual development. There are many children’s books which describe bible stories, lives of the saints, what happens at Mass, at a level appropriate for your child. If you need a refresher as parents on what our Catholic faith is all about, Gate of Heaven Parish offers many opportunities for adult faith formation, including Discovering Christ, a basic introduction to who Jesus is and what we believe as Catholics, bible studies, and various opportunities for men, women, couples, and young adults.

**Make sure your marriage is blessed in the Church.** The loving, lifelong, and committed relationship of marriage is at the foundation of any family. A strong marriage provides both spouses and children the

firm foundation on which to flourish as individuals and grow in love. Marriage between a baptized man and a baptized woman has the added dignity of being a sacrament, a sign of God's total, eternal, and faithful love for us. We believe it is important, if you are not married or were married outside the church, to have your marriage blessed in the church. Marriage and family life are always a challenge, but God is ready to help us with his strength and love.

**Complete your child's initiation in the faith.** Baptism is the first step to initiating your child in the faith. When your child is of school age, be sure to enrol them in religious education classes at the parish, so that they can be prepared for First Communion and later Confirmation.

**Live your faith at home.** This is really the most important thing you can do to live up to your baptismal responsibility as parents. While going to Church and attending religious education classes are important, the reality is that you are the primary educators of your child in the ways of the faith. The parish is here to assist you in any way we can, but we can only assist, we cannot replace your role as parents. Remember your primary responsibility in life is to get your spouse and children to heaven.

**Fr. George Ngwa**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

As the whole country is now in Lock Down it will still be necessary to restrict the number of parishioners in Church for each Mass to approximately 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). Alternatively the Links for all Sundays in January are as follows:- January 10th - <https://forms.gle/YAiFw1mdhrkxcXPLA>  
January 17th - <https://forms.gle/Liymju3Vqznzqq9U8> January 24th - <https://forms.gle/oZDYva7FzioTTrRT7>  
January 31st - <https://forms.gle/QcroYz8wZERbBCKu7>

If anybody does not have the facility to book on line, would they please contact Lizzie in the Parish Office on either a Wednesday or Friday between 12:00 noon and 3:00 p.m. Obviously, with the escalation of Covid cases nationally, things might change at any time, so we will try to keep you updated as soon as is possible!

**OFFICE HOURS 2021** In future the Parish Office will be open from 12.00 to 3.00 p.m. on both Wednesdays and Fridays until further notice. Thank you! Lizzie

**CAFOD** We have received a letter from the CAFOD Volunteer and Fundraising Team, thanking each and everyone of you who acted so generously and supported their Coronavirus Crisis Appeal in 2020. In a year when we all faced unprecedented change and uncertainty in our personal lives, people selflessly reached out to help the most vulnerable communities. The struggle isn't over – the wide-reaching effects of this global crisis will continue to be felt in the communities CAFOD work with for years to come – but your support has helped and will help people to survive, rebuild and heal. This past year has been a chance for many of us to reflect on the world we want to build – for ourselves, our children and for future generations. 2021 will have its own set of challenges; the UK is set to host 2 major international meetings – the G7 and the UN Climate Talks – so there is no better time for us to call on the UK to play its part in tackling the world's major challenges, such as the Climate Crisis. Climate change means that access to clean water is becoming more unpredictable. One in three people around the world do not have access to safe drinking water. That's why this Lent, CAFOD is calling on everyone who is able to take on their **WALK FOR WATER** Challenge to try to stamp out water poverty. For more information see the CAFOD Magazine or visit [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk)

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD YEAR B 10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021**

Sunday Vigil	09	2021 Jan.	Vigil Mass of the Baptism of the Lord Year B	18:00 Holy Mass - <i>The McDonnell Family (Intention)</i>	
Sunday	10	Jan.	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD Year B	08:00 Holy Mass – <i>Private Intention of the Donor</i> 10:00 Holy Mass - <i>The Harwood Family (for God's Blessing at Christmas)</i>	
Monday	11	Jan.	BEGINNING OF ORDINARY TIME Year B		
Tuesday	12	Jan.	Tuesday of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time Year B	18:00 Exposition 18:30 Rosary 18:50 Benediction 19:00 Holy Mass – <i>John Kurian (RIP)</i>	6:00-7:00 p.m. Rosary, Benediction
Wednesday	13	Jan.	St. Hilary Year B	10:00 a.m. Holy Mass – <i>Philomena Hall (RIP)</i>	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Thursday	14	Jan.	Thursday of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time Year B	10:00 a.m. Holy Mass – <i>Joseph Kurian (Birthday Thanksgiving)</i>	
Friday	15	Jan.	Friday of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time Year B	10:00 Holy Mass – <i>Joseph Kurian &amp; Family (Thanksgiving for all the Blessings last year)</i>	No Rosary and Benediction
Saturday	16	Jan.	Our Lady of Saturday Year B	10:00 Holy Mass – <i>Augustine &amp; Helen (RIP)</i>	
Saturday Vigil			Vigil Mass of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year “B”	18:00 Holy Mass – <i>Emile Hamon (RIP)</i>	
Sunday	17	Jan.	SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B Day of Prayer for Peace	8:00 - Holy Mass – 10:00 – Holy Mass - <i>Marrymol Jofi (RIP)</i>	

Next Weekend: 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for the Cathedral (obligatory)

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

**Parish priest: Father George Ngwa**

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Parish office: 01425 614968 [ololnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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.nfwf.org.uk](http://www.nfwf.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