

# 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 –



**SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS YEAR “B” 03<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2021**

## FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

### ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM

The word 'Epiphany' comes from Greek and means 'manifestation'. It celebrates 'the revelation of God in his Son as human in Jesus Christ'. Up until the 19th century, the Epiphany was more important than Christmas Day, because it revealed the plan of God for all humanity. When Christ was born the Angels announced his birth to the shepherds who were Jews. Epiphany brought the Three Kings or three wise men who were not Jews, led by a star to Bethlehem. The three Kings (Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar) represented Europe, Arabia and Africa respectively. God in the Epiphany revealed his plan of salvation to the entire world. It therefore became clear that in Christ there is no Jew or Pagan. Greek or Samaritan, slave or freeman. We are all God's children made in his image and likeness.

According to the Gospel of Matthew, the three wise men travelled across the desert to meet the baby Jesus, offering gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The gifts were symbolic of the importance of Jesus' birth, the gold representing his royal standing; frankincense his divine birth; and myrrh his mortality.

The first thing to understand in this discussion is that there is only one race—the human race. Caucasians, Africans, Europeans, Asians, Indians, Arabs, and Jews are not different races. Rather, they are different ethnicities of the human race. All human beings have the same physical characteristics (with minor variations, of course). More importantly, all human beings are equally created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27). God loved the world so much that He sent Jesus to lay down His life for us (John 3:16). The “world” obviously includes all ethnic groups.

God does not show partiality or favouritism (Deuteronomy 10:17; Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11; Ephesians 6:9), and neither should we. James 2:4 describes those who discriminate as “*judges with evil thoughts*.” Instead, we are to love our neighbours as ourselves (James 2:8). In the Old Testament, God divided humanity into two “racial” groups: Jews and Gentiles. God's intent was for the Jews to be a kingdom of priests, ministering to the Gentile nations. Instead, for the most part, the Jews became proud of their status and despised the Gentiles. Jesus Christ put an end to this, destroying the dividing wall of hostility (Ephesians 2:14). All forms of racism, prejudice, and discrimination are affronts to the work of Christ on the cross.

Jesus commands us to love one another as He loves us (John 13:34). If God is impartial and loves us with impartiality, then we need to love others with that same high standard. Jesus teaches in Matthew 25 that whatever we do to the least of His brothers, we do to Him. If we treat a person with contempt, we are mistreating a person created in God's image; we are hurting somebody whom God loves and for whom Jesus died.

Racism, in varying forms and to various degrees, has been a plague on humanity for thousands of years. Brothers and sisters of all ethnicities, this should not be. Victims of racism, prejudice, and discrimination need to forgive. Ephesians 4:32 declares, “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Racists may not deserve your forgiveness, but we deserved God's forgiveness far less. Those who practice racism, prejudice, and discrimination need

to repent. “Present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God” (Romans 6:13). May Galatians 3:28 be completely realized, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

### **Becoming Culturally Sensitive – Here are some suggestions on how to become more sensitive to differences in race and culture.**

First, we need to take an accurate assessment of ourselves. Often our assumptions and predispositions affect the way we perceive and even treat others. A person who says he or she has no prejudices is probably in denial. All of us perceive the world differently and find it easier to accept people who are like us and harder to understand people who are different from us.

Our cultural worldview affects how we perceive others. It affects how we evaluate what others think and what others do. So an important first step in becoming more racial and culturally sensitive is to evaluate ourselves.

Second, we should try to empathize with others. We must start learning how to look at life and our circumstances from the viewpoint of others. Instead of trying to make others think like us, we should strive to begin to think like them. That doesn't mean we have to agree with their viewpoint, but it does mean that becoming empathetic will be helpful in bridging racial and cultural barriers.

Third, learn to withhold judgment. Tolerance (in the biblical sense of the word) is a virtue we should cultivate. We should be willing to put aside our critical thinking and judgment until we know someone better. Taking the time to listen and understand the other person will help build bridges and dismantle barriers that often separate and isolate races and cultures.

Fourth, do not consider yourself superior to another. One of the root causes of racism is a belief in racial superiority. Paul tells us in Romans 12:3 that a man should not “think more highly of himself than he ought to think.” Differences in race and culture should never be used to justify feelings of racial superiority which can lead to racist attitudes.

Fifth, develop cross cultural traits. A missionary who goes overseas must learn to develop personal traits that will make him or her successful in a new and different culture. Likewise, we should develop these traits so that we can reach across a racial and cultural divide. Friendliness and open communication are important. Flexibility and open-mindedness are also important. Developing these traits will enhance our ability to bridge a racial and cultural gap.

Finally, we should take a stand. We shouldn't tell (or allow others to tell) racial and ethnic jokes. These are demeaning to others and perpetuate racism and racial attitudes. Instead we should be God's instrument in bringing about racial reconciliation. We should seek to build bridges and close the racial and cultural divide between people groups and reach out with the love of Jesus Christ.

*Fr. George Ngwa*

### **A NEW YERA MESSAGE AND PRAYERFUL WISHES.**

Dear Brothers and Sisters, New Year, is another chance for us to get it right, so this is the time to that fresh chance. Things don't always go the way we want but don't get disheartened, stand up and march ahead. A New Year brings fresh opportunities to start over, ride on it and make resolutions to achieve all the dreams you and your family, friends, loved ones desire and I pray to God that this year will bring all the happiness in your life. So, let all be excited about beginning it. A New Year brings new goals, objectives and desires, so let us not forget extra challenges too. Forget the past failures; this year is a unique opportunity to get started over again. Let us find confidence in ourselves and create a possibility to achieve all that we can and have always dreamed of.

Let us take this as an opportunity to thank God and appreciate each other. We ignore this in our daily life; we get targets, deadlines, and assignments to achieve. In all this, we forget to look around and appreciate those who keep us running.

Again let us remember that the New Year signifies a new opportunity to start over. Forget the failures, backlashes and aim towards excellence. Let us always be with our near and dear ones on the journey towards success. We are all fortunate to find ourselves in such a beautiful family, among friends, and colleagues. Let us grow together. I hope this year will bring success and happiness in all our lives.

**May God, the source and origin of all blessing,  
grant you grace, pour out his blessing in abundance,  
and keep you safe from harm throughout the year. Amen.**

**May he give you integrity of faith,  
endurance in hope,  
and perseverance in charity  
with holy patience to the end. Amen.**

**May he order your days and your deeds in his peace,  
grant your prayers in this and in every place,  
and lead you happily to eternal life. Amen.**

**And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
come down on you and remain with you forever. Amen.**

*Happy and prosperous 2021*

*Fr. George Ngwa*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

New Milton is governed by Tier 3 Covid Restrictions at the moment, therefore, 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.nfw.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 3rd - <https://forms.gle/3gkbytkqjQdYpo958>      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 between 12:00 noon and 3:00 p.m. or on a Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

**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

**CLERGY CHRISTMAS DONATION** - I would like to thank you all for your kind donations and good wishes this Christmas.

**SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS YEAR B 03<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2021**

Sunday Vigil	02	2021 Jan.	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	08:00 Holy Mass – <i>For the Private Intention of the Donor</i> 10:00 Holy Mass - <i>Barry Gissane (Intention)</i>	
Monday	04	Jan.	Liturgy of the Day Year B	10:00 Holy Mass – <i>For the Private Intention of the Donor</i>	
Tuesday	05	Jan.	Liturgy of the Day Year B	18:00 Exposition 18:30 Rosary 18:50 Benediction 19:00 Holy Mass – <i>For the Private Intention of the Donor</i>	6:00-7:00 p.m. Rosary, Benediction
Wednesday	06	Jan.	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD Year B	10:00 a.m. Holy Mass –	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Thursday	07	Jan.	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	08	Jan.	Liturgy of the Day Year B	10:00 Holy Mass – <i>For the Private Intention of the Donor</i>	No Rosary and Benediction
Saturday	09	Jan.	Liturgy of the Day Year B	10:00 Holy Mass – <i>Maggy Ouess (RIP)</i>	
Saturday Vigil			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	8:00 - Holy Mass – <i>For the Private Intention of the Donor</i> 10:00 – Holy Mass - <i>The Harwood Family (for God’s Blessing at Christmas)</i>	

Next Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January is a Day of Prayer for Peace.

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 [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