



## PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY,

### Fr Benjamin writes...

I love being a Priest. I was thirty-one years old when I was ordained, having had some of life's important experiences at university, in the workplace and then at Seminary. It is difficult, however, to remember not being a Priest. I hear this when people become parents and can never imagine their life without their children. I cannot imagine life without knowing the Lord as one of His priests. I cannot imagine not being able to hold Him gently between my fingers, lifting Him above the Altar, like a proud father lifts an infant, like a grateful son beholding His Redeemer. I cannot imagine a day where He does not send people to me to be loved, solaced and given company. I cannot imagine life without being immersed in the lives of the People of God – blessing expectant mothers, encouraging doubting fathers, baptising, marrying, anointing, absolving, and commending souls to God. I love visiting people in their homes, being invited into their thoughts and hearts, laughing with them, crying with them and, of course, praying with them and for them.

I want you to know that, as your Parish Priest, and your little shepherd, I treasure you all, pray for you all, and yearn that you may know the love of God and Jesus Christ, His Son. I am cheering you all on in the race of life in a cruel world, I am praying for you when the spiritual battles get tough, and I am rejoicing as you keep the Faith. I think what I am saying is that I love the Priesthood because I try to love the Lord and He gives me the tremendous task of trying to love you all. It does not always go as planned, I often fail, but the graces and joys of shepherding Christ's flock here and elsewhere, far outweigh any of the tears.

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday, when we traditionally pray the Lord to send into the hearts of men the desire to become priests and to answer that desire. It is an awesome calling, but very much held by the hands of the Lord and guided by His crook and His staff. It involves a lot of giving, but the rewards are thousandfold. Pray for priests, pray for more priests, pray for those preparing to become priests, pray for those who are worried they are called to be priests, pray for those who worry about them, but be assured that, when lived faithfully, being a Priest is a lifelong blessing and joy.

**God bless you this Sunday and always**

### **April is the Month of Holy Eucharist**

We pray for the salvation of souls; for those who are sick and those who care for them;  
for vocations to the Sacred Priesthood; and for the Holy Catholic Church.

**Adoration** (Thursday evening until Saturday evening);

**Rosary, Vespers and Benediction** Sunday 4.30pm

**St Joseph Devotions** Tuesday after 9.15am Mass

**Rosary for Vocations to the Sacred Priesthood** Wednesday

The Church is open for private prayer from 9am-6pm each day


<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Acts 2:14a, 36-41</b>
<b>‘God has made him both Lord and Christ.’</b>	
<p>On the day of Pentecost Peter, standing with the Eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed the crowd: ‘Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.’</p> <p>Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the Apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.’ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this crooked generation.’ So those who received his word were baptised, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.</p>	
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>Ps 23(22):1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6. R1</b>
<b>The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.</b>	
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>1 Peter 2:20b-25</b>
<b>‘You have returned to the Shepherd of your souls.’</b>	
<p>Beloved: If when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.</p>	
<b>Gospel</b>	<b>John 10:1-10</b>
<b>‘I am the door of the sheep.’</b>	
<p>At that time: Jesus said, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.’ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.</p> <p>So Jesus again said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.’</p>	

**SECOND COLLECTIONS IN APRIL 26TH—CLERGY TRAINING**

We can take digital donations via the Dona collection plate at the back of the Church  
or via the Parish Bank Account

**CDP SOUTHAMPTON HOLY FAMILY SORT CODE 30-93-04 ACCOUNT NUMBER 00887898**





# HOLY FAMILY, SOUTHAMPTON

## Parish Notices

### BAPTISMS

We welcome to the Holy Family Grace and Teresa who will be baptised today. Please pray that Our Blessed Lord continues to guide and protect them and their families.

### ACCOMMODATION URGENTLY NEEDED

One of our lovely families (2 adults, 1 five year old child) urgently needs somewhere to live preferably close to Holy Family Church and School. If you can help either with accommodation or decent contacts please contact 07876092604 or the Parish Office.

If you cannot help accommodation-wise please pray for St Joseph's intercession. Thank you

### NATHAN KING

We warmly welcome Nathan King who is one of our lovely Seminarians at Allen Hall who will be speaking to us about his priestly vocation after all Masses this weekend. Please continue to pray for him and for all of our seminarians who have answered God's call to the priesthood.

### DOES GOD EXIST? Lecture 30 April 7pm Highfield Campus, University of Southampton

The Thomastic Institute at the University is holding their inaugural public lecture, "Does God Exist?", given by Prof. Gaven Kerr of St Patrick's Pontifical University, The event is free and open to the public.

Event page: <https://thomasticinstitute.org/events/does-god-exist-kerr-soton>

As this is their first event, a strong turnout would make a real difference for them to get the chapter off the ground— please support them if you can. It may appeal to anyone with an interest in the faith and reason tradition of the Church.

### Eucharistic miracles exhibition at Holy Family 30 May—13th June and Corpus Christi Procession 7th June

We will need plenty of volunteers to ensure that both of these events are spiritually fruitful both for the Parish and wider community. Please contact the office if you are willing to help in any way. Thank you.

### FIRST CONFESSION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION 2026-27 APPLICATION FOR PREPARATION COURSE

If your child/ren will be in Year 4 in September 2026 you are invited to apply to start preparation to receive these Sacraments at Corpus Christi 2027.

[The Holy Family First Holy Communion & First Reconciliation Registration 2026-2027 – Fill in form](#)

### CATECHISTS—APPEAL

Please give prayerful consideration to becoming a catechist or offering assistance to the catechists so that we can continue to prepare our children here at Holy Family to receive the Sacraments. We shall also be looking for more catechists for Confirmation preparation. Thank you.

**Job vacancies in the Diocese** [Careers - Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth](#)

# THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY



**Holy Mass OF = Ordinary Form, EF = Extraordinary Form**

<b>SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTION: — Sagar's Conversion and healing</b>				
25 Apr	Sat	St Mark, Evangelist	9.15am (OF)	Maria Vong Thi Siu, Peter Vong Van Le
		In anticipation of	6.30pm (OF)	Peter & Jackie Good (Diamond Wedding)
26 Apr	Sun	<b>THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER</b>	9.00 am (EF)	Jerry Kirk (RIP)
	Sun	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	10.30 am (OF)	People of the Parish
27 Apr	Mon	of the fourth week after Easter	7.30 pm (OF)	Peter Van Vong Le, Maria Nguen Thi Siu
28 Apr	Tues	of the fourth week after Easter	9.15 am (OF)	Madeleine Beard
30 Apr	Thur	St Catherine of Siena	7.30 pm (EF)	Francis Bergsma (RIP)
1 May	Fri	St Joseph the Worker	9.15am (OF)	William Gove (int)
2 May	Sat	St Athanasius	9.15am (OF)	Faith Ukah (birthday)
		<b>in anticipation of</b>	6.30pm (OF)	People of the Parish
3 May	Sun	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER</b>	<b>09.00 am (EF)</b>	Fr Michael Fountaine
		<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	<b>10.30 am (OF)</b>	Ese Okitukpi (int)

Please hand Mass intentions to Fr Benjamin, Dcn Tom, or Catherine, or place in the collection basket. If you would like a Mass to be offered on a particular date please give several week's notice and we will try to accommodate you. Thank you

### Confessions (when there is Mass)

Saturday: 5.30—6.20 pm

Monday & Thursday: 6.45—7.20 pm

Tuesday & Friday: 8.30—9.10 am

### Eucharistic Adoration

Thursday 8.00 pm to Saturday 6.00 pm

**Rosary, Vespers & Benediction for Vocations**

Sunday: **4.30 pm**

**St Joseph Devotions—Tuesdays after Mass**

**Rosary for Vocations—Weds 9.15am**

### Groups/Activities in the Louis Suite

**RCIA** - Mondays at 7.00pm

**Parish Prayers** **Last Tuesdays 7.00pm**

**Mother's Prayers** Wednesdays at 2.00 pm

**Sewing Group** - Fridays at 10.00am

**Lunch Group** Fridays, fortnightly at 12.00 noon:

**Next Lunch :**

**Catholic Men's Group** 1st Saturdays at 7:30 pm

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### APRIL

**26th Rosary-Making Workshop—Southampton**

**Uni Chaplaincy 2pm**

**30th Does God Exist? Free lecture at Highfield**

**Campus, Uni Southampton 7pm—see poster**

#### MAY

**14th Ascension**

**30 May-13 Jun Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition**

#### JUNE

**7th Corpus Christi Procession**

The Holy Family Catholic Church Redbridge Hill, Southampton SO16 4PL

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<b>Parish Priest</b>	Fr Benjamin Theobald	<a href="mailto:btheobald@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk">btheobald@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Deacon</b>	Dcn Tom Jose	<a href="mailto:tjose@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk">tjose@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Catherine Merrifield	<a href="mailto:office@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk">office@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk</a>
<b>Safeguarding</b>	Catherine Merrifield	<a href="mailto:safeguarding@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk">safeguarding@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk</a>
<b>Lead Catechist</b>	Angela Wood	<a href="mailto:ministry@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk">ministry@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk</a>

Grateful thanks for your generosity in March

Loose plate: £1674.97. Gift Aid £835.00 Standing orders: £1735.32

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