



## PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY, MILLBROOK

Fr Benjamin writes...

I know envy is a sin, and a pretty serious one at that, but nevertheless, I cannot but help look with longing at the state of the Church in heaven (the Church Triumphant!), and to some extent, the Church in Purgatory (also known as the Church Suffering). Why? You may ask. I presume the Church in those states doesn't have to worry about the things we have to worry about here on the earth. It seems to be a struggle to catch the fish the Lord wants us to catch in the net of His Church. Here in England we compete with sports, shops, shifts, and a very noisy culture which doesn't allow for much reflection upon the Divine and salvation. As a result, we can be confronted with emptier pews, chalices unused and a diminishing Church. It is an uphill – no, upstream – struggle.

Did the first four disciples know what they were getting into when they dropped their nets at the Lord's invitation: "Follow Me and I will make you into fishers of men"? Surely, catching fish was easier. Fish generally do not cause a person to be a martyr. Fish swim easily into the net. None of this can be said about people. If they knew what was ahead of them, would they have dropped their nets so readily? Nobody can fully answer that question. The point is, they didn't know *what* was ahead of them, but they did know something of *Who* was before them. They did not become disciples because of the work, as important as that was, but because of Him. There was something about Him that was so compelling, so full of the love and grace of God, that it was a no-brainer but to follow this Person Who revealed the Face of God by Word, deed, and a little later, a Cross and resurrection.

Why are we disciples? Because we have heard the call? For a special task? For an easy life? Perhaps the answer is both yes and no to all of these. The centre of our discipleship, however, must always be the Person of Jesus Christ, being with Him, and learning to love Him. That is an advantage which we do have along with the Church in Heaven and in Purgatory – He is with us. The only difference is that here on earth He is calling us, and there is work to do, work to be done for love of Him.

**God bless you this Sunday and always**

### THE GOLDEN ARROW PRAYER

May the most holy, most sacred, most adorable, most incomprehensible, and unutterable Name of God be always praised, blessed, loved, adored, and glorified in Heaven, on Earth, and under the Earth, by all the creatures of God, and by the Sacred Heart of Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. Amen.

### January is the Month of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

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. Please implore Our Blessed Lord to guide the House of Lords to reject the anti-life legislation before them.

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

**Rosary, Vespers and Benediction** (Sunday 4.30pm) \* NEW TIME

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

**Rosary for Vocations to the Sacred Priesthood** Wednesday after 9.15am Mass

**In Galilee of the nations the people have seen a great light.**

In the former time the Lord brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 27(26):1. 4. 13-14. R1a

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

**Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

**'I appeal to you that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you.'**

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgement. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarrelling among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each one of you says, 'I follow Paul', or 'I follow Apollos', or 'I follow Cephas', or 'I follow Christ.' Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptised in the name of Paul? For Christ did not send me to baptise but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

**Gospel**

Matthew 4:12-23

**'Jesus went to Capernaum so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled.'**

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 'The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles — the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.' From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

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**SECOND COLLECTIONS IN JANUARY****18th White Flower Appeal—Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child****25th—Collection for the cathedral**

The **cathedral** is situated in the most deprived part of the diocese. The parish collection covers just over half of the ordinary running costs of £5,000 per week. Never has this annual collection by parishes for the mother church of the diocese been more critical or needed. Thank you.

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**

**SCAN ME**

# HOLY FAMILY, SOUTHAMPTON

## Parish Notices

### AMALGAMATING PARISHES ACROSS SOUTHAMPTON

#### —IMPORTANT—PLEASE READ AND TAKE ACTION

Attached to the e-mail copy of this newsletter and in hard copy at the back of the Church is a letter from the Bishop relating to the proposed amalgamation of the ten Parishes of Southampton into one Parish.

At this stage it is only a proposal but it is important that if you wish your views to be considered, you attend a meeting in the Louis Suite either

**24th January after 6.30pm Mass**

or

**25th January after 10.30am Mass**

The Bishop has asked Fr Benjamin to collate responses and submit them to him by 23rd February. Please do not write directly to the Bishop. The consultation period will end on Monday 23rd February

but in order to allow time to compile responses

**please ensure you respond by Monday 16th February**

### Parish Vacancy

Job Title: Permanent Adorer of Our Blessed Lord

Hours of Work: Saturdays 5pm until 6pm

Salary: Innumerable graces

Job description: Watch for one hour, wrapped in His love.

Contact: [ministry@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk](mailto:ministry@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk) or the office



### First Confession and First Holy Communion 2027

If you have a child who is currently in **Year 3** who would be looking to prepare to receive the Sacraments of First Confession and First Holy Communion in 2027 we invite you to come along to some early preparation sessions on:

**14th February , 14th March, 18th April , 9th May**

**From 12 noon until 1pm—In the Louis Suite**

### Render therefore to Caesar... then claim back through GIFT AID (with apologies to Mark 12)

In times when obviously everybody's bills are going up we would be enormously grateful to everyone who pays tax in the UK but hasn't yet registered for Gift Aid to complete a Gift Aid Declaration (from the back of the Church or office) and return it to the office. This would mean that the Parish could claim back from the Government 25p for every £1 which you have already paid in tax, without it costing you any extra. Naturally if you are also in the position that you can increase your giving that would be an added bonus! This is an incredibly generous Parish and we are very grateful for your generosity.

### Parish Registration

It would be particularly helpful if parishioners could complete an updated Parish Registration form [The Holy Family Millbrook, Southampton, Parish Registration Form – Fill in form](#)

Hard copies are also available at the back of the Church or from the office but completing the online form avoids inaccuracies in data entry. Many thanks indeed for your help.



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

# THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY



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

24 Jan	Sat	Our Lady on Saturday	9.15 am	KuriaKose Paramopah (RIP)
	Sat	<b>in anticipation of</b>	6.30 pm	People of the Parish
<b>25 Jan</b>	Sun	3rd Sunday after the Epiphany (EF)	<b>9.00 am</b>	John Smith (RIP)
	Sun	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (OF)	10.30 am	Moses (Thanksgiving for God's blessings past and future)
26 Jan	Mon	Sts Timothy & Titus (OF)	7.30 pm	Lijo (health)
27 Jan	Tues	of the week in Ordinary Time (OF)	9..15am	Nina Reczko (RIP)
28 Jan	Weds	St Thomas Aquinas (OF)	<b>9.15 am</b>	Vocations
29 Jan	Thurs	St Francis de Sales (EF)	7.30 pm	Johnny Bradley (RIP)
30 Jan	Fri	of the week in Ordinary Time (OF)	9.15 am	Vocations
31 Jan	Sat	St John Bosco (OF)	9.15 am	Those preparing to receive the sacraments
	Sat	<b>in anticipation of</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	People of the Parish
1 Feb	Sun	4th Sunday after the Epiphany	9.00 am	Helen Officer (Int)
	Sun	FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.30am	Charlie Vella (RIP)

### HOSPITAL VISITS

If you, or a loved one will be going into hospital, or have been taken in unexpectedly, please would you let Fr Benjamin know (whether directly, or via the office).  
Hospital staff are no longer able to phone on your behalf.

#### 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 after Mass

#### 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 :** **TBC**

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

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### JANUARY

**27th Tuesday Prayer Group 7pm**

**NEW TIME SUNDAY BENEDICTION 4.30PM**

#### FEBRUARY

**2nd Candlemas/Purification Mass Times**

**9.15am (OF) 7.30pm (EF)**

**7th St Agatha's Patronal Feast, Solemn High Mass**

**11.00am, at St Agatha's, Portsmouth**

**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>Asst. Priest</b>	Fr Benedikt Timpe	<a href="mailto:btimpe@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk">btimpe@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@holycatholicchurch.co.uk">office@holycatholicchurch.co.uk</a>
<b>Safeguarding</b>	Catherine Merrifield	<a href="mailto:safeguarding@holycatholicchurch.co.uk">safeguarding@holycatholicchurch.co.uk</a>
<b>Lead Catechist</b>	Angela Wood	<a href="mailto:ministry@holycatholicchurch.co.uk">ministry@holycatholicchurch.co.uk</a>

**Grateful thanks for your generosity in December**

Loose plate: £1275.38 Gift Aid £830.00 Standing orders: £1826.66

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**SCAN TO DONATE**