



PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Millbrook

Fr Benjamin writes ...

“The Kingdom of God is like a carpark. At first it is empty and then it is brimming full with cars all seeking a space”. The images Our Blessed Lord used were very much of His time and culture, mainly using examples from agriculture and social gatherings. Who knows what images the Lord would use today?

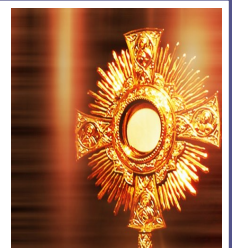
Parables were a way of communicating eternal truths in a way which was both comprehensible but at the same time inexhaustible in interpretation. We must never forget that the Lord came to us in the flesh to reveal Himself and the truth of God. He came to show us God and He used God’s creation to do so. Parables give us the chance to contemplate how God is calling us and speaking to us. They are there to be used and not just heard once from a Sunday Gospel. Like a good meal, they should leave an aftertaste and a yearning for more.

If we think we have worked them out, like a puzzle, then we have not understood them or their message. But if we find ourselves finding more and more inspiration coming from them, then they are doing what parables should do – they are speaking to us, and they are keeping our minds and hearts raised to God. The next time you hear or read one of Our Blessed Lord’s beautiful parables, don’t let them pass you by. Think on it further, and use it to allow God to call to you and speak to you.

God bless you this Sunday and always

Parish Vacancy

Job Title: Permanent Adorer of Our Blessed Lord
Hours of Work: Saturdays 1 am until 2 am (very early morning)
Salary: Innumerable graces
Job description: Watch for one hour, wrapped in His love.
Contact: ministry@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk or the office



June is the Month of the Sacred Heart

Please make an extra effort this month to make acts of reparation to the Sacred Heart for our sins and the sins of the world; to offer thanksgiving for our priests and seminarians and to pray for vocations. Perhaps spend an extra hour in Adoration (Thursday evening until Saturday evening); pray the rosary outdoors Monday 9am, Tuesday 10am or come to

Rosary, Vespers and Benediction Sunday 4pm

First reading**Ezekiel 17:22-24****I will plant a shoot on the high mountain of Israel**

The Lord says this: 'From the top of the cedar, from the highest branch I will take a shoot and plant it myself on a very high mountain. I will plant it on the high mountain of Israel. It will sprout branches and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Every kind of bird will live beneath it, every winged creature rest in the shade of its branches. And every tree of the field will learn that I, the Lord, am the one who stunts tall trees and makes the low ones grow, who withers green trees and makes the withered green. I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.'

Responsorial Psalm**Psalm 91(92):2-3, 13-16****It is good to give you thanks, O Lord****Second reading****2 Corinthians 5:6-10****We want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord**

We are always full of confidence when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight – we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

Gospel**Mark 4:26-34****The kingdom of God is a mustard seed growing into the biggest shrub of all**

Jesus said to the crowds: 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time: he starts to reap because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.'

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEK 16TH JUNE**DAY FOR LIFE**

This year's theme is "The Lord is my Shepherd – Compassion and Hope at the End of Life", which allows us to reflect on end-of-life care in the midst of national debates on assisted suicide. In preparation for the Day for Life, we have been praying the Novena for Life with the two other episcopal conferences, in the days leading up to the Feast of the Visitation.

Day for Life fundraising page <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/day-for-life-second-collection-2024>



Parish Notices

Baptism

We warmly congratulate Rosie Smith-Connor on her baptism this Sunday and welcome her to the Parish Family. We pray that Our Blessed Lord will continue to guide and protect her and her family.

Deeper In Faith (16-18 year old group) Monday 20 June 6-7pm

Fr Benjamin guides this group of young people wanting to look deeper into their Faith. We next meet this Monday **20th June** from 6-7pm in the Louis Suite. For more details please get in touch with Angela ministry@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk

Government Consultation on Catholic Schools

The Government has opened a consultation on lifting the cap that, for the last 14 years, has limited the number of Catholic children who can be admitted into any new Catholic school. Please open the link and respond to the consultation (only name and email address are required). Responses are crucial if Catholic families throughout the country are not to continue to be deprived of a Catholic education.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/lifting-the-faith-schools-cap/>

You Will Be My Witnesses

On Saturday, June 22nd at Immaculate Conception Parish Hall there will be a day for the people of our Pastoral Area to receive feedback on the work that has been taking place and to hear about the process of implementation of the Plan in the coming months. We hope to see a good number of parishioners in attendance. The day will be from 12:30pm until 4:00pm beginning with a bring and share lunch.

Social 29th June 7.30pm—Louis Suite

Bring a Plate of Food to Share

This will be the first of what we intend to be an opportunity to get together as a Parish on a monthly basis, to share a meal and to update people on the various activities going on in the Church. On 29th June we will update people on the current fundraising initiatives and launch a new one!

Sacramental Preparation - First Reconciliation and Holy Communion 2025

The application process for our Parish First Reconciliation and Holy Communion programme for 2024/2025 will be open until Monday 3rd September 2024.

Please note the following information:

Your child or children will need to be in Year 4 or above from September 2024

You need to live in our parish and must be registered parishioners.

You must attend Mass regularly.

To apply we ask that you simply complete an interest form found on our website -

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=aXEOD-Bnr06EKJ6fBel0q0RDA7fhXIFBgmL3mg71BmxURVvk1R0dTQjJXSVAxV0dQVFFJmIc3SEk4My4u>

Job vacancies in the Diocese <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs>

THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY



Holy Mass OF = Ordinary Form, EF = Extraordinary Form

16 June	Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	Marie Therese L'Enfant People of the Parish
17 June	Feria	7.30 pm (OF)	Maria Le Thi An
18 June	Feria	9.15 am (OF)	Agatha Atarah Family (Thanksgiving)
20 June	St Alban	7.30 pm (EF)	John Comerford (Int)
21 June	St Aloysius Gonzaga	9.15 am (OF)	Barbara Debrowska (RIP)
22 June	Sts John Fisher & Thomas More	9.15 am (OF) 6.30 pm (OF)	Alvina (Int) People of the Parish
23 June	Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	Pauline McEvoy (RIP) Martin & Rosecolette (Wedd Ann Int)

Please hand Mass intentions to Fr Benjamin, to Catherine, or place in the collection basket. We are currently booking Mass intentions for the end of **July** (EF Masses for October) Thank you.

Confession Times: Fr Benjamin hears confessions during the hours below. Please could you avail yourself of these times unless in an emergency as time is very limited between Sunday Masses.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June	July
17th Outdoor Rosary 9am	7th First Holy Communion
18th Outdoor Rosary 10am	14th First Holy Communion
20th Deeper in Faith (16-18yrs) 6-7pm	27th Parish BBQ
22nd You Will Be My Witnesses	
29th Gardening with Father	
29th STS PETER AND PAUL	
9.15 MASS (EF)	
29th Bring a Plate of Food to Share Social 7.30pm	
30th First Holy Communion	

THE CHURCH WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 9AM UNTIL 7PM EACH DAY

Confessions (when there is Mass)	Groups/Activities in the Louis Suite
Saturday: 5.30—6.20 pm	Sewing Group - Tuesdays at 10.00am
Monday & Thursday: 6.45—7.20 pm	Gardening Club - Tuesdays 10am until 12 noon
Tuesday & Friday: 8.30—9.10 am	Mother's Prayers Wednesdays at 2.00 pm
Eucharistic Adoration	Lunch Group Fridays, fortnightly at 12.00 noon:
Thursday 8.00 pm to Saturday 6.00 pm	NEXT LUNCH: TBC
Rosary, Vespers & Benediction for Vocations	Youth Group 1st Saturdays 3.00-6.00 pm
Sunday: 4.00 pm	Catholic Men's Group 1st Saturdays at 7:30 pm

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

Email: office@holymfamilysouthampton.org.uk Tel: 023 80 778203

Website: www.holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk

Parish Priest	Fr Benjamin Theobald	btheobald@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Parish Deacon	Dcn Tom Jose	tjose@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Parish Administrator	Catherine Merrifield	office@holymfamilysouthampton.org.uk
Safeguarding	Catherine Merrifield	safeguarding@holymfamilysouthampton.org.uk
Lead Catechist	Angela Wood	ministry@holymfamilysouthampton.org.uk
Youth & Confirmation	Ben Nichols	youth@holymfamilysouthampton.org.uk

Grateful thanks for your generosity in April

Loose plate: £1706.87 Gift Aid: £853 Standing orders: £1598