



11 January 2026

PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY, MILLBROOK

Fr Benjamin writes...

We can be absorbed in a good book, we can be consumed with curiosity. We can be engrossed in something interesting and we can immerse ourselves in whatever it is we are doing. These are ways of describing dedication to a task. "To immerse" or even more accurately, "to bury" is the literal meaning of that most important moment in Christian life: Baptism. In Baptism we are immersed in water. Indeed, in the earliest Christian rites of Baptism a person would be fully immersed in the water. It remains symbolic of being buried in death and raised to new life. Even more profoundly it signals that in the Sacrament of Baptism we are immersed in the Holy Spirit, and buried in God. In this way, and by living the Christian life, we can be absorbed in the work of God, consumed with curiosity about Him, engrossed in His story with us, and continually immerse ourselves in our life of faith.

The question to ask on this Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, then, is why was Our Blessed Lord baptised in the river Jordan? He was, after all, the Son of God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, and both fully man and fully God. What need was there for Christ to be baptised? If we can, we should see it from Christ's perspective. He came, not for Himself, but for us and our salvation. He was on a mission, sent by His heavenly Father. We must remember that God does nothing 'by halves'. God is never half committed. God never leaves a task incomplete. God gives His all, as we see from the Incarnation and the Cross when He gives us His Only Son. He immerses Himself in His Mission for our good. In His Baptism He fully commits Himself to the cause of our salvation; He is absorbed and immersed in His love for us.

The Baptism of Our Blessed Lord shows us the nature of God's love, both within the Holy Trinity and in His love for all people. It is a lesson and example in the way we are called to love God. As He immerses Himself in His work for us and our redemption, so too should we in justice and thanksgiving immerse ourselves in our work for 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

‘Behold my servant, in whom my soul delights.’

Thus says the Lord: Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. ‘I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 29(28):1-2. 3ac-4. 3b, 9b-10. R11b

The Lord will bless His people with peace**Second Reading****Acts 10:34-38****‘God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit.’**

In those days: Peter opened his mouth and said: ‘Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all — you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

Gospel**Matthew 3:13-17****‘When Jesus was baptised he saw the Spirit of God coming to rest on him.’**

At that time: Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptised by him. John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness.’ Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptised, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’

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

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

CEILIDH and RAFFLE THANKS

Most enormous thanks to Jonjo and Louisa for organising the fantastic Ceilidh last Saturday evening, and to all those who supported the evening and the raffle in any way. Your generosity raised over £500 towards the Church roof repairs.

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:

10th January , 14th February , 14th March, 18th April , 9th May
From 12 noon until 1pm—In the Louis Suite

O Come Let Us Adore Him

We are still praying for a regular Adorer to spend one hour with Our Blessed Lord on Saturdays from 5-6pm

If you may be the answer to our prayers please contact Angela
ministry@holycatholicchurch.co.uk

White Flower appeal—18th January

The annual White Flower Appeal is SPUC's largest single fundraising and awareness-raising event allowing them to plan confidently for the year ahead to ensure they can maintain a full range of campaigning, educational and outreach activities in defence of women and unborn children and those at the end of life. SPUC are deeply grateful for all the support you have given over the years and could not fight this pro-life battle without you. Thank you for your continued prayers and donations.

Gift Card Scams

Gift card fraud is an increasingly common way of tricking victims into purchasing gift cards and sharing their details, leading to financial loss. Please be aware that there have been scam messages circulating which appear to come from priests or diocesan staff, asking people to buy gift cards or provide financial help urgently. The Diocese/clergy will never ask for money, gift cards, vouchers, or personal details by email, text message, or social media. If you receive a message of this kind, do not respond and do not send any money. Please report it to the [Diocese communications team](#) so that they can alert others. Thank you for your vigilance and for helping to protect our parish communities.

However, where you see requests from Holy Family, particularly regarding the Church roof, please give generously through the Parish Bank Account

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

THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY



Holy Mass OF = Ordinary Form, EF = Extraordinary Form

10 Jan	Sat	Our Lady on Saturday	9.15 am	Canon McDermott
	Sat	in anticipation of	6.30 pm	People of the Parish
11 Jan	Sun	The Holy Family of Jesus Mary & Joseph (EF)	9.00 am	Stanistan Strachowski (int)
	Sun	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (OF)	10.30 am	Phero Le Van Dung & Maria Le Thi Duc
12 Jan	Mon	Feria (OF)	7.30 pm	Maria Le Thi An & Maria Le Thi Khoat (RIP)
13 Jan	Tues	Feria (OF)	9..15am	Roma Twist (RIP)
14Jan	Weds	feria (OF)	9.15 am	John Giao Xum
15 Jan	Thurs	St Paul the First Hermit (EF)	7.30 pm	John and Nora Keene (RIP)
16 Jan	Fri	Feria (OF)	9.15 am	Virginia (thanksgiving)
17 Jan	Sat	Our Lady on Saturday (OF)	9.15 am	Nina Reczko (RIP)
	Sat	in anticipation of	6.30pm	People of the Parish
18 Jan	Sun	2 nd Sunday after the Epiphany	9.00 am	Ivorra Narur family
	Sun	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.30am	Peter Van Vinh, Peter Tran Hoa, Peter Van Mung

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 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

**NEW TIME SUNDAY EVENING BENEDICTION
4.30PM**

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

Email: office@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk Tel: 023 80 778203 Website: www.holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk

Parish Priest	Fr Benjamin Theobald	btheobald@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Asst. Priest	Fr Benedikt Timpe	btimpe@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Parish Deacon	Dcn Tom Jose	tjose@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Parish Administrator	Catherine Merrifield	office@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk
Safeguarding	Catherine Merrifield	safeguarding@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk
Lead Catechist	Angela Wood	ministry@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk



Grateful thanks for your generosity in November

Loose plate: £1619.52 Gift Aid £1076.00 Standing orders: £1826.66

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SCAN TO DONATE