



PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Fr Benjamin writes...

There are some institutions in the world which have strict entry requirements: universities, guilds, clubs and so many more. Notable for its absence in that prestigious list is the Holy Catholic Church. Entry requirements for belonging to the Body of Christ are comparatively 'low bar'. All one needs is to be baptised and, as the saying goes, 'once a Catholic always a Catholic'. This is not so for the Kingdom of God as Our Blessed Lord tells us in this Sunday's Gospel. The requirements for entering God's Presence, or the Beatific Vision, as many call it, are strict, or as the Lord puts it, like going through a narrow door.

"Are few to be saved?" someone asks Our Blessed Lord. The Lord does not directly answer the question, but simply says the opportunity to enter heaven is available to all, but it is not just a matter of having a casual faith, turning up to Mass now and then, being confirmed and saying a prayer when we need something. It takes commitment, it takes love.

The commitment Our Blessed Lord expects from each one of us who call themselves His disciple should mirror His own commitment, the commitment of the Cross. When God gave us His Son, He did not do so begrudgingly or half-heartedly, but with the full force of the Eternal Father's love. He was born for us, He lived for us, and He died for us. In this way He opened the door to heaven, wide in its welcome, but narrow in that we cannot casually walk in. We need to concentrate, we need to put heart into our Catholic faith, and the 'high bar' requirement is our love. Perhaps the question at the door will be the one St Peter was asked: "Do you love Me?"

God bless you this Sunday, and always

CAR PARKING

If you are a visitor please remember to register your car on the tablet at the back of the Church. We have recently had a spate of people being fined. If you frequently attend Mass and other devotions here please email your car registration details to the office and you will be added to the registered users list. Fines are dealt with **only** by Parking Eye whose details are on any fine notice. Parking fine queries are taking a disproportionate amount of time which the Parish office does not have the capacity to deal with. Many thanks for your understanding.

August is the Month of The Immaculate Heart of Mary

Please 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 pray most urgently that the House of Lords rejects the Anti-Life legislation which is before them. Please pray each day for our priests and seminarians and for vocations.

Adoration (Thursday evening until Saturday evening);

Rosary, Vespers and Benediction (Sunday 4pm)

St Joseph Devotions Tuesday after 9.15am Mass

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

First reading**Isaiah 66:18-21****‘They shall bring all your brothers from all the nations.’**

Thus says the Lord:

‘For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory.

And they shall declare my glory among the nations. And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the Lord, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem,’ says the Lord, ‘just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the Lord. And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites,’ says the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm**Ps 117(116):1. 2. R Mark 16:15****Go into all the world and proclaim the good news.****Second reading****Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13****‘The Lord disciplines the one he loves.’**

Brothers and Sisters: Have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? ‘My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.’ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

Gospel**Luke 13:22-30****‘People will come from east and west, and recline at table in the kingdom of God.’**

At that time: Jesus went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying towards Jerusalem. And someone said to him, ‘Lord, will those who are saved be few?’ And he said to them, ‘Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, “Lord, open to us”, then he will answer you, “I do not know where you come from.” Then you will begin to say, “We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.” But he will say, “I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!” In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.’

SECOND COLLECTIONS—AUGUST 24th**24th August for Holy Family Church Soundsystem and Lighting**

We can take digital donations via the Dona collection plate at the back of the Church
or via the Parish Bank Account Please mark donation (Sound)

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



HOLY FAMILY, SOUTHAMPTON

Parish Notices

Baptism

Please pray for Darren, Leah and Madden who will be baptised this Sunday. May Our Blessed Lord continue to guide and protect this lovely family.

CONDOLENCES

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Michael Prendergast who went to his Eternal Reward on Monday and for his son, Dominic, who lends his voice to the Holy Family Schola, in his loss.

The funeral will take place at St Peter's, Winchester on 18th September at noon.

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Can you spend one hour with Our Blessed Lord this Summer?

Adoration 8pm Thursday until 6pm Saturday every week.

We appeal for an Adorer on Saturday afternoons 5pm until 6pm

Please contact office@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk if you can "cover" one hour.

Also please spend extra time in prayer in the Church during the Summer holidays
—it helps to keep our Church open and safe.

If you are in the Church during the day please leave the door open for others to come in and pray.

RIGHT TO LIFE—WRITE TO THE LORDS

The Crime and Policing Bill has passed to the House of Lords for debate. The clause on decriminalising abortion is now Clause 191 of the Crime and Policing Bill. Peers will debate Clause 191 and can suggest changes to it – or even to reject it altogether.

Please write to members of the House of Lords asking them to fight the extreme abortion up to birth amendment. This was not in any manifesto. It was passed after just 43 minutes backbench debate, with very little notice. This online tool [Fight the latest attempts to decriminalise abortion - SPUC](#) will generate a Peer at random for you to write to, and give an editable template. Once you have finished your letter, it will be emailed to you to print off and send to the Peer by post. This is an extra step to what you might be used to, but a very necessary one. Paper letters always have more impact than emails, and many Peers do not have publicly available email addresses. Please send the physical letter to Members of the House of Lords (or return them to the office to post for you). Please continue to pray hard. Thank you

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REGISTRATIONS 2025-2026

If your child(ren) will be entering Year 4 in September you are invited to apply to register for the family preparation to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. The course will commence in October in preparation to receive these Sacraments in Summer 2026.

Please complete the expression of interest form <https://forms.office.com/e/9sG338tzDr> **You will be contacted in September to arrange to meet Fr Benjamin and the Catechesis Team to assess suitability for the course.**

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

THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY



Holy Mass OF = Ordinary Form, EF = Extraordinary Form

24 August (Sun)	TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.00 am (EF) 10.30am (OF)	Idot Caracho (RIP) People of the Parish
25 August (Mon)	feria	7.30 pm (OF)	Maria Le Thi An & Maria Le Thi Khoat (RIP)
26 August (Tues)	feria	9.15 am (OF)	Gerard Wawrzynski (RIP)
28 August (Thur)	St Augustine	7.30 pm (EF)	Preciosa Doria (RIP)
29 August (Fri)	The Passion of St John the Baptist	09.15am(OF)	Luke Blishen (birthday)
30 August (Sat)	Ss Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line, & Margaret Ward Mass in anticipation of	9.15 am (OF) 6.30 pm (OF)	Cecilia & John Carton (RIP) People of the Parish
31 August (Sun)	TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.00am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	Fr Jean Patrice Coulon Kelechi & Mary Okoro (Thanksgiving)

Please hand Mass intentions to Fr Benjamin, Dcn Tom, or Catherine, or place in the collection

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: 4.00 pm

St Joseph Devotions—Tuesdays after Mass

Groups/Activities in the Louis Suite

Mother's Prayers Wednesdays at 2.00 pm

Sewing Group - Fridays at 10.00am

Lunch Group Fridays, fortnightly at 12.00 noon:

Next Lunch : September

Youth Group 1st Saturdays 3.00-6.00 pm

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEPTEMBER

6th MARCH FOR LIFE—LONDON -a few seats available

19th Pilgrims' Progress

20th Sr Cooley Profession

27th Readers' Training (4pm)

27th September 11am High Mass Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham, St Agatha's, Portsmouth

Newly ordained Fr Ryan Browne (Diocese of Portsmouth) will be preaching.

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

Parish Priest	Fr Benjamin Theobald	btheobald@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
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Lead Catechist	Angela Wood	ministry@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk
Youth	Ben Nichols	youth@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk

Grateful thanks for your generosity in July

Loose plate: £1772.22 Gift Aid £804.00 Standing orders: £1618.66

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