



30 November 2025

**Fr Benjamin writes ...**

There are many key words to the season of Advent: Second Coming, preparation, expectation, and many more. Procrastination is not one of them. As a procrastinator myself, by inclination, Advent is a very good remedy. This is not about leaving the washing up until tomorrow, or making that dreaded dentist's appointment next week rather than now; no, this is far more serious, because the urgency is all the greater. This is about making our souls ready. Ready for what? Ready for God Who, as He says in today's Gospel of the First Sunday of Advent, "is coming at an hour you do not expect."

So, therefore, what if there is something on our conscience weighing on our soul? We cannot say, 'I will confess it next month'. What if the Lord comes next week requiring an account from us as to how we have been looking after the beautiful soul He created for us? I'm not sure how He would respond to the answer, 'I was going to sort it out next week, when I would be less busy.'

The Lord reminds His listeners of people being so busy they forget God. This is the crux of the problem. Busyness is not necessarily an excuse, but a reason for potentially allowing God to slip into the shadows and out of consciousness. Noah was not too busy for God; Noah kept God in his heart, and so lived through the great flood.

This Advent-tide is given to us as a gift to keep our souls in readiness for God in whatever way He comes – through the sacraments, through people, and yes, at the End Times. Use this time wisely and promptly to make or keep your soul in readiness for God so that, when He comes, He may find you awake and alert.

**God bless you this weekend and always**

We will be welcoming Fr Benedikt Timpe as assistant priest to this Parish from December. He will also be ministering to St Theresa's in Totton. Please pray for him as he embarks on his priestly ministry.

"If there is no priest, then there is no Holy Mass; if there is no Holy Mass, then there is no consecration of the Sacred Host. Without the consecration of the Sacred Host, there is no Holy Communion; and if there is no Holy Communion, then there is no Sacramental Presence of Jesus. That means that we become spiritual orphans."

(St. Jean Marie Vianney, Cure d'Ars; Catechism on the Priesthood)

**December is the Month of the Immaculate Conception**

**We continue to pray for the suffering souls in Purgatory and ask Our Blessed Lady to intercede for them.** We also 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 earnestly that the House of Lords rejects the anti-life legislation before them.

**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 2:1-5

### **The Lord gathers all nations together into the eternal peace of the Kingdom of God.**

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say:

‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.’

For out of Sion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 122(121):1-2. 4-5.Rcf.1

**Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

## Second Reading

Romans 13:11-14a

### **‘Salvation is nearer to us now.’**

Brothers and sisters: You know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarrelling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Gospel

Matthew 24:37-44

### **Stay awake so that you may be ready.**


At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: ‘For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.’

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

### Baptism

Please pray for Kaleb and Kiari who will be baptised this Sunday. May Our Blessed Lord continue to guide and protect them and their family.

### Journeying Through Advent – A Series of Parishioner-Led Talks Tuesdays 7.30pm

This Advent, you are invited to a series of inspiring talks by our own parishioners.

The next talk on **Tuesday 2 December**, will explore the themes of Advent through personal testimonies of members of our Holy Family community. Each evening offers a unique opportunity to hear how Jesus is working in the lives of our own parishioners—stories of faith, hope, and transformation.

As we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, come and be uplifted, encouraged, and spiritually renewed through these real-life encounters of faith. Everyone is welcome—bring a friend!

**Venue:** Holy Family Catholic Church (Louis Suite). Refreshments provided free —donations welcome.

### NEW YEAR Ceilidh Saturday 3rd January 2026

Join us in welcoming in the New Year with a ceilidh (Irish/Scottish dance) in the Parish Hall. This family event will start at 7pm with live music from 7.30pm. All donations for a finger buffet will be gratefully received. Ticket price £10 each to raise funds for the Church roof.

The ticket does not include alcohol—please BYO (bring your own).

Tickets are on sale after Mass or via the office.

### Christmas Raffle

We would be very grateful for any donations of items for our Christmas Hamper raffle (luxury foods, bottles, toiletries). Raffle tickets will be on sale from 30th November. Any donations may be brought to the Parish office. Thank you, as ever, for your generosity

### Stella Maris

Our friends at Stella Maris will be collecting chocolate gifts such as tubs of Quality Street or Celebrations to distribute to our merchants sailors who will be away from home this Christmas. This would also be a good time to drop off knitted hats. Both can be brought to the Parish office to be passed on to the Stella Maris chaplains. Many thanks

### Gregorian Chant Courses—Portsmouth Cathedral

We are truly blessed with many beautiful voices here at Holy Family. Please see the posters in the Church and attached to the electronic newsletter for the opportunity to participate in three workshops to learn the beauty of chant. Beginners and Advanced singers welcome.

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

# THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY



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

<b>29 Nov</b>	Sat	Our Lady on Saturday (OF)	<b>9.15 am</b>	Holy Souls
		Mass in anticipation of (OF)	6.30 pm	People of the Parish
<b>30 Nov</b>	Sun	<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (EF)</b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	Clare Lightfoot (RIP)
		<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (OF)</b>	10.30 am	Danny McDermott (RIP)
<b>1 Dec</b>	Mon	of the 1st week of Advent (OF)	7.30 pm	Tom Treherne (int)
<b>2 Dec</b>	Tue	of the 1st week of Advent (OF)	9.15 am	Maria Hoang Thi Hue
<b>4 Dec</b>	Thurs	St Peter Chrysologus (EF)	<b>7.30 pm</b>	Maureen (int)
<b>5 Dec</b>	Fri	St Francis Xavier (OF)	9.15 am	Deceased members Tharappel Family
<b>6 Dec</b>	Sat	St Nicholas (OF)	<b>9.15 am</b>	Deceased members Parampath Family
		Mass in anticipation of (OF)	6.30 pm	People of the Parish
<b>7 Dec</b>	Sun	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	Francis (birthday)
		<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	10.30 am	All souls with no one to pray for them

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: 4.00 pm

### St Joseph Devotions—Tuesdays after Mass

### Groups/Activities in the Louis Suite

**RCIA** - Mondays at 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 :**

**Youth Group** 1st Saturdays 3.00-6.00 pm

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

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### NOVEMBER

29th Marriage Retreat 12-30-5.30pm  
29th Golden Goan St Francis Xavier celebration  
3-11pm (Parish Hall)

### DECEMBER

**2nd Journey Through Advent Talk 7.30pm**  
8th Immaculate Conception Mass & Celebration

### DECEMBER

9th Carols by Candlelight 6pm  
9th Journey Through Advent Talk 7.30pm  
13th Rorate Mass 6am (followed by breakfast)  
16th Journey Through Advent Talk 7.30pm  
18th School Carol Service in Church

### JANUARY

3rd Ceilidh—tickets on sale now!

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

<b>Parish Priest</b>	Fr Benjamin Theobald	btheobald@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
<b>Parish Deacon</b>	Dcn Tom Jose	tjose@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Catherine Merrifield	office@holycatholicchurch.co.uk
<b>Safeguarding</b>	Catherine Merrifield	safeguarding@holycatholicchurch.co.uk
<b>Lead Catechist</b>	Angela Wood	ministry@holycatholicchurch.co.uk
<b>Youth</b>	Ben Nichols	youth@holycatholicchurch.co.uk



Grateful thanks for your generosity in October

Loose plate: £1286.98 Gift Aid £775.00 Standing orders: £1618.66

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