



PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Millbrook

Fr Benjamin writes ...

Do you ever find yourself using words or phrases, the meaning of which, you do not really know? For example, we say the word “Hosanna” at each Mass. Today we hear this word used as Our Blessed Lord enters the holy city of Jerusalem. Yet how many of us know what we are saying? We assume it must be a good thing, since it is in the Bible and is also used in the Church’s liturgy. When the people who went before the Lord into the city shouted, “Hosanna in the highest!”, they knew exactly both what they were saying and what they meant to say.

Its literal meaning is “I beg you to save”. It is a cry for help to someone who can indeed give aid. It was the constant cry of the people of Israel to God when they suffered exile and persecution. They cried to God to bring them from exile, from their darkness, and into the freedom of the promised land and into His light.

When the crowds shout “Hosanna!” to Our Lord they are making a statement of faith as well as invoking a plea. They know He can save them, and they also know He has come to do just that. That is why the priests of the Temple object, because only God can save His people. It is as if they are complaining, ‘do you know what it is that you are saying?’, and the point is, they do.

The question is, do we? When we sing “Hosanna” especially on this Palm Sunday, do we say it as a matter of habit or as an act of faith? Do we come to Him asking for the help of salvation, with faith that He has entered into our lives to give us that salvation, the salvation of coming into union with God? When we give worship to God, it is important to know what it is our hearts and mouths are saying. We often know what we are saying in our hearts, but we can be less certain as to what comes from our mouths. Next time you say hosanna, in the Palm Sunday procession, or just before the moment of consecration, cry to God with heart and voice, and know He has come into your life, just as He entered into Jerusalem, to help and save you.

God bless you this Sunday and always

Mass Times

Please note that Fr Benjamin is intending to offer the usual Masses during the week after Easter. However, as he is supposed to be taking some time off(!), rather than hearing confessions before each Mass he will hear confessions only by appointment. Thank you for your understanding.

Prayer for Vocations

Priest: Let us pray to God to give worthy priests and religious to His Holy Church

Priest and People: O Lord Jesus Christ, Who hast chosen the Apostles and their successors the Bishops and Priests of the Catholic Church to preach the true Faith throughout the whole world, we earnestly beseech Thee to choose from among us in this parish, priests and religious brothers and sisters who will gladly spend their entire lives to make Thee better known and loved. Amen

First reading**Isaiah 50:4-7****I did not cover my face against insult: I know I shall not be shamed**

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

Responsorial Psalm**Psalm 21(22):8-9,17-20,23-24****My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?****Second reading****Philippians 2:6-11****Christ humbled himself but God raised him high**

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel**Mark 11:1-10****Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord.**

When they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, and said to them, 'Go into the village opposite you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat; untie it and bring it. If any one says to you, "Why are you doing this?" say, "The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately."'

And they went away, and found a colt tied at the door out in the open street; and they untied it. And those who stood there said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' And they told them what Jesus had said; and they let them go. And they brought the colt to Jesus, and threw their garments on it; and he sat upon it. And many spread their garments on the road, and others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed cried out, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming! Hosanna in the highest!'

Good Friday**FASTING AND ABSTINENCE**

One full meal (NO meat) is permitted, plus two small snacks that do not add up to a full meal. Fasting binds all from the age of 18 to 65 and abstinence from meat binds all from the age of 14.

Second Collection for the Holy Places

The Pontifical Good Friday Collection supports the Christian community in the Middle East. This last year has been particularly challenging for this small community which seeks 'to be the salt, light and leaven of the Gospel' in the region, often living in difficult circumstances.

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/good-friday-collection-for-christians-in-the-holy-land>.



Parish Notices

Maundy Thursday

We would welcome volunteers to have their feet washed on Maundy Thursday. Please “sign up” at the back of the Church. Many thanks.

Children’s Stations of the Cross - Holy Saturday—11.30am—ALL WELCOME

RCIA

Please continue to pray for Trinh, Houg, Katherine, Naomi, and Luke as they continue their preparations to either join the Church or come into full communion in Confirmation this Easter.

Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving this Lent

To unite with Our Blessed Lord’s suffering for our salvation please pray this Lent for all those, particularly in The Holy Family Parish, who are sick; undergoing medical treatment; for their families and for those who care for them.

The Holy Family—Grand Easter Raffle

Please be tempted to buy tickets for our Grand Easter Raffle! £1 for a strip of 5. Tickets are on sale after all Masses. Draw to take place of Easter Sunday after 1030 Mass. Thank you for the generous donations of all things chocolatey for the raffle!

Egg Hunt—Low Sunday (7th April)

We would be grateful for donations of eggs and other sweet treats for an Egg Hunt on Low Sunday after 1030 Mass. The plan is for egg decorating, bring a sharing picnic lunch, followed by a chocolate egg hunt. All volunteers to help and any resources for decorating eggs would be greatly appreciated. For safeguarding reasons all children must be accompanied.

More Eggs—Stella Maris

A quick note to thank everyone for their generosity—a good quantity of chocolate and rosaries has been gratefully received and will be passed on to the seafarers in Southampton ports this Easter.

Safeguarding Training

Anna from St Edmund’s has kindly agreed to run a safeguarding training session on **4th May 12 noon** for all of you lovely people who volunteer in roles involving children—catechists, youth group, altar servers etc. The training will take approximately an hour—allow an hour and a half. You are also very welcome to attend if you feel that you may very much like to volunteer in the future (we would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to help with catechesis—no pressure!). Please confirm that you wish to attend. We will arrange a separate training session at a later date for those volunteering with vulnerable adults.

The Liturgy Project Formation Days

The Liturgy Project is hosting two formation days to help people encounter Christ through the liturgy. A Day for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion—**Saturday 4th May 2024** and A Day for Readers Saturday 19th October 2024 at St Bede’s Church, Basingstoke. More information www.theliturgyproject.com

Fundraising Committee

If anyone has a three-tiered cake stand which is cluttering up their cupboards and they no longer need the Fundraising Committee would be glad to take them off your hands for future events—please contact the office if you can help. We’re wary of borrowing them in case they get broken but would glad of any you no longer require. Thank you!

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

Sun 24 Mar	PALM SUNDAY	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	Michael & Pam O'Farrell (Wedding Anniv) Peter Le Van Vong & Maria Nguyen Thi Siu
Mon 25 Mar	of Holy Week	7.30 pm (OF)	Ngozi Nwaime (Thanksgiving)
Tues 26 Mar	of Holy Week	9.00 am (OF)	Charles Vella (RIP)
Weds 27 Mar	of Holy Week	8.00 pm (EF)	James Leddy (RIP)
Thurs 28 Mar	MAUNDY THURSDAY	8.00 pm (OF)	Holy Souls
Fri 29 Mar	GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY	3.00 pm (OF)	FASTING AND ABSTINENCE
Sat 30 Mar	HOLY SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL	8.00 pm (OF)	People of the Parish
Sun 31 Mar	EASTER SUNDAY	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	Michael & Pamela O'Farrell (Int) Nichols Family (Int)

Please hand Mass intentions to Fr Benjamin, to Catherine, or place in the collection basket. We are currently booking Masses for **May —please give plenty of notice if you would like specific dates for Masses. Thank you.**

<p>Confessions during Holy Week Mon 25th—6pm Tues 26th 8.30am,6pm Weds 27th 7pm Sat 30th 12 noon—1pm</p> <p>Eucharistic Adoration Maundy Thursday after Mass—watching until Midnight</p> <p>Rosary, Vespers & Benediction for Vocations Palm Sunday 4pm; Easter Sunday: 6.00 pm</p>	<p>Groups/Activities in the Louis Suite</p> <p>Sewing Group - Tuesdays at 10.00am Gardening Club - Tuesdays 10am until 12 noon Mother's Prayers Wednesdays at 2.00 pm Lunch Group Fridays, fortnightly at 12.00 noon: NEXT LUNCH: 5 April Youth Group 1st Saturdays 3-6pm Catholic Men's Group 1st Saturdays at 7:30 pm</p>
---	---

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<p>March</p> <p>24th Palm Sunday—Procession 29th Good Friday 30th Children's Stations of the Cross 31st Easter Sunday 31st Grand Easter Raffle Draw</p>	<p>April</p> <p>7th Divine Mercy Sunday 7th Egg Hunt and children's activities</p> <p>May</p> <p>4th Safeguarding Training Session</p>
--	---

THE CHURCH WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 9AM UNTIL 6PM EACH DAY

The Holy Family Catholic Church
 Redbridge Hill, Southampton SO16 4PL
 Email: office@holyfamilysouthampton.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@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk
Safeguarding	Catherine Merrifield	safeguarding@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk
Lead Catechist	Angela Wood	ministry@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk
Youth & Confirmation	Ben Nichols	youth@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk