



18 January 2026

Fr Benjamin writes...

In my private time I prefer to merge into the crowd, unnoticed and anonymous. In no way will I try to stand out and I enjoy the quietude of non-recognition (three times I have been recognised and seized upon when on holiday in far off lands!). Most people don't like to draw attention to themselves and prefer it when that attention is directed to other people.

It is a blessing, then, that this attitude forms an integral part of the Christian life. This is beautifully demonstrated in today's Sunday Gospel in which we see St John the Baptist being hounded by a crowd of people, asking him if he is the long-awaited Christ. He firmly says, "No!", but people still keep coming, asking the same question.

When he sees Our Blessed Lord approaching the Baptist immediately points away from himself to the One Who is Christ. More than that he calls Him, "the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world!" By this action, and through these prophetic words, St John the Baptist encapsulates true discipleship. Yes, a disciple follows, and also proclaims. However, key to that following and proclamation is to steer attention away from the proclaimer to the One Who is proclaimed. For example Priests should not be more noticeable than God at Holy Mass. People should not be drawing attention to their efforts in ministry and away from the One Who saves.

In today's world of success and celebrity, it can be hard to hear that we are called into the background rather than at the forefront, to decrease so that the Lord may increase. Yet, when we do draw attention to ourselves or things of the world, and when we point less to Christ and more to ourselves and to the world, we risk forgetting Our Blessed Lord, and all the blessings He brings. If, however, our lives point to the Son of God, He in turn will point us to our heavenly home.

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

‘I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.’

The Lord said to me, ‘You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.’ And now the Lord says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him — for I am honoured in the eyes of the Lord, and my God has become my strength — he says:

‘It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.’

Responsorial Psalm

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

Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

‘Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.’

Paul, called by the will of God to be an Apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel

John 1:29-34

‘Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.’

At that time: John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, “After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.” I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptising with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.’

And John bore witness: ‘I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptise with water said to me, “He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptises with the Holy Spirit.” And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.’

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

AMALGAMATING PARISHES ACROSS SOUTHAMPTON

—IMPORTANT—PLEASE READ AND TAKE ACTION

Attached to the e-mail copy of this newsletter and in hard copy at the back of the Church is a letter from the Bishop relating to the proposed amalgamation of the ten Parishes of Southampton into one Parish.

At this stage it is only a proposal but it is important that if you wish your views to be considered, it is important to attend a meeting in the Louis Suite either

24th January after 6.30pm Mass

or

25th January after 10.30am Mass

The Bishop has asked Fr Benjamin to collate the responses and submit them to him by 23rd February. All responses will be collated and submitted by Fr Benjamin to the Bishop. Please do not write directly to the Bishop. The consultation period will end on Monday 23rd February but in order to allow time to compile responses

please ensure you respond by Monday 16th February

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@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk

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:

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

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.

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

THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY



Holy Mass OF = Ordinary Form, EF = Extraordinary Form

17 Jan	Sat	Our Lady on Saturday	9.15 am	Nina Reczko (RIP)
	Sat	in anticipation of	6.30 pm	People of the Parish
18 Jan	Sun	2 nd Sunday after the Epiphany (EF)	9.00 am	Ivorra Narur family
	Sun	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (OF)	10.30 am	Peter Van Vinh, Peter Tran Hoa, Peter Van Mung
19 Jan	Mon	feria (OF)	7.30 pm	Canon McDermott (RIP)
20 Jan	Tues	feria (OF)	9..15am	Roma Twist (RIP)
21 Jan	Weds	St Agnes (OF)	9.15 am	Doris Baldacchino (RIP)
22 Jan	Thurs	Ss Vincent & Anastasius (EF)	7.30 pm	Bob & Mary Harrold (RIP)
23 Jan	Fri	feria (OF)	9.15 am	Charles & Sung Chapae Bloom (RIP)
24 Jan	Sat	St Francis de Sales (OF)	9.15 am	KuriaKose Paramopah (RIP)
	Sat	in anticipation of	6.30pm	People of the Parish
25 Jan	Sun	3rd Sunday after the Epiphany	9.00 am	John Smith (RIP)
	Sun	THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.30am	Moses (Thanksgiving for God's blessing past and future)

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**

FEBRUARY

**7th St Agatha's Patronal Feast
Solemn High Mass 11.00am**

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