



PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY, MILLBROOK

Fr Benjamin writes...

Greetings from Assisi, where I have spent this week on a mixture of retreat and pilgrimage. Twice I have been able to venerate the bones of the seraphic saint Francis. The first time, I was in a group accompanied by a friar. Each of us was given a seed, with earth from Assisi, to plant. It is a reminder that a single seed can bear much fruit just like the seed of St Francis' faith. There is so much heavenly joy and hope here that it is palpable. You can even smell the prayer.

I write this just metres from the font where St. Francis was baptised. That unknown moment with the pouring of Holy water germinated into St Francis' faith, which has inspired tens of millions. It could only come about through being watered by God's grace. It is a visual testament to the power of the new life Christ gives through the waters of baptism and the power of the Holy Spirit. All the baptised have that power within them.

If only every Christian would thirst for Christ as He thirsts for us and as St Francis and all the saints thirst for Him! Think of the fruit. Think how blessed the world would be. This place makes me thirst for the water Christ offered the Samaritan woman at the well. Thirst for Christ, drink of His grace, be watered by Him and see the fruit grow.

God bless you this Sunday and always

Message written from Assisi Cathedral

COME AND SEE—FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FOR 2026-27—14th March

If your child is in Year 3 and will be hoping to prepare to receive the Sacraments in 2027 please come along at midday until 1pm on 14th March in the Louis Suite.

Prayer to St Joseph

Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in thee all my interests and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by thy powerful intercession, and obtain for me from thy Divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below thy heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers. Oh St Joseph, I never weary contemplating thee and Jesus asleep in thine arms, I dare not approach while he reposes in thine arms. Press him in my name and kiss his fine head for me and ask him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls, pray for me.

March is the Month of St Joseph

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.

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

Stations of the Cross Friday morning after 9.15am Mass

In those days: The people thirsted for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' And the Lord said to Moses, 'Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.' And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarrelling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord by saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95(94):1-2. 6-7b. 7c-9. R7c, 8a

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'

Second Reading

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Love has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit who has been given to us.

Brothers and Sisters: Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die — but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Gospel

'A spring of water welling up to eternal life.'

John 4:5-42

At that time: Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?' (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come here.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming — he who is called Christ. When he comes, he will tell us all things.' Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am he.'

Just then his disciples came back. They marvelled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you seek?' or, 'Why are you talking with her?' So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 'Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?' They went out of the town and were coming to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, 'Rabbi, eat.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Has anyone brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, "There are yet four months, then comes the harvest"? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me all that I ever did.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Saviour of the world.'

HOLY FAMILY, SOUTHAMPTON

Parish Notices

GREGORIAN CHANT -14TH March

The third (and last for the time being) Gregorian Chant Course will be held at Portsmouth Cathedral on 14th March with the participants (a 60+ voice choir) singing at Dominican Rite Mass at 3pm. Please check [enrolment form link](#) to see if you can join in the last chant day's training. All welcome.

Parish Vacancy

Job Title: Adorer of Our Blessed Lord
Hours of Work: One hour—Saturday evenings from 5-6pm
Salary: Innumerable graces
Job description: Watch for one hour, wrapped in His love.
Contact: ministry@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk or the office



GIFT AID AND PLANNED GIVING

We are sorting the boxes of planned giving envelopes for the next financial year. If you would like envelopes for your weekly offering and/or if you are a taxpayer who is willing to gift aid please contact the office office@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk

SANCTUARY LAMP

If you would like to sponsor the Sanctuary Lamp for one week please give your intention with your donation (suggested £10) to Fr Benjamin or to the office. Many thanks

SECOND COLLECTIONS IN MARCH

15th March Clergy Assistance Fund

The Clergy Assistance Fund contributes to the work of the Department for Clergy which is responsible for the welfare, ongoing formation and personal support of our clergy, eg spiritual direction, counselling, appraisal, ongoing formation and practical advice. It organises retreats, ministerial formation days, courses and sabbaticals.

29th March Church Roof

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



LIFT TO MASS

We have two separate requests for transport to Mass once or twice a month
Saturday evening 6.30pm 1 lady
Either Saturday evening 6.30pm or Sunday morning 9.00am 1 lady. Both ladies live locally.
If you are able to help please contact Fr Benjamin or the office.

Parish Registration

It would be particularly helpful if parishioners could complete an updated Parish Registration form [The Holy Family Millbrook, Southampton, Parish Registration Form – Fill in form](#)



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

THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY



Holy Mass OF = Ordinary Form, EF = Extraordinary Form

7 Mar	Sat	of the second week of Lent	9.15 am	Wojeciech & family (grateful thanks)
	Sat	in anticipation of (OF)	6.30 pm	People of the Parish
8 Mar	Sun	THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT(EF)	9.00 am	Vivian & Lillian Makinde
	Sun	THIRD SUNDAY of LENT (OF)	10.30 am	Anton Gonzales (RIP)
9 Mar	Mon	of the third week of Lent (OF)	7.30 pm	Pholo Cuong (RIP)
10 Mar	Tues	of the third week of Lent	9.15am	M E Kurian (RIP)
11 Mar	Weds	of the third week of Lent (OF)	9.15 am	Peter le Van Vung & Maria le Thi Chac (RIP)
12 Mar	Thurs	St Gregory	7.30 pm	John Comerford (RIP)
13 Mar	Fri	of the third week of Lent (OF)	9.15 am	Nina Reczko (RIP)
14 Mar	Sat	of the third week of Lent (OF)	9.15 am	Our Seminarians
	Sat	in anticipation of (OF)	6.30pm	People of the Parish
15 Mar	Sun	LAETARE SUNDAY (EF)	9.00 am	Pauline Wood (RIP)
	Sun	LAETARE SUNDAY OF LENT (OF)	10.30am	Mirire Okitiki (Int)

SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTION: PERSONAL INTENTION OF DONOR

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 : 20 MARCH noon

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH

14th Come & See First Holy Communion

14th Gregorian Chant Course

Dominican Rite Mass at

Portsmouth Cathedral 3pm

MARCH

15th Laetare Sunday

17th Eucharistic Procession

University of Southampton

Catholic Chaplaincy

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

Email: office@holycatholicchurch.co.uk Tel: 023 80 778203 Website: www.holycatholicchurch.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@holycatholicchurch.co.uk
Safeguarding	Catherine Merrifield	safeguarding@holycatholicchurch.co.uk
Lead Catechist	Angela Wood	ministry@holycatholicchurch.co.uk

Grateful thanks for your generosity in January

Loose plate: £1087.14 Gift Aid £585.00 Standing orders: £1826.66

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SCAN TO DONATE