



## PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Millbrook

Fr Benjamin writes ...

There are times in life when we ask, "Why me?" It may be in either a positive or negative context: "Why have I been chosen to do this task?" or "Why has this happened to me?"

The Samaritan woman at the Well could very easily have asked such a question – "Why has He come to me?" Alone, and minding her own business, this stranger approaches her asking her for a drink of water. Before she knows it, He is telling her all her life details and that God is thirsting for her faith. Her life changes at this moment, and she has entered into a new existence, the life of faith and awareness that in Christ, Whom she now calls "Saviour", the Presence of God is very near. "Why has this happened to me?" she may have asked. I know I would – I often do.

When it comes to the words and actions of Our Blessed Lord, nothing is an accident. No conversation is idle, no approach mere chance. When Christ went to speak to this woman by the Well, He had a plan for her and, indeed for all the Samaritans who also came to faith through her testimony. His whole encounter with this ostracised and complex person was for her good and the good of those around her. He showed her the truth of Who He is, the truth of Who God is, and it was now for her to tell others.

Every time we hear the words of the Gospel, and the words spoken by Our Blessed Lord, we are hearing the words of God through a human mouth, and they are words spoken to each one of us deliberately and with the same individual concern and saving intent. They are also words which seek to transform our lives into being children of the new existence that is the Kingdom of God, which cannot be kept to ourselves. Each of us is chosen in some way to bear testimony to the new life we encounter when we meet Christ. Each one of us has met the Lord, in whatever way and for whatever reason, in order to leave former ways behind (the still, stagnant waters of the Well), and embrace the living waters of Baptism so that all others around us may be refreshed. When you next hear the Word of God and encounter Him in prayer, you may ask, "Why me?" because there will undoubtedly be a reason.

**May God bless you this Sunday and always**

**PLEASE NOTE THE NEW OFFICE EMAIL ADDRESS :**  
**[office@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk](mailto:office@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk)**

### March is the Month of St Joseph

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. At this time please particularly implore St Joseph to guide our lawmakers to uphold the sanctity of human life in the UK and throughout the world. Please make a special effort to attend St Joseph Devotions, Rosary and Adoration during Lent.

Please pray each day for our priests and seminarians and for vocations.

**Adoration** (Thursday evening until Saturday evening);

**Rosary, Vespers and Benediction** (Sundays 4pm)

outdoor **Rosary** Monday 9am,

**St Joseph Devotions** Tuesday after 9.15am Mass

**Stations of the Cross** Friday after 9.15am Mass

**Stations of the Cross** (the Church is open from 9am until 6pm daily)

**First reading****Ezekiel 37:12-14****I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live**

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

**Responsorial Psalm****Psalm 129(130)****With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.****Second reading****Romans 8:8-11****The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you**

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

**Gospel****John 11:3-7,17,20-27,33-45****I am the resurrection and the life**

Mary and Martha sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.' Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'


'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

**SECOND COLLECTION—29th/30th March**  
**Diocesan Clergy Assistance Fund**



## HOLY FAMILY, SOUTHAMPTON

### Parish Notices

#### Eucharist Procession at Southampton University Chaplaincy

**25th March 6.30pm**

Please support our wonderful young students at the Catholic Chaplaincy in venerating Our Blessed Lord at this Eucharist Procession on this Tuesday evening to celebrate the Annunciation of Our Blessed Lord. Meet at University Road entrance from Burgess Road at 6pm

#### Already struggling with chocolate temptation?

Feel free to unburden yourselves of any excess chocolate by donating it for the **Easter Hamper Raffle** and the **Easter Egg Hunt** which will be held on Low Sunday and to **Stella Maris** for the Seafarers. Donations can be brought to the office during the week (or left in the Louis Suite with a note)

#### Euthanasia Bill

**Please write to your MPs asking them to oppose this Bill.**

Please [contact your MP now](#) on this very easy to use link respectfully asking them to **vote against this Bill**. Pray hard.

#### CAR PARKING –PLEASE READ

**If you park in the car park at the Holy Family Church you must register your vehicle or you will receive a fine.**

**You can register your vehicle by emailing the Parish office on [office@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk](mailto:office@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk) giving your car registration number, name, and Masses/liturgy you attend.**

**You will receive an acknowledgement that your car has been registered.**

**If you have not registered you can enter your car details on the tablet at the back of the Church in the same way you do if you shop at Aldi. This will only be valid for the day of the visit.**

**The Parish does not administer the car parking – except to register your vehicle.**

**If you receive a parking fine you may appeal to Parking Eye—the details are on the fine notice.**

**YOU MUST NOT ABUSE YOUR PRIEST, THE OFFICE STAFF, OR THE VOLUNTEERS who generously gave their own time to encourage you to register.**



#### Parish Vacancy

**Job Title: Permanent Adorer of Our Blessed Lord**

**Hours of Work: 1 Holy Hour per week in this Holy Year**

**Fridays 4-5pm**

**Saturdays 5-6am—urgent cover needed please**

**Saturdays 10-11am**

**Saturdays 4-5pm (temp)**

**Salary: Innumerable graces**

**Job description: Watch for one hour, wrapped in His love.**

**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**

23 Mar (Sun)	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	9.00am (EF) 10.30am (OF)	Agnieszka (int) Aba Shields (Int)
24 Mar (Mon)	of the 3rd week of Lent	7.30 PM (OF)	Peter Le Van Duong, Maria Nguyen
25 Mar (Tues)	<b>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</b>	9.15 am (OF)	Eilish Smith (health)
27 Mar (Thurs)	Feria	7.30 pm (EF)	Patrick Porter (RIP)
28 Mar (Fri)	of the 3rd week of Lent	9.15am (OF)	Lijo (int)
29 Mar Sat)	of the 3rd week of Lent	9.15 am (OF) 6.30 pm (OF)	David Ukah (birthday thanksgiving) Rose Spiteri (health)
30 Mar (Sun)	<b>LAETARE SUNDAY</b>	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	Halina Isabella Evans (thanksgiving) People of the Parish

**Please hand Mass intentions to Fr Benjamin, to Catherine, or place in the collection basket.**  
**We are up to date with intentions for OF Masses—**  
**EF Mass intentions are booking some way ahead. Thank you**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>
<b>24th Confirmation Class</b>	<b>1st Finance Committee</b>
<b>24th RCIA</b>	<b>4th Social &amp; Fundraising Committee</b>
<b>25th Eucharistic Procession Southampton</b>	<b>13th Palm Sunday 8.30am and 10.30am</b>
<b>University Chaplaincy</b>	<b>Blessing of Palms &amp; Processions</b>
<b>30th Laetare Sunday—Blessing of Cakes</b>	<b>20th Easter Sunday</b>
	<b>27th Low Sunday—Easter Egg Hunt for children</b>

<b>Confessions (when there is Mass)</b> Saturday: 5.30—6.20 pm Monday & Thursday: 6.45—7.20 pm Tuesday & Friday: 8.30—9.10 am <b>Eucharistic Adoration</b> Thursday 8.00 pm to Saturday 6.00 pm <b>Rosary, Vespers &amp; Benediction for Vocations</b> Sunday: 4.00 pm <b>Outdoor Rosary—Mondays at 9am;</b> <b>St Joseph Devotions—Tuesdays after Mass</b> <b>Stations of the Cross—Fridays in Lent</b>	<b>Groups/Activities in the Louis Suite</b> <b>Sewing Group</b> - Tuesdays at 10.00am <b>Gardening Club</b> - Tuesdays 10am until 12 noon <b>Mother's Prayers</b> Wednesdays at 2.00 pm <b>Lunch Group</b> Fridays, fortnightly at 12.00 noon: <b>NEXT LUNCH:</b> <b>Youth Group</b> 1st Saturdays 3.00-6.00 pm <b>Catholic Men's Group</b> 1st Saturdays at 7:30 pm
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<b>Parish Priest</b>	Fr Benjamin Theobald	<a href="mailto:btheobald@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk">btheobald@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Deacon</b>	Dcn Tom Jose	<a href="mailto:tjose@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk">tjose@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Catherine Merrifield	<a href="mailto:office@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk">office@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk</a>
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<b>Youth &amp; Confirmation</b>	Ben Nichols	<a href="mailto:youth@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk">youth@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk</a>

Grateful thanks for your generosity in February

**Loose plate: £1404.27 Gift Aid £915 Standing orders: £1618.66**