



## PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Millbrook

Fr Benjamin writes ...

This week, we find the Disciples behind “Closed doors”. This is how they experience the beginning of their first Easter. This was despite their knowledge that the Lord had risen. Peter and John had seen the empty tomb with the burial cloths left behind and believed He had truly risen. Yet the doors were closed; indeed most probably locked, because they were gathered in a state of fear.

Then, one week later, even after they had seen the risen Lord, and He had imparted His peace to them, they sat behind those closed, locked doors. Why were they shut away. They knew and believed the fullness of the Good News, but they were hiding behind locked doors and closed mouths.

We cannot be too condemnatory at this behaviour, and their initial weakness at the news of the Resurrection. The Church has often been this way over the last two millennia. We are known for the Cross and the Crucifix, but are we known as people who live in the age of Resurrection and new life? This is not only life changing news, but world changing. Shut doors and closed mouths will never effect that change.

What is that change? It is a world where we know death and darkness will not have the last word; where we see love facing hatred and winning despite the darkness of Calvary; a world full of fear becoming a place where the only thing to fear is not to know God Who has sent His Son, and raised Him from the dead.

You will notice that the church doors are open for anyone to come to the threshold of that world and know the peace that the risen Christ continues to give. They are left open, because He has opened to us the gates to heaven and eternal life, and they are open as an expression of our open proclamation: Christ is Risen.

**God bless you this Sunday and always**

Thank You! Fr Benjamin would like to thank everybody for their generous gifts at Easter.  
This really is a wonderful Parish!

### **Divine Mercy Chaplet, Vespers and Benediction for Vocations 4pm Sunday**

In the joy of the Resurrection please join us to offer thanksgiving for our priests and seminarians and to pray for many more young men to listen to God’s call to the priesthood.

### ***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***

**The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul**

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common. The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect. None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

**Responsorial Psalm****Psalm 117(118):2-4,15-18,22-24****Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end****Second reading****1 John 5:1-6****Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has already overcome the world**

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith.

Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God: Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.

**Gospel****John 20:19-31****Eight days later, Jesus came again and stood among them**


In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.



## HOLY FAMILY, SOUTHAMPTON

### **Parish Notices**

#### **Baptism**

We warmly congratulate Eliza Staron on her Baptism on 7th April. We welcome her to the Parish Family and pray that Our Blessed Lord guide and protect her and her family.

#### **Adoration**

We are in urgent need of Adorers to cover the very early morning slot(s)  
from 3am until 5am on Saturday morning 13th April.

If you would like to spend some special time with Our Blessed Lord at this time please contact Angela at [ministry@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk](mailto:ministry@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk) or Catherine in the office. Many thanks

#### **For those who are sick**

To unite with Our Blessed Lord's suffering for our salvation please continue to pray 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**

Enormous thanks to everyone who supported the raffle both by donating very generous prizes and by buying tickets. Winners were: Chris and Faith, Maureen, Eilish (kindly donated for the children to enjoy at the Egg Hunt) and Catherine.

#### **Youth Group**

**This month only—the Youth Group will meet on Saturday 13th April from 3 until 6pm.**

#### **Egg Hunt—Low Sunday (7th April)**

Sunday, 7th April, after 10.30 Mass, we shall be holding an egg hunt for children (of all ages!). Please bring a picnic lunch for sharing. We have (papier mache) eggs for the children to decorate, followed by a mad hunt for chocolate eggs. Lunch and egg decorating will be in the Parish Hall followed by an egg hunt in the Church grounds (weather permitting). To comply with health and safety and safeguarding rules all children must be accompanied by a responsible person.

#### **Planned Giving/Gift Aid**

We shall soon be distributing boxes of Planned Giving/Gift Aid envelopes for the coming financial year. Please note that with the various changes that have taken place the number on your envelopes may differ from previous

If you donate by standing order there will be a box of envelopes for you for special/second collections; if you prefer not to receive these please let the office know. Lastly, if you are a UK taxpayer and would be happy for the Parish to reclaim from the Government an additional 25p for each pound that you donate, please complete a Gift Aid Declaration and return it to the office. Many thanks.

**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 7 Apr	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER Divine Mercy (Low)</b>	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	The Faithful Adorers of Our Blessed Lord Ngoze Nwaine (Thanksgiving)
Mon 8 Apr	<b>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</b>	<b>9.15 am (EF)</b> 7.30 pm (OF)	Merrifield Family (Intentions) Maria Dize Phero Rling
Tues 9 Apr	<b>of the second week of Easter</b>	9.15 am (OF)	Cuong Paul
Thurs 11 Apr	<b>of the second week of Easter</b>	7.30 pm (EF)	John Stewart (RIP) (birthday anniv)
Fri 12 Apr	<b>of the second week of Easter</b>	9.15 am (OF)	Phil Jones (RIP) (Anniv)
Sat 13 Apr	<b>of the second week of Easter (Vigil)</b>	9.15 am (OF) 6.30 pm (OF)	Bao & Mo (Thanksgiving) Manuel Spiteri (RIP)
Sun 14 Apr	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	Harrold Family (Thanksgiving) People of the Parish

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><b>Confessions (when there is Mass)</b>                  Saturday: 5.30—6.20 pm                  Monday &amp; Thursday: 6.45—7.20 pm                  Tuesday &amp; Friday: 8.30—9.10 am</p> <p><b>Eucharistic Adoration</b>                  Thursday 8.00 pm to Saturday 6.00 pm</p> <p><b>Rosary, Vespers &amp; Benediction for Vocations</b>                  Sunday: 4.00 pm</p>	<p><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: TBC</b>  <b>Youth Group</b> <b>**Saturday 13th April 3-6pm**</b>  <b>Catholic Men's Group</b> 1st Saturdays at 7:30 pm</p>
--	--

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<p><b>April</b></p> <p>7th Divine Mercy Sunday                  7th Egg Hunt and children's activities                  —AFTER 1030 Mass                  8th <b>ANNUNCIATION—TRANSFERRED FEAST</b>                  13th <b>Youth Group 3-6pm</b></p>	<p><b>May</b></p> <p>4th Safeguarding Training</p> <p><b>June</b></p> <p><b>2nd CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION</b>                  2nd Afternoon Tea (Fundraiser)                  30th First Holy Communion</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](mailto:office@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk) Tel: 023 80 778203  
 Website: [www.holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk](http://www.holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk)

<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@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk">office@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk</a>
<b>Safeguarding</b>	Catherine Merrifield	<a href="mailto:safeguarding@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk">safeguarding@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk</a>
<b>Lead Catechist</b>	Angela Wood	<a href="mailto:ministry@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk">ministry@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk</a>
<b>Youth &amp; Confirmation</b>	Ben Nichols	<a href="mailto:youth@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk">youth@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk</a>