



## PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Millbrook

Fr Benjamin writes ...

Did you know, if you cultivate a vine in order to grow grapes, you must not let it bear any fruit for the first three years? It takes that time to carefully prepare the soil and cleanse it of all that will drain it of essential nutrients and energy. If this basic rule of growth is followed, the fruit produced in the fourth year will be healthier and more abundant. From this, good wine will surely follow.

I am now about to complete my fourth year as Parish Priest of this part of the Lord's vine, the Parish of the Holy Family. Much careful cultivation has been taking place over the last three years, through diligent catechesis, faithful worship and the self-giving of generous hearts. It is now time to let the fruit fully grow. This principal should be through our witness to others, who are looking into the vineyard from outside.

There is so much of the power of the Holy Spirit in this parish that it would be tragic not to let it flow out into the highways and by-ways. For example, I am so looking forward to Corpus Christi when we will go out into Millbrook, full of song and joy, carrying Our Blessed Lord aloft, witnessing to His Resurrection and healing Presence in the world. I am looking forward to our summer activities, ranging from communal gardening, to First Holy Communions and welcoming young adults to on-going formation.

None of this could have come about unless the soil had been cared for and prepared. But we must not be complacent. We must keep up the prayer, maintain Eucharistic adoration, keep the doors open and begin to go out more and more to those who have never heard of Christ. How can you help in this? Will you catechise? Will you be willing to be a part of ministry of welcome? Will you come in and say a prayer? There is so much work to do in the Lord's precious vineyard, and the fruit is good and precious, beyond price, and beyond our deepest desires.

**God bless you this Sunday and always**

### **May is the Month of Our Blessed Lady Rosary, Vespers and Benediction for Vocations—4pm Sunday**

May is the month of Our Blessed Lady! Please make an extra effort this month to join us in offering thanksgiving for our priests and seminarians and to pray that we may all listen to God's voice in discerning our vocations whether to the priesthood, consecrated life or married life.

**Please cut out this Prayer for Vocations and pray it daily as part of your family prayers**

### *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*

**Barnabas explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul on his journey**

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

**Responsorial Psalm****Psalm 21(22):26-28,30-32****You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly****Second reading****1 John 3:18-24****The commandment of faith and love**

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.

My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

**Gospel****John 15:1-8****I am the vine, you are the branches**

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

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## HOLY FAMILY, SOUTHAMPTON

### Parish Notices

#### **ROSARY RALLY - Saturday 27th April at 3pm Commercial Road, Portsmouth**

Parishioners from across the Diocese are invited to a Rosary Rally led by The Marian Franciscans next to the QE2 Silver Jubilee Fountain in Portsmouth City centre, to combat the evils of these times and to make reparation. Now is the time we pray, sacrifice and act for the salvation of souls!

#### **Stella Maris—Ring of Prayer—29th April—3rd May**

Stella Maris is running a “Ring of Prayer”, from 29th April—3rd May, inviting parishes around the UK to pray the rosary for the safety, care and needs of seafarers and fishermen. Please use the prayer booklets from the back of the Church to unite with the rosaries being offered in Southampton and around the country.

#### **Safeguarding training - 4th May**

There will be a safeguarding training session on **4th May 12 noon** for everyone who volunteers in roles involving children—catechists, youth group, altar servers etc. The training will take approximately an hour—allow an hour and a half. Please confirm if you wish to attend. We will arrange a separate training session at a later date for those volunteering with vulnerable adults.

#### **Blessing of the Waters—5th May**

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 2.30pm Fr Anthony Chiatu, Immaculate Conception, Portswood will celebrate the Rogation Service on board the SS Shieldhall. All those wishing to celebrate the importance of the Solent waters to Southampton are welcome. More details [https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/blessing-of-the-waters-tickets-658568214257?aff=ebdssbdestsearch&keep\\_tld=1](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/blessing-of-the-waters-tickets-658568214257?aff=ebdssbdestsearch&keep_tld=1)

#### **Deeper In Faith—13th May**

We have a small group of youngsters aged about 16-18 who will be preparing to be received into the Church and for those of that age who may have been baptised but not received subsequent Sacraments. We would really welcome any youngsters of about this age who would like to delve deeper into their Faith under the guidance of Fr Benjamin. This group will commence on 13th May at 6pm in the Louis Suite. For more details please get in touch with Angela [ministry@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk](mailto:ministry@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk)

#### **Corpus Christi Procession 2 June 2024 and 21st July (TBC) 2024**

We are organising two Corpus Christi processions to take Our Blessed Lord out to the community. On 2 June we shall process around the Millbrook area after the 1030 am Mass. We are also organising a “big” procession from Holy Family to St Boniface (and back). This needs various Council approvals so we are looking at 21st July as a possible date - please note your diaries.

#### **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.

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

If you are a UK taxpayer and would be happy for the Parish to reclaim from the Government 25p for each pound that you donate, without any extra cost to you, 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 28 Apr	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	People of the Parish Charles & Christine Blishen (Wedding Anniv)
Mon 29 Apr	<b>St Catherine of Siena</b>	7.30 pm (OF)	Maria Le Thi Lan
Tues 30 Apr	<b>of the fifth week of Easter</b>	9.15 am (OF)	Charles & Christine Blishen (Wedding Anniv)
Thurs 2 May	<b>St Athanasius</b>	7.30 pm (EF)	Faith Ukah (birthday)
Fri 3 May	<b>Sts Philip James (Apostles)</b>	9.15 am (OF)	Peter Le Van Quong
Sat 4 May	<b>The English Martyrs (1535-1680) (Vigil)</b>	9.15 am (OF) 6.30 pm (OF)	Joseph Hoi Tran Maria Phaolo, Huang Thi Hue
Sun 5 May	<b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	Altar Servers People of the Parish

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

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<p><b>April</b> 27th Rosary Rally 3pm Portsmouth Commercial Road 29th April—3rd May Stella Maris Ring of Prayer</p> <p><b>May</b> 4th Safeguarding Training 12 noon 5th Blessing of the Waters <b>9th ASCENSION—HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION</b> 13th Deeper in Faith 6pm</p>	<p><b>June</b> <b>2nd CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION</b> 2nd Afternoon Tea (Fundraiser) 7th SACRED HEART 29th Sts Peter and Paul 30th First Holy Communion</p> <p><b>July</b> 7th First Holy Communion 14th First Holy Communion 21st Corpus Christi Procession to St Boniface (TBC) 27th Parish BBQ</p>
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<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: 3rd May</b> <b>Youth Group</b> 1st Saturdays 3.00-6.00 pm <b>Catholic Men's Group</b> 1st Saturdays at 7:30 pm</p>
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**THE CHURCH WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 9AM UNTIL 7PM EACH DAY**

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<b>Parish Deacon</b>	Dcn Tom Jose	<a href="mailto:tjose@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk">tjose@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</a>
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