



## PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Millbrook

**Fr Benjamin writes...**

"Will you please get on!" my mother would plead, as my five siblings and I would bicker over the dinner table. It was not only at dinner, but at other occasions. She would always urge us to be good to one another, especially if she knew we were spending time with one another. She knew there was room for co-operation, argument, support and competition. To her last days, she would urge us to look after one another.

I wonder if Our Blessed Lord is on a similar wavelength when He urges His disciples, the night before He died, "Love one another; just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another". He knew them through and through, and He was aware that they had tendencies to be in competition with each other ("Who will be the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven?"); that they could vie with one another to be closest to Him ("Who will sit on your left and on your right?"), and also to harbour jealousies. If the Church was to flourish, this would all have to stop, and they would have to love one another, not in their own ways, but in the Lord's way – "just as I have loved you".

That love, of course, is the love of complete and unconditional self-giving for the good of all. The wonderful thing about this is that, if everyone does so, everyone is loved. With the Divine love, no one is excluded, and everyone is embraced. This is why Our Lord calls His exhortation a Commandment which, rather than being an order is God's way of guiding us to be happy and completely living in his Image.

It is a command extended to all of us, in our families, in our parish, our diocese and the universal Church. There is no excuse for the bickering and division in which we can find ourselves, but Our Blessed Lord also knows us through and through, and so still addresses us with His New Commandment; that we truly love one other.

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

### May is the Month of Mary

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 pray for the new Pope Leo XIV. Also please implore Our Blessed Lord 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 Our Blessed Lady's Month.

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

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

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

outdoor **Rosary** Monday 9am,

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

The Church is open for private prayer from 9am-6pm each day

**First reading****Acts 14:21b-27****'They declared to the Church all that God had done with them.'**

In those days: Paul and Barnabas returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia, and from there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled. And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

**Responsorial Psalm****Ps 145(144):8-9. 10-11. 12-13b. R cf. 1****I will bless your name for ever, my God and king.****Second reading****Revelation 21:1-5a****'God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'**

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.'

And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.'

**Gospel****John 13:31-33a, 34-35****'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another.'**

When Judas had gone out from the upper room, Jesus said, 'Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. Little children, yet a little while I am with you.


'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

**Second Collection—25th May 2025****\*\*\* FANNING THE FLAME \*\*\***

Please be generous in contributing to the running of this apostolate which strengthens and develops the faith of our young people

We can take digital donations via the Dona collection plate at the back of the Church or via the Parish Bank Account (please mark donations FTF)

**CDP SOUTHAMPTON HOLY FAMILY SORT CODE 30-93-04 ACCOUNT NUMBER 00887898**



## HOLY FAMILY, SOUTHAMPTON

### Parish Notices

#### Condolences

We offer prayerful condolences to the family and friends of our dear Edna Spiteri who went to her Eternal Reward fortified by the Rites of the Church. Her requiem will be held here at Holy Family on Friday 23 May at 10am followed by internment at Southampton Crematorium. May she rest in peace.

#### Baptisms

Please pray for Chizitelu, Chizulu and Mikayla who will be baptised this Sunday.  
May Our Blessed Lord continue to guide and protect them and their families.

#### Young Adults' Group—Sunday 11th May

If you are aged between 18-35 and would like to meet up with other young Catholics, please come along to this new group which will meet after Rosary (4pm) on Sunday afternoons twice per month. Please speak to Daivd or Alicja after 9 am or 10.30am Sunday Masses, either in the office or Louis Suite or contact [office@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk](mailto:office@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk) and your details will be passed on.

#### Corpus Christi—Sunday 22nd June

Please note your diaries that, together with the Polish community, we shall be holding our annual Corpus Christi procession following the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 22nd June followed by outdoor benediction.

As before we shall offer afternoon tea in the parish hall after the procession at £5 per person. We would welcome all offers of help, singers, marshals, first aiders, for the smooth running of this beautiful expression of our Faith.

#### Fanning the Flame—Summer Camp 2025 18th-22nd August Ages 11-21

Join us for 5 days of faith, fellowship and fun in Kintbury, celebrating 30 years of summer camps. A well balanced mix of fun activities, teaching and prayer; we will explore the depths of the Holy Mass and how the Eucharist really is the source and summit of our faith.

Visit [www.fanningtheflame.co.uk](http://www.fanningtheflame.co.uk) for more information and booking or speak to Ben after 10.30 Mass.

#### St Mary's Summer Camp

Registration for St Mary's Summer Camp 2025, ages 9-17, is now open! This year's Summer Camp will be held at Castlerigg Manor, Manor Brow, Keswick CA12 4AR.

There will be two summer camps, one for girls (4-9th Aug) and one for boys (11-16th Aug) 2025

For more information and booking <https://www.themarianfranciscans.org/summer-camp>

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

# THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY



**Holy Mass OF = Ordinary Form, EF = Extraordinary Form**

18 May (Sun)	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	9.00 am (EF) 10.30am (OF)	Francis Joseph Frien Pereira (RIP) Renuga (RIP)
19 May (Mon)	Dedication of the Cathedral of St John, Portsmouth	7.30 pm (OF)	Shah Malek (conversion)
20 May (Tues)	of the 5th week of Easter	9.15 am (OF)	Phyllis Osborne (RIP)
22 May (Thurs)	feria	7.30 pm (EF)	Brenda Theobald (RIP)(birthday)
23 May (Fri)	<b>Requiem</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Edna Spiteri (RIP)</b>
24 May (Sat)	of the 5th week of Easter <b>Vigil</b>	9.15 (OF) 6.30 pm (OF)	Kelechi & Mary (int) James & Mary James (RIP)
25 May (Sun)	<b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	9.00am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	Magdalena (birthday) 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—**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY	JUNE
<b>17th First Holy Communion—Polish Community</b>	<b>22nd CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION</b> <b>22nd afternoon tea (fundraiser)</b> <b>22nd Confirmations</b> <b>28th 29th First Holy Communion</b>

Confessions (when there is Mass)	Groups/Activities in the Louis Suite
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>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 : Friday 9th 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

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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>
<b>Safeguarding</b>	Catherine Merrifield	<a href="mailto:safeguarding@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk">safeguarding@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk</a>
<b>Lead Catechist</b>	Angela Wood	<a href="mailto:ministry@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk">ministry@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk</a>
<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 March

**Loose plate: £1613.35 Gift Aid £931.50 Standing orders: £1618.66**

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