



21 November 2025

Fr Benjamin writes ...

We all know that Christ is our king. We know He is the King of kings. Yet, in today's Gospel we see Him hung upon the Cross, being offered sour wine. This is not regal treatment. We would not treat our worst enemies in such a shameful way. We certainly should not treat our God in this way.

Kings had a bad reputation two thousand years ago. Look at the two Herods. Each was a power-hungry, glory-seeking despot with no thought for the people they governed other than the taxes and labour they could extract from them. All they did was take and consume.

Today we celebrate and give thanks to another kind of King, a King Who never takes but always gives. He gives Himself to us on the Cross. He gives us His Body and Blood. He is a King Who gives Himself to His people as Bridegroom to a beloved Bride. He feeds us as a loving mother feeds her infant. He gives and never takes.

What do we give Him in return? We can never give in like kind, but we can try with all our hearts. Do we give Him only the sour wine of our sins and lip service, waiting to see Him perform for us. Or do we give Him the best wine of our love and service, thanking Him for His gift to us, the gift of Himself, the servant King?

God bless you this weekend and always

"If there is no priest, then there is no Holy Mass; if there is no Holy Mass, then there is no consecration of the Sacred Host. Without the consecration of the Sacred Host, there is no Holy Communion; and if there is no Holy Communion, then there is no Sacramental Presence of Jesus. That means that we become spiritual orphans." (St. Jean Marie Vianney, Cure d'Ars; Catechism on the Priesthood)

November is the month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory,

It is a time to pray for all the faithful departed, especially those who have no one to pray for them. Let us commend them to the mercy of God and ask that they may rest in His peace. We also continue to 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. Please pray earnestly that the House of Lords rejects the anti-life legislation before them, and remember

Adoration (Thursday evening until Saturday evening);

First Reading**2 Samuel 5:1-3****'They anointed David king over Israel.'**

In those days: All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, 'Behold, we are your bone and flesh. In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And the Lord said to you, "You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel." ' So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel.

Responsorial Psalm**Ps 122(121):1-2. 4-5.Rcf.1****Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.****Second Reading****Colossians 1:12-20****'He has transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.'**

Brothers and Sisters: Let us give thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the Church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Gospel**Luke 23:35-43****'Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom.'**


At that time: The rulers scoffed at Jesus, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals who were hanged there railed at Jesus, saying, 'Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.' And he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' And he said to him, 'Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.'

We can take digital donations via the Dona collection plate at the back of the Church
or via the Parish Bank Account

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**SCAN ME**



HOLY FAMILY, SOUTHAMPTON

Parish Notices

Journeying Through Advent – A Series of Parishioner-Led Talks Tuesdays 7.30pm

This Advent, you are invited to a series of inspiring talks by our own parishioners. Beginning **Tuesday 25th November**, we will explore the themes of Advent through the personal testimonies of members of our Holy Family community. Each evening offers a unique opportunity to hear how Jesus is working in the lives of our own parishioners—stories of faith, hope, and transformation.

As we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, come and be uplifted, encouraged, and spiritually renewed through these real-life encounters of faith. Everyone is welcome—bring a friend!

Venue: Holy Family Catholic Church (Louis Suite). Refreshments provided – free of charge donations welcome

NEW YEAR Ceilidh Saturday 3rd January 2026

Join us in welcoming in the New Year with a ceilidh (Irish/Scottish dance) in the Parish Hall. This family event will start at 7pm with live music from 7.30pm. All donations for a finger buffet will be gratefully received. Ticket price £10 each to raise funds for the Church roof.

The ticket does not include alcohol—please BYO (bring your own).

Christmas Raffle

We would be very grateful for any donations of items for our Christmas Hamper raffle (luxury foods, bottles, toiletries). Raffle tickets will be on sale from 30th November. Any donations may be brought to the Parish office. Thank you, as ever, for your generosity

Stella Maris

Our friends at Stella Maris will be collecting chocolate gifts such as tubs of Quality Street or Celebrations to distribute to our merchant sailors who will be away from home this Christmas. This would also be a good time to drop off knitted hats. Both can be brought to the Parish office to be passed on to the Stella Maris chaplain. Many thanks

Golden Goa Association Southampton Celebration of the Feast of St Francis Xavier

Saturday 29th November 2025 3pm-11pm

Everyone is welcome to join the celebration in the Parish Hall (see poster in the Church)

RETREAT!!

You are welcome to Marriage Sankofa's first **retreat for married couples**. Anyone interested in deepening their knowledge of the sacrament of marriage is most welcome.

29th November from 12.30pm—5.30pm in the Louis Suite.

For further information email marriagesankofa@hotmail.com

Or text 07780. 390 102 by 24th November. Thank you.

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

THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY



Holy Mass OF = Ordinary Form, EF = Extraordinary Form

22 Nov	Sat	St Cecilia (OF)	12 noon	Peter Le Van, Maria Nguyen Tun
		Mass in anticipation of (OF)	6.30 pm	People of the Parish
23 Nov	Sun	24th & Last Sunday after Pentecost (EF)	9.00 am	Lukasz (RIP)(Anniv)
		Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (OF)	10.30 am	K V Nina (RIP)
24 Nov	Mon	St Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions (OF)	7.30 pm	Nina Reczko (RIP)
25 Nov	Tue	St Catherine of Alexandria (OF)	9.15 am	Lost Souls
27 Nov	Thurs	feria (EF)	7.30 pm	James de Melo (conversion)
28 Nov	Fri	feria (OF)	9.15 am	James Varghese (RIP)
29 Nov	Sat	Our Lady on Saturday (OF)	12 noon	Holy Souls
		Mass in anticipation of (OF)	6.30 pm	People of the Parish
30 Nov	Sun	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9.00 am	Clare Lightfoot (RIP)
		FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	10.30 am	Danny McDermott (RIP)

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: 4.00 pm

St Joseph Devotions—Tuesdays after Mass

Groups/Activities in the Louis Suite

RCIA - Mondays at 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 :

Youth Group 1st Saturdays 3.00-6.00 pm

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NOVEMBER

25th Journey Through Advent Talk 7.30pm

29th Marriage Retreat 12-30-5.30pm

29th Golden Goan St Francis Xavier celebration
3-11pm (Parish Hall)

DECEMBER

2nd Journey Through Advent Talk 7.30pm

8th Immaculate Conception Mass & Celebration

9th Parish Lessons & Carols, Celebration

9th Journey Through Advent Talk 7.30pm

13th Rorate Mass 6am (followed by breakfast)

16th Journey Through Advent Talk 7.30pm

18th School Carol Service in Church

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

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Grateful thanks for your generosity in October

Loose plate: £1286.98 Gift Aid £775.00 Standing orders: £1618.66

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