



## PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Millbrook

Fr Benjamin writes ...

I have always enjoyed reading about royal history, particularly books that look at the private lives of the kings and queens of old. One thing that is always emphasised is that people always sought to be friends of the monarch. Only friends could enter the inner sanctum and hear the nearest secrets of their sovereign. With that open access and intimate proximity the so-called friends of the king or queen could become very powerful. Mere peasants could never hope to gain the attention of the royal ear, and the ordinary population could have been on a different planet from the people who ruled them. "God is too high and the Tsar is too far away" was an old Russian proverb.

Our Blessed Lord's words to His disciples in today's Gospel passage puts the lie to that when it comes to the King of kings. "I shall not call you servants anymore, because a servant does not know his master's business, I call you friends". The astonishing generosity of this statement cannot be over-stated. He has revealed Himself to be God Incarnate, and this God amongst us has told His disciples that those who follow Him and live His commandment to a greater life, will have access to God. They will be able to relate to him as from heart to heart, "and then the Father will give you anything you ask in My Name". Being friends of God in this way means we can become intercessors for all the world, not for our own advantage, but for the good of those around us, whom we are called to serve.

We are all given the opportunity to receive a beautiful gift from God, which is the intimacy and friendship with Him that leads us to love Him. We are not court officials of an earthly king, but disciples and friends – intercessors called to love God and love one another through friendship and service.

**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***

**The pagans have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have**

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

**Responsorial Psalm****Psalm 97(98):1-4****The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations****Second reading****1 John 4:7-10****Let us love one another, since love comes from God**

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love. God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

**Gospel****John 15:9-17**

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you.

A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

You did not choose me: no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.'

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**Second collection next week—12th May 2024****Catholic Communications Network**



## **Parish Notices**

### **Baptism**

Our parish warmly welcomes Melanie Felska who will be baptised on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May during the 10:30am Holy Mass. We pray that Our Blessed Lord will continue to bless her and her family.

### **50,000 Rosaries**

The Universal Church is offering 50, 000 Rosaries this May praying specifically for the people we know who have left the Church, also asking for the strength and wisdom we need to effectively evangelise in our families, workplaces and communities. As well as our usual Sunday afternoon Rosary at 4pm we will pray the Holy Rosary outside the Church on Tuesday morning after Mass and Wednesday morning at 10am. Please join us!

**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD THURSDAY 9TH MAY  
IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION  
MASS TIMES 10AM (OF) 7.30PM (EF)  
Our grateful thanks to Fr Michael for offering the morning Mass.**

### **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.

**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 5 May	<b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	Altar Servers People of the Parish
Mon 6 May	<b>NO MASS TODAY</b>		<b>NO MASS TODAY</b>
Tues 7 May	<b>of the sixth week of Easter</b>	9.15 am (OF)	Alan Cobben (RIP)
Thurs 9 May	<b>THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD</b>	<b>10.00 am (OF)</b> 7.30 pm (EF)	Thomas Kelly (RIP) Bishop Declan Lang
Fri 10 May	of the sixth week of Easter after Ascension	9.15 am (OF)	Thomas Kelly (RIP)
Sat 11 May	of the sixth week of Easter after Ascension Vigil	9.15 am (OF) 6.30 pm (OF)	Thomas Kelly (RIP) People of the Parish
Sun 12 May	<b>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	Bishop Elect Bosco MacDonald Martin & Rose Colette Nwasibi (Wedding Anniv)

Please hand Mass intentions to Fr Benjamin, to Catherine, or place in the collection basket. We are currently booking Mass intentions for **June** (EF Masses for mid-August) Thank you.

**Please note changes to Mass times this week. Thank you.**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<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	<b>June</b> 8th Gardening with Father 15th Gardening with Father 29th Sts Peter and Paul 30th First Holy Communion
<b>June</b> 1st Gardening with Father <b>2nd CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION</b> 2nd Afternoon Tea (Fundraiser) 7th SACRED HEART	<b>July</b> 7th First Holy Communion 14th First Holy Communion 21st Corpus Christi Procession to St Boniface (TBC) 27th Parish BBQ

<p><b>Confessions (when there is Mass)</b></p> Saturday: 5.30—6.20 pm Monday & Thursday: 6.45—7.20 pm Tuesday & Friday: 8.30—9.10 am	<p><b>Groups/Activities in the Louis Suite</b></p> <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
<p><b>Eucharistic Adoration</b></p> Thursday 8.00 pm to Saturday 6.00 pm <b>Rosary, Vespers &amp; Benediction for Vocations</b> Sunday: 4.00 pm	

**THE CHURCH WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 9AM UNTIL 7PM EACH DAY**

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