



PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Fr Benjamin writes...

Being quite a private person, the prospect of inviting everyone from the highways and by-ways for dinner at my house would not be very appealing. Don't get me wrong, I do love to welcome people, but the open-house policy Our Blessed Lord seems to ask for in His parable this Sunday would certainly take many people out of their comfort zones – which is the whole point of the parable.

As Our Lord says on many occasions, it is easy to love those whom we know and like. It is easy to be generous to our friends and those whom we know and trust. In other words, it is easier to love when it is comfortable to do so. The Kingdom of God, however, is greater than that and involves more than ease in relationships, it involves sacrifice. It is about the giving of ourselves without any hope of reward except in knowing that we are living as God lives.

When Our Lord speaks of inviting in “the crippled, the blind and the lame”, He is actually making reference to all of us; all of us whose have been injured by the knocks of life, blinded by all the pride and made weak by our constant falls. We are the ones invited to the Great Banquet, the Feast of the Kingdom of God. We are the ones invited in by God our Father from the highways and by-ways. We are the people who have no hope of repaying His hospitality and the lavish feast he prepares for us. That feast is prepared to celebrate God's constant forgiveness and reconciliation with His children, and He generously serves us with His Son's Body for food and His Blood as the finest wine. We will never be able to respond with an equal invitation.

What we can do, however, is respond in like-kind, in not being limited as to who and when we love, but be willing to give of ourselves to those who in turn will not be able to repay us.

God bless you this Sunday, and always

CAR PARKING

If you are a visitor please remember to register your car on the tablet at the back of the Church. We have recently had a spate of people being fined. If you frequently attend Mass and other devotions here please email your car registration details to the office and you will be added to the registered users list. Fines are dealt with **only** by Parking Eye whose details are on any fine notice. Parking fine queries are taking a disproportionate amount of time which the Parish office does not have the capacity to deal with. Many thanks for your understanding.

September is the Month of the Seven Sorrows 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. Please pray most urgently that the House of Lords rejects the Anti-Life legislation which is before them. Please pray each day for our priests and seminarians and for vocations.

Adoration (Thursday evening until Saturday evening);

Rosary, Vespers and Benediction (Sunday 4pm)

St Joseph Devotions Tuesday after 9.15am Mass

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

First reading**Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29****‘Humble yourself so you will find favour in the sight of the Lord.’**

My son, perform your tasks in meekness; then you will be loved by those whom God accepts. The greater you are, the more you must humble yourself; so you will find favour in the sight of the Lord. For great is the might of the Lord; he is glorified by the humble. The affliction of the proud has no healing, for a plant of wickedness has taken root in him. The mind of the intelligent man will ponder a parable, and an attentive ear is the wise man’s desire.

Responsorial Psalm**Ps 68(67):4-5ac. 6-7b. 10-11. R cf. 11b****In your goodness, O God, you provided a home for the poor.****Second reading****Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a****‘You have come to Mount Sion and to the city of the living God.’**

Brothers and Sisters: You have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them.

But you have come to Mount Sion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant.

Gospel**Luke 14:1, 7-14****‘Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.’**

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully.

Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honour, saying to them, ‘When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honour, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, “Give your place to this person”, and then you, with shame, will take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, “Friend, move up higher.” Then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.’

He said also to the man who had invited him, ‘When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends, or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbours, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.’

SECOND COLLECTIONS—SEPTEMBER**21st Home Missions****28th Holy Family Church Roof Fund**

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

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



HOLY FAMILY, SOUTHAMPTON

Parish Notices

CONDOLENCES

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Michael Prendergast who went to his Eternal Reward on Monday and for his son, Dominic, who lends his voice to the Holy Family Schola, in his loss.
The funeral will take place at St Peter's, Winchester on 18th September at noon.
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Adoration from 8pm Thursday until 6pm Saturday every week.

As our regular Adorers return from their break we offer thanksgiving for them and for all those who spent time in Adoration of our Blessed Lord this Summer.
Our Parish benefits from many graces flowing from time spent in Adoration.
We appeal for a regular Adorer on Saturday afternoons 5pm until 6pm
Please contact office@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk or ministry@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk if you are the answer to many prayers.

RIGHT TO LIFE—WRITE TO THE LORDS

The Crime and Policing Bill has passed to the House of Lords for debate. The clause on decriminalising abortion is now Clause 191 of the Crime and Policing Bill. Peers will debate Clause 191 and can suggest changes to it – or even to reject it altogether.

Please write to members of the House of Lords asking them to fight the extreme abortion up to birth amendment. This was not in any manifesto. It was passed after just 43 minutes backbench debate, with very little notice. This online tool [Fight the latest attempts to decriminalise abortion - SPUC](#) will generate a Peer at random for you to write to, and give an editable template. Once you have finished your letter, it will be emailed to you to print off and send to the Peer by post. This is an extra step to what you might be used to, but a very necessary one. Paper letters always have more impact than emails, and many Peers do not have publicly available email addresses. Please send the physical letter to Members of the House of Lords (or return them to the office to post for you). Please continue to pray hard. Thank you

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REGISTRATIONS 2025-2026

If your child(ren) will be entering **Year 4** in September you are invited to apply to register for the family preparation to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. The course will commence in October in preparation to receive these Sacraments in Summer 2026.

CLOSING DATE 15 SEPTEMBER

Please complete the expression of interest form <https://forms.office.com/e/9sG338tzDr> **You will be contacted in September to arrange to meet Fr Benjamin and the Catechesis Team to assess suitability for the course.**

Adoration and EF Mass Booklets

If you have borrowed Adoration or EF Mass booklets from the back of the Church would you kindly return them so people can use them to guide them through Adoration of Our Blessed Lord and Holy Mass here in the Church. Many thanks

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

THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY



Holy Mass OF = Ordinary Form, EF = Extraordinary Form

31 August (Sun)	TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.00 am (EF) 10.30am (OF)	Fr Jean Patrice Coulon Kelechi & Mary Okoro (Thanksgiving)
1 Sept (Mon)		7.30 pm (OF)	No Mass today
2 Sept (Tues)	feria	9.15 am (OF)	Jan Gaca (birthday)
4 Sept (Thur)	feria	7.30 pm (OF) Latin)**	John Comerford (RIP)
5 Sept (Fri)	feria	09.15am(OF)	Nina Reczko (RIP)
6 Sept (Sat)	Our Lady on Saturday Mass in anticipation of	9.15 am (OF) 6.30 pm (OF)	Isaac (health) People of the Parish
31 August (Sun)	TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.00am (OF) Latin)** 10.30 am (OF)	Pauline Lobo (RIP) Intentions of the Adorers

****These Masses this week will most likely be OF—Latin offered ad orientem**

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

Mother's Prayers Wednesdays at 2.00 pm

Sewing Group - Fridays at 10.00am

Lunch Group Fridays, fortnightly at 12.00 noon:

Next Lunch : September

Youth Group 1st Saturdays 3.00-6.00 pm

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEPTEMBER

6th MARCH FOR LIFE—LONDON - coach full

Please spend extra time in Adoration on 6th to support those at the Rally.

15th First Holy Communion Course -
Applications Closing Date

19th Pilgrims' Progress

20th Sr Cooley Profession

27th Readers' Training (4pm)

27th 11am High Mass Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham, St Agatha's, Portsmouth

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

Parish Priest	Fr Benjamin Theobald	btheobald@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
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Safeguarding	Catherine Merrifield	safeguarding@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk
Lead Catechist	Angela Wood	ministry@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk
Youth	Ben Nichols	youth@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk

Grateful thanks for your generosity in July

Loose plate: £1772.22 Gift Aid £804.00 Standing orders: £1618.66

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SCAN TO DONATE