



PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Fr Benjamin writes ...

I am convinced we spend too little time considering our soul. It is the most precious gift given us by God, but looking at the world, the evidence shows we treat the human soul as an interesting possibility rather than an urgent reality to tend. In Christian philosophy, the word 'soul' is a notoriously sticky thing to define. Essentially it is the unique life given us by God making us who we are, distinct from our body, and which will pass on to the next life when the body dies (later to be reunited with the body at the Final Resurrection, but that's something for another day).

The way we live now affects where we will be for eternity. This is made clear by the sobering parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus. The rich man, commonly known as Dives, didn't actually do anything wrong to Lazarus. He did not beat him or abuse him, he did not deny him anything or mistreat him in any way. He did none of these things because he didn't know Lazarus existed, even though he was sitting begging outside his house all those years. The rich man was so caught up in his own life of luxury and pleasure that he had no room in his heart for anyone but himself. He thought only of his own wants, desires and comfort, but in doing so was blind to all the need around him. He certainly thought nothing of his soul. This is why he ended up suffering in the underworld.

The soul never thrives on selfish behaviour, on solely seeking riches and earthly luxuries. It cannot thrive on this, because it is something from God, and the nature of God is 'to give' rather than 'to have'. We do not know anything about Lazarus' character. All we know is that he ends up in heaven. Perhaps, because of his poverty, he had more room in his heart for others and a greater capacity for empathy and generosity; things by which the soul always gets nurtured.

In the final reckoning, we must contend with the issue that, how we live today, does and will affect our eternal life. There are things which kill the soul, things which always have roots in selfishness. There are graces which always help the soul, graces which always have their root in God and are shown by Christ. Do I live carelessly or carefully? Do I have a care for my immortal soul and the souls of others?

God bless you this weekend and always

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**Amos 6:1a, 4-7****‘The revelry of those who now stretch themselves out shall pass away.’**

Thus says the Lord, the God of hosts: ‘Woe to those who are at ease in Sion, and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria.

‘Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and stretch themselves out on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall, who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David invent for themselves instruments of music, who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! Therefore they shall now be the first of those who go into exile, and the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass away.’

Responsorial Psalm**Ps 146(145):6c-7. 8-9a. 9b-10. r Matthew 5:3****My soul, give praise to the Lord****Second reading****1 Timothy 6:11-16****‘Keep the commandment until the appearing of our Lord.’**

O man of God, pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time — he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen.


Gospel**Luke 16:19-31****‘You received good things, and Lazarus bad things; now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish.’**

At that time: Jesus said to the Pharisees, ‘There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, “Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.” But Abraham said, “Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not do so, and none may cross from there to us.” And he said, “Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house — for I have five brothers — so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.” But Abraham said, “They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.” And he said, “No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.” He said to him, “If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.” ’

SECOND COLLECTIONS—SEPTEMBER**28th Holy Family Church Roof Fund (Roof)**

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)

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



HOLY FAMILY, SOUTHAMPTON

Parish Notices

Confirmation

Please pray for Ben and Anna who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this Sunday. May the gifts of the Holy Spirit fill their lives and strengthen their love of Our Blessed Lord.

RCIA

If you or any adult you know is interested in becoming a Catholic and/or learning more about the Faith Holy Family's preparation continues on **Mondays** at **7pm** in the Louis Suite (which is the room adjacent to the Church at the top of the Church steps, straight ahead).

If you are already baptised but have not yet received further Sacraments this is also the group for you!

Please contact Angela ministry@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk or the office office@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk if you would like to join this group.

Adoration from 8pm Thursday until 6pm Saturday every week.

Our Parish benefits from many graces flowing from time spend 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

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 at Holy Family please email your car registration details, along with a note of the liturgies you attend, to the Parish office office@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk 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. The Parish office only deals with registrations. Parking fines enquiries are taking a disproportionate amount of time which we do not have the capacity to deal with.

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REGISTRATIONS

Applications have now closed for this year. Unfortunately, we are not able to accept late applications.

Mass attendance cards will be available for those who will wish to apply for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion preparation classes commencing in September 2026 for 2027.

Regular Mass attendance is a requirement for participation in the classes and completion of the card encourages this "holy habit".

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

THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY



Holy Mass OF = Ordinary Form, EF = Extraordinary Form

28 Sept (Sun)	TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.00 am (EF)* 10.30am (OF)	Aurora & parents (conversion) Thanksgiving for the Holy Family Catholic Church
29 Sept (Mon)	The Holy Archangels Michael, Gabriel & Raphael	7.30 pm (OF)	Wioletta & Benn (thanksgiving for marriage)
30 Sept (Tues)	St Jerome	9.15 am (OF)	Margaret Kelly (RIP)
2 Oct (Thur)	The Holy Guardian Angels	7.30 pm (EF)	Michael Prendergast (RIP)
3 Oct (Fri)	feria	09.15am(OF)	Rowan Keogh (health)
4 Oct (Sat)	St Francis of Assisi In anticipation of	9.15 am (OF) 6.30 pm (OF)	Tracey McConnell (RIP) People of the Parish
5 Oct (Sun)	TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.00am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	Lothar Merrifield (int) Maria Hoang thi Hue (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 : **26th 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

27th Readers' Training (4pm)

27th 11am High Mass Feast of Our Lady of

Walsingham, St Agatha's, Portsmouth

Newly ordained Fr Ryan Browne will preach.

OCTOBER

5th—6th Fatima Relics—Portsmouth Cathedral

7th Feast of the Holy Rosary (croissants after Mass)

20th-25th Parish Pilgrimage to Rome

31st All Saints Eve—Angels and Saints Party

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

Parish Priest	Fr Benjamin Theobald	btheobald@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Parish Deacon	Dcn Tom Jose	tjose@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Parish Administrator	Catherine Merrifield	office@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk
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 August

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

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