



## PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Millbrook

Our grateful thanks to Fr Rosario and to Fr Jean-Patrice for offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass while Fr Benjamin takes a few days' break. Please note the slightly amended Mass times for this week. Adoration continues as usual but there will not be Rosary and Benediction this Sunday (31st December).

*O Come Let Us Adore Him*



### URGENT APPEAL FOR ADORERS

We are, as ever, grateful to Our Blessed Lord's faithful Adorers for keeping the watch during the Christmas period. Our Parish is showered with blessings from this devotion.

We are in urgent need of Adorers to take over from Catherine Mercer (RIP) who has gone to her eternal reward. If you can cover:

Saturdays 12 noon until 1pm or  
Saturdays 1pm until 2pm

please contact Angela [ministry@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk](mailto:ministry@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk) or  
Catherine [office@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk](mailto:office@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk)

**Your heir shall be your own flesh and blood**

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great.'

'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...'. Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

**Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 104(105):1-6,8-9

**He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.**

**Second reading**

Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19

**The faith of Abraham and of Sarah**

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

**Gospel**

Luke 2:22-40

**'There stands among you the one coming after me'**

My eyes have seen your salvation

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said: 'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.



## HOLY FAMILY, SOUTHAMPTON

### **Parish Notices**

#### **Condolences**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Catherine Mercer RIP who died on Christmas Eve fortified by the Rites of the Church. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. Funeral arrangements will be advised as soon as possible.

#### **The Holy Family Statue**

In a slight change of plan, Fr Benjamin will bless the statue of The Holy Family on Friday 19 January after the 9.15 am Mass. This is the anniversary of the dedication of the Holy Family Parish. The intention is for the first family to welcome the Holy Family into their home for one week and to then take the statue to the next family where the two households can pray together, strengthening the prayerful connection between our families and making us holier families under the guidance and protection of The Holy Family. A daily prayer sheet will be included with the statue.

If you would welcome The Holy Family into your home for one week, please sign up on the sheet at the back of the Church or contact the office. The list will be in the office during the week so as to protect people's details.

#### **Christmas Hamper Raffles**

Thank you to everybody who supported the Christmas Hamper Raffles in support of the Boiler Fund.

Winners were:

Luxury Good Raffle—Georgia M

Bottles Raffle—Catherine M

Beauty Raffle—Margaret and George

Bonus Ball Winner—Rosecollette

Guess the Number of Sweets in the Jar— Raji Tom

# THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY



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

Sun 31 Dec	<b>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH</b>	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	Neri May & Family (thanksgiving) People of the Parish
Mon 1 Jan	<b>MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</b>	<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>POLISH MASS</b>
Tues 2 Jan	NO MASS THIS MORNING		
Thurs 4 Jan	Of Christmastide	7.30 pm (EF)	Catherine Merrifield & Family
Fri 5 Jan	Of Christmastide	9.15 am (OF)	Shola Ayanwale (RIP)
Sat 6 Jan	Epiphany*  Vigil Mass	9.15 am (EF)  6.30 pm (OF)	L'Enfant Grandchildren & Gt Grandchildren Agatha Atanah (thanksgiving)
Sun 7 Jan	<b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	Emanuel Saliba (birthday anniv) People of the Parish

Please hand Mass intentions to Fr Benjamin, to Catherine, or put in the collection basket. Thank you

**\* On Saturday 6th January the 9.15am Mass will be offered in the Extraordinary Form to fulfil the obligation for the Feast Day of the Epiphany which in the EF is not transferred to the Sunday. This Mass does NOT fulfil the obligation for Sunday Mass.**

**In the Ordinary Form the Feast of the Epiphany is transferred to the Sunday so the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass and the 10.30am Sunday Mass fulfil the holy day obligation.**

## The Holy Family Catholic Church

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**Parish Deacon**  
**Parish Administrator**  
**Safeguarding**  
**Lead Catechist**  
**Youth & Confirmation**

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**THE CHURCH WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 9AM UNTIL 6PM EACH DAY**

CDP Holy Family Southampton SORT CODE: 30 93 04 ACCOUNT NO: 00887898

November Parish Income from (4 Sundays)

Thank you

**First Collections: £ 1712.33**  
**In basket Gift Aid: £ 962.01**