



PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Millbrook

Fr Benjamin writes ...

Advent reminds me of receiving Holy Communion: we are preparing and we are encountering. Just as we need to prepare for our meeting with Our Blessed Lord when He gives Himself to us in the Eucharist, so we need to do so for our encounter with Him at His Nativity and His Second Coming.

But what is preparation? In essence it is making room for Him and making everything ready for Him. "Room and ready" could easily be the watchwords of this season and of our sacramental life. This is both a welcome message but also a warning. It is welcome because it is always wonderful to celebrate and to experience the reality of the prophetic promise come to fulfilment: "God-with-us". It is also a warning, for once we have received Him, we often forget Him, and our lives return to a worldly, sometimes even profane reality.

It is our preparation which helps us both to look forward to the celebration and to heed the warning. This is where Our Lord's words of today's Gospel passage give us such direct guidance: "Be watchful!" We need to reflect on our reception of our God in Holy Communion and in the forthcoming liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmastide. Are we truly watchful, in keeping our everyday activities directed toward Him and His will? Are we watchful of the state of our souls when we receive Him in Holy Communion? Do we continue to place Christ at the centre of our lives after we have worshiped Him in the manger or is He forgotten the minute the decorations come down? Do we hold Him in our hearts after we have received Him into our bodies? We need to be aware of how much room we make for Him, and if there is a task to make room for Him, then make that your preparation and act of watchfulness.

It is a wonderful thing to prepare the way for the Lord, and the celebration of that coming is made all the more wondrous when, after having watched for Him, we see Him, and we see Him on this earth in no greater way than in the Blessed Host of the Holy Eucharist.

God bless you all this Sunday, and always

Growing in Faith Talk Monday 4th December 8pm

Disappointed to have missed Fr Benjamin's homily for the First Sunday of Advent? You can catch up by coming to his reflections on Advent at this month's Growing in Faith Talk after Mass on Monday (approx. 8pm)

Rosary, Vespers and Benediction for Vocations Sunday 4pm

"For where there are two or three gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them"
Matthew 18:20

This Advent please make a special effort to come together to pray the rosary and evening prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament. We are in danger of losing this devotion if we cannot make double figures in the congregation.

First reading**Isaiah 63:16-17,64:1,3-8****O that you would tear the heavens open and come down**

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, 'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down! – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm**Psalm 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19****God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.****Second reading****1 Corinthians 1:3-9****We are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed**

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel**Mark 13:33-37****If he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

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Parish Notices

Candles for the Holy Souls

7-Day Memorial Candles will continue to burn in front of the St Joseph Altar as an opportunity for everyone to pray for your loved ones. The candles have been spread out so as to comply with many Health and Safety rules—please resist the temptation to add any to the gaps!

Christmas Luncheon Saturday 9th December 1pm—Last chance

Siobhan and her Team will be cooking up a Christmas feast. Vegetarians and vegans can be catered for but prior notice is needed. This is an opportunity for us to come together as a Parish and is open to all age groups! Tickets are now on sale £10 for adults, £5 for children under 5. There is no profit in this—the price is purely to cover costs. Please buy your tickets after Mass this Sunday or email the office for tickets to be reserved.

The Holy Family

On recent visits to bless Parishioners' houses Fr Benjamin has been asked whether we have a statue of the Holy Family which is welcomed into the homes of parishioners in rotation, both to honour the Holy Family and to strengthen the prayerful connection between the families of our Parish. We have been given a beautiful statue of the Holy Family which Father will bless on 17th December. We would like the first family to receive the statue into their homes on the Feast 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.

Church Heating

Thank you so much to everybody—especially our amazing team of Adorers for enduring the 'slightly less than warm' temperatures in the church! As you know we are raising funds for the repair of the church and hall heating systems. Enormous thanks to everyone who supported the Fete last Saturday. We raised more than £1500 taking our current fundraising total to £2000. Your hard work and generosity are inspirational. What a great Parish!

**FUNDRAISING
TARGET £25,000**

You can still buy **Christmas Hamper Raffle** tickets £1 per strip of 5 are now on sale. There are three separate raffles—bottles, luxury goods and beauty! The draw will take place on Gaudete Sunday.

Stella Maris—Christmas Chocolate Appeal - Each year, Stella Maris has a Christmas appeal that collects chocolate gifts for seafarers who are working far from home. While we recognise that there are many calls your charity, we wish to continue to support the often lonely and forgotten men and women who work on the ships that provide us with essential goods. We are looking for chocolate tubs/boxes to give as treats to the ships in port around Christmas e.g. Quality Street, Celebrations, Roses etc. There is a box in the Louis Suite to collect your gifts. Thank you for your support.

Caritas—Holiday Club in December. We would be very grateful for volunteers to help with arts and crafts, playing with children and serving food and drinks on 20th December. Please contact the office or Victoria at Caritas if you can help vmayuto@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY



Holy Mass OF = Ordinary Form, EF = Extraordinary Form

Sun 3 Dec	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	Alfred Tachie Menson & Family (RIP) Raymond Hall Snr & Hall Family (RIP)
Mon 4 Dec	of the 1st week of Advent	7.30 pm (OF)	John Kwesi Villars & Family (RIP)
Tues 5 Dec	of the 1st week of Advent	9.15 am (OF)	Anna & Beau Yankah & Family (RIP)
Thurs 7 Dec	St Ambrose	7.30 pm (EF)	Conversion—James T
Fr 8 Dec	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	9.15 am (OF) 7.30 pm (EF)	Yvonne & Cyril Platt & Family (RIP) Diego Hoyos (Diaconal ordination)
Sat 9 Dec	of the 1st week of Advent	11.00 am (OF) 6.30 pm (OF)	John & Nora Keene (RIP) Charles Vella (RIP)
Sun 10 Dec	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	Anna Weronika & Marta Isabella Glebika People of the Parish

Please hand Mass intentions to Fr Benjamin, to Catherine, or place in the collection basket

<p>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</p> <p>Eucharistic Adoration Thursday 8.00 pm to Saturday 6.00 pm</p> <p>Rosary, Vespers & Benediction for Vocations Sunday: 4.00 pm</p>	<p>Groups/Activities in the Louis Suite</p> <p>Sewing Group Tuesdays at 10.30am Gardening Club Tuesdays 1pm-3pm Mother's Prayers Wednesdays at 2.00 pm</p> <p>Lunch Group Fridays, fortnightly at 12.00 noon: NEXT LUNCH: In the new year—date tbc</p> <p>Youth Group 1st Saturdays 3-6pm Catholic Men's Group 1st Saturdays at 7:30 pm</p>
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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>December</i>	
4th Growing in Faith Talk—Advent Fr Benjamin	15th Carols by Candlelight
8th Immaculate Conception (Mulled Wine & Mince Pies)	16th Rorate Mass (followed by Bacon Butties)
9th Parish Christmas Luncheon	17th Bambini Blessing
11th School Carol Service	20th Caritas Holiday Club

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CDP Holy Family Southampton SORT CODE: 30 93 04 ACCOUNT NO: 00887898		
October Parish Income from (5 Sundays)	First Collections:	£ 2031.83
	In basket Gift Aid:	£ 1093.00
	Standing Orders:	£ 1533.00