



PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Millbrook

Fr Benjamin writes ...

Last thing at night, through the gentle flicker of candles, bleary eyed and somewhat weary I have the privilege of praying Compline, which is the Night Prayer of the Church. One of the last things to be recited is the Cantic of the *Nunc dimittis*: "Now at last all power Master, You give leave to Your servant to go in peace..." It is a beautiful way to end the day, not only because all the words and prayers are wonderful, but because they also help to reveal something – how God has been present in my day and in my life.

As I pray this cantic, I try to contemplate the ways in which "my eyes have seen Your salvation". Even after the most difficult of days and the darkest of times I can always recollect a moment when the Lord has shown Himself, when there has been light. It may be from the moment I hold the Precious Host in my hands at the holy Mass, a time of Eucharistic Adoration, or even something as fleeting as someone's smile or gentle words and humming. Sometimes, such revelations come as a surprise to me, a memory I had not expected or something I had not recognised at the time.

This is very much like the story of Israel. There were times when they certainly knew they were in the Presence of God – at Sinai, before the Ark of the Covenant, at the Holy of Holies in the Temple – but there were also moments when they had to search for Him in the gentle breeze.

Nevertheless, they had not anticipated that His fullest revelation to them would be as a baby brought into the Temple. They had for a long while expected the Messiah to enter into His Temple in all His glory, but they never expected that His glory would be through simplicity and the Presentation of Himself, in His Body and Blood, as the sacrifice that would take away the sins of the world. "The light to enlighten the Gentiles" would be the forgiveness of God and the chance to know Him. "The glory of His People Israel" would be the simplicity in which He came and in which He continues to show Himself to us.

We know, in our heart of hearts, that God is there, and we sometimes expect Him to show Himself in obvious ways. He does so, but He also moves and shows Himself in the small and unexpected ways of the everyday. As He sends you off to your rest, recall your day, and let Him show you how He has been your light and your salvation. It something you can never tire of.

May God bless you this Sunday and always

February is the Month of St Joseph

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. At this time please particularly implore St Joseph, Protector of the Family, to guide our lawmakers to uphold the sanctity of human life in the UK and throughout the world.

Please pray each day for our priests and seminarians and for vocations.

Adoration (Thursday evening until Saturday evening);

Rosary, Vespers and Benediction (Sundays 4pm)

outdoor **Rosary** Monday 9am,

St Joseph Devotions Tuesday after 9.15 Mass

First reading**Malachi 3:1-4****‘The Lord whom you seek will come to his Temple.’**

Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his Temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Responsorial Psalm**Ps 24(23):7. 8. 9. 10. 28a****The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory!****Second reading****Hebrews 2:14-18****‘He had to be made like his brothers, so that he might become merciful.’**

Since the children share in flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Gospel**Luke 2:22-40****‘The child grew, filled with wisdom.’**

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, ‘Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord’) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves, or two young pigeons’.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the Temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

‘Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.’

And his father and his mother marvelled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, ‘Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed — and a sword will pierce through your own soul also — so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.’

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the Temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favour of God was upon him.

HOLY FAMILY, SOUTHAMPTON

Parish Notices

Ashes for Ash Wednesday

Lent is fast approaching!

Please bring your blessed palms from last year to be burned for ashes for use on Ash Wednesday.

First Confessions

Please pray for those preparing to receive God's grace in this Sacrament for the first time this weekend. May God bless and guide them and their families.

Youth Group this Saturday 1 February 3-6pm

This group is for those who have received their First Holy Communion to the age of 18. It aims to foster fellowship, a deeper understanding of our Catholic faith and the strength to be Christian witnesses in our daily lives.

To help us discern the future of the group please complete the questionnaire available after all Masses.

Euthanasia Bill

If you have the appropriate expertise or personal experience, it is important that you write to the Committee. This guide explains whether you fit the criteria to make a submission and how to make your submission, [Guide on how to submit written evidence to the Committee considering the Terminally Ill Adults \(End of Life\) Bill](#).

This is a good time to commence a Novena to Our Blessed Lady starting this Sunday on the Feast of the Purification leading to 11th February, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

St Joseph Devotion starting 4th February

To honour and invoke the Head of the Holy Family, our Parish will begin a Perpetual Novena to Saint Joseph. Starting this **Tuesday 4th February** after the 9.15 a.m. Mass. Novena booklets will be available at the back of the church. We ask St Joseph to assist us with the repairs to our church building but most importantly given the many attacks on the Church and family throughout the world we implore his intercession as the Protector of the Universal Church and Pillar of Families. Please join us in this new devotion in our Parish and if you would like to take a turn at leading this devotion please speak to John after Tuesday devotions or contact the office.



Parish Vacancy

Job Title: Permanent Adorer of Our Blessed Lord

Hours of Work: 1 Holy Hour per week in this Holy Year

Fridays 11am-midday; 4-5pm

Saturdays 10-11am; 2-3pm

Saturdays 4-5pm (temp)

Salary: Innumerable graces

Job description: Watch for one hour, wrapped in His love.

For more information contact: ministry@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk

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

2 Feb (Sun)	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	9.00am (EF) 10.30am (OF)	Roman Gruszkiewicz (RIP) People of the Parish
3 Feb (Mon)	St Blaise BLESSING OF THROATS	7.30 PM (OF)	Holy Souls
4 Feb (Tues)	feria	9.15 am (OF)	Agatha Blishen (birthday)
6 Feb (Thurs)	St Titus	7.30 pm (EF)	Bill Hansford (RIP)
7 Feb (Fri)	feria	9.15am (OF)	Tomasz K (int)
8 Feb Sat)	Our Lady on Saturday Vigil	9.15 am (OF) 6.30 pm (OF)	Pro-Life Intentions People of the Parish
9 Feb (Sun)	FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.00 am (EF) 6.30 pm (OF)	Helen Officer (int) B Abraham (int)

**Please hand Mass intentions to Fr Benjamin, to Catherine, or place in the collection basket.
We are up to date with intentions for OF Masses—
EF Mass intentions are booking some way ahead. Thank you**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February

1st Vigil Mass Purification—Blessing of Candles
2nd Purification—Blessing of Candles and Procession
Sunday Masses
2nd 8.30am Blessing of Candles and Procession before 9am Mass

February

3rd Confirmation Class 5.45
3rd RCIA
3rd St Blaise—Blessing of Throats at evening Mass

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

Outdoor Rosary—Mondays at 9am;

St Joseph Devotions—Tuesdays after Mass

Groups/Activities in the Louis Suite

Sewing Group - Tuesdays at 10.00am
Gardening Club - Tuesdays 10am until 12 noon
Mother's Prayers Wednesdays at 2.00 pm
Lunch Group Fridays, fortnightly at 12.00 noon:
NEXT LUNCH:
Youth Group 1st Saturdays 3.00-6.00 pm
Catholic Men's Group 1st Saturdays at 7:30 pm

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Grateful thanks for your generosity in January

Loose plate: £1276.27 Gift Aid £695 Standing orders: £1498.66