



PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Millbrook

Fr Benjamin writes ...

Today we have the first of what the Church calls 'the Scrutinies'. It sounds worse than it is. Over the course of three Sundays, those who are to enter the Church at Easter are asked to place themselves before God and His Communion of the gathered Church, and literally be looked upon by Him. God shows them something of Himself, and so looks upon them; they are scrutinized by God and looked upon by their fellow believers. The Gospels on each of these Sundays is specific to each Scrutiny. Today we hear proclaimed the story of Our Blessed Lord's encounter with the woman at the well. Essentially, this is a story about Baptism, and our thirst for God being quenched only through this Sacrament. Next week, we will hear of the man born blind being given his sight, and then the Sunday after that, we will witness the raising of Lazarus from the dead.

Water, light and life. These are the three ways in which God shows Himself. In the waters of Baptism, we are washed from all sin; in the light of Baptism, we have all darkness expunged from our hearts, and through this Sacrament death is destroyed in us and we are given the new and eternal life of God. All the candidates who are to be Baptised this Easter will be asked if they want this cleansing water, light and life. Three powerful prayers will be said over them asking for these three things, so that they can come closer to God Who is looking upon them.

This Easter, the Lord has blessed us with eight people coming to the waters of Baptism. Please support them with your prayer and welcome and renew your own encounter with God by contemplating the gift of your Baptism.

God bless you all this Sunday, and always

The Holy Family Statue

The Holy Family statue is journeying around the Parish. Please continue to pray for the spiritual growth of our Parish and for Vocations to the Priesthood. If you would like to host the Holy Family statue please leave your details on the list at the back of the Church or contact the office. Also, if anyone would be willing to translate the prayer card particularly into Vietnamese, we would love to hear from you.

Divine Mercy Chaplet, Vespers and Benediction for Vocations 4pm Sunday

This Lent please join us to offer thanksgiving for our priests and seminarians and to pray for many more young men to listen to God's call to the priesthood.

Strike the rock, and water will flow from it

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?'

Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' the Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Responsorial Psalm**Psalm 94(95):1-2, 6-9****O that today you would listen to His voice! "Harden not your hearts"****Second reading****Romans 5:1-2, 5-8****The love of God has been poured into our hearts**

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel**John 4:5-42****A spring of water welling up to eternal life**

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water'.

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life'.

'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'Go and call your husband' said Jesus to her 'and come back here.' The woman answered, 'I have no husband'. He said to her, 'You are right to say, "I have no husband"; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there.' 'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know: for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything'. 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, 'What do you want from her?' or, 'Why are you talking to her?' The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people. 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?' This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards him.

Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do have something to eat; but he said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about'. So the disciples asked one another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?' But Jesus said:

'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to complete his work. Have you not got a saying: Four months and then the harvest? Well, I tell you: Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest! Already the reaper is being paid his wages, already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life, and thus sower and reaper rejoice together. For here the proverb holds good: one sows, another reaps; I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for. Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their trouble.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world'.



Parish Notices

CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILL

Please complete the cards at the back of the Church asking your MP to speak and vote in support of the amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill to lower the abortion time limit to 22 weeks. It is a small step towards saving the lives of unborn babies in this country. Please complete your name and address to verify you are a constituent. Cards can either be posted directly to your MP or returned to the Parish office for posting.

IMPORTANT: PLEASE ALSO WRITE TO YOUR MP URGENTLY ASKING THEM TO OPPOSE THE LATEST EXTREME ABORTION AMENDMENTS WHICH WOULD ALLOW ABORTIONS FOR ANY REASON UP UNTIL BIRTH. [Oppose the latest extreme abortion amendments | SPUC](#) . We have until about 18th March to do this.

RCIA

Trinh, Houn, Katherine, Naomi, and Luke continue in their preparations to either join the Church or come into full communion in Confirmation this Easter. They have started a time of preparation, a time of coming closer to God by eliminating what is weak and sinful and affirming what is holy. For the next three Sunday's they will undertake rites to help them in their preparations, these are called Scrutinies. Prayers are offered asking God to strengthen and protect them from all temptation and deceit. Please pray for them.

Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving this Lent

To unite with Our Blessed Lord's suffering for our salvation please pray this Lent for all those, particularly in The Holy Family Parish, who are sick; undergoing medical treatment; for their families and for those who care for them.

The Holy Family—Grand Easter Raffle

We shall soon be selling tickets for our Grand Easter Raffle. All donations of chocolate or any other yummy treats will be gratefully received in the office! Also, we would welcome volunteers and donations towards an egg hunt and other activities for children on Low Sunday.

Stella Maris—Easter Egg Appeal

Stella Maris, the Catholic charity that supports Seafarers, is planning to give chocolate treats to crew aboard ships in port along the south coast over Easter. It can be a very lonely time for the hundreds of seafarers passing through our ports and far away from home this Easter. Please give any Easter Egg gifts to the parish office by Monday 18 March, however donations are welcome after this date.

St George Catholic College Alumni Reunion - 3-5 pm Sunday 28th April 2024

To celebrate the school's recent outstanding Ofsted report, St George's are inviting past pupils and staff from the 60s, 70s or 80s to a reunion afternoon tea and cakes and a tour of the school. Email Jeanine Bonavia at jbnavia@stgcc.co.uk or call 023 8067 0104 to book a place by Friday 26th April.

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

Sun 3 Mar	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	O'Farrell Family (Int) Thanksgiving Lijo Joseph
Mon 4 Mar	of the third week of Lent	7.30 pm (OF)	Emmanuel (Int)
Tues 5 Mar	of the third week of Lent	9.15 am (OF)	Emmanuel (Int)
Thurs 7 Mar	of the third week of Lent	7.30 pm (EF)	Nutbrown Family (Int)
Fri 8 Mar	of the third week of Lent	9.15 am (OF)	Raju VA (RIP)
Sat 9 Mar	of the third week of Lent Vigil	9.15 am (OF) 6.30 pm (OF)	Le Van Vong (RIP) Lilly Kulty (RIP)
Sun 10 Mar	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	Pauline Wood (RIP) People of the Parish

Please hand Mass intentions to Fr Benjamin, to Catherine, or place in the collection basket. We are currently booking Masses for **April**—please give plenty of notice if you would like specific dates for Masses. Thank you.

<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 10.00am Gardening Club -Winter Break Mother's Prayers Wednesdays at 2.00 pm 'Warm Space' Group Thursdays 10am until 12.00 noon Lunch Group Fridays, fortnightly at 12.00 noon: NEXT LUNCH: 22 March 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

March	
2nd FANNING THE FLAME	30th Children's Stations of the Cross
10th Laetare/Mothering Sunday	31st Easter Sunday
24th Palm Sunday	

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

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