



## PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY, MILLBROOK

Fr Benjamin writes...

I love the fact the Church is always full. There may be only a few people, but it is nevertheless full, which is what we celebrate this week with the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This feast day marks the fulfilment of the Prophet Malachi who wrote, "The Lord Whom you seek will come to His Temple". The wonder of this prophesy is that it was not only fulfilled, but super-abundantly fulfilled beyond any expected measure.

It was thought God would rest once more in His Temple through His Spirit, as He had before the times of Ezekiel. Yet, when on that day two thousand years ago a young woman and her husband brought a baby, offering Him to God as the First-born, the Temple was filled with God's Presence quietly and humbly. Not only that, God coming to us as man would see flesh becoming a dwelling place and therefore a temple of the Divine. The whole cosmos would be finally filled due to the Presence of this little Child. He would go on to fill the Temple of the Universe with the presence of His Body, the Church, which is itself filled with the Holy Spirit. God fulfils and fills us, which we celebrate at this time, and for all time.

We may feel life to be empty at times, in so many ways, but we merely need to call on Him, Who came to us as a Child presented in the Temple, and Who still fills the world with His Presence. We need never be empty. We can pray that the Lord will come to us as He came to the Temple in Jerusalem. In never being empty, we are never alone. We have the honour and privilege of having His Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist. We can come to Him any day, every day, because He is with us. The Church is always full, full of the Lord, and we can be full in the same way, temples and children of God.

**God bless you this Sunday and always**

### Prayer to the Holy Family

HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the centre of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.

### February is the Month of the Holy Family

We 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 implore Our Blessed Lord to guide the House of Lords to reject the anti-life legislation before them.

**Adoration** (Thursday evening until Saturday evening);

**Rosary, Vespers and Benediction** (Sunday 4.30pm) \* NEW TIME

**St Joseph Devotions** Tuesday after 9.15am Mass

**Rosary for Vocations to the Sacred Priesthood** Wednesday after 9.15am Mass

**'I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly.'**

Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the Lord.

I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the Lord, those who are left in Israel; they shall do no injustice and speak no lies, nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue. For they shall graze and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 146(145):6 c-7. 8-9a. 9b-10. ☩ Matthew 5:3

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

**'God chose what is weak in the world.'**

Consider your calling, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption; so that, as it is written, 'Let

## Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12a

**'Blessed are the poor in spirit.'**

At that time: Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.'

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**SECOND COLLECTIONS IN FEBRUARY**

SUNDAY 8TH FEBRUARY—CHURCH ROOF FUND

We can take digital donations via the Dona collection plate at the back of the Church  
or via the Parish Bank Account

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



SCAN ME

# HOLY FAMILY, SOUTHAMPTON

## Parish Notices

### BAPTISM

The Holy Family warmly welcomes Ikemefuna William who will be baptised during Mass this Sunday. May Our Blessed Lord continue to guide and protect him and his family.

### AMALGAMATING PARISHES ACROSS SOUTHAMPTON —IMPORTANT—PLEASE READ AND ACT

The Bishop has proposed the amalgamation of the ten Parishes of Southampton into one Parish. At this stage it is only a proposal but it is important that if you wish your views to be considered, you respond to this letter. The Bishop has asked Fr Benjamin to collate responses and submit them to him.

Please do not write directly to the Bishop.

**Please ensure you respond by Monday 16th February**

### PLEASE BRING LAST YEAR'S PALMS FOR BURNING FOR ASHES

### National Marriage week—Free Tea Party Sunday 8th February 3.30pm in Louis Suite

Marriage Sankofa Invites you to a Tea Party with homemade cakes to celebrate National Marriage Week. Party at 3.30pm followed by Rosary, Vespers and Benediction at 4.30pm and a blessing for married couples. Everybody welcome. Free but we welcome donations for our Church roof!

### Parish Vacancy

Job Title: Permanent Adorer of Our Blessed Lord

Hours of Work: Saturdays 5pm until 6pm

Salary: Innumerable graces

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

Contact: [ministry@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk](mailto:ministry@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk) or the office



### CANDLEMAS 2 FEBRUARY 2026

**Please bring your candles for use during private prayer at home for blessing prior to Mass at 9.15am (OF) or 7.30pm (EF)**

### Render therefore to Caesar... then claim back through GIFT AID (with apologies to Mark 12)

In times when obviously everybody's bills are going up we would be enormously grateful to everyone who pays tax in the UK but hasn't yet registered for Gift Aid to complete a Gift Aid Declaration (from the back of the Church or office) and return it to the office. This would mean that the Parish could claim back from the Government 25p for every £1 which you have already paid in tax, without it costing you any extra. Naturally if you are also in the position that you can increase your giving that would be an added bonus! This is an incredibly generous Parish and we are very grateful for your generosity.

### Parish Registration

It would be particularly helpful if parishioners could complete an updated Parish Registration form [The Holy Family Millbrook, Southampton, Parish Registration Form – Fill in form](#)

Hard copies are also available at the back of the Church or from the office but completing the online form avoids inaccuracies in data entry. Many thanks indeed for your help.



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

# THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY



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

31 Jan	Sat	St John Bosco (OF)	9.15 am	Lijo (health)
	Sat	<b>in anticipation of (OF)</b>	6.30 pm	People of the Parish
<b>1 Feb</b>	Sun	Septuagesima (EF)	9.00 am	Helen Officer (Int)
	Sun	<b>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (OF)</b>	10.30 am	Charlie Vella (RIP)
2 Feb	Mon	<b>The Presentation of the Lord (OF)</b>	9.15am	Phero & Maria Vong Suu
		<b>The Purification of the BVM (EF)</b>	7.30 pm	Mollie Prince (Int)
3 Feb	Tues	St Blaise (OF)	9..15am	Nina Reczko (RIP)
4 Feb	Weds	feria (OF)	9.15 am	Drew Lovett (birthday int)
5 Feb	Thurs	St Agatha (EF)	7.30 pm	Johnny Bradley (RIP)
6 Feb	Fri	St Paul Miki & Companions (OF)	9.15 am	Vocations
7 Feb	Sat	Our Lady on Saturday (OF)	9.15 am	Those preparing to receive the sacraments
	Sat	<b>in anticipation of (OF)</b>	6.30pm	People of the Parish
8 Feb	Sun	Sexagesima (F)	9.00 am	Andrew Wood (Int)
	Sun	FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.30am	Mathew Parayil (int—grateful thanks)

## HOSPITAL VISITS

If you, or a loved one, will be going into hospital, or have been taken in unexpectedly, please would you let Fr Benjamin know (whether directly, or via the office).  
Hospital staff are no longer able to phone on your behalf.

### 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: **4.30 pm\***

### St Joseph Devotions—Tuesdays after Mass

### Rosary for Vocations—Weds after Mass

### Groups/Activities in the Louis Suite

**RCIA** - Mondays at 7.00pm

**Parish Prayers** **Last Tuesdays 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 :** **TBC**

**Catholic Men's Group** 1st Saturdays at 7:30 pm

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### FEBRUARY

#### 2nd Candlemas/Purification Mass Times

9.15am (OF) 7.30pm (EF)

#### 3rd St Blaise—Blessing of Throats

### FEBRUARY

7th St Agatha's Patronal Feast, Solemn High Mass

11.00am, at St Agatha's, Portsmouth

8th Tea Party—National Marriage Week 3.30pm

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

Email: [office@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk](mailto:office@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk) Tel: 023 80 778203 Website: [www.holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk](http://www.holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk)

<b>Parish Priest</b>	Fr Benjamin Theobald	<a href="mailto:btheobald@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk">btheobald@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</a>
<b>Asst. Priest</b>	Fr Benedikt Timpe	<a href="mailto:btimpe@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk">btimpe@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Deacon</b>	Dcn Tom Jose	<a href="mailto:tjose@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk">tjose@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Catherine Merrifield	<a href="mailto:office@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk">office@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk</a>
<b>Safeguarding</b>	Catherine Merrifield	<a href="mailto:safeguarding@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk">safeguarding@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk</a>
<b>Lead Catechist</b>	Angela Wood	<a href="mailto:ministry@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk">ministry@holyfamilycatholicchurch.co.uk</a>

Grateful thanks for your generosity in December

Loose plate: £1275.38 Gift Aid £830.00 Standing orders: £1826.66

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