



## PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Millbrook

Fr Benjamin writes ...

“Console my people, console them”, says the Prophet Isaiah (40:1). He says Jerusalem is to be consoled because her sin is to be atoned for. The sin he is referring to is turning away from God; something which we have all done in our lives. If you think about it, to deliberately turn your back on someone is always a hurtful thing, especially if it is someone you love. Isaiah is saying this is something Israel has been doing and they are lamenting the consequences of it. They turned from God and in doing so they thought they would find happiness. They thought they would find ease and comfort, and found themselves lured into a way of life where they were held captive and unloved. It’s a biblical mixture of genuine regret and a measure of self-pity. It’s the old story and one which continues in human hearts to this day.

So many people look for happiness in every way, except in God. The People of Israel found commitment to the One God and His eternal Law too hard to bear, and so they went elsewhere for easier lives, but found themselves consumed by the very things they sought. What is God’s response? “I told you so”? “Don’t come crawling back to me”? No, He sent a message of consolation.

With that consolation came the promise to send One who would help them turn back to God. With that promise we hear the words of St John the Baptist who prepared the way for Our Blessed Lord: Repent. This simple word is all we have to do to be consoled. It literally means “to turn back”. After all the mistakes, after all the regrets and after turning away we can turn back and find One who is waiting in patience and in love.

We are to be consoled, not only because we are called back to God, but because, when we do turn back to Him, we will see a Face, the loving Face of Jesus, just as the Baptist did, when he turned and saw the Face of the Lamb of God, Who has come to take away the sins of the world.

**God bless you all this Sunday, and always**

### **Confession Times During Advent**

**Fr Benjamin hears confessions on Saturdays from 5.30-6.20pm**

**Mondays and Thursdays from 6.45-7.20pm**

**Tuesdays and Fridays from 8.30-9.10am**

**Father will also hear confessions from 10am until 12 noon on Saturday 23rd December.**

**Please be prepared and receive the Sacrament during these times**

**—there will not be time to hear confessions on Christmas Eve.**

### **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.

**The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it**

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God. ‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low. Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

**Responsorial Psalm****Psalm 84(85):9-14****Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.****Second reading****2 Peter 3:8-14****We are waiting for the new heavens and the new earth**

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

**Gospel****Mark 1:1-8****A voice cries in the wilderness: prepare a way for the Lord**

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, ‘Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’



## HOLY FAMILY, SOUTHAMPTON

### Parish Notices

#### Cleaning and Decorating the Church for Christmas

This year, as Christmas Day falls on a Monday, we have limited time in which to decorate the Church for Christmas (essentially about 2 hours between the Polish Mass finishing on Sunday 24th and the Vigil Mass starting at 5pm).

We would be grateful if people could help on Sunday 17th December (after 10.30 Mass) to put up the three trees in the Louis Suite.

Monday 18th December (and during the following week), cleaning the Church and Louis Suite (The Louis Suite will be used for holiday club on 20th but the Church will be open).

Sunday 24th December from 2.30 pm moving the trees to the Church, flowers etc to altars.

**All and any help will be very welcome.**

#### The Holy Family Statue

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.

**Caritas—Holiday Club** 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](mailto:vmayuto@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**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. 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.

**Christmas Hamper Raffle**— you can still buy tickets £1 per strip of 5. There are three separate raffles—bottles, luxury goods and beauty! The draw will take place next Sunday 17th December after the 10.30 Mass.

**Growing in Faith**—thank you to Fr Benjamin for his inspirational talk on Advent. This series of talks will continue in the New Year at dates to be arranged.

# THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY



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

Sun 10 Dec	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	Anna Weronika & Marta Isabella Glebika People of the Parish
Mon 11 Dec	of the 2nd week of Advent	7.30 pm (OF)	Erna Manzanades Acabado (RIP)
Tues 12 Dec	of the 2nd week of Advent	9.15 am (OF)	Anna & Beau Yankah & Family
Thurs 14 Dec	of the 2nd week of Advent	7.30 pm (EF)	Conversion—James T
Fri 15 Dec	of the 2nd week of Advent <b>Carols by Candlelight</b>	9.15 am (OF) 7pm	Joseph Hoi Tran (RIP)
Sat 16 Dec	<b>Rorate Mass</b> Vigil Mass	<b>6.00</b> am (EF) 6.30 pm (OF)	Maria Le Thi An (RIP) Blaise Shannon (RIP)
Sun 17 Dec	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	John Comerford (Int) People of the Parish

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

<p><b>Confessions (when there is Mass)</b>                  Saturday: 5.30—6.20 pm                  Monday &amp; Thursday: 6.45—7.20 pm                  Tuesday &amp; Friday: 8.30—9.10 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Eucharistic Adoration</b>                  Thursday 8.00 pm to Saturday 6.00 pm</p> <p><b>Rosary, Vespers &amp; Benediction for Vocations</b>                  Sunday: 4.00 pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Groups/Activities</b> in the Louis Suite</p> <p><b>Sewing Group</b> Tuesdays at 10.30am  <b>Gardening Club</b> Tuesdays 1pm-3pm  <b>Mother's Prayers</b> Wednesdays at 2.00 pm</p> <p><b>Lunch Group</b> Fridays, fortnightly at 12.00 noon:  <b>NEXT LUNCH:</b> In the new year—date tbc</p> <p><b>Youth Group</b> 1st Saturdays 3-6pm  <b>Catholic Men's Group</b> 1st Saturdays at 7:30 pm</p>
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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<p><i>December</i></p> <p>11th School Carol Service 5pm                  15th Carols by Candlelight 7pm                  16th Rorate Mass (followed by Bacon Butties) 6am                  17th Bambini Blessing after Mass                  20th Caritas Holiday Club</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Christmas Masses</b></p> <p><b>24th</b> 5.00pm Vigil Mass  <b>24th</b> 11.30pm Office of Readings &amp; Christmas Proclamation                  Midnight—Mass during the Night  <b>25th</b> 9.00am Sung Mass (EF—Latin)  <b>25th</b> 10.30am Sung Mass (OF—English)  <b>25th</b> 12 noon Holy Mass (Polish)  <b>25th</b> 1.30pm Holy Mass (Polish)</p>
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### The Holy Family Catholic Church

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<b>CDP Holy Family Southampton SORT CODE: 30 93 04 ACCOUNT NO: 00887898</b>		
<b>November Parish Income from (4 Sundays)</b>	<b>First Collections:</b>	<b>£ 1712.33</b>
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