



PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Millbrook

Saturday Vigil 10th March 2024

First reading

2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23

God's wrath and mercy are revealed in the exile and release of his people

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 136(137):1-6

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:4-10

You have been saved through grace

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

Gospel

John 3:14-21

God sent His Son so that through Him the world might be saved

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

First reading**Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13****David is anointed by Samuel**

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him: God does not see as man sees: man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm**Psalm 22(23)****The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.****Second reading****Ephesians 5:8-14****Anything exposed by the light will turn into light**

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel**John 9:1,6-9,13-17,34-38****The blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored**

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe,' and worshipped him.



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

Please pray for Trinh, Hough, Katherine, Naomi, and Luke as they continue 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. This Sunday is the second of three Sunday's in which they will undertake Scrutinies to help them in their preparations. Prayers are offered asking God to strengthen and protect them from all temptation and deceit.

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 chocolatey 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.

Sunday 10th March Second Collection—Clergy Assistance Fund.

The Clergy Assistance Fund contributes to the work of the Department for Clergy Team, responsible for looking after the welfare, ongoing formation and personal support of our clergy, such as the provision of spiritual direction, counselling, appraisal, ongoing formation and practical advice. The team organises retreats, ministerial formation days, courses and sabbaticals. It looks after the junior clergy, the overseas clergy and especially the retired clergy.

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 10 Mar	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	Pauline Wood (RIP) People of the Parish
Mon 11 Mar	of the fourth week of Lent	7.30 pm (OF)	Emmanuel (Int)
Tues 12 Mar	of the fourth week of Lent	9.15 am (OF)	Sara (Int)
Thurs 14 Mar	of the fourth week of Lent	7.30 pm (EF)	John Aburn (Int)
Fri 15 Mar	of the fourth week of Lent	9.15 am (OF)	Sam Daniel
Sat 16 Mar	of the fourth week of Lent Vigil	9.15 am (OF) 6.30 pm (OF)	John Sam People of the Parish
Sun 17 Mar	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	Patrick Porter (Birthday/Anniv) Charles, Sarah, Sven (Int)

Please hand Mass intentions to Fr Benjamin, to Catherine, or place in the collection basket. We are currently booking Masses for **May (very few left in 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</p> <p>Gardening Club -</p> <p>Mother's Prayers Wednesdays at 2.00 pm</p> <p>'Warm Space' Group Thursdays 10am until 12.00 noon</p> <p>Lunch Group Fridays, fortnightly at 12.00 noon: NEXT LUNCH: 22 March</p> <p>Youth Group 1st Saturdays 3-6pm</p> <p>Catholic Men's Group 1st Saturdays at 7:30 pm</p>
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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<p>March</p> <p>10th Laetare/Mothering Sunday 24th Palm Sunday 30th Children's Stations of the Cross 31st Easter Sunday</p>	<p>April</p> <p>7th Divine Mercy Sunday 7th Egg Hunt and children's activities</p>
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THE CHURCH WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 9AM UNTIL 6PM EACH DAY

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