



# PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Millbrook

## Fr Benjamin writes ...

I am one of those people who has vivid dreams. I also have a recurring dream which usually occurs when I am feeling unsure about something, and it always unfolds in the same way: I am aware I have an important exam coming up and I know I have not studied for it in any way. It comes to the moment of the exam and then I wake up with great relief that, God willing, my days of having to take exams are over. It's strange because I was usually quite thorough and efficient in preparing for any form of test. To go into the examination hall 'cold' would be an anathema to me. Perhaps I have a subconscious awareness that another exam is indeed to take place, but at a time that I cannot know.

When Our Blessed Lord speaks of the ten virgins, five of whom had oil for their lamps, and five who did not, He is speaking to us about our preparedness for when He comes again at the End Times and for our final exam. We have no idea of the timings of this event, but that does not mean we can be lax in making sure our lamps are fuelled and ready to shine.

No one knows precisely what the oils or the lamps represent, and that is partly the beauty of the parable where it offers such wide interpretation and deep contemplation. Certainly, a lamp could not be lit without oil; in other words, there could be no light without fuel. I think we can say that the oil represents our love, and the lamps the light which that love brings into the world. Do we keep our oil supplies well stocked? Do we go to the source of that supply – God Who is Love – in order to remain filled with it through prayer and the invocation of the Holy Spirit? Or do we forget to go to God, and so begin to run empty? Without love, and a life of love in action, there can be no light in the world. When the Lord comes, will He find the world alight and ready to receive Him?

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

### **November is the Month of the Holy Souls**

Please take the opportunity to attend an extra Mass each week, spend time with Our Blessed Lord, fast and pray for the suffering souls in purgatory.

7-Day Memorial Candles will burn in front of the St Joseph Altar throughout November as a opportunity for everyone to pray for your loved ones.

**Wisdom is found by those who look for her**

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim. By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her. Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates. Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you. She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

**Responsorial Psalm****For you my soul is thirsting., O God, my God****Second reading****Do not grieve about those who have died in Jesus**

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them; to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

**Gospel****The wise and foolish virgins**

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

# HOLY FAMILY, SOUTHAMPTON

## Parish Notices

### November—Month of the Holy Souls

7-Day Memorial Candles are now available in the repository in the Louis Suite, and in the Office at £5. The candles will burn in front of the St Joseph Altar throughout November as a opportunity for everyone to pray for your loved ones. The candles have been spread out so as to comply with many Health and Safety rules—please resist the temptation to add any to the gaps!

### Adoration

Many graces flow upon our Parish from the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. We are still praying for additional people to spend time in adoration especially on Fridays between 11am and 1pm.

### Rosary, Vespers and Benediction

Will resume in the usual format at 4pm on Sunday. Enormous thanks to David for leading Rosary and Vespers last weekend.

### Growing in Faith

Many thanks to Dr Dudley Plunkett who gave a fascinating talk on the English Martyrs, brave and faithful saints, and their amazing witness in a terrible time of persecution and injustice. It has sown the desire to go on pilgrimage locally to learn more about these exceptional saints. We look forward to Fr Benjamin's Advent talk on Monday December the 4<sup>th</sup> – please do come along.

### Social and Fundraising

We are very grateful for the generous donations already received towards the repairs to the Church roof and upgrades to the heating systems in the Church and Hall. Upcoming fundraisers are:

**Christmas Table Top Sale on Saturday 25th November** in the Parish Hall (11am—3pm).

Tables can still be booked for £20 for you to sell your crafts, gifts and wares. The table fee goes to Parish funds; any funds you raise are yours to keep!

We are very grateful for the many donations already received and would be grateful for anyone who is able to help with selling on the day! If you would like to book, help with another table or advertise on your social media please contact the office 02380 778203 or [office@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk](mailto:office@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk)

**Christmas Hamper Raffle** tickets £1 per strip of 5 are now on sale. Draw to take place on Gaudete Sunday.

**Christmas Luncheon Saturday 9th December**—Siobhan and her Team will be cooking up a 5 course Christmas feast. Tickets are now on sale £10 for adults.

Will you watch with me



one hour ?

# THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY



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

Sun 12 Nov	<b>THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	Paul Lightfoot (RIP) Bernard (RIP) and Sheryl
Mon 13 Nov	<b>Feria</b>	7.30 pm (OF)	Phero le Van Vong & Maria Nguyen Thi Suu
Tues 14 Nov	<b>Feria</b>	9.15 am (OF)	Monthu Lobo RIP
Thurs 16 Nov	<b>ST EDMUND OF ABINGDON</b>	7.30 pm (EF)	Conversion—James T
Fri 17 Nov	<b>Feria</b>	10.45 am (OF)	Stephen Fletcher (RIP)
Sat 18 Nov	<b>Feria</b>	9.15 am (OF) 6.30 pm (OF)	Marion Patient (RIP) Thanksgiving
Sun 19 Nov	<b>THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	Dorothy Rogerson (RIP) People of the Parish

<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><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><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: FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER</b></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>November</i></p> <p>11th Youth Group                  25th Christmas Table Top Fete</p>	<p><i>December</i></p> <p>4th Growing in Faith Talk—Advent                  8th Immaculate Conception (Mulled Wine &amp; Mince Pies)                  9th Parish Christmas Luncheon                  11th School Carol Service                  15th Carols by Candlelight                  16th Rorate Mass (followed by Bacon Butties)                  17th Bambini Blessing                  20th Caritas Holiday Club</p>
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### The Holy Family Catholic Church

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**Parish Administrator**  
**Safeguarding**  
**Lead Catechist**  
**Youth & Confirmation**  
**Marriage & Family Life**

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 Dcn Tom Jose  
 Catherine Merrifield  
 Catherine Merrifield  
 Angela Wood  
 Ben Nichols  
 Aba Shields

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