



## PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Millbrook

Fr Benjamin writes ...

It's when you no longer have something that you miss it. We've currently lost the door latch to the front of the church, meaning the front door keeps swinging and slamming. I miss the latch. I keep on misplacing things in the kitchen, like the colander that was the perfect size for the cupboard. I wish I still had it. Don't mistake me, as I do not obsess over these little things, since I never gave them a second thought when they were there. It's just now I note their absence and my true appreciation for them.

Recently, I was in more-or-less in the middle-of nowhere, in a tiny hamlet. All there was were cottages and cows. It would take an age to walk to the nearest church, which would inevitably be locked, and so I missed – truly and deeply – being able to go and kneel before Our Blessed Lord in the Tabernacle. When I returned home, the first place I went to was the sanctuary to visit Him, pray to Him and enjoy His Presence. It was like being refreshed by ice cold water on the hottest of days, coming home after a long trip away, or seeing a long-lost friend. It was relief, comfort, and in a word, blessedness.

Yes, we are truly blessed to be able to visit Our Blessed Lord, present among us in His Tabernacle – and for forty-eight per week house exposed upon His Altar – and simply be with Him. We can do this every day. When I could not do this, I missed Him terribly in that very real way of His being with us.

Please, I ask you, never to take this holy gift for granted. If you are passing by, come into the Church and visit Our Blessed Lord who dwells in the light of the red candle. He is waiting, He is Present, He is there.

Simon Peter once asked Him a beautiful question: "Lord, to Whom shall we go to?". He then answered His own enquiry: "You have the message of eternal life." (Jn 6:68). In any situation, and at any moment, it is always the right thing to turn to God. There is also the greatest gift, which is His Presence in the Tabernacle, to which we are all welcome to turn to and be with. He calls, He waits. He is there. Go to Him.

**God bless you this Sunday and always**

### *Prayer for Vocations*

*Priest: Let us pray to God to give worthy priests and religious to His Holy Church*

*Priest and People: O Lord Jesus Christ, Who hast chosen the Apostles and their successors the Bishops and Priests of the Catholic Church to preach the true Faith throughout the whole world, we earnestly beseech Thee to choose from among us in this parish, priests and religious brothers and sisters who will gladly spend their entire lives to make Thee better known and loved. Amen*

### **August is the Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary**

In this beautiful month dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary please pray for the salvation of souls; for those who are sick and those who care for them; and for the Holy Catholic Church.

Please pray an extra Rosary each day for our priests and seminarians and for vocations.

**Adoration** (Thursday evening until Saturday evening);  
outdoor **Rosary** Monday 9am, Tuesday 10am

**We will serve the Lord, for he is our God**

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people, 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed? What is more, the Lord drove all those peoples out before us, as well as the Amorites who used to live in this country. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

**Responsorial Psalm****Psalm 33(34):2-3, 16-23****Taste and see that the Lord is good****Second reading****Ephesians 5:21-32****Christ loves the Church, because it is his body**

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.


**Gospel****John 6:60-69****Who shall we go to? You are the Holy One of God**

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.'

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'



## HOLY FAMILY, SOUTHAMPTON

### Parish Notices

#### **Catechists Retreat Day—Saturday 14th September**

A day of retreat will be held here at Holy Family for those who would like to help with Faith formation, supporting those who would like to learn more about their Faith. Please contact Angela [ministry@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk](mailto:ministry@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk) for more information.

#### **Adoration during the Summer Holidays**

Some of the Faithful Adorers of Our Blessed Lord will be taking short holidays during the summer. Our Parish receives many graces from the time spend in Adoration. If you are able to spend one hour with Our Blessed Lord at any of these times please contact the office or Angela [ministry@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk](mailto:ministry@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk) or sign up at the back of the Church.

Friday 30th August 5-6pm (early evening)

Friday 30th August 11-12pm (Friday night)

#### **PARISH BARBECUE— SATURDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER**

The Parish barbecue will be held on Saturday 7th September at 2pm following an EF Mass at 1pm to celebrate the Anniversary of Fr Benjamin's ordination to the sacred priesthood. Tickets are available in the Louis Suite and from the office. Please list your name at the back of the Church to give an idea of numbers. Many thanks

#### **LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH—Saturday 31st AUGUST SOCIAL**

**BRING A PLATE OF FOOD TO SHARE**

Louis Suite after 6.30pm Mass

All are welcome to share some food and catch up on the latest news in the Parish

#### **PREPARATION FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024-2025**

We now welcome families with children in year 4 or above to register online for next year's preparation [SOUHF Initial Enquiry Form First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion \(office.com\)](https://www.holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk/initial-enquiry-form-first-reconciliation-first-holy-communion)

**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**

25 Aug	<b>TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	9.00 am (OF) 10.30 am (OF)	Anna Rooney (RIP) People of the Parish
26 Aug	<b>**NO EVENING MASS TODAY**</b>		
27 Aug	<b>St Monica</b>	9.15 am (OF)	Louisa Gonzales (RIP)
29 Aug	<b>The Beheading of St John the Baptist</b>	7.30 pm (EF)	John Smith (RIP)
30 Aug	<b>Sts Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line &amp; Margaret Ward</b>	9.15 am (OF)	Peter The Van Le Peter Vinh Van Le
31 Aug	<b>Our Lady on Saturday Vigil</b>	9.15 am (OF) 6.30 pm (OF)	Rebekah Shields (int) People of the Parish
1 Sep	<b>TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	Hazel Friend-Pereira (RIP) Luke Blishen (birthday)

Please hand Mass intentions to Fr Benjamin, to Catherine, or place in the collection basket. We are currently booking Mass intentions for **September** (EF Masses for **November**) Thank you.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

August	September
31st Bring and Share Social 7.30pm	7th Fr Benjamin's Anniversary Mass (EF)(1pm) 7th PARISH BARBECUE (2pm) 7th March for Life—London 14th Catechists Retreat Day 14th Adoremus 14th Sr Lucy Final Profession

**THE CHURCH WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 9AM UNTIL 7PM EACH DAY**

Confessions (when there is Mass)	Groups/Activities in the Louis Suite
Saturday: 5.30—6.20 pm	<b>Outdoor Rosary</b> —Mondays at 9am; Tuesdays 10am
Monday & Thursday: 6.45—7.20 pm	<b>Sewing Group</b> - Tuesdays at 10.00am
Tuesday & Friday: 8.30—9.10 am	<b>Gardening Club</b> - Tuesdays 10am until 12 noon
<b>Eucharistic Adoration</b>	<b>Mother's Prayers</b> Wednesdays at 2.00 pm
Thursday 8.00 pm to Saturday 6.00 pm	<b>Lunch Group</b> Fridays, fortnightly at 12.00 noon:
<b>Rosary, Vespers &amp; Benediction for Vocations</b>	<b>NEXT LUNCH: TBC</b>
Sunday: 4.00 pm	<b>Youth Group</b> 1st Saturdays 3.00-6.00 pm
	<b>Catholic Men's Group</b> 1st Saturdays at 7:30 pm
	<b>Bring a Plate to Share Social</b> Last Saturdays at 7.30pm

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<b>Youth &amp; Confirmation</b>	Ben Nichols	youth@holymfamilysouthampton.org.uk

Grateful thanks for your generosity in June  
Loose plate: £2257.38 Gift Aid:£1343 Standing orders: £1637