



## PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Millbrook

### Fr Benjamin writes ...

I have not sat an exam for over ten years. I sincerely hope I will not have to sit another one again, at least, not in this life. God willing, my next exam will be the Last Judgment, and how I do will all depend upon how I prepare for it. A character in my favourite novel by Morris West, *The Shoes of the Fisherman* is a fastidious priest who nonetheless imparts a pearl of wisdom, saying that time is the currency of salvation.

We can waste so much time. But what is the waste? Nothing less than the preparation for that final exam, nothing less than our salvation. "Watch yourselves", Our Blessed Lord warns us, "or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life". He is telling us not to waste time on things that will never help us, and will never be able to give us what we desire, which is the happiness of our liberation in God.

It may not be that we waste time with drink and debauchery, but certainly with the cares of life. How much time, I ask myself, have I spent ranting and raving when things don't go my way? How many times have I stewed in my negative feelings about people, when all the time I could have been praying for them and preparing my soul?

This may all sound a little over-dramatic, but that is the point of Our Blessed Lord's sobering words: we need to be on the watch, watching ourselves in what we do and how we spend the currency of our salvation, which is, literally, the time of our lives. It needs to be spent not in selfishness but service, not in lust but love, not in hubris but humility, not coarsened but purified. Then, and with God's help only then, will we be prepared for that final exam, and fulfil the desire we sing in the Responsorial psalm, "To You, O lord, I lift up my soul". With such preparation as this Our Blessed Lord's Coming— His Second Advent – will not be something to fear, but an event to look forward to and desire, a time "to stand with confidence before the Son of Man".

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

### **December is the Month of the Immaculate Conception**

Please 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. At this time please particularly pray for expectant mothers and for the sanctity of human life to be upheld throughout the world.

Please pray each day for our priests and seminarians and for vocations.

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

**Rosary, Vespers and Benediction** (Sundays 4pm)

outdoor **Rosary** Monday 9am, Tuesday 10am

**Stations of the Cross** (the Church is open from 9am until 6pm daily)

**First reading****Jeremiah 33:14-16****‘I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David.’**

Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’

**Responsorial Psalm****Psalm 25(24):4-5b. 8-9. 10, 14.R1b****To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul****Second reading****1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2****‘May the Lord establish your hearts for the coming of Christ.’**

Brothers and sisters: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.


Finally, then, brothers and sisters, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

**Gospel****Luke 21:25-28, 34-36****‘Your redemption is drawing near.’**

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

‘But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

**\*\*\*****SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK****Christmas Flowers****\*\*\*****ADVENT CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT****THIS TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER 6PM****Bring your family, friends and best singing voices!****Mulled wine, mince pies, and maybe other things, afterwards in the Louis Suite**



## HOLY FAMILY, SOUTHAMPTON

### Parish Notices

#### Condolences

**Fr Michael Cronin (RIP)** Funeral will be held on **Wednesday 4th December** at 11am at St Vincent de Paul.

**John Comerford (RIP)** Solemn Requiem will be held on **Friday 13th December** at 1pm at St Patrick's, Woolston, with kind permission from Fr Ross Bullock.

**May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in peace.**

#### Pre-Christmas Luncheon

This year's pre-Christmas Lunch will be held **THIS SATURDAY 7th December**. We are pleased to keep prices to **£10 per person** to enable as many people as possible to attend. Tickets are available from the Louis Suite after Mass or from the office.

#### A Priesthood Discernment Group

Seminarian Ryan Hawkes is running this group at St Edmund's Church, The Avenue on alternate Saturday evenings for men aged 18-35 who are discerning a call to the Catholic priesthood. Contact Ryan for more information: [rhawkes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:rhawkes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

#### CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

Tickets available £1 per strip or 6 for £5 (bargain!) after all Masses or from the office during the week. Please support this fundraiser towards the carpark and new sound system. The raffle will be drawn after 10.30am Mass on the 4th Sunday of Advent.

#### O Come Let Us Adore Him

Would you spend a peaceful hour in the arms of Our Blessed Lord? We are blessed to have continual Adoration from 9pm Thursdays until 6pm on Saturdays. We currently need Adorers for

Fridays 11am-12 noon

Friday 4pm-5pm

Saturdays 12 noon -1pm

Saturdays 2pm -3pm

**"Could you not watch one hour with Me?" (Matthew 26:40)**

#### Stella Maris—Christmas Chocolate Appeal

Please bring your chocolate gifts for our seafarers to the office or leave in the Louis Suite at weekends so we can ensure our seafarers know they are not forgotten this Christmas. We are also very happy to receive woolly hats if you have been knitting them! Thank you

**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**

1 Dec (Sun)	<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	9.00am (EF) 10.30am (OF)	Michael Rogerson (RIP) Danny McDermott (RIP)(Anniv)
2 Dec (Mon)	of the First week of Advent	7.30pm (OF)	Alice Onoja (RIP)
3 Dec (Tues)	St Francis Xavier <b>ADVENT CAROL SERVICE</b>	9.15am (OF) 6.00pm	Shula, Mike, Tokunbo, Chizoba & Gerald (RIP)
5 Dec (Thurs)	St Birinus	7.30pm (EF)	Helen Officer (int)
6 Dec (Fri)	St Nicholas	9.15 am (OF)	Alfred Spiteri (RIP)
7 Dec (Sat)	<b>St Ambrose Vigil</b>	9.15 am (OF) 6.30 pm (OF)	Siobhan, Mick and families People of the Parish
8 Dec (Sun)	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	9.00 am (EF) 10.30am (OF)	Philippa Taylor (Int) David Shields (birthday int)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<p><b>December</b>  <b>3rd Advent Carol Service 6pm</b>                  7th Christmas Luncheon 1pm                  7th Youth Group 3pm                  8th Immaculate Conception                  14th Rorate Mass 6am (followed by breakfast)                  15th Bambini Blessing                  24th Vigil Mass 4.30pm                  24th Christmas Proclamation 11.30pm</p>	<p><b>December</b>                  Midnight—Mass during the Night                  25th Sung Mass (EF—Latin) 9am                  25th Sung Mass (OF—English) 10.30am                  25th Holy Mass (Polish) 12.30pm                  25th Holy Mass (Polish) 2.30pm                  26th Holy Mass (OF English) 10am                  26th Holy Mass (Polish) 12 noon.</p>
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<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 in the Louis Suite</b>  <b>Outdoor Rosary</b>—Mondays at 9am; Tuesdays 10am  <b>Sewing Group</b> - Tuesdays at 10.00am  <b>Gardening Club</b> - Tuesdays 10am until 12 noon  <b>Mother's Prayers</b> Wednesdays at 2.00 pm  <b>Lunch Group</b> Fridays, fortnightly at 12.00 noon:  <b>NEXT LUNCH: 13th December</b>  <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</p>
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**The Holy Family Catholic Church**  
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<b>Parish Priest</b>	Fr Benjamin Theobald	<a href="mailto:btheobald@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk">btheobald@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Deacon</b>	Dcn Tom Jose	<a href="mailto:tjose@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk">tjose@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</a>
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Grateful thanks for your generosity in August

Loose plate: £1150.16 Gift Aid:£781.01 Standing orders: £1466.66

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