



## PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Millbrook

Fr Benjamin writes ...

You may wonder why, when we hear the Gospels translated into all the languages of the world we maintain some original words from Our Blessed Lord's mother tongue of Aramaic. We encounter one such word today, impossible to pronounce, but nonetheless hugely significant: *ephphatha*. Literally, it means, "be opened". When the evangelist uses the Lord's own word in His own language it is because he is emphasizing the extra attention we should pay it, and it is also likely that it is a personal memory of someone who witnessed the event.

"Be opened" – Our Blessed Lord said this to "a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech" in the Decapolis region, which was predominately not Jewish, but pagan. The Lord not only opens the man's ears so that he can hear and speak, He also opens him to the reality of God. The man had probably heard little or nothing of God, not because he was deaf, but because of where he was from. He would not have heard the Scriptures because he would not have been brought up to do so; he would not have engaged with God in prayer, because he would never have known the God to whom he could speak.

It is for this reason that the *Ephphatha* prayer is used in the Baptismal liturgy, where the newly baptised have their ears blessed to hear the Word of God and their mouth is then blessed, so that they may proclaim that Word. Through Baptism, and through living their whole life in the ambit of the Church, they have been opened to the great possibilities of God: to hear Him and to proclaim what they hear.

It is a great privilege to hear God's Word, especially when it is proclaimed at the Holy Mass, and to hear it in the knowledge that it is God speaking directly to each one of us. He wills for that word to be echoed in our own speech and way of living, so that others may find an opening through us to this Divine and saving communication. This word, *Ephphatha*, was so etched on the memory of one who heard the Lord speak it that it has been spoken and echoed through the millennia. It is for us to be opened to the Lord's Word, have it etched into our mind and echoed through our lives.

**God bless you this Sunday and always**

### September is dedicated to the Seven Sorrows of Our Blessed Lady

The Devotion of the Seven Sorrows recalls seven events in Our Blessed Lady's life when she experience great sorrow. We unite ourselves with both the Passion of Christ and sufferings of His holy Mother. 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.

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 7pm daily)

**The blind shall see, the deaf hear, the dumb sing for joy**

Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

**Responsorial Psalm****Psalm 145(146):7-10****My soul, give praise to the Lord****Second reading****James 2:1-5****God chose the poor according to the world to be rich in faith**

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.


**Gospel****Mark 7:31-37****'He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak'**

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

**\*\*\*SECOND COLLECTIONS \*\*\***

Second Collection this Sunday 8th September for the Catholic Education Service:  
[Catholic Education Service Second Collection 2024 | Give as you Live Donate](#)

Second Collection 15th September is for Home Missions:  
[Home Mission Sunday Second Collection | Give as you Live Donate](#)



# HOLY FAMILY, SOUTHAMPTON

## Parish Notices

### GIFT AID

If you pay UK tax and complete a Gift Aid Declaration form, the Parish can claim back from the Government the tax that you have already paid on your donation. This gives the Parish an extra 25p for each £1 you give. It all adds up and puts to good use some of the taxes we pay. Please complete a Gift Aid form from the back of the Church and return it to the office or sacristy. Any questions please ask.

### Catechists Retreat Day—Next Saturday (14th September)

We are in urgent need of people willing to assist with Faith formation. A day of retreat will be held here at Holy Family for those who may like to help with preparation for Baptism, First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion; Confirmation, and RCIA to support those who would like to learn more about their Faith.

To find out more please contact Angela [ministry@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk](mailto:ministry@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk)

### YOUTH GROUP—SATURDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 3-6PM AND THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

Those aged 11-18 are very welcome to join this group of young people who meet under the guidance of the Dominican Sisters and our own Youth Catechists here at Holy Family.

### A Mother's Retreat Day

*Catholic Mothers* exists to connect, inspire, and equip women in the vocation of motherhood. We look forward to welcoming you to Ashurst for a day of prayer and community, 9.30am-4pm, 28th September 2024 at St Joseph's House of Prayer, 8 Lyndhurst Road, Ashurst, SO40 7DU.

9.30: Adoration, Confessions / 10.30: Mass / 11.15: Tea break / 12.00: Talk - 'Families become what you are' Fr Tom Kleinschmidt, OVM / 1.00: Bring and Share Lunch / 2.15: Talk - 'Motherhood & Eternity' Liz Darlison / 3.30: Rosary.

Please bring: A contribution towards the shared lunch & £20 contribution to cover costs. Babes in arms are very welcome! Please register at: <https://forms.gle/HdoLuu7dvGyPGbf6> For more information contact [catholicmotherssoton@gmail.com](mailto:catholicmotherssoton@gmail.com)

### Stressed?

Relax in the presence of Our Blessed Lord, bathe in His Love  
11-12 am Saturday mornings  
2-3 pm Saturday afternoons

The Parish is seeking regular Adorers of Our Blessed Lord  
Please contact [ministry@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk](mailto:ministry@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk)

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**

8 Sept (Sun)	<b>TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	Jill Fleat (RIP) People of the Parish
9 Sept (Mon)	<b>St Peter Claver</b>	7.30 pm (OF)	Andrew & Amanda Wood Family (Int)
10 Sept (Tues)	<b>Feria</b>	9.15 am (OF)	Pamela & Michael Humphrey
12 Sept (Thurs)	<b>The Most Holy Name of Mary</b>	7.30 pm (EF)	Elsie Harrold (RIP)
13 Sept (Fri)	<b>St John Chrysostom</b>	9.15 am (OF)	Nichols Family (Int)
14 Sept (Sat)	<b>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Vigil</b>	<b>9.00 am (OF)</b> 6.30 pm (OF)	Joseph Hoi Tran Kelly Avery (RIP)(Anniv)
15 Sept (Sun)	<b>TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	Claire & Tadhg Keating (Int) People of the Parish

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

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>September</b>	<b>September</b>
7th Fr Benjamin's Anniversary Mass (EF)(1pm)	14th Catechists Retreat Day
7th PARISH BARBECUE (2pm)	14th Adoremus
7th Youth Group 3-6pm	14th Sr Lucy Final Profession
7th March for Life—London	

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

<p><b>Confessions (when there is Mass)</b></p> <p>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></p> <p>Thursday 8.00 pm to Saturday 6.00 pm</p> <p><b>Rosary, Vespers &amp; Benediction for Vocations</b></p> <p>Sunday: 4.00 pm</p>	<p><b>Groups/Activities in the Louis Suite</b></p> <p><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: TBC</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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<b>Safeguarding</b>	Catherine Merrifield	safeguarding@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk
<b>Lead Catechist</b>	Angela Wood	ministry@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk
<b>Youth &amp; Confirmation</b>	Ben Nichols	youth@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk

Grateful thanks for your generosity in July

Loose plate: £1603.75 Gift Aid:£1040 Standing orders: £1291.66

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