



# PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Millbrook

## Fr Benjamin writes ...

One of the greatest privileges of being a Priest is to have the Blessed Sacrament in a little chapel in the house. In a very real way, the Priest shares a home with Jesus Christ. To be more precise, it is the Priest who shares Christ's home. Every morning the first thing I do is walk to the chapel and kneel before Him. It is a wonderful way of saying 'Good morning'. Last thing at night too, I make sure all is well in the chapel, the sanctuary lamp is lit, and I pray for a quiet and safe night. There are many visits in-between. To share the house with Our Blessed Lord is a huge blessing, and one I would never wish to be without.

Nevertheless, the chapel will be empty next week as the Lord and I go on retreat together. Once a year, a Priest should take one week in quiet contemplation with the Lord. This is an entirely appropriate time of year in which to go on retreat, this First Sunday of Lent, hearing as we do that the Lord Himself retreats into the wilderness for forty days and forty nights. He lived with His heavenly Father in such a concentrated way that it defined Him. This is what should define us, too. This is where we should be most at home, in the presence of God.

Retreats are one way to do this, but there are other ways, such as a commitment to daily prayer; a resolution that a certain period of time will be, come-what-may, spent living in the presence of God. It could be spent reading a passage from the holy gospels or having a prayer corner in the most used room in the house (don't forget to book your week with the statue of the Holy Family if you haven't already done so). The point is to create space and time for God, living with Him so that He may live with you, in your home and in your heart.

## God bless you all this Sunday, and always

"We always find that those who walked closest to Christ were those who had to bear the greatest trials"

St Teresa of Avila



## Divine Mercy Chaplet, Vespers and Benediction for Vocations 4pm Sunday

This Lent please join us to offer thanksgiving for our priests and seminarians and to pray for many more young men to listen to God's call to the priesthood.

**First reading****Genesis 9:8-15****'There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again'**

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

**Responsorial Psalm****Psalm 24(25):4-6,7b-9****Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep Your covenant****Second reading****1 Peter 3:18-22****The water on which the Ark floated is a type of the baptism which saves you now**

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

**Gospel****Mark 1:12-15****Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him**

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'



## HOLY FAMILY, SOUTHAMPTON

### Parish Notices

#### Fanning the Flame

**Saturday 2nd March 2024 10.00am until 5.30pm**

**There's never anything for youngsters?**

Young people between the ages of 14 and 21 are invited to spend a day exploring the current ethical issues we encounter in our lives, armed with the knowledge that our dignity comes from Christ. This is an opportunity to discover the beautiful and positive response the Church has to the many problems society faces.

There will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions and to get help in talking to others about tricky topics!

For information, and to book, please go to [www.FanningtheFlame.co.uk](http://www.FanningtheFlame.co.uk)

Price £10. Please bring your own packed lunch—other refreshments will be provided.

#### 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.

#### RCIA

On Saturday 17th February those preparing to be received into the Church or be Confirmed in Faith attended the Cathedral for the Rite of Election. Please continue to pray for Huong, Luke, Naomi, Katherine, Trinh and Lorenzo who will be received into the Church this Easter.

#### CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILL

**Please, please, 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. The important details to complete are 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.

#### Planned Giving and Gift Aid

"Planned Giving" helps the Parish to manage finances by knowing roughly how much income we will receive each month, to cover expenses such as electricity, gas and maintenance. Planned giving can be by means of regular offerings using numbered envelopes or by Direct Debit.

"Gift Aid" allows the Parish to reclaim from the Government tax which you have already paid (that is 25 pence for every £1 you give to the Church). To claim Gift Aid we must be able to show that the taxpayer authorises us to do so. If you pay UK tax and are willing to Gift Aid, please complete a Gift Aid Declaration form. The office will be contacting by email those who have previously signed GADs but for whom we do not have an updated Gift Aid form. Obviously Gift Aid can make a considerable difference to Parish income without costing parishioners any extra.

# THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY



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

Sun 18 Feb	<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	Anthony Cecil wood (RIP) Ben & Gemma Nichols & family (Int)
Mon 19 Feb	<b>of the first week of Lent</b>	7.30 pm (OF)	Amanda Waldren (RIP)
Tues 20 Feb	<b>of the first week of Lent</b>	9.15 am (OF)	Monika Majewska (Int)
Thurs 22 Feb	<b>of the first week of Lent</b>	7.30 pm (EF)	Joel Nichols (thanksgiving— birthday)
Fri 23 Feb	<b>NO MASS TODAY—ADORATION</b>	<b>ALL DAY</b>	
Sat 24 Feb	<b>NO MORNING MASS—ADORATION VIGIL</b>	<b>ALL DAY</b> 6.30 pm (OF)	People of the Parish
Sun 25 Feb	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF)	Marie-Therese L'Enfant Catherine Mercer (RIP)

**Please hand Mass intentions to Fr Benjamin, to Catherine, or place in the collection basket. We are currently booking Masses for April—please give plenty of notice if you would like specific dates for Masses. Thank you.**

<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 10.00am  <b>Gardening Club</b> -Winter Break  <b>Mother's Prayers</b> Wednesdays at 2.00 pm  <b>'Warm Space' Group</b> Thursdays 10am until 12.00 noon  <b>Lunch Group</b> Fridays, fortnightly at 12.00 noon:  <b>NEXT LUNCH: 1 March</b>  <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><b>March</b>  <b>2nd FANNING THE FLAME</b>                  10th Laetare/Mothering Sunday                  24th Palm Sunday                  31st Easter Sunday</p>
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**THE CHURCH WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 9AM UNTIL 6PM EACH DAY**

**The Holy Family Catholic Church**  
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