



PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Millbrook

Fr Benjamin writes ...

In the sanctuary of the church you will see a new statue. It depicts the Holy Family, our patrons, in close communion with one another and centred on the newborn Christ. It is there in preparation for when it will be solemnly blessed on Sunday and sent out to the homes of parishioners, who will adopt it for one week, praying before it and passing it on to the next family. Hopefully, the Holy Family Statue will visit all the families of the Parish over the next two years, as well as our school and Parish groups.

This is a prayer initiative begun at the suggestion of parishioners during house visits I have made during the last year, and it is hoped that this practice will encourage prayer and devotion to have a central role in the home and in Catholic family life. It's a wonderful way to open our homes and hearts to the Lord and very much in keeping with Advent's emphasis of preparing a way for the Lord.

St John the Baptist was sent by God as "a witness to speak for the light" (Jn 1:8). Part of our witnessing and preparing of the Lord's way should be in the home, so that the Baptist's words may be true: "There stands among you...the One Who is coming after me" (1:27). We need to take the Lord into our home lives so that He stands among us every moment, and from there take Him to every place we go. This is the setting of the straight path; this is the preparing of His way.

God bless you all this Sunday, and always

Confession Times During Advent

Fr Benjamin hears confessions on Saturdays from 5.30-6.20pm

Mondays and Thursdays from 6.45-7.20pm

Tuesdays and Fridays from 8.30-9.10am

Father will also hear confessions from 10am until 12 noon on Saturday 23rd December.

Please be prepared and receive the Sacrament during these times

—there will not be time to hear confessions on Christmas Eve.

URGENT APPEAL FOR ADORERS

We are continuing Adoration over the Christmas Period

but we urgently need cover for:

Thursday 21st after evening Mass until 11pm

Saturday 23rd 12 noon until 1pm

Saturday 30th 5pm until 6pm

Please contact Angela ministry@holyfamilysouthampton.org.uk

First reading**Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11****He has sent me to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord**

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

Responsorial Psalm**Luke 1:46-50, 53-54****My soul rejoices in my God****Second reading****1 Thessalonians 5:16-24****May you all be kept safe for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ**

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

Gospel**John 1:6-8, 19-28****'There stands among you the one coming after me'**

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.



Parish Notices

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Cleaning and Decorating the Church for Christmas—Plan B!

This year, as Christmas Day falls on a Monday, we have limited time in which to decorate the Church for Christmas (essentially about 2 hours between the Polish Mass finishing on Sunday 24th and the Vigil Mass starting at 5pm).

We would be grateful if people could help on Sunday 17th December (after 10.30 Mass) to put up the three trees. We shall decorate these in the Church after at 2.30 on Sunday 24th.

Monday 18th December (and during the following week), cleaning the Church and Louis Suite (The Louis Suite will be used for holiday club on 20th but the Church will be open).

Sunday 24th December from 2.30 pm decorating the trees, putting flowers etc to altars.

All and any help will be very welcome.

The Holy Family Statue

On recent visits to bless Parishioners' houses Fr Benjamin has been asked whether we have a statue of the Holy Family which is welcomed into the homes of parishioners in rotation, both to honour the Holy Family and to strengthen the prayerful connection between the families of our Parish. We have been given a beautiful statue of the Holy Family which Father will bless on 17th December. We would like the first family to receive the statue into their homes on the Feast of the Holy Family. A daily prayer sheet will be included with the statue. If you would welcome the Holy Family into your home for one week, please sign up on the sheet at the back of the Church or contact the office. The list will be in the office during the week so as to protect people's details.

Parish Christmas Lunch—Enormous thanks to Siobhan, Rita, Heidi, David and Sam for the enormous effort which that went into preparing and serving the fantastic pre-Christmas lunch. And apologies from Catherine for the custard!

Stella Maris—Christmas Chocolate Appeal - Many grateful thanks for your generous support for our seafarers. There is still a box in the Louis Suite to collect any last minute chocolate gifts.

Christmas Hamper Raffle— draw will take place next Sunday 17th December after the 10.30 Mass.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY



Holy Mass OF = Ordinary Form, EF = Extraordinary Form

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| Sun 17 Dec | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Gaudete) | 9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF) | John Comerford (Int) People of the Parish |
| Mon 18 Dec | of the 3rd week of Advent | 7.30 pm (OF) | “Good Medical Results” |
| Tues 19 Dec | of the 3rd week of Advent | 9.15 am (OF) | Maria Le Thi An & Maria Le Thi Buong (RIP) |
| Thurs 21 Dec | of the 3rd week of Advent | 7.30 pm (EF) | Conversion—James T |
| Fri 22 Dec | of the 3rd week of Advent | 9.15 am (OF) | Bob & Mary Harrold (RIP) |
| Sat 23 Dec | of the 3rd week of Advent Vigil Mass | 9.15 am (OF) 6.30 pm (OF) | Phero le Van Giap People of the Parish |
| Sun 24 Dec | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF) | Richard Pegg (RIP) Lola (Int) |
| Sun 24 Dec | THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Vigil Mass Office of Readings & Christmas Proclamation Mass during the Night | 5.00 pm (OF) 11.30 pm (OF) Midnight | Maria (Thanksgiving) Christine Blishen (Birthday) |
| Mon 25 Dec | THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD | 9.00 am (EF) 10.30 am (OF) 12 noon (Polish) 1.30pm (Polish) | John Friend-Pereira (RIP) Emmanuel (Conversion) |
| Tue 26 Dec | St Stephen’s Day | 9.15 (OF) 11.00 (Polish) | John Ukah (birthday) |

The Holy Family Catholic Church

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THE CHURCH WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 9AM UNTIL 6PM EACH DAY

CDP Holy Family Southampton SORT CODE: 30 93 04 ACCOUNT NO: 00887898

November Parish Income from (4 Sundays)

Thank you

First Collections: £ 1712.33
In basket Gift Aid: £ 962.01