

Our Mission: LOVE GOD - LOVE OTHERS - MAKE DISCIPLES



www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity No. 246871

Sunday Cycle: Year B
Weekday Cycle: Year 2
Psalter Week: 3

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY

Faithfulness over time is the name of love

In this weekend's Gospel the Pharisees approach Jesus and ask him: "Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?". It is a very difficult question, and we know that Jesus' answer is very tough: "What God has united, man must not divide". The explanation to the disciples is even harder: "The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too".

This Gospel, we know, is probably one of the most difficult ones. In our society in particular it is quite incomprehensible. Nowadays few couples decide to get married. And among married people the rate of divorce is very high. Most young people decide not to marry at all, and if a problem does arise they just separate.

Nevertheless, Jesus is very clear: what God has united, man cannot divide. Even inside the Church, many people think that these words of Jesus are not relevant any more. The Church should be more modern, and accept divorce, they say. But it is clear to all of us that we do not have the authority to change the Gospel. The words of Jesus are our guidance, our light in every situation and time. We just have to try to understand and live by them.

That is why, if we reflect more deeply, we realise that fidelity is not a burden, but is something to aspire to. When a true friendship starts we would like it to never end. When true love for a man or a woman begins, the thought it could finish is just unbearable. True love and fidelity are two sides of the same experience.

I had the chance to listen to Benedict XVI in 2010 in Fatima, and I was struck when during a discourse he pronounced the astonishing affirmation: "Faithfulness over time is the name of love". Since then, I have always repeated this sentence to young couples, and to me it is now clearer that without faithfulness there is no true love.

Obviously we all know that fidelity can be hard. Jesus was aware of that too. And to the disciple that said to him: "If this is the situation between a husband and a wife, it is better not to marry", Jesus replied: "Nothing is impossible to God". Jesus knows that fidelity is the most beautiful experience and at the same time the most difficult. That is why we need help! Married people cannot think that they alone will be able to be faithful. They need to pray, they need to be supported by the community, by other families, and they need to help each other.

Which are the enemies of fidelity?

The first is habit. We get used to the presence of the other person. As time passes we think that we know everything of him or her. We just stop looking at the person that is with us. Nothing new is expected any more.

The second is the incapacity to forgive. For lots of reasons, such as pride, jealousy, lack of humility, we are not able to accept the other. We see the other as an enemy and not as the one we loved.

This year we have 15 couples that will get married in our parish. We would like to think of them this weekend. Their hope for the future reminds us that a true and faithful love is what we all want.

Fr Raffaele

Parish Office: Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF

Tel: 023 8027 3882. Email: stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Office hours: Monday–Wednesday 9.30am–5pm; Thursday & Friday 9.30–2.30pm Newsletter items should be received by Wednesday 12:00 noon

Entrance Antiphon: Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

Psalm Response: May the Lord bless us all the days of our life.

**Readings for next Sunday 14th October 2018
Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Gospel: Mark 10:17-30
1st reading: Wisdom 7:7-11
Psalm: 89
2nd reading: Hebrews 4:12-13

Special Message from the Pope for the month of October

October is the month of the Rosary and the Holy Father has invited us this year to pray the Rosary every day during this entire Marian month. He wants us to join in communion and in penitence, as the people of God, in asking the Holy Mother of God and Saint Michael Archangel to protect the Church from the devil, who always seeks to separate us from God and from each other. He asks us to conclude the recitation of the Rosary with the ancient invocation *Sub Tuum Praesidium*.

The Russian mystics and the great saints of all the traditions advised, in moments of spiritual turbulence, to shelter beneath the mantle of the Holy Mother of God pronouncing this invocation. May the Holy Mother of God place the Church beneath her protective mantle. Pope Francis has also asked us after the Rosary to add the prayer to Saint Michael Archangel that he protect and help us in the struggle against evil (cf. Rev 12, 7-12). This latter prayer, written by Pope Leo XIII, is, Pope Francis, says the weapon against the Great Accuser who "goes around the world seeking to accuse".

The invocation *Sub Tuum Praesidium* is recited as follows:

*We fly to thy protection, O Holy Mother of God.
Do not despise our petitions in our necessities,
but deliver us always from all dangers,
O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.*

Prayer to Saint Michael

*Holy Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.
Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of
the devil.*

*May God rebuke him, we humbly pray;
and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts,
by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the
wicked spirits who wander through the world for the
ruin of souls. Amen.*

Rosary at Holy Cross

Every Thursday in October at 9.10am.

Second Collection

Please note there will be a second collection this weekend for CAFOD's Harvest Appeal.

CaFE - Catholic Faith Exploration

A new series of monthly meetings begins on:
Monday October 8th at 2.30pm in St Joseph's social centre;

Tuesday October 9th at 7.30pm in St Andrew's.
Please contact Sheila Keefe on 01794 518071 or
s.keefe@btopenworld.com

Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) Group

Tuesdays (10-11.30am), Holy Cross Resource Centre.
Any queries please contact Paul Wilson on
02380 616618; pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Fellowship Group - Wednesday 10th October

St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak, 7.30-9pm.
A talk by Deacon Bob Birtles on '**Mary, a woman for today**', followed by refreshments. Everyone welcome. Queries to Peter Baggott 02380 694060 or Deacon Bob Birtles.

Children's Liturgy at OLQA, Bishops Waltham

These are the Sunday dates for this term up until Christmas: **14th Oct**; 28th Oct; 11th Nov; 25th Nov; 9th Dec & 23rd Dec. Children's Liturgy is held during the 9.30am Mass - all are very welcome. **Joanna** (joannasomerville1@hotmail.com).

Journey in Faith

Is for anyone enquiring about the Catholic faith and for people intending to become a Catholic. The sessions run **every Wednesday** from 7.30pm to 9pm at St Edward the Confessor Church, Chandlers Ford. For further information please contact: Deacon Paul Owen (tel: 02380 254806) email: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

First Holy Communion Preparation

Our program for First Holy Communion starts in November, with a schedule of preparation sessions running through until June 2019. Sessions typically run at regular intervals on Tuesday evenings 6.15-7.45pm, some sessions are at St Swithun Wells Primary School in Chandler's Ford, and some at your individual churches. Registration forms will not be available in school or elsewhere this year, but must be collected from your priest at any of the weekend Masses, from Sat 15th Sept to Sunday 14th October. A full list of session dates are attached to the registration forms.

Parents and children are invited to introduce themselves to their priest as wanting to take part in the program this year, and request a form. **Completed forms must be returned to the Parish Office, along with a photocopy of your child's baptismal certificate, by Monday 15th October.** Due to limited numbers of catechists this year we may be required to limit the number of children joining the program, so please request and complete your forms as soon as possible. There will be an introductory meeting for parents in early November.

SWAG

Rehearsals will start after half term on **3rd November**. If you are in Year 4 or above, there's still time to sign up...we could use another shepherd or two! Also I need a tallish and responsible person on lighting. Please see the adverts in all the churches for dates and details and contact me if you are interested.

Deadline for cast sign up is 20th October.

No auditions...the only requirement is enthusiasm!

Joanna (joannapuzzle@gmail.com/07437 440299).

Youth Groups at Holy Cross Resource Centre

All young people from school year 4 up to and including 6th Form are welcome to come and join us once a month on Sunday evenings. We will be running age specific activities using different rooms at Holy Cross Resource Centre 7pm-8.30pm. Join us for games, quizzes, creative activities, discussions, the all important snacks & much more! For more info please contact: Marianne Wanstall on 07771 704600 [Inspire - school yrs 4-9];

Cath Szymanski on 07846 438224 [TOZ - school yrs 10, 11 & Sixth Form College]

Upcoming dates: 14th Oct; 18th Nov; 9th Dec; 13th Jan; 10th Feb; 17th Mar.

Safeguarding Training - Sat 13th October at St Edward's, Chandlers Ford.

'Child Protection Training' at 10am-12.30pm & 'Creating a Safe Environment Training' at 1.30pm-4pm.

The Child Protection training session is a compulsory requirement aimed at anyone in any ministry involving the young of our Parish. Even if you have attended before, your training may now be out of date – please check with your Safeguarding Rep.

The 'Creating a Safe Environment Training' session is **only** aimed at Leaders of groups, rather than just helpers. Please check with your safeguarding rep (list as follows), if you are uncertain as to whether you should attend the session:

Joan Leith (Holy Cross & St Swithun Wells Churches);

Ann Richards (St Edwards);

Pat Taylor & Carol Loran (OLQA);

Malcolm Foster (St Andrew's & St Joseph's).

To book either contact your Safeguarding Rep or directly with the Safeguarding Office in Portsmouth (T: 02392 836511; E: soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

Annual Day for Altar Servers: Sat 13th Oct (10-4.30)

Location: Christ The King Church, Reading, RG2 8NR.

Cost: £5.50, please bring a packed lunch and servers robes. To book go to: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/diocese-of-portsmouth-catholic-youth-17511710867>.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES:

St Swithun Wells Primary School 023 80266210;

St George Catholic V.A. College 023 8032 2603;

St Anne's Catholic School 023 80328200;

Charlton House 023 8067 7575;

St Mary's Independent School 023 8067 1267.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS

Last week's collections: £TBC; SO/SD for September'18: £12,903.09

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) - Eastleigh Money

Course: To help people to manage their money better and learn to budget, save and spend well, so avoiding getting into debt. This is a free course and will **be held over three evenings on 16th, 23rd and 30th October** from 7.30pm– 9.30pm at the Junction Church, High St, Eastleigh. If you are interested there is a poster in the welcoming area of Holy Cross and St. Swithun Wells churches plus postcards and leaflets explaining the course and how to book. If you have any queries please contact our CAP representative - Pat Baggott on 02380 694060.

60 Club - Holy Cross Resource Centre, 2-4pm

Monday 8th October. We would love to see some new faces! Maureen (tel: 02380 692682).

Knit & Natter - St Edward's, Mon 8th Oct, 2-4pm

Refreshments available and everyone most welcome! Any queries please contact Maureen Stephenson on 02380 252104.

Oasis - Parish Women's Group: Tuesday 9th Oct

7.30pm-9pm, St Edward's Cloister.

Meet our new priest: Welcome back for our first meeting this term. Fr. Luca is going to come along: a great opportunity to get to know more about him; his faith journey and his order.

All ladies warmly welcomed.

Future Dates: 13th Nov, 11th Dec, 15th Jan.

Knit for Peace – St Andrew's, Wed 10th Oct, 2-4pm

Donations of mens clothes and shoes for Two Saints welcome. Please contact Anne Harcourt on 02380 734710 with any queries.

CAFOD Christmas Cards

These will be on sale after both Masses at St Edward's on Oct 13th/14th & 20th/21st.

Message from The Knights of St Columba

The Knights would very much like to welcome any parishioner who could assist at an event at Royal Victoria Country Park on Saturday 13th October. KSC is organising parking for the event (Pumpkin Festival) and about 16 people will be involved. This raises money for KSC works. For more information please contact David Martin on 01794 511883.

Parish Lunch - Tues 6th Nov at The Vine, Ower

12.30pm. All welcome. Menus will be on the notice boards. Please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know you choice of meal before Monday 29th October as we have to pre-book. Thank you.

Thank you to all who came to or contributed to my Macmillan coffee morning at St Andrew's. We raised a magnificent **£484** for this worthy cause and I am expecting some more during this week. A special thank you to three young people, Paige, Edward and Joanne from the Youth Group, who collected money, washed dishes and hoovered at the end - you really helped to make the morning go smoothly!

Margaret French

Mass Times for our Six Church Communities

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 6th Oct Vigil Masses	5.00pm	St Sw	Maria Jacobs RIP (5th Anniversary)	Thurs 11th	9.30am	HC	
	6.00pm	St J	Elizabeth Gair's Intention		10.00am	OLQA	
	6.00pm	OLQA			6.00pm	St J	
	6.30pm	St Ed	Good Estate of Abigail & Vivienne Dolbear (Special Intention)				
Sun 7th 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta	Fri 12th	10.00am	St Ed	Paulina Lesniczuk FM
	9.00am	St Ed	Living & Deceased Members of the Murphy and Lucas Families FM		10.00am	St J (AH)	Toos Van de Heuvel (Well-Being)
	9.00am	St A	Damian Doherty (60th birthday)				
	9.30am	OLQA					
	11.00am	St J	Mary Castigan's Intentions				
	11.00am	HC	Emily Ray RIP				
Mon 8th Oct	10.00am	St Ed	FOSS - Friends of Suffering Souls	Sat 13th	9.30am	HC	
Tues 9th	9.30am	HC	Frederick Bishop FM	Sat 13th Vigil Masses	5.00pm	St Sw	Martin Russell RIP
	10.00am	St A			6.00pm	St J	Ashley & Marie Bennett's Intentions
	10.00am	OLQA			6.15pm	OLQA	
			6.30pm		St Ed	Mrs Edward Christian FM	
Wed 10th	9.30am	HC	Bernie Casey RIP (1st Anniversary)	Sun 14th Oct 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta
	10.00am	St Ed			9.00am	St Ed	Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP
					9.00am	St A	Michael Wilmot RIP
					9.30am	OLQA	
					11.00am	St J	
					11.00am	HC	Russell Speight's (Special Intention)

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday	HC	Adoration 1st Tuesday of the month 10.00-1.00pm
Tuesday	St A	Adoration will restart in the Autumn.
Thursday	St ED	Holy Hour (7-8pm)
Thursday	St J	from Noon-6pm, Rosary and Benediction at 5.30pm (before Mass at 6pm)

Rosary And Prayers

St Edward	9.30am	Wednesday	The Holy Rosary
St Joseph	6.00pm	Wednesday	Evening Prayer

CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Saturdays:	10.00am	Holy Cross Church
	12 noon	St Edward's
	5.30pm	OLQA
	5.30pm	St Joseph
Sundays:	8.30am	St Andrew

St Ed St Edward's, 191-193, Winchester Rd, Chandlers Ford, SO53 2DU
OLQA Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Martin Street, Bishops Waltham. SO32 1DN
HC Holy Cross, 53, Leigh Road, Eastleigh. SO50 9DF
St Sw St Swithun Wells, Allington Lane, Fair Oak, SO50 7DB
St A St Andrew's, Fleming Avenue, North, Baddesley SO52 9EP
St J St Joseph's Church, Abbey House Drive, Romsey SO51 8YB

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 Tel: 023 8061 2430
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