



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ
27th FEBRUARY 2022: EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NONE SO BLIND AS THOSE WHO CANNOT SEE

It all started with a CD of THE FOUR SEASONS by the Italian composer Antoni Vivaldi, 1678 - 1741. It wasn't initially the music of this masterpiece which attracted me to the CD, but, rather the cover. On it was printed four scenes of rustic life by the artist Peter Brueghal the Elder, 1525 - 1569. Brueghal was part of the Early Netherlandish Painting School which based its style on such artists as Hieronymus Bosch, 1450 - 1516 (see his Temptation of St Anthony in the Desert - not for the faint hearted!). They combined strange fantasy art with themes from everyday life. Here on the CD were four small pictures of peasants going about their business during the four seasons of the year. They were startling pictures and full of amazing activities.

Years later I came across a painting by Breughal which has everything to do with the Gospel for this weekend. It is the painting, 'The Blind Leading the Blind' (painted in 1568 - a year before his death). There are a string of blind people tapping their way along a rugged path each one holding on to the one in front. Little do they know that the first blind man has fallen into a deep hole. The others are systematically walking in the same direction and will ultimately fall into the same hole.

Blindness takes many forms. It may be that we are blind, in the way that the Scribes and Pharisees were from seeing the reality of Jesus as the Son of God. In this case the blindness is far more dramatic as they can see for themselves and yet are blind to the truth. In another example we may say that the following of false teaching is a form of blindness which can cut us off from the truth and beauty of our Faith. In other ways we may be blind to the needs of others, fail to acknowledge the generosity of God in the free gift of Creation, or, we may be blind to the wonder and dignity of being a Human Being, and take a path which leads to self destruction by drink, drugs or other anti-social behaviour. The Early Netherlandish School of Art reminds us in their startlingly graphic way, that it can be an ugly and violent world full of disfigurement. We have to learn to keep our eyes open and apply the antidote for a disciple's blindness by focusing our eyes upon Jesus.

Fr Bruce

GEM OF THE WEEK

This week's GEM a video, "Pope Francis calls for fasting on Ash Wednesday for peace in Ukraine" - you can find this on our homepage. If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact website.sswp@gmail.com



For the next Newsletter, items should be received into the Parish Office by 9.30am on Wednesday 2nd March, please email your messages/notices to: stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 27th February 2022: Year C - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 4

PSALM RESPONSE: IT IS GOOD TO GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

READINGS: 1st reading Sirach 27:4-7 Psalm 91 2nd reading 1 Corinthians 15:54-58 Gospel Luke 6:39-45

Sunday 6th March 2022: Year C - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 1

READINGS: 1st reading Deuteronomy 26:4-10 Psalm 90 2nd reading Romans 10:8-13 Gospel Luke 4:1-13

PARISH GROUPS



Youth Groups

Stars of Abraham (school years 3, 4, 5 & 6)

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9)

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

These groups meet regularly in person. For more details and how to join please go to the parish website www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community in Holy Cross meets every Wednesday, for more information please click the link on the homepage of our website. All are welcome!

School of Community in St Edward meets every Thursday at 8pm in St Edward's cloister. All are welcome!

Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) Group

Tuesdays 10.15am to approx. 11.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. We continue our series 'Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible'. On **Tuesday 1st March** we look at 'Maccabean Revolt: Messianic Fulfilment Part 2 The Church'. All are welcome!

Fellowship Group - no meeting on Wednesday 2nd March as it is Ash Wednesday.

The Little Flowers Baby & Toddler Group

Wednesdays at 10am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. The group is for 0-4 years and their families. More information is on the website or you can email: littleflowers.sswp@gmail.com

Afternoon Club - St Joseph's Parish Centre (26 Abbey Water), first Tuesday in the month. Come and join us for tea, games and good fun. All are welcome!

Ark of Fellowship - Group for learning disabilities or learning difficulties, their families and friends

Thursdays at 6.30pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. If you would be interested in volunteering to help run the group or you know some young adults who would like to join the group, please contact Fr Luca at: arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com

CaFE - The next meeting is on **Tuesday 8th & 22nd March** and then **12th & 26th April**, 2pm in the Parish Centre in Romsey and 7.30pm in St. Andrew's, North Baddesley. All are welcome, more information can be found by calling Ann Heslop on 02380 734429 or emailing ann.heslop@virginmedia.com

MESSAGES



Rules for Ash Wednesday & Lent

Roman Catholics must abstain from meat on all Fridays during Lent. On **Ash Wednesday (2nd March)** Roman Catholics must fast and abstain from meat. Fasting means reducing considerably the amount of food we eat (e.g. having just one meal) and abstinence means abstaining from eating meat. The law of fasting applies to anyone aged 18-60. The law of abstinence applies to those who are over 14. Pope Francis has asked us to offer our Ash Wednesday fasting for peace in Ukraine.

Additional Masses on Ash Wednesday & Mass Time Change at St Edward's during Lent

Please see the back page of the Newsletter for details of all Ash Wednesday Masses across the Parish. During Lent the **Friday Mass at St Edward's will be at 7pm and not 10am.**

OLQA During Lent

Lent Discussion Groups **Wednesdays at 7pm.**
Holy Rosary: 5.30pm before the Saturday Vigil Mass.

Stations of the Cross During Lent (not Holy Week)

OLQA: Weds after 9.30am Mass & Fridays at 7pm;
St Andrew: Tues at 9.30am (before Mass) starting on 15th March;
St Swithun Wells: Tues at 10am starting 15th March;
St Joseph: Fridays at 9.30am (before Mass);
Holy Cross: Thursdays at 9am (before Mass);
St Edward: Fridays at 6.15pm (Mass at 7pm just in Lent).

Lent Parish Retreat

We will hold a Parish Retreat for Lent on **Sunday 13th March, 3pm-5pm at St Edward.** Open to everyone. There will be a talk about Lent, some time for private prayer in the church and a time for questions and sharing thoughts.

My Day by Day Lent

From this weekend 'My Day by Day Lent' booklets will be available in our churches. My Day by Day Junior is free to children, however a suggested donation of £1 each for the Adult booklets would be most welcome. The Walk With Me Calendar for Lent is also free for the children.

MESSAGES

CAFOD Lent Prayer Cards

Please pick up your Lent prayer cards from our churches this weekend.

St Edward's Lenten Soup Suppers for CAFOD

Soup suppers will commence at St Edward's on **Friday 4th March and every Friday during Lent except Friday 18th March when there will be a lunch instead**. The suppers will take place following Stations of the Cross at 6.15pm and Mass at 7pm. Cost will be £5 and all proceeds will go to help families around the world to fight poverty and hunger.

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent Appeal

Family Fast Day is Friday 11th March, a day when we eat simply and give generously to support mums around the world, with expert training in growing and making healthy food. Your small act of love this Lent will make a big difference to many communities affected by extreme hunger and children suffering from malnutrition. You can donate in church using a CAFOD envelope (will be available from next weekend) or by visiting the CAFOD website <https://cafod.org.uk>

Lent in Romsey

On the Fridays during Lent, each year the churches of Romsey take turns to organise a lunch of homemade soup, bread and cheese in aid of Christian Aid. The Lent Lunch prepared by the Catholic community this year will be held at the Methodist Church, The Hundred, Romsey, on **Friday 18th March, 12 Noon to 1.30pm**. Cost is **£5 per head**. Tea and coffee also available. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Churches Together in Chandlers Ford Lent Course

The studies will be held over 5 separate weekly sessions of 1 ½ to 2 hours, **beginning in the week commencing 7th March**. If as part of your preparations for Easter you would like to join one of these groups, or would like to find out more, please contact Jackie Richardson by email jackie.h.richardson@outlook.com or telephone 8026 0674. Please see the flyer on the St Edward's notice board detailing the various dates and venues.

Mission Witness: Red Box Appeal

This weekend (26th/27th February) we welcome priests from Mill Hill to give the five yearly appeal. There won't be a second collection, but if you do not currently have a Red box please consider taking one. You can find more information or set-up a Direct Debit online at mission.org.uk/about-apf

World Day of Prayer Service - focus on England, Wales & N. Ireland

Friday 4th March, 1.30pm

Hosted by St Edward the Confessor Church.

World Day of Prayer in Romsey

The World Day of Prayer Service will be held in Romsey Abbey at **11.30am on Friday 4th March**. All are welcome. There will be refreshments after the service.

Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 6th March, 1pm-4pm

Pavillion on the Park, 1 Kingfisher Road, SO50 9LH
An event for all of the parish, especially families. We begin at 1pm, sharing a meal together. No cost, however we kindly ask you to give a donation to cover the hire of the Pavillion. Please bring some food, beverages or cakes to share with others. Please can you bring your own cups/plates/cutlery. To book your place please go to our parish website and click the link.

Cultural Fridays

Please be aware that the videos of the previous two Cultural Fridays with Dr Micha Jazz & Rose Busingye are available to view on our website in the session archives: <https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/meetings>

Recent Bereavements

John O'Neil RIP - Please pray for his widow, Luciana and family. The family were much involved with the Parish during the time of Fr John Buckley.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Alain Hunt and for his family. Alain was well known to parishioners in St Swithun Wells and Holy Cross and did much for Churches Together in Eastleigh and the Missio Red Box Appeal. Alain's funeral will take place at **St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak on Tues 8th March at 10am**.

Romsey Flat

The young couple who rented our flat above the Romsey office have now left. After getting valuations from three Estate Agents the Diocese has agreed that Charters can market the flat for us. If you are interested, details of the flat can be found on the Charters website: www.chartersestateagents.co.uk/branch/romsey

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Tuesdays:	Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church), Eastleigh
Wednesdays:	Fr Luca is not able to meet on 2nd Mar Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church), Eastleigh
Fridays: (just in Lent)	Fr Marco, 10.30am-11.30am, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey
Saturdays:	Fr Marco, 9.30am-12.30pm, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey

CONFESSION

(SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Tuesday:	9.30am-10.00am	St Andrew
	6.30pm-7.30pm	St Edward
Saturday:	10.00am-10.30am	Holy Cross
	5.30pm-6.00pm	OLQA
	5.30pm-6.00pm	St Joseph
Sunday:	8.30am-9.00am	St Andrew
	9.00am-9.30am	OLQA

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday: St Edward's - after Mass (6.30pm-7.30pm)
Wednesday: Holy Cross - after Mass (10.00am-11.00am)
Thursday: St Joseph's - before Mass (5.00pm-6.00pm)

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 26th Feb	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Cheryl Robinson RIP 1st Anniversary Andrew Bates RIP Noel Baker (Wellbeing)
Sunday 27th Feb <i>Eighth Sunday In Ordinary Time</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA (also live streamed) Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Tony & Pauline Wilson (In Thanksgiving) Raymond Harrison RIP The People of the Parish
Monday 28th Feb	9.30am	Holy Cross (also live streamed)	Wilfred Henwood RIP Anniversary
Tuesday 1st March <i>St David</i>	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Maureen Clapham RIP and all the family
Wed 2nd March <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	9.30am 9.30am <u>10.00am</u> <u>7.00pm</u> <u>7.00pm</u> <u>7.30pm</u>	Holy Cross (also live streamed) OLQA <u>St Joseph</u> <u>St Edward</u> <u>St Andrew</u> <u>OLQA</u>	Philippe Hanna El-Hajj RIP Keith Small RIP
Thursday 3rd March	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross (also live streamed) OLQA St Joseph	Kelly & Magee Families FM Janet & Martin (Wellbeing)
Friday 4th March	9.30am 10.00am <u>7.00pm</u>	OLQA St Joseph <u>St Edward</u>	Mrs Edward Christian FM
Saturday 5th March	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Philippe Hanna El-Hajj RIP Ronnie Castelino RIP Ann Leach RIP
Sunday 6th March <i>First Sunday of Lent</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA (also live streamed) Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Bowman Family (In Thanksgiving) Margaret Martindale RIP The People of the Parish John Crowther RIP Anniversary

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: rcosa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: lspeziale@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Marco Vignolo (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: mvignolo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Bruce Barnes (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 01489 890947 (OLQA Office)

Deacon Bob Birtles
Tel: 023 8069 2416; E: bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon John di Meo
Tel: 01794 515688; E: jdimeo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Paul Owen
Tel: 023 8025 4806; E: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Paul Wilson
Tel: 023 8061 6618; E: pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Office: Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh,
SO50 9DF
Tel: 02380 273882

Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance Admin: Linda Roberts
Email: lroberts@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Sarah Goodfellow
Email: stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website Contact: website.sswp@gmail.com