



*Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ*

8th MARCH 2020: **SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

## Lent Enthusiasm

During this time of Lent we will hear many times the word "conversion". What does it mean, "conversion"? Some months ago, a priest told me: *to convert is to live not defined by my efforts to change, but by an awareness of God working in my life.*

It was a pivotal moment for me. I must say that I had often perceived the call to conversion as a one-man-effort thing: "I should be more kind, I should be more welcoming, I should be different....". In the end the focus was always on me and my commitment. But God was absent from my horizon.

The real meaning of conversion became clear to me when I read this episode of the Gospel: *Now one day when he was praying alone in the presence of his disciples he put this question to them, "Who do the crowds say I am?" And they answered, "John the Baptist; others Elijah; and others say one of the ancient prophets come back to life." But you," he said, "who do you say I am?" It was Peter who spoke up. "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God".*

For Peter it was crystal clear, that Jesus was a man in communion with the Father, connected with Him. He didn't answer the question of Jesus: "You are Jesus Christ", or "you're a re a powerful man". He defined the identity of Jesus, speaking about him as a Son. It was clear for Peter, who saw that man praying all of the day, speaking of the Father all day, that the centre of Him was an Other person.

It is not by chance that Luke begins this passage saying that Jesus was praying alone in the presence of his disciples. How can a man be alone and at the same time "in the presence" of other people? Because even when Jesus was with the crowd, his heart was connected with the Father. He carried within himself the Presence of His Father.

This is what he brought into the world, and also the true meaning of conversion: the enthusiasm of belonging, of being One with God. It is interesting that the word *enthusiasm* describes precisely this "conversion": it comes from the Greek *en – theos*, which means to be-in-God, to be One with God.

This is the beauty of this time of Lent. A time given to us by the Church so we can experience true enthusiasm: to be in God, to belong to Him.

A good practise to nurture this belonging is praying, as Pope Francis said in his message for Lent: *It is good to contemplate more deeply the paschal mystery through which God's mercy has been bestowed upon us. Indeed, the experience of mercy is only possible in a "face to face" relationship with the crucified and risen Lord "who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal 2:20), in a heartfelt dialogue between friends.*

*Father Luca*

## GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is a Homily from Pope Francis, "Ash Wednesday 2020" - you can find the link on our homepage. If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact the Webmaster on [website.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:website.sswp@gmail.com).

## LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



**Sunday 8th March 2020:**

Year A - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 2

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** OF YOU MY HEART HAS SPOKEN: SEEK HIS FACE. IT IS YOUR FACE, O LORD, THAT I SEEK; HIDE NOT YOUR FACE FROM ME.

**PSALM RESPONSE:** MAY YOUR LOVE BE UPON US, O LORD, AS WE PLACE ALL OUR HOPE IN YOU.

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, 15TH MARCH 2020:**

**1<sup>st</sup> reading:** Exodus 17:3-7 - **Psalm:** 94 - **2<sup>nd</sup> reading:** Romans 5: 1-2. 5-8 - **Gospel:** John 4: 5-42

### Growing in Faith Together (GIFT)

Tuesdays between 10.15-11.30am (after Mass) in Holy Cross Resource Centre. On 17th March our Seminarian Phil will be giving a talk about Jonah.

### Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

Preparation will be on Wednesday evenings fortnightly at St Edward the Confessor Church, Chandlers Ford at 7.30pm. If you would like to be baptised, confirmed or received into the Catholic Church please speak to a priest or email Deacon Paul Owen at powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Upcoming dates: 18th Mar, 1st Apr.

### Journey in Faith with the Bible

*The God Who Speaks:* Come along to Journey in Faith with the Bible on alternate Wednesday evenings at St Edward the Confessor Church from 7.30pm-9pm to celebrate, live and share God's Word by reflecting on the Sunday Mass readings in this Year of the Word. Everyone welcome. Upcoming dates: 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> March; 8<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> April; 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May.

Fellowship Group - Wednesday 11th March, 7pm at St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. Lenten Supper followed by Lenten Study Course.

Week 2 "And the earth shall cry Glory". This week we explore God's presence in our world, God's profound involvement with and consecration of the beauty of life and creation and God's willingness to be present 'with' human beings. Everyone in the Parish is most welcome. Queries to Peter Baggott and Deacon Bob Birtles.

School of Community - The weekly catechesis of the catholic movement Communion and Liberation every Wednesday at 8pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre.

### CaFE: Next Meetings

Tues 17th Mar, 7.30pm in St Andrew's Social Centre; Mon 23rd March, 2.30pm in Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water).

There are just 4 books/DVDs left - £10 each from Sheila 01794 518061.

## PARISH GROUPS



TOZ (for young people from school year 10) meet twice a month on Sunday. Next Meeting Date: 8th March from 7pm to 8.30pm (topic) in the Resource Centre. Contact: toz.sswp@gmail.com.

Graill Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9) - We meet weekly every Saturday from 2.30pm-4.30pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre. To join the group complete the application form (available on our website or from the Parish Office) and give it to the Parish Secretary.

Mothers Prayers of the Solace Community meets on Thursday during term time from 1.45pm to 2.30pm at St Edward's. For more information, please see www.mothersprayers.org. Mothers are welcome to join us in prayer to the Lord for our children.

Oasis Women's Group – Tuesday 10th March  
Loving Lent: Join us to reflect on the season of Lent and how to respond to the call love others. All ladies warmly welcomed!  
7:30pm, St Edward's Cloister, finish at approx. 9.15pm. Future Dates: 31st Mar, 12th May, 9th Jun, 14th July & Sat 16th May Retreat, more info to follow.

Knit & Natter - St Edward's, Mon 9th Mar, 2-4pm  
Refreshments available and everyone most welcome! Any queries please contact Maureen Stephenson on 02380 252104.

Knit for Peace - St Andrew's, Wed 11th Mar 2-4pm - Donations of mens clothes and shoes for Two Saints welcome. Please contact Anne Harcourt on 02380 734710 with any queries.

## CHANGES TO MASS & PARISH OFFICE OPENING



The Parish Office is closed on Mondays (all day) and Tuesday afternoons until Linda has recovered from her operation and is back at work. Please also note the Office will be open from 10.15am instead of 9.30am on Friday 27th March.

## OFFERINGS & SECOND COLLECTIONS



St Swithun Wells Parish Acknowledges with thanks SO/DD for February '20: £11,944.59

Second Collection this weekend  
Will be for CAFOD on 7th/8th March.

## PARISH EVENTS

### Parish Lent Retreat

**Sunday 8th March, 2.30pm-5pm at St Edward's.**

There will be a talk by Fr Raffaele, some time for questions and personal prayer. It will be an opportunity for all parishioners to be helped to make of Lent a new time of conversion.

### Stations of the Cross

Are being said during Lent at:

**St Andrew's:** Tues at 9.15am (excluding Holy Week);

**St Swithun Wells:** Tues at 10am, tea/coffee after;

**OLQA:** Wednesdays at 7pm;

**Holy Cross:** Thursdays at 9am;

**St Joseph's:** Fri at 9.15am (excluding Good Friday);

**St Edward's:** Fri at 6.30pm (excluding Good Friday).

**Lent at St Edward's - During Lent Mass on Fridays at St Edward's will be at 7pm (instead of 10am) preceded by Stations of the Cross at 6.30pm.**

After Mass there will be a CAFOD Lenten Supper on each Friday *except March 13th when there will be a Lenten lunch instead from 12.30pm -1.30pm.* All suppers and lunch will be £5 (£1 for children).

### Classical Music Evening - Friday 13th March

**8.00pm-9.00pm at St Edward's Church.**

In this period of Lent we will listen to the *Stabat Mater* of Pergolesi and Vivaldi and the *Miserere* of Allegri. All are welcome!

### Mothering Sunday (22nd March) at St Edward's

On Sat 21st March after Vigil Mass and Sun 22nd March after Mass there will be a cake/flowers/gifts sale and raffle in aid of LIFE. Raffle tickets will be on sale both days however the actual raffle will be drawn on Mothering Sunday after Mass. Any donations (especially plants) will be gratefully received. Please contact Maureen McFarlane for more information on 02380 253329.

## MESSAGES

### Lent & Easter Sheet - detailing our

Penitential Services and Easter Mass times for all of our churches is available this weekend - please pick up your copy. It is also on our parish website.

### Recommended Reading

The current suggested books for parishioners are:

**A Song for Nagasaki: The Story of Takashi Nagai** by Fr. Paul Glynn (£12);

**I'm Not Scared** by Niccolò Ammaniti (£8).

It is now possible to buy A Song for Nagasaki after weekend Masses.

**Wanted** - Two people to join a team to make and serve coffee after 9am Mass. The task is not onerous and is only 4 times a year. If you are able to help please contact Clare Lasker on 02380 252138 or email [clarelasker@btinternet.com](mailto:clarelasker@btinternet.com) for more details.

**Bishop's Waltham Churches Lent Lunch - Wed 18th March 12 Midday till 2pm at the United Free Church, Basingwell Street.** The charities to be supported this year are the Meon Valley Food Bank and the St George Foundation. All welcome.

**The Knights of St Columba** would welcome enquiries from young people 16-23 in the parish who would like to attend the KSC's annual youth seminar in Leeds 21st-24th July. The event will be totally FREE for attendees. One previous attendee wrote: "The programme consisted of multiple talks given by significant people of the Catholic faith and a chance to become more in touch with our faith as well as socialise with other attendees." See poster on church noticeboards.

Contacts: Paul Andrews on 023 8026 8211 & 077 1192 3319 or Neil Hendricks on 023 8026 6324.

**St Edward's Spring-clean** - Volunteers needed for spring cleaning the church on **30th March** at 10.30am after Mass. Please just turn up if you're free.

### Bishop Philip's Advice regarding COVID-19

**(Coronavirus)** - please see church noticeboards.

To summarise:

1. We are asking people to maintain good hygiene especially at Mass and parish gatherings. Remember, catch it (cough/sneeze into a tissue), bin it (bin the tissue), kill it (wash your hands with soap and water). Do not touch your face unless you have washed your hands.
2. We are asking parishioners attending Mass to sanitise their hands as they come into Church using hand gel.
3. We are asking people not to take from the chalice or host on the tongue if they have a cold or cough during this flu season. There are lots of vulnerable people at church and this is something we can do to protect others in the congregation. Clergy and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be using alcohol gel before distributing communion.

If you are aware of anyone (locally) who has tested positive for COVID 19 please let the Parish Office know.

### EU citizens in our Diocese

All EU, EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK are required by the government to apply through its Settlement Scheme to continue living, working and accessing services here. The deadline for applications is **30th June 2021**. Details and links to the application process can be found at: [gov.uk/eusettledstatus](http://gov.uk/eusettledstatus). Please bring this to the attention of friends, family members and fellow parishioners who may need to apply.

# MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 7th  *Vigil Mass	9.30am	HC	Antonio Cicu FM
	5.00pm*	SSW	The Harfield Family (Well-being)
	6.00pm*	St J	Sr Pascal (Well being)
	6.00pm*	OLQA	
	6.30pm*	St Ed	Father Giussani RIP (15th Annv)
Sun 8th March  Second Sunday of Lent	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	Gill Farnsworth RIP
	9.00am	St A	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	St J	John Crowther RIP
	11.00am	HC	Collette Reynolds FM
Mon 9th	10.00am	St Ed	Gill Farnsworth RIP
Tues 10th	9.30am	HC	Lillian Rachael Gardiner FM
	10.00am	St A	
	10.00am	OLQA	
Wed 11th	9.30am	HC	Mary George-Shamma (Sick)
	10.00am	St Ed	Jenny Blackstaff RIP
	<u>11.00am</u>	<u>St Ed</u>	<u>Funeral Mass: Cyril Molloy RIP</u>
Thurs 12th	9.30am	HC	Zaki Hanna Hayek RIP
	<u>10.00am</u>	<u>OLQA</u>	<u>No Mass</u>
	<u>10.00am</u>	<u>St J</u>	<u>Funeral Mass: Derrick Dunn RIP</u>
	6.00pm	St J	
Fri 13th	10.00am	St J:AH	
	10.00am	OLQA	
	7.00pm	St Ed	Eileen Milles RIP
Sat 14th  *Vigil Mass	9.30am	HC	Alex Hill (Special Intention)
	5.00pm*	SSW	Jim Russell RIP
	6.00pm*	St J	John Carmody RIP
	6.00pm*	OLQA	
	6.30pm*	St Ed	Patrick Burke FM
Sun 15th March  Third Sunday of Lent	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	Patricia Bradley FM
	9.00am	St A	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	St J	
	11.00am	HC	Ludwick Kolacz RIP

<b>ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT</b>	
Tues: HC - First Tuesday of the Month (10am-1pm)	
Thurs: St Ed - Holy Hour 7-8pm	
Thurs: St J - 4-6pm, Rosary & Benediction at 5.30pm	
<b>ROSARY AND PRAYERS</b>	
St Edward's	9.30am, Wednesday - The Holy Rosary
St Joseph's	6.00pm, Wednesday - Evening Prayer
<b>CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)</b>	
<b>Saturdays:</b>	10.00am Holy Cross
	5.30pm OLQA
	5.30pm St Joseph's
<b>Sundays:</b>	8.30am St Edward's
	8.30am St Andrew's
<b>TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET</b>	
Tues: Fr Raffaele, 4.30pm-6.30pm, Parish Office, Holy Cross, Eastleigh.	
Weds: Fr Luca, 4.30pm-6.30pm, Parish Office, Holy Cross, Eastleigh.	
Fridays: Fr Raffaele, 11.30am-12.30pm, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey.	
Saturdays: Fr Marco, 10am-Midday, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water) Romsey.	

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

**Father Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)**  
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**Fr Marco Vignolo (Assistant Priest)**  
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**Canon Alan Griffiths (Assistant Priest)**  
Tel: 07760220346; E: frgriffiths@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**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 80254806; E: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Deacon Paul Wilson**  
Tel: 02380 616618; E: pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**PARISH OFFICE**

Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh SO50 9DF  
Tel: 02380 273882  
Office Hours: Monday–Wednesday: 9.30am-5pm  
Thursday & Friday: 9.30am-2.30pm

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

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

**Website Contact: website.sswp@gmail.com**

## CHURCH ADDRESSES

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 Church, 53, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF  
SSW St Swithun Wells Church, 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

## 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