



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

15th MARCH 2020: **THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

The Samaritan Woman – a different perspective

Today's gospel reading is the well-known story of the Samaritan woman whom Jesus encountered at Jacob's well near Sychar in Samaria. The gospel is full of meaning for John's readers but possibly lost on us today.

The woman is generally portrayed as being of ill-repute. Avoiding people by coming to the well at a time when others would not, she stumbles upon Jesus resting after a long and continuing journey. Leaving for the moment the conversation between them, how could this woman receive an overwhelmingly positive response from her friends and neighbours when she returns to her village? She called them to drop everything and come and see a Jewish man she has just met! Something does not add up here.

The advice to travellers from the Jewish equivalent of the Home Office at that time was *DON'T TRAVEL THROUGH SAMARIA*. So why did Jesus do just that? Jews and Samaritans did not get on! The journey from Judea to Galilee, avoiding Samaria, took three times longer. Was Jesus in a hurry? There is no indication in John's gospel that he was.

It is significant that Jacob's well is close to the "land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph". Symbolically, Jesus has come to re-unite Judean Israelites and Samaritan Israelites at the very place where the promise of reunification was made to Jacob in the Old Testament (Josh 24:1-32). Jesus has come "to do the will of my Father".

The ensuing conversation between Jesus and the woman shows her to be well versed in scripture. So much so that she hurries back to the village saying: "Come and see a man who has told me everything. Could this be the Christ?" Would the villagers have believed her if she had been a woman of ill-repute? **Jesus does not say that she was.** The poor woman's husbands may have died, they may have just left her, they may have divorced her (she would have had no say in that!). She may be now living with a male relative because she was destitute. Jesus understood her. We do not. In the same way he understands every single one of us.

Jesus, clearly, was not in a hurry. He stayed with them for another two days so that many came to believe "that he really is the saviour of the world!"

Would Jesus take time out to come to our village? Who would he meet on the way? Are we, every single one of us, ready to receive him?

Deacon Bob

GEM OF THE WEEK

This week's GEM is a letter from a Wuhan Pastor - Faith and Coronavirus. You can find the link on our homepage. If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact the Webmaster on website.sswp@gmail.com.



LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 15th March 2020:

Year A - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 3

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: MY EYES ARE ALWAYS ON THE LORD, FOR HE RESCUES MY FEET FROM THE SNARE. TURN TO ME AND HAVE MERCY ON ME, FOR I AM ALONE AND POOR.

PSALM RESPONSE: O THAT TODAY YOU WOULD LISTEN TO HIS VOICE: "HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS."

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, 22ND MARCH 2020:

1st reading: 1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13 - **Psalm:** 22 - **2nd reading:** Ephesians 5:8-14 - **Gospel:** John 9: 1-41

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)

Wednesday evenings fortnightly at St Edward the Confessor Church, C/Ford at 7.30pm. If you would like to be baptised, confirmed or received into the Catholic Church please speak to a priest/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: 25th March; 8th & 29th April; 13th and 27th May.

Fellowship Group - Wed 18th March, 6.45pm at St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. Lenten Supper followed by Bob Birtles' fifth talk for the Year of the Word - *Who is Jesus?* Before turning to the New Testament Scriptures, a look at the person of Jesus Christ and how he has been portrayed. Please note the session begins on this occasion with a simple soup supper (for Lent) at 6.45pm. The talk begins at 7.30pm. Refreshments afterwards. All 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: 22nd March from 7pm-9pm in the Resource Centre where will be watching a film.

Contact: toz.sswp@gmail.com.

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

We meet every other week:

Tues, 5.30-7.00pm in St Edwards Cloister (17th Mar); Sat, 10.30am-Noon in HC Resource Centre (21st Mar).

To join the group complete the application form (available on our website or from the Parish Office) and give it to the Parish Secretary.

Grail 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.

Fryern Prayer Group - St Edwards

Our next meeting will be on Monday 16th March at the home of the O'Neill's, 19 Carthage Close, Chandlers Ford from 2-3pm.

Theme: We will be following the CaFE Bible Study Course. All Are Welcome

St Edward's Prayer Group – Valley Park

There will be a Scripture Reading and Social Afternoon at the home of Susan Johnston, 9 Danebury Gardens, Chandlers Ford. SO53 4NQ on Thursday, 19 March, at 2pm. All are welcome.

60 Club

Our next meeting is in the Resource Centre on Monday 16th March from 2pm-4pm. Maureen 80692682.

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 will be for the Clergy Assistance Fund on 21st/22nd March.

PARISH EVENTS

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 Friday's Mass there will be a CAFOD Lenten Supper - £5 (£1 for children).

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

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.

Safeguarding Training - Saturday 28th March

St Joseph's Parish Centre, 26 Abbey Water, Romsey
Child Protection Training 10am – 12.30pm (Trainer - Sue Smy);

Vulnerable Adults Training 1.30pm – 4pm (Trainer - Val Croughan)

Safeguarding Contacts:

suesmy@yahoo.com (Sue Smy – Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer)

valcroughan@ntlworld.com (Val Croughan – Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer)

roger.lillie@gmail.com (Roger Lillie – Parish Safeguarding Rep)

People who wish to attend will need to register/book with Soraya by email:
soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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

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 for more details.

To the Friends of CAFOD

Do you have any gifts that you could donate for our CAFOD raffle which will take place on 29th March? Please see Paul or June Wilson. Thank you.

Message of Thanks

Linda Roberts would like to thank parishioners for all their lovely cards/messages of support and kindness following her operation.

UPDATE (in Bold): 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.
4. **We are advising those who are unwell, have a weakened immune system or have long term underlying health conditions to refrain from large parish gatherings and stay at home.**
5. **The collection plate will not be passed around but will be brought to parishioners who wish to contribute.**
6. **Tea & Coffee will be available after weekend Masses but with no biscuits and shared food. During other parish gatherings shared food should be avoided.**

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

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.



MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
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	Monica McMahon RIP
Mon 16th	11.00am	HC	Ludwick Kolacz RIP
	10.00am	St Ed	Gill Farnsworth RIP
Tues 17th St Patrick	9.30am	HC	David & Molly Oag RIP
	10.00am	St A	
	10.00am	OLQA	
Wed 18th	9.30am	HC	Allan Baxter RIP (27th Anniversary)
	10.00am	St Ed	Mary Uphill FM
Thurs 19th St Joseph	9.30am	HC	Charles Joseph Reynolds FM
	10.00am	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St J	Jozef Dembski RIP
Fri 20th	10.00am	St J:AH	
	10.00am	OLQA	
	7.00pm	St Ed	Bill Jones RIP
Sat 21st *Vigil Mass	9.30am	HC	Marianne Lake & Children (Special Intention)
	5.00pm*	SSW	Marie Fodero RIP
	6.00pm*	St J	Robert Benedict Harris RIP (Annv)
	6.00pm*	OLQA	
	6.30pm*	St Ed	For Holy Souls - Especially for the Deceased Members of FOSS
Sun 22nd March Fourth Sunday of Lent	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	Ann Wood RIP
	9.00am	St A	Gladys Curmi RIP
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	St J	Martin Ceresa (Wellbeing)
	11.00am	HC	Deceased Members of the Killick Family RIP

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
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

ROSARY AND PRAYERS

St Edward's 9.30am, Wednesday - The Holy Rosary
St Joseph's 6.00pm, Wednesday - Evening Prayer

CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

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

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

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