



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ 19th MARCH 2023: FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

God Does Not Look For Our Strength

A long time ago, my parents took my brother and I to an English Heritage open day. It was a massive campsite with re-enactors from every period of English history from the Vikings to the Second World War. On the main field, re-enactors staged the battle of Bosworth Field that ended the Wars of the Roses, the battle of Marston Moor from the English Civil Wars, and the Napoleonic Battle of Salamanca. This kind of event offered everything a young boy could hope for in a day out; dressing up in armour, swinging around (blunted) swords, charging horses, and plenty of smoke and explosions!

One of the side attractions I remember from this day out is a bit of a tradition in a lot of English re-enactment events: King Arthur pulling the sword from the stone. One by one, bigger and bigger boys were called out of the audience to try and pull the sword out of the stone and when each of them failed, a much smaller boy was called forward to succeed where the bigger boys had failed. The smaller boy was crowned as "King Arthur" and paraded around the field flanked by the larger boys.

It's this image that came back into my mind reading the First Reading for this Sunday: the choosing of David as King. God sent the prophet Samuel to find a new King from the family of Jesse. Samuel, seeing as a man sees, sees the impressive-looking Eliab and assumes *this* must be the Lord's anointed. He was not. Nor were any of his adult brothers. Instead the Lord chose David, the youngest, the shepherd out tending the fields. The Lord chose weakness over strength; the strong man would have trusted in his own strength, but David had to trust entirely in the Lord because he was not strong enough.

When God calls us to any kind of service, our first response is often to say, "I am not good enough." When I first heard the call to be a priest, I was 21 years old, sitting by the Lady Chapel during the Maundy Thursday Mass. My degree was going less well than I had hoped. My future and career were uncertain. I asked the Lord, "What do you want of me?" and he responded, like a whisper in my ear, "I want you to be a priest." I refused the call then. I refused because I was not good enough, not holy enough, not brave enough, not *strong* enough to do what a priest had to do.

God chooses us *because* of our weakness, and he chooses wounded broken men to be priests because he needs us to depend on Him alone. He needs us to understand what it means to need a saviour before we can bring that Saviour to his people. *I am not good enough to be a priest, because nobody* is good enough to be a priest. God chooses us broken men so we all can learn what St Paul needed to learn, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Cor. 12:9). Whenever he calls us, whatever he calls us to be, he is not calling because we are perfect but because he wants to make us perfect in the image of Christ, whose strength was in weakness and suffering on the Cross.

I look forward to seeing you all next Sunday at St Edward's, to celebrate my first Mass in the Church where I grew up and at the Altar where I served for so long! And I look forward to sharing with you the life-giving gift of our Lord in the Eucharist. Until then, please pray for me in this last week of preparation before I am ordained as a priest.

Dcn. Edward Hauschild

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "The Passion of Evangelizing" by Pope Francis - 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 22nd March 2023, please email your messages/notices to: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 19th March 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Psalter Week 4

PSALM RESPONSE: THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; THERE IS NOTHING I SHALL WANT.

READINGS: 1st reading 1 Samuel 16:1b,6-7,10-13a Psalm 22 2nd reading Ephesians 5:8-14 Gospel John 9:1-41

Sunday 26th March 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Psalter Week 1

PSALM RESPONSE: WITH THE LORD THERE IS MERCY AND FULLNESS OF REDEMPTION.

READINGS: 1st reading Ezekiel 37:12-14 Psalm 129 2nd reading Romans 8:8-11 Gospel John 11:1-45

PARISH GROUPS



Youth Groups (including First Holy Communion & Confirmation)

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

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9) &

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

Please check the parish website for the calendar of meetings, times and venues.

www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community meet weekly:

Holy Cross every Wednesday at 8pm;

St Edward's every Thursday at 8pm.

For more information please click the link on the homepage of our website. All are welcome!

Growing In Faith Together Group

Tues 21st March at 10.15am to approx. 11.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. We will be reflecting on the Stations of the Cross. All are welcome!

Fellowship Group - St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. We are holding a Lenten Supper at 7pm every Wednesday during Lent followed by a Fellowship

Lenten Study: Belong and Believe starting at 7.45pm. We will be following this CaFE course exploring how our Celtic past can help us in refreshing our communities and renewing our mission.

Week 4: 22nd March - the theme is 'Caring for God's Creation'. For the Zoom link contact Peter at peterbaggott@aol.com

Anyone is welcome to come along just to the Lenten Supper or just to the Lenten Study or to both.

Romsey Prayer Group - Every Wednesday morning at 11am in the St Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water. All will be made very welcome.

Afternoon Club - St. Joseph's Parish Centre (26 Abbey Water), first Tuesday in the month at 2pm. Come and join us for tea, games and good fun. All are welcome!

Knitting Club - Third Tuesday of the month, from 2pm-4pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. If you would like to join us for a knit and cup of tea please come along, all levels of knitting ability welcome!

Mothering Sunday

Please say a prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary this Sunday for your mother and grandmother. Here is a prayer from the Book of Blessings, 'For our mothers, who have given us life and love, that we may show them reverence and love, we pray to the Lord.'

Changes to Mass during Lent

The Friday Mass at OLQA will be celebrated at 10.30am (instead of 9.30am), followed by Stations of the Cross at 11am and soup lunch at Midday.

This year the St Edward's Friday Mass will remain at 10am preceded by Stations of the Cross at 9.30am. There will be a soup lunch at Midday.

Stations of the Cross During Lent

St Andrew: Tuesdays at 9.30am (before Mass);
St Swithun Wells: Tuesdays at 10am with coffee available afterwards;

Holy Cross: Thursdays at 9am (before Mass);

St Joseph: Fridays at 9.30am (before Mass);

St Edward: Fridays at 9.30am (before Mass);

St Edward: Friday 17th March at 6.15pm Stations of the Cross run by Stars of Abraham, all are welcome;
OLQA: Fridays at 11am (after Mass).

Lent Ecumenical Study Group in Romsey Parish Centre, 26 Abbey Water, Romsey, on Tuesday evenings 6.30pm-8pm. Please bring a bible if you can.

MESSAGES



Penitential Services

Saturday 25th March, 11am at Holy Cross

Thursday 30th March, 7.30pm at OLQA

Friday 31st March, 7.30pm at St Andrew

A number of priests will be available during these times.

Second Collections

This weekend (18th/19th March): Clergy Assistance Fund which resources the invaluable work of the Department for Clergy Team. The team of four is responsible for looking after the welfare, ongoing formation and personal support of our clergy, from the early days of ordination all the way into retirement. It is the principal mechanism through which the Bishop looks after the wellbeing of the clergy. Second collection baskets will be available in all of our churches, or you can donate online at: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/clergy-assistance-fund-second-collection-2023>

Next weekend (25th/26th March): The Parish is running an Easter Camp (3rd-5th April). Donations are very welcome to allow more teenagers to join us.

Lunches & Suppers being held across the Parish during Lent

St Edward's - Soup lunches will take place on Fridays during Lent from 12-1.30pm. Donations greatly received, all proceeds will go to CAFOD.

MESSAGES CONTINUED

Lunches & Suppers being held across the Parish during Lent (Continued)

OLQA - Soup lunches will take place on **Fridays at Midday** (after Mass), donations will go to CAFOD.

St Swithun Wells, Fair Oak - at **7pm on Wednesdays**, the Fellowship Group will be hosting Lenten Suppers of soup, bread and cheese in aid of the CAFOD Disaster Emergencies Fund.

Ordination to the Priesthood of Edward Hauschild

Edward lived in Chandlers Ford for 22 years and was a server for many years at St Edward's. He is being ordained to the priesthood at 11am on Saturday 25th March in St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth. He has invited parishioners to come to his ordination and he will say his first Mass at St Edward's at 9am on Sunday 26th March, all parishioners are welcome to attend his first Mass. This is an occasion of great joy for both Edward and for the parish and we would like to mark it by a collection for him. If you would like to make a donation for Edward please either put cash or a cheque (made payable to CDP St Swithun Wells) in an envelope and hand this to the clergy or take the envelope down to the parish office. If you would like to contribute to the collection please do so by **Sunday 19th March**. You can also make a transfer to the parish account.

The account details are as follows:

Account Holder: CDP ST SWITHUN WELLS

Account number: 01786599 Sort Code: 30-93-04

Reference: please indicate "EDHH_yoursurname" (for example: EDHH_Smith)

Cultural Friday - 7pm on 24th March at

St Edward Cloister. We will be listening to Greg Valerio MBE who is an ethical jeweller and radical campaigner for environment and social justice.

Greg has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of some of the poorest people involved in the dangerous, back-breaking and ill-paid world of artisanal mining for precious metals. Greg also runs a 23 acres arable and live-stock small holding in Sussex where, through work and prayer, he engages in caring for our environment. Cheese and wine will be available from 7pm, the talk will start at 7.30pm.

Easter Camp: Grail Seekers - School years 7, 8, 9 and Student Youth School years 10,11 & Sixth Form

Mon 3rd April - Wed 5th April £110 (all inclusive)

St Joseph's House - 8 Lyndhurst Rd, Southampton

For more info & to book your space/your child's space

please go to our website and complete the form as soon as possible. Part bursaries may be available on application. **Full payment by bank transfer must be received by Friday 31st March** (account details are on the booking form on our website). For any enquiries please email either: grailseekers.sswp@gmail.com or studentyouth.sswp@gmail.com

Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 2nd April, 1-4pm

Pavillion on the Park, 1 Kingfisher Road, SO50 9LH. An event for all of the parish, especially families. We begin by sharing a meal together followed by some activities and a talk about education by John & Stefania Burke. 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. We would be grateful if you could please write down the main ingredients and allergens on a piece of paper so people can make an informed decision as to whether the food is suitable for them. Please can you bring your own cups/plates/cutlery. To book your place please go to our parish website and click the link.

Future Get2Gether date for your diaries: 7th May

Divine Mercy Sunday - 16th April 2023

Holy Cross Church, starting at 2.45pm with procession of the Divine Mercy Image, 3pm prayers and Chaplet, Veneration of Divine Mercy Image and Blessing with a 1st Class Relic of St Faustina, Meditations and Litany and ending with Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament. Confessions will be available. Refreshments in the Resource Centre afterwards, all very welcome. Enquiries to Roz Monaghan on 0775 263 9593 or to Fr Raffaele.

Parish Concert/Evening of Entertainment

Sometime after Easter we are hoping to hold a Parish Concert. We don't have a date yet, however it will be on a Saturday evening at St Swithun Wells Primary School. This is alert all musicians, singers, dancers, comedians, poets etc of any age to start practising, so that when we ask you, you will be able to offer a contribution of approx. 3-5mins in length. Any questions please phone Veronika on 02380 616356.

British Summer Time - Please note, the clocks go Forward by one hour next weekend (25th/26th March).

SCHOOL NOTICES

St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School Vacancy

KS2 Teacher required for September 2023. Please see church noticeboards for the Job Description and how to apply. **Closing date is 22nd March 2023.** <https://www.st-swithunwells.org.uk/vacancies/>

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Tuesdays: Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh
Wednesdays: Fr Luca is not available on 22nd March Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh
Fridays: Fr Raffaele is not available on 24th Mar Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey
Saturdays: Fr Marco is not available on 25th March Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey

CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Tuesday:	6.30pm-7.30pm	St Edward
Tuesday:	9.30am-10.00am	St Andrew
Saturday:	10.00am-10.30am	Holy Cross
	10am or by appointment	OLQA
	5.30pm-6.00pm	St Joseph
Sunday:	8.30am-9.00am	St Edward
	8.30am-9.00am	St Andrew

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 18th March	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	People of the Parish The Villaver Family (Thanksgiving) Mary Uphill RIP FM
Sunday 19th March <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Patricia Bradley RIP FM Karen Elizabeth Rumens RIP Robert Benedict Harris RIP Anniversary
Mon 20th <i>St Joseph</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross	Regina Turl (Special Intention)
Tues 21st March	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Special Intention for Dian Atterbury Family Intentions
Wed 22nd March	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross OLQA St Edward	Ann, Teresa & Peter Grieg (Special Intention) Derek Gordan RIP
Thurs 23rd March	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Shafika Hamood RIP Jane Palmer RIP
Fri 24th March	10.00am 10.00am 10.30am	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	Sr Theresa RIP Margaret Martindale RIP
Saturday 25th <i>Morning Mass: Annunciation of the Lord</i>	9.30am <u>11.00am</u> 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross <u>Holy Cross</u> St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Oliver Shamkhani (Birthday Intentions) <u>Penitential Service</u> People of the Parish Sr Theresa RIP Layzell Family Intentions
Sunday 26th March <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Mary McCormack RIP Anniversary; The Intentions of the Members of the Hauschild & Guillou Families both living and deceased Gladys Curmi RIP Anniversary Grace Moore RIP FM Sr Rani Kurian & DW Council

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

Deacon Andrew Lee

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: alee@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Office

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

Opening Times: Mon-Thurs 9.30am-5.30pm;
Fri 9.30am-2.30pm (see newsletter for changes).

Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance Admin: Fiona Mooney

Email: accounts@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Sarah Goodfellow

Email: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Website Contact: website.sswp@gmail.com

Safeguarding: Please see Safeguarding posters in each of our churches for details of the Parish Safeguarding Reps. Diocesan Safeguarding: Ruth Attfield (rattfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)