



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

26th SEPTEMBER 2021: TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Cut & Thrust of Discipleship

There is no doubt about it, you really have to be very careful when you read Scripture. There are many difficult passages in the Bible that need explanation and guidance to help us understand its meaning. Once we begin to delve deeper than just the written word and discover what is being written and why and what does God want to convey through His Word, then we are beginning to do practice the art of **Theology** (A Greek word made up of two words - *Theo & Logos*, translation = **the Word about God**). One of the less satisfactory methods of *Biblical criticism* (here we mean *criticism* in the sense of a positive attempt to understand) is to take the words of Scripture literally (*Fundamentalism*). No less a Protestant Theologian than William Barclay, said that to do this is the most unsatisfactory form of understanding Scripture.

To understand and enjoy the Readings at Mass I believe we all need some preparation to receive the Word; reading the Gospel of the day before Sunday Mass; perhaps having a commentary on the Gospels which would help us to understand what is being read, and sharing any insights with the Family. From these *insights* there may be key words and historical background which you can tell the younger members of the family to watch out for, so that when they are heard during the reading of the Gospel they will recognize them and remember them so that Scripture may become more "alive".

The Gospel reading for this Sunday is a prime case where an understanding is needed of its true meaning and message. It certainly should NOT be taken literally! If that were the case then there would be a lot of one eyed, one handed and tongue-less Christians about!!

The Gospel for today reminds us that there is a price to pay for being a follower of Jesus. There will be the challenge of enduring hardships and physical pain and of deep suffering for the sake of the Gospel. In such a case the Christian must try to offer their entire being in the service of the Lord; we cannot hold back a part of ourselves. If we find that our attachments are in the form of what we see or feel or hear or desire, then, we must be brave enough to cast them aside and move in confidence along the way that leads to the full and free life of a Disciple. This is the cut and thrust of the message of Jesus and not the physical dismembering of the individual as a punishment for sin.

The Gospel, like all Scripture, is a challenge of getting to know God. It seems to me that if we have a friend we seek not just to hear what they say but we observe what they do and how they conduct themselves; we want to know where they are coming from and what's in their mind. If you come to Scripture with this in mind you have indeed started your life as a Theologian and should be congratulated.

Fr Bruce

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is a "A Thousand Voices: The views, hopes and fears of the lay faithful in the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth"- 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 29th September, please email your messages/notices to: stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 26th September 2021: Year B - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 2

PSALM RESPONSE: THE PRECEPTS OF THE LORD GLADDEN THE HEART.

READINGS: 1st reading: Numbers 11:25-29 Psalm:18 2nd reading: Letter of St James 5:1-6 Gospel: Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 3RD OCTOBER:

READINGS: 1st reading: Genesis 2:18-24 Psalm: 127 2nd reading: Hebrews 2:9-11 Gospel: Mark 10:2-16

PARISH GROUPS



Stars of Abraham (school years 3-6)

Meet in person:

Tues, 4.00pm-5.30pm in St Edward's Cloister;

Tues, 4.15pm-5.45pm in St Andrew;

Sat, 10.30am-Noon in Holy Cross Resource Centre.

To join and for more info please click the Stars of Abraham Icon on our homepage.

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9)

Meet in person on Saturdays in St Edward, 2.00-4.00pm. To join and for more info please click the Grail Seekers Icon on our homepage.

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

Meet in person on Friday evenings at 6.30pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre. If you would like to attend please book your place on our website by clicking the Student Youth Icon on our homepage.

Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

If you would like to be baptised, confirmed or received into the Catholic Church (or know more about the Catholic faith) please email Deacon Paul Owen: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or alternatively please speak to a priest. The next group will start on the 13th October 2021, 8pm in St Edward the Confessor Church.

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.

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

Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) Group

Tuesdays, 10.15am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. For the 28th September we will watch a DVD on 'Unwrapping God's Gift'.

Fellowship Group

Wednesday 29th September at 7.30pm on Zoom. We will be continuing our CAFOD study inspired by Laudato Si. This week's two studies are a 'Universal Family' and 'We were made for love'. Please contact Deacon Bob Birtles for the Zoom link: bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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 welcome!

Oasis Women's Group - To all ladies in the parish and friends: We would like to invite you to join us for an evening out. It has been a while since we could socialise and we would like to start having a few laughs again. We are planning to have a **dinner together at FRANKIE and BENNY'S in Eastleigh on Tuesday 5th October at 7pm**. There is plenty of space, the more the merrier, so please join us. To assist with numbers please email jessie.woolgar@gmail.com Lifts can be arranged.

CaFE

The CAFE group has restarted in Romsey and North Baddesley. It is on 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the month at 2pm in St. Joseph's Parish Centre and 7pm in St. Andrew's. Our course until December is "This is My Body", a series of DVDs which take us deeper into the Eucharist. All are welcome.

For more information please contact Ann Heslop: ann.heslop@virginmedia.com / 02380 734429.

MESSAGES



Upcoming funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Raymond Kelly and for his family. Raymond's funeral takes place at Holy Cross on Wednesday 29th September at 12 Noon.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jan Kosniowski and for his family. Jan's funeral takes place at Holy Cross on Tuesday 12th October 2021 at 12 Noon.

Parishioners attending Holy Cross Church

Please leave the hymn books on the pews after Mass and continue to use the one way system for entering and exiting the church. Thank you for your support.

MESSAGES CONTINUED



Meeting for all the Volunteers of the Parish

In our Parish we are blessed with many volunteers and we are very grateful for what you do. For this reason we would like to have a meeting with all the volunteers twice a year to reflect all together on the meaning of being a volunteer and the reason why we give our time to the Parish. The first meeting will be on **Sunday 26th September from 3.00pm to 4.30pm in St Edward the Confessor in Chandlers Ford.**

You can prepare for the meeting by trying to answer the following questions:

1. Why am I a volunteer?
2. What have I learnt by being a volunteer?

We are so grateful for all you do for the Parish and hope to see all of you at the meeting.

Remember to bring your mask!

Fr Raffaele

Cultural Friday - On **Friday 1st October** there will be a meeting with Hans Brockman, Head Teacher of Liverpool College (an outstanding state funded Academy in Liverpool, which until 2013 had been a very successful independent school and it is now the most over subscribed school in the north west). We will listen to his experience as a head teacher, there will also be the opportunity to put forward your questions to him. The meeting will start at **7pm in St Swithun Wells Primary School.**

Invitation to Parishioners to join OLOA's Wilfred

Walk - Members of OLOA's congregation will be walking through the Hampshire countryside, visiting five beautiful churches in the Meon Valley, dating back to Saxon times. The walk will take place on **Saturday 2nd October starting at Exton at 10.00am.**

Parishioners are very welcome and if you would like to join us please contact Angus Somerville for details at angussomerville@hotmail.com or phone 07929 867472.

Parish Lunch - We're back! If you'd like to join us for lunch at the **Hunters Inn, Romsey, at 12.30pm on Wednesday 20th October**, you will be most welcome. Menus, with prices, are on the churches notice boards. Please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know your choice of meal by Monday 11th October as we have to pre-book. Thank you.

Upcoming Second Collection

For **CAFOD Harvest on Sunday 3rd October 2021.**

CAFOD Family Fast Day Friday 1st October

This Fast Day, CAFOD invites us eat a simple meal for lunch or dinner and give the money we save to help the world's poorest people. Our local experts are helping people all over the world adapt to climate change and to protect our common home. By donating to CAFOD this family fast day you can help communities affected by the worst impact of the climate crisis. Fast Day envelopes will be made available in all of our churches from Sunday 26th September.

There will be a soup lunch at St Edward's on the Family Fast Day, Friday 1st October from 12 Noon till 1.30pm. The cost is £5, this includes soup, bread, tea & coffee. This is in aid of CAFOD's Fast Day Focus which is climate change and its effects on the world's poorest people. Everyone is welcome!

Property Manager in Holy Cross - Needed!

Unfortunately our property manager for Holy Cross, Mark Head, has had to step down from his role. We would like to extend a huge thank you to him for his time and dedication to this position. Therefore, we are looking for a new volunteer to act as the Holy Cross Property Manager. This involves looking after the site of Holy Cross Church & the Resource Centre. It would be useful if the person has some property maintenance experience. To discuss the role in more detail please contact Fr Raffaele.

Message - Lorraine and Roma wish to extend our gratitude and thanks to our Parish family and all the Clergy. Your support and prayers have sustained us throughout what has been a very difficult period following the illnesses and recent deaths of our sister Gerrardina and our granddaughter/niece Leah. Thank you for keeping us in your prayers, *Lorraine and Roma*

Baby & Toddler Group

We would like to start a baby and toddler group in the parish (possibly in Holy Cross or St Edward) and need some volunteers to organise the sessions and to help set up and clear down. If you are interested please email Katie: katiestickland2013@gmail.com

CONFESSION

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesdays:	6.30pm-7.30pm	St Edward
Tuesdays:	9.30am-10.00am	St Andrew
Saturdays:	10.00am-10.30am	Holy Cross
	5.30pm-6.00pm	OLOA
	5.30pm-6.00pm	St Joseph
Sundays:	8.30am-9.00am	St Andrew
	9.00am-9.30am	OLOA

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)

SCHOOL NOTICES



St Anne's Catholic Independent Secondary School Open Day

St Anne's would like to invite families with girls in Years 4, 5 and 6 to visit them during their open day this term, which will take place on **Wednesday 29th September**. Parents may book a time slot to visit during their **Open Morning (9.00 - 11.00am) and/or Open Evening (6.00 - 8.00pm)**.

Bookings can be made via the links on the school website: www.st-annes.uk.com

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 25th September	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) St Swithun Wells St Joseph OLQA St Edward	Pat Freemantle FM
Sunday 26th September Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	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> Anne & Sean Connolly RIP Julia & Jozef Kusy RIP For the People of the Parish
Mon 27th September <i>St Vincent de Paul</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	
Tues 28th September	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	The Suffering People of Myanmar (Special Intention) Colin Davidovitz RIP
Wed 29th September <i>The Holy Archangels Michael, Gabriel & Raphael</i>	9.30am 10.00am 7.30pm	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) St Edward OLQA	Mrs Edward Christian FM
Thurs 30th September <i>St Jerome</i>	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) OLQA St Joseph	Florence Bohan FM Newton Carrasco RIP
Friday 1st October: Harvest Fast Day <i>St Teresa of the Child Jesus</i>	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Tony McColgan RIP
Saturday 2nd October <i>Morning Mass: The Holy Guardian Angels</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) St Swithun Wells St Joseph OLQA St Edward	For the People of the Parish Peter & Pat Baggott (50th Wedding Anniversary) Anne & Peter Hooper (Well being) Judith Van Willigenburg (Intentions)
Sunday 3rd October Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	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> Living & Deceased Members of Murphy & Lucas Families FM Margaret Martindale RIP Antonio Cicu RIP FM Deceased Members of the Kelly, Slevin & Fox Families RIP

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)
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Fr Bruce Barnes (Assistant Priest)
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