



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ 30th April 2023: FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Good Shepherd Sunday

Traditionally, the 4th Sunday of Easter is known as "Good Shepherd Sunday".

It only takes a moment, looking at today's readings and psalm, to realise why!

It is the abiding and possibly the most well-known image of Jesus, even in the 21st century, but I wonder how comfortable we are with it?

The image of the Good Shepherd does not, perhaps, move us as it did the people of Israel and the early Christians. Images of shepherds and sheep are not very common or relevant in our high tech, computerised world – except on Easter cards maybe.

We do not like to think of ourselves as dumb, submissive animals. Sheep are not the brightest of God's creatures. We are sophisticated human beings. We have an intellect and a free will; we go where we will and do what we want. And we don't like sheep dogs yapping and snapping at our feet! If the Father had delayed Jesus' incarnation till today, what would Jesus be? Would we have the "Good Factory Worker" or the "Good Lawyer" or the "Good Doctor" or the "Good Politician" (jury's out on that one!)?

In Biblical times sheep were very important. They provided both food and clothing. The pastures available were such that they imposed on the shepherd the nomadic life. He had to travel with his sheep from one region to another as the seasons changed. This created a close rapport between the shepherd and his sheep.

The Shepherd cares for his sheep, calls them by name, leads them to pasture and water, finds shelter for them in inclement weather, defends them against bandits and wolves, and willingly commits his whole life to them. Does this remind you of anyone?

The sheep, for their part, have great confidence in the shepherd. They recognise his voice, obey his commands, and they follow wherever he leads them.

Jesus himself says: "I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep and they know me" (Jn 10:14). The early Christians understood the rapport between the shepherd and his sheep and Jesus and his followers.

What is our 21st century equivalent? Who do we follow and who do we lead? This quote from St Teresa of Avila says it all, "Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassionately on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world".

Jesus cares for each one of us, but we are the eyes, ears, hands, feet, and voice of Jesus. We are the "Good Shepherd" to all those we meet.

Deacon Bob Birtles

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is Communion & Liberation's Easter video poster 2023 "Easter Morning" - 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 3rd May 2023**, please email your messages/notices to: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 30th April 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 4

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

READINGS: 1st reading Apostles 2:14a,36-41 Psalm 22 2nd reading 1 Peter 2:20b-25 Gospel John 10:1-10

Sunday 7th May 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 1

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

READINGS: 1st reading Acts 6:1-7 Psalm 32 2nd reading 1 Peter 2:4-9 Gospel John 14:1-12

Youth Groups (including First Holy Communion & Confirmation)

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

Tuesdays, 4pm-5.30pm in St Edward's Cloister;

Wednesdays, 4.15pm-5.45pm in St Andrew;

Saturdays, 10.30am-Noon in Holy Cross R/Centre.

There will be 1st Confessions this week for the children of Stars of Abraham, please pray for them.

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

Tuesdays 10.15am to approx. 11.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. On 25th April we will be exploring the Sycamore Course 3rd Session, "A God Who Speaks". All are welcome!

Over 60's Club - there will be no meeting on Monday 1st May. Meetings will resume at a later date to be confirmed.

PARISH GROUPS



Fellowship Group - St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. We will not be meeting during the month of May. Meetings will resume on Wednesday 7th June at 7.30pm.

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

The Little Flowers Baby & Toddler Groups

Holy Cross Group meet on Wednesdays from 10am in the Resource Centre, Eastleigh;

St Joseph's Group meet on Thursdays from 10.30am -12 Noon in the Hall (26 Abbey Water, Romsey).

The groups are for 0-4 years and their families. More information is on the website or you can email: littleflowers.sswp@gmail.com

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

Thursdays at 6.30pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. Interested in volunteering or know some young adults who would like to join the group? If yes, please contact: arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com

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!

MESSAGES



Upcoming Second Collections

29th/30th April: Clergy Training Fund

This supports our seminarians, including the ten men currently in formation for the priesthood, for the duration of their six- or seven-year journey to ordination. If you would like to give a gift to this collection, there will be second collection baskets available after Mass, alternatively parishioners can donate online at: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/clergy-training-fund-second-collection-2023> This collection will close on 8th May.

Vocations - Today is Good Shepherd Sunday, let us pray especially for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life in our Diocese.

Upcoming Funeral

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Peter William Sweet and for his family. Peter's Funeral Mass takes place on Friday 19th May at 12 Noon in Holy Cross Church.

Parish Get2Gether - Coronation Celebration

Sunday 7th May, 1-4pm Pavillion on the Park, 1 Kingfisher Road, SO50 9LH. An event for all of the parish. We begin by sharing a meal together followed by some activities to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. Come dressed in red, white and blue. 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.

For all those who would like to give ideas and prepare the activities for this event, there will be a meeting in the Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh on Saturday 29th April at 2.30pm.

MESSAGES CONTINUED



Churches Together in Chandler's Ford - Fryern Funtasia (1st May 2023)

We have a stand at the Fryern Funtasia and are in urgent need of volunteers from our church congregations to help staff this on the day. We will have a couple of summer fete style games for children, a prayer tree and will give out goody bags with some sweets and fliers about our activities. The Funtasia runs from 12.00-4.30pm. If anyone can help even for an hour or two during that time, or alternatively with the set up earlier in the morning please contact Lorraine Clapham (our Parish Contact) on 01962 715894.

Good Companions - The next get-together will be at 3pm on Friday 5th May 2023 in the Cloister of St Edward's. If you live alone or are lonely please come and enjoy the company of others. Please ring Tony Wilson on 023 80266617 if you wish to join us.

Masses on Friday 5th May

On Friday 5th May, St Swithun Wells Parish will be celebrating Masses for His Majesty the King to mark his coronation. Please try to attend if you can.

St Swithun Wells Church 5pm Mass on 6th May

Please stay after Mass and join us for a glass of Fizz and some nibbles to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty.

Come & See Summer Half Term Club (7-14yrs)

Tuesday 30th May - Friday 2nd June, 9am-3pm
St Edward's Cloister Cost: £5 per day.
Spaces are limited. For any enquiries please contact fr Luca/fr Marco at: comeandsee.sswp@gmail.com
For more information and to book your child's place please go to the parish website. **Please only book if you are sure your child is going to attend, thank you.**

Changes to Office Opening Hours - The office will be closed on Bank Holiday Monday 1st May, 8th May and also Tuesday 9th May. Please note Fiona, our Finance Administrator will be on leave for one week, week commencing 8th May.

Planned Giving & Gift Aid - If you took a Standing Order form or Direct Debit form at Mass in the last two weeks please return it in an envelope marked 'Planned Giving' to a priest or the Office.

The Rosary - Free Download

A while ago Bishop Philip recorded a CD of the Rosary, an audio recording of this has been made available that can be downloaded, please go to:
<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/the-rosary-free-download>

Diocesan Mission Event

"Then You Will Be My Witnesses"

Friday 12th May, 7:30-9:30pm and Saturday 13th May, 10am-4:30pm

In this Year of the Holy Spirit, Fr Mark Hogan, Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation, would like to invite you to a Diocesan Mission Event at St. Peter's Church, Winchester on the evening of Fri 12th May and the daytime of Sat 13th May. It will give us the opportunity to come together, to receive input from Allegra Mutanda, who has spoken at several international and national events, such as the New Dawn Conference; to worship God and to be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit. The theme we have chosen is "Then You Will Be My Witnesses", which links closely with our Diocesan 10-year Mission Plan and reminds us that the disciples had to wait in Jerusalem to receive the Holy Spirit before stepping out and allowing God to change the world through their witness.

Please click on this link by 5th May to book go to:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/620724673207>
And please do come, even for just a little while...

Job Vacancy - Catholic Home Care Co-ordinator

We're looking for a self-motivated, and resourceful individual to take over the role of co-ordinating the activities of the Catholic Home Care. This is a demanding but rewarding post which offers the opportunity to lead a team of caring people who make a significant social impact providing domestic support, to enable elderly people to safely remain in their own homes for longer. You will be making an important contribution to your community and helping local people.

The position is part-time, flexible 20 hours per week. Days and times to be agreed, based in Southampton. This post will require a full DBS check.

For an application form or more details, please call Anne Monaghan or Marina Joyce 023 8017 0498 or email: catholichomecare@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Closing date for applications is 22nd May with interviews on 26th May 2023.

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

Tues: 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)

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

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|-------------|---|
| Tuesdays: | Fr Raffaele, not available on 2nd May, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh |
| Wednesdays: | Fr Luca, not available on 3rd May 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh |
| Fridays: | Fr Raffaele, 10.30am-11.30am, Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey |
| Saturdays: | Fr Marco, 9.30am-12.30pm, Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey |

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

| DATE | TIME | CHURCH | MASS INTENTION |
|--|--|---|--|
| Sat 29th <i>Morning Mass:</i> <i>St Catherine of Siena</i> | 9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm | Holy Cross SSW OLQA St Joseph St Edward | Mary Glynn RIP People of the Parish Anne Toal RIP Patrick Slavin RIP |
| Sunday 30th April <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i> | 8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am | Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph | <i>Polska Msza Święta</i> John & Madeleine Roberts (Wellbeing) Joyce Austin RIP Christine Watson & Chloe Godding RIP Anniversaries Thanksgiving for New Life |
| Mon 1st May | 9.30am | Holy Cross | Fraternity of St Charles Cecilia Taylor RIP |
| Tues 2nd <i>St Athanasius</i> | 10.00am 6.00pm | St Andrew St Edward | Brid Bradley RIP Mrs Edward Christian FM |
| Wed 3rd <i>Ss Philip & James</i> | 9.30am 9.30am 10.00am | Holy Cross OLQA St Edward | Ann, Teresa & Peter Grieg (Special Intention) Pauline Wilson RIP 1st Anniversary |
| Thurs 4th <i>The English Martyrs</i> | 9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm | Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph | Regina Turl (Special Intention) The Pond Family |
| Fri 5th May | 9.30am 10.00am 10.00am | Masses for King Charles III OLQA St Joseph St Edward | Maria & Trevor Appleton (40th Wedding Anniversary) Sophia Layzell (for Exam Success) |
| Sat 6th May | 9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm | Holy Cross SSW OLQA St Joseph St Edward | Pritchard Family Wellbeing & Souls of the Deceased members of the Pritchard Family Sarah Howie RIP Anniversary Lillian Crocroan RIP |
| Sunday 7th May <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> | 8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am | Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph | <i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Jan Gaca & Helena Gaca RIP People of the Parish Laurence Rigamonti RIP |

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

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

Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)
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Fr Marco Vignolo (Assistant Priest)
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Fr Bruce Barnes (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 01489 890947 (OLQA Office)

Deacon Bob Birtles
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Deacon Paul Wilson
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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)