

Our Mission: LOVE GOD - LOVE OTHERS - MAKE DISCIPLES
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www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity No. 246871

Sunday Cycle: Year B
Weekday Cycle: Year 2
Psalter Week: 1

TWENTY-NINETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Epistle to the Hebrews

For the last couple of weeks, and from now until the end of the liturgical year, the second reading at the Saturday/Sunday Mass is taken from the Epistle to the Hebrews.

Hebrews is a letter that many readers tend to skip, so it is significant that we are given a “good dose” of it in the closing Saturdays and Sundays of the church’s year. People are perhaps fearful of what seems like a series of complicated arguments and look to find “real Christianity” and less of the “dogmatic stuff” elsewhere in the New Testament. So, let’s look briefly at what Hebrews is about and its significance for us today.

In contrast to Paul’s letters, particularly Corinthians and Romans which can be situated historically with some confidence, the anonymous letter known as “Hebrews” refuses to answer the most basic questions concerning its circumstances. We do not know who wrote it (scripture scholars agree, it wasn’t Paul) or even who it was written to. One clue to this (since the second century) is the title “to the Hebrews”. It may be that it was aimed at Jewish converts who hankered after the old Temple Liturgy. Some members of this community were in danger of “falling away”. Because of persecutions, ridicule and hardship they were beginning to doubt their new found faith in Jesus. There are parallels here, surely, in our 21st century world?

It is a very erudite document; written in very complex, awkward but elegant Greek. Its theology is heavy going and sometimes quite off-putting, but well worth perseverance. It is a work of real substance. Hebrews and the Letter of James are regarded as the two “hidden gems” of the New Testament.

Hebrews compares and contrasts Jesus to key historical people and events from the Old Testament. Through these comparisons, we see His superiority. He is greater than angels, the Torah (the Word of God), Moses (the Law), the Promised Land, priests, Melchizedek, sacrifices, and the Covenant. Jesus *is* God's Word, the hope for a new creation, our eternal priest, and the perfect sacrifice.

Throughout the letter, we are constantly challenged to remain faithful to Jesus and follow great models of faith from the Old Testament, despite suffering and persecution. These challenges will make us uncomfortable but instead of fearing them, Hebrews warns us that rejecting Jesus is foolish. We are persistently told that Jesus is the ultimate revelation of God's love and mercy and is worthy of all our trust and devotion.

Despite its “heavy going” theology, or maybe because of it, Hebrews has had a profound influence on Christian faith over the centuries. It portrays Jesus as the perfect model who, despite difficulties, we should follow in the knowledge that “here we have no lasting city, but we seek the one that is to come” (13:13-14).

Deacon Bob Birtles

Parish Office: Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF

Tel: 023 8027 3882. Email: stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Office hours: Monday–Wednesday 9.30am–5pm; Thursday & Friday 9.30–2.30pm Newsletter items should be received by Wednesday 12:00 noon

Entrance Antiphon: To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

Psalm Response: May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

**Readings for next Sunday 28th October 2018
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Gospel: Mark 10:46-52
1st reading: Jeremiah 31:7-9
Psalm: 125
2nd reading: Hebrews 5:1-6

Youth Mass - St Andrew's

Our next practice for our monthly Youth Mass will be on Sunday **28th October** during 9am Mass (children's liturgy) at St Andrew's. The Youth Mass will be on Sunday 4th November. All young adults, teenagers and children are welcome: We are always looking for people to read, play musical instruments and participate. For more details please see Katie Thom.

Children's Liturgy at OLQA, Bishops Waltham

These are the Sunday dates for this term up until Christmas: **28th Oct**; 11th Nov; 25th Nov; 9th Dec & 23rd Dec. Children's Liturgy is held during the 9.30am Mass - all are very welcome. **Joanna** (joannasomerville1@hotmail.com).

**Annual Informal Service (OLQA Hosting)
Sunday 4th November 2018**

We are holding our Annual Informal Service at Bishop's Waltham House, Free Street, Bishop's Waltham. This consists of Hymns, Prayers and Readings. The service starts at 5.45pm and lasts for approximately half an hour. We meet outside about 5.30pm. Please bring a couple of hymn books with you. If you would like any more information or would like to read something please contact Angela Fairweather at 01489 895968 or e mail afairweather@postmaster.co.uk thank you Angela Fairweather.

Journey in Faith - Wednesdays at St Edward's

Is for anyone enquiring about the Catholic faith and for people intending to become a Catholic. The sessions run **every Wednesday** from 7.30pm to 9pm. For further information please contact: Deacon Paul Owen (tel: 02380 254806) email: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Rosary at Holy Cross

Every Thursday throughout October at 9.10am.

Rosary at St Edward's

Every Thursday throughout October during Adoration of the blessed Sacrament (Holy Hour 7-8pm).

Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) Group

Tuesdays (10-11.30am), Holy Cross Resource Centre. Any queries please contact Deacon Paul Wilson on 02380 616618; pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Second Collection for World Mission Sunday

World Mission Sunday is your chance to support missionaries and our Church in proclaiming the Gospel of hope to those who suffer around the world. By supporting Missio, the Pope's official charity for overseas missions, you will be sharing the love of Christ with all people by helping everyone in need, regardless of background or belief. Please give what you can, and if possible, please use the Gift Aid envelopes in the second collection baskets if you are a tax payer. Thank you.

**Diocesan Day of Prayer and Reparation for Life
23rd October 2018**

Bishop Philip would like to keep the 23rd October as a special day of prayer and reparation. In his last Pastoral Letter "People of Life" he notes that it's now over 50 years since the 1967 Abortion Act, one of the most liberal in the world came into effect. Since then 10 million babies in the UK have been aborted. As a people of life our efforts to defend the unborn child, to care for pregnant mothers and to reverse or 'blunt' this Act have had mixed results. What's more it now looks as if secularist movements are seeking to ban anyone from praying outside hospitals and clinics. He has been discussing with pro-life groups new forms of witness. As a start from this year he wants us to keep every 23rd October the day the Act was passed, as a Diocesan Day of Prayer and Reparation for Life.

Fellowship Group - No Meeting on 24th Oct

There will be no meeting on Wednesday 24th October as it is Half Term. Meetings will resume on Wednesday 31st October.

St Swithun Wells Prayer Sheet

- A new Prayer Sheet is available this weekend. Many people have expressed their thanks for the prayer support. Our Prayer Link is 2 years old this Autumn! **Marion** (02380 692416) marionbirtles@gmail.com

Remembrance of Parishioners who have died in the past year

The Remembrance will take place during weekend Masses at :

St Andrew's & St Joseph on **3rd & 4th November**;
Holy Cross, St Swithun Wells & St Edwards on **24th & 25th November**.

Blessing of Graves

In November each year we remember in a special way those who have died and gone before us. One of our traditions is the Blessing of Graves in the cemeteries within our parish. Details for this year are:

Sunday 4th November

Botley & Woodley Cemeteries - 2pm
Bishopstoke Cemetery - 2pm
Eastleigh (Brookwood) Cemetery - 3pm
Fair Oak Cemetery - 3pm
Ramalley Cemetery - 3pm

Tuesday 7th November

North Baddesley St John's Churchyard— after the 10am Mass at St Andrew's.

Prayer Group - Valley Park (Thurs 25th Oct, 11am)

The Rosary will be prayed at the home of Susan Johnston, 9 Danebury Gardens, Chandlers Ford, SO53 4NQ. Everyone welcome.

Friday 2nd November Holy Souls

The 10am Mass is at St Joseph's, not Abbey House. There will also be a 7pm Mass at St Andrew's.

St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School

Thank You

The Year 6 Holy Cross House Captains from St Swithun Wells School would like to thank all those who supported their charity 'Holy Crosta' Cafe event. They raised **£274.04** for The SUDC Foundation. It was lovely to see Fr Raffaele, Fr Luca and so many parishioners supporting this event.

Welcomes you! We would like to invite parents, whose children are due to start school in September 2019, to visit and find out why our recent Ofsted inspection recognised that the school is built on " a clear set of values based on a strong Catholic ethos, enabling children to achieve well and to be the best they can be." There will be an open event on **Wed 7th Nov**, 9.30am -11am. (Open Morning with tours led by our Year 6 children). Parents are also invited to an Information Evening on Wed 7th Nov 7-8.30pm where parents can hear about the school's success from current parents, children and staff. The application process will be explained. If you who would like to visit the school please contact the School Office: Tel: 02380266210; Email: adminoffice@st-swithunwells.hants.sch.uk

St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School needs your help. We are looking to appoint a practising Catholic to join our Governing Board. Please contact the CASO, Diocesan Schools' Office for further information: governors@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or see the School's website www.st-swithunwells.org.uk (Community -Governors).

CAFOD Christmas Cards

On sale after Masses at St Edward's on Oct 20th/21st.

Holy Cross Shop

From this Sunday we will have Christmas cards, Advent Calendars, gifts, decorations, diaries and calendars for sale. Do pay us a visit - we are in the walkway between the Church and the Resource Centre.

Pat & Angela

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.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS

Last week's collections: £TBC; SO/SD for Sept'18: £12,903.09

60 Club - Holy Cross Resource Centre, 2-4pm

Monday 22nd October. Hope to see you then. Maureen (tel: 02380 692682).

Parish Lunch - Tues 6th Nov at The Vine, Ower

12.30pm. All welcome. Menus are on the notice boards. Please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know you choice of meal before Monday 29th October as we have to pre-book. Thank you.

Science - Or - Religion? A Diocesan Symposium

Date: Saturday 3rd November 2018, 10am-4pm

Location: The Discovery Centre in Winchester (opp. St. Peter's church).

Two leading scientists will ask whether recent research on the Universe suggests the existence of a Creator. There will also be a series of workshops led by experts on such topics as Christianity and Extra Terrestrial Life, the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence and whether human consciousness is immortal. The Symposium is open to all, whether religious or not. See the diocesan e-News for more info. Places are limited and bookings are now open at <https://portsmouthdiocese.eventbrite.co.uk>.

CaFE - Catholic Faith Exploration

Are meeting in November on the following dates:

Monday 5th November at 2.30pm in St Joseph's;
Tuesday 13th November at 7.30pm in St Andrew's.

Please contact Sheila Keefe on 01794 518071 or s.keefe@btopenworld.com

Youth Groups at Holy Cross Resource Centre

All young people from school year 4 up to and including 6th Form are welcome to come and join us once a month on Sunday evenings. We will be running age specific activities using different rooms at Holy Cross Resource Centre 7pm-8.30pm. For more info please contact: Marianne Wanstall on 07771 704600 [Inspire - school yrs 4-9];

Cath Szymanski on 07846 438224 [TOZ - school yrs 10, 11 & Sixth Form College]

Upcoming dates: 18th Nov; 9th Dec; 13th Jan; 10th Feb; 17th Mar.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) - Eastleigh Money

Course: To help people to manage their money better and learn to budget, save and spend well, so avoiding getting into debt. This is a free course and will **be held over three evenings on 16th, 23rd and 30th October** from 7.30pm– 9.30pm at the Junction Church, High St, Eastleigh. If you are interested there is a poster in the welcoming area of Holy Cross and St. Swithun Wells churches plus postcards and leaflets explaining the course and how to book. If you have any queries please contact our CAP representative - Pat Baggott on 02380 694060.

Bishop Philip's FREE weekly e-Newsletter

Keep in touch with the latest news and forthcoming events around the diocese. Visit

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews to sign up.

Mass Times for our Six Church Communities

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 20th Oct Vigil Masses	5.00pm	St Sw	Jackie Callow RIP (Anniversary)	Thurs 25th	9.30am	HC	In grateful thanks to Our Lady of Good Success and St Joseph
	6.00pm	St J	John Bryceland's (Special Birthday Intentions)		<u>10.00am</u>	<u>OLQA</u>	<u>No Mass</u>
	6.00pm	OLQA			6.00pm	St J	Stephen Mullen RIP
	6.30pm	St Ed					
Sun 21st 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta	Fri 26th	10.00am	St Ed	Puck Keestra RIP
	9.00am	St Ed	Pam Marchesi (Special Intention)		10.00am	St J (AH)	
	9.00am	St A					
	9.30am	OLQA					
	11.00am	St J	Bridie Roddy's Intentions (Well Being)				
11.00am	HC	Charlie & Shiela Stone RIP					
Mon 22nd Oct	10.00am	St Ed	Pam Marchesi (Special Intention)	Sat 27th	9.30am	HC	
Tues 23rd	9.30am	HC	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Sat 27th Vigil Masses	5.00pm	St Sw	Helen Sanders (Thanksgiving 60th Birthday)
	10.00am	St A	Monica Carrasco RIP (1st Anniversary of Death)		6.00pm	St J	
	<u>10.00am</u>	<u>OLQA</u>	<u>No Mass</u>		6.00pm	OLQA	
			6.30pm		St Ed	Marchesi & James Family Intentions	
Wed 24th	9.30am	HC	Donors Intentions	Sun 28th Oct 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta
	10.00am	St Ed			9.00am	St Ed	David Sheridan RIP
					9.00am	St A	
					9.30am	OLQA	
					11.00am	St J	Colette's Intentions
					11.00am	HC	Antonio Martone RIP

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday HC Adoration 1st Tuesday of the month 10.00-1.00pm
Thursday St ED Holy Hour (7-8pm)
Thursday St J from Noon-6pm, Rosary and Benediction at 5.30pm (before Mass at 6pm)

Rosary And Prayers

St Edward 9.30am Wednesday The Holy Rosary
St Joseph 6.00pm Wednesday Evening Prayer

CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

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

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, 53, Leigh Road, Eastleigh. SO50 9DF
St Sw St Swithun Wells, 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

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