



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ
10TH JANUARY 2021: THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Enlarge The Horizon

When a big calamity or disgrace affects men's and women's lives, two different ways of coping with it might emerge: getting stuck in that event as if it was "everything" or enlarge our horizons and look at the big picture.

I must say that in the last few days I have lived the temptation of "getting stuck" in the detailed analysis of the current situation, trying to make predictions about the future, letting my mind be dominated by the Coronavirus as the pivot of my existence. But then I read the Christmas Homily of Pope Francis, whose first lines I would like to share with you:

We often hear it said that the greatest joy in life is the birth of a child. It is something extraordinary and it changes everything. It brings an excitement that makes us think nothing of weariness, discomfort and sleepless nights, for it fills us with a great, incomparable happiness. That is what Christmas is: the birth of Jesus is the "newness" that enables us to be reborn each year and to find, in him, the strength needed to face every trial. Why? Because his birth is for us - for me, for you, for all of us, for everyone. "For" is a word that appears again and again on this holy night: "For us a child is born", Isaiah prophesied. "For us is born this day a Saviour", we repeated in the Psalm. Jesus "gave himself for us" (Tit 2:14), Saint Paul tells us, and in the Gospel the angel proclaims: "For to you is born this day a Saviour" (Lk 2:11). For me, for you.

Yet what do those words - for us - really mean? They mean that the Son of God, the one who is holy by nature, came to make us, as God's children, holy by grace. Yes, God came into the world as a child to make us children of God. What a magnificent gift! This day, God amazes us and says to each of us: "You are amazing". Dear sister, dear brother, never be discouraged. Are you tempted to feel you were a mistake? God tells you, "No, you are my child!" Do you have a feeling of failure or inadequacy, the fear that you will never emerge from the dark tunnel of trial? God says to you, "Have courage, I am with you". He does this not in words, but by making himself a child with you and for you. In this way, he reminds you that the starting point of all rebirth is the recognition that we are children of God. This is the starting point for any rebirth. This is the undying heart of our hope, the incandescent core that gives warmth and meaning to our life. Underlying all our strengths and weaknesses, stronger than all our past hurts and failures, or our fears and concerns about the future, there is this great truth: we are beloved sons and daughters.

The certainty of being loved is the only adequate horizon within which we can face any hardships and trials, knowing that sacrifices are inevitable and provisory, part of the journey to rediscover God's love, and not the whole story.

Father Luca

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is a **video by Fr Raffaele explaining the idea of a new parish centre** - you can find this on our homepage. If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact website.sswp@gmail.com

Newsletter items should be received into the Parish Office by Wednesday 9:30am

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 10th January 2021: Year B - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Office Proper

PSALM RESPONSE: The Lord will bless his people with peace.

READINGS:

1st reading: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 **Psalm:** 28 **2nd reading:** Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38 **Gospel:** John 5:1-9

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 17TH JANUARY:

1st reading: 1st Book of Samuel 3:3b-10, 19 **Psalm:** 39 **2nd reading:** 1st Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20 **Gospel:** John 1:35-42

PARISH GROUPS



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

All the meetings of the group will be on Zoom on Saturday at 11.00am. To join the group and for more information please click the Stars of Abraham Icon on our homepage.

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9) - All the meetings of the group will be on Zoom on Saturday at 2.00pm. To join the group and for more information please click the Grail Seekers Icon on our homepage.

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

All the meetings of the group will be on Zoom on Friday at 8.00pm. To join the group and for more information please click the Student Youth Icon on our homepage.

Communion & Liberation Group (with Fr Luca) is meeting **every Wednesday** through Zoom. For more information please click the link on the homepage of our website.

Communion & Liberation Group

(with Fr Raffaele) is meeting **every Thursday at 8pm** through Zoom. For more information please click the link on the homepage of our website.

Fellowship Group - The first meeting of the New Year will take place on **Zoom on Wednesday 13th January at 7.30pm**. We will have a Liturgy for a New Year. Please contact Deacon Bob Birtles on bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for a link to Zoom. Everyone in the Parish is most welcome to join us.

Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

If you would like to be baptised, confirmed or received into the Catholic Church please email Deacon Paul Owen at: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or alternatively please speak to a priest.

MESSAGES



Message from Fr Raffaele, Fr Luca, Fr Marco & Matteo

Dear parishioners unfortunately in our community of priests, Fr Raffaele, Fr Luca and Matteo have tested positive for COVID, whilst Fr Marco has tested negative. For this reason we are, all of us, self isolating. Our churches will be closed (apart from OLQA) until Sunday 17th January inclusive.

Starting from Friday 8th January, there will be online Mass live streamed from Holy Cross, on weekdays and Saturdays at 9.30am and Sundays at 10am.

Parish Get2Gether Via Zoom

Sunday 31st January 3pm-4.30pm

An event for all the people of the parish with games, songs, activities for children and conversations for adults. Please go to our website for more details and how to join.

Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Diana Schimmer whose funeral took place on Wednesday 6th January at St Joseph's, and for her family.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Marcella Cheater whose funeral takes place on Friday 8th January at 11.30am, and for her family.

Parish Office

In light of the current situation the office will be closed however:

Linda Roberts will be working from home (Mon-Thursday) - she can be contacted through email (details on back page) and also on the office telephone number.

Sarah Goodfellow will be working from home on Wed & Thurs but will also be taking Fridays off whilst the primary schools are closed.

MESSAGES CONTINUED



Thank you to everyone for your Christmas greetings, prayers, cards, gifts and thoughts expressed in so many different ways. We are also very grateful for your generosity shown through the Christmas Offerings which we do appreciate.

Fr Raffaele, Fr Luca, Fr Marco & Fr Bruce

Upcoming Second Collections

Please note there will be a second collection for the Cathedral in Portsmouth on 23rd/ 24th January.

Message from Bishop Philip about the Diocesan Survey of People and Parishioners

We want to better understand what you the people and parishioners of our Diocese think and what you consider is important as we journey in faith together. It will inform my thinking about our priorities for the next few years. The survey link is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2XRKQDS> and there is a paper version for those unable to access the digital version: please leave a message with your name and address for Chris Smith our Director of Communications on 02394 216496.

Diocesan Courses

Formation on the Mass - This coming January, you are invited to join us for a **Back to Basics Course on the Mass in 6 sessions** to refresh our understanding and deepen our love for the Mass. This course will be especially helpful to catechists, readers and parents of First Holy Communion children, but it is open to everyone. It will be taking place on **Monday evenings from 7-9pm, from the 11th January to the 15th February**. Sign up for the course at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/64576543210>

Formation for Readers - the 2021 workshops will take place in **February (6th & 13th)** and in **April (17th & 24th)**. Participants need to have attended both workshop 1 and workshop 2, and completed a reading practice to receive a Diocesan *Recognitio*. Sign up for the workshops at: <https://www.godwhospeaks.org/readers>

MASS (STREAMING & BOOKING SYSTEM)

As explained in the Messages section, all of our churches (apart from OLOA) will be closed for public Masses & private prayer until Sunday 17th January inclusive.

Live Streamed Mass

Mass will be live streamed from Holy Cross:

- **Monday through to Saturday at 9.30am**
- **Sundays at 10.00am**

To join please go to our parish website www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Mass in Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Bishop's Waltham

- **Sunday 9.30am** - To reserve a seat please email: olqamassbook@gmail.com



MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Fri 8th Jan	9.30am	Holy Cross—Live Streamed	Eddie Palmer RIP Mrs Edward Christian FM
Sat 9th Jan	9.30am	Holy Cross—Live Streamed	Smyth Family FM Sr Patricia Wragg RIP Harry & Joan Long RIP
Sun 10th Jan <i>Baptism of the Lord</i>	9.30am 10.00am	OLQA Holy Cross—Live Streamed	The Deceased Relatives of the Sweeney Family RIP Harry Roydon RIP Anniversary Ethel Neary RIP
Mon 11th Jan <i>(Beginning of Ordinary Time)</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross—Live Streamed	Michael Lane RIP FM Albert James Boaden FM
Tues 12th Jan	9.30am	Holy Cross—Live Streamed	Gualteri Smyth FM
Wed 13th Jan	9.30am	Holy Cross—Live Streamed	Mike Walsh RIP Pat & Mike Garrett (Well-being)
Thurs 14th Jan	9.30am	Holy Cross—Live Streamed	Ray Harrison RIP Keith Clark RIP Joseph Jackson RIP
Fri 15th Jan	9.30am	Holy Cross	Sr Patricia Wragg RIP Ellen Jackson RIP
Sat 16th Jan	9.30am	Holy Cross—Live Streamed	Catherine Mary Robinson FM Sr Margaret (Well-being) Rocio Bates (Thanksgiving)
Sun 17th Jan <i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am 10.00am	OLQA Holy Cross—Live Streamed	Colleen Patricia Recardo RIP Michael Jeffrey & Jane Roberts RIP

CLERGY

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)

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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 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

Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance

Admin: Linda Roberts (works full day Mon-Wed, half day Thursday now working from home)
lroberts@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Sarah Goodfellow (works Wed & Thursday, 9.30am-2.30pm now working from home)
stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website Contact: website.sswp@gmail.com