



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

19th FEBRUARY 2023: SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

You Must Love Your Neighbour

On this, the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Gospel is about the teaching of Jesus that perfection is to be found in the principle of charity.

First of all, Jesus speaks of the so-called "law of retaliation" according to which the same harm should be done to the offender as he has done to the victim. This law has been known since antiquity and was also accepted by the Jews. The "law of retaliation", so severe and ruthless, was however a great improvement over the extreme forms of personal revenge that were once practiced. In the book of Genesis, for example, we read that Lamech (a person in Cain's genealogy) boasted of practicing a revenge that was seventy times seven greater than the offense he received. These words of Lamech will then be reversed by the words of Jesus, who teaches to forgive seventy times seven.

Jesus overcomes the "law of retaliation" by perfecting the teaching on fraternal charity. He says to "offer the wicked man no resistance" and to "offer the other cheek". The teaching of Jesus is very important and very demanding. However, Jesus' words must not be taken literally: the Christian can and must defend himself. The Church has always taught in the Catechism the legitimacy of self-defence regarding one's life. For example, if someone tries to kill me, I can defend myself. These words "offer the other cheek" must be understood in the sense that the Christian is called not to harbour hatred and resentment: even when forced to defend himself, he must love his enemies and pray for them.

Jesus continues his teaching by saying: "Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away." If we have the opportunity to do good, we should not miss the opportunity, or put off until tomorrow what we can do today!

A little further on, Jesus says: "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." And, as an example of this love, the Lord points to the Heavenly Father who "causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike." This is how our charity should be: it must benefit everyone, friends and enemies. In this consists perfection, holiness. To be authentically Christian, we should imitate God's charity. Even in the "Our Father" we pray "Thy will be done": and the will of God is the love for friends and enemies.

Holiness is therefore for everyone, it is not reserved only for a privileged few. We should desire holiness above all else. In reality holiness and charity are the same thing. If we look at God this is clear, in fact God is Holy and God is Love. Therefore desiring holiness means wanting to love God and one's neighbour more and more. It is with practiced charity that the world and - above all - the hearts of men are changed.

Fr Marco

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is 'He gets us', what is Jesus' love about? 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 February 2023**, please email your messages/notices to: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 19th February 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Psalter Week 3

PSALM RESPONSE: THE LORD IS COMPASSION AND LOVE.

READINGS: 1st reading Leviticus 19:1-2,17-18 Psalm 102 2nd reading 1 Corinthians 3:16-23 Gospel Matthew 5:38-48

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

PSALM RESPONSE: HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD, FOR WE HAVE SINNED.

READINGS: 1st reading Genesis 2:7-9;3:1-7 Psalm 50 2nd reading Romans 5:12-19 Gospel Matthew 4:1-11

PARISH GROUPS



Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) Group

Tuesday 21st February at 10.15am to approx.

11.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. We will be continuing our DVD series on Prayer called 'Strength to Strength'. All are welcome!

Fellowship Group - St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. There will be no Fellowship on Wed 22nd February as it is Ash Wednesday.

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 1: 1st March - the theme is 'Building Welcoming Communities'. 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.

For more details about the Supper please see the main messages section of the newsletter.

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! Next Meeting: 2pm on 7th March

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!

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

Rules for Ash Wednesday & Lent

Roman Catholics must abstain from meat on all Fridays during Lent.

On Ash Wednesday (22nd February) Roman Catholics must fast and abstain from meat. Fasting means reducing considerably the amount of food we eat (e.g. having just one meal) and abstinence means abstaining from eating meat. The law of fasting applies to anyone aged 18-60. The law of abstinence applies to those who are over 14.

Additional Masses on Ash Wednesday

Please see the back page of the Newsletter for details of all Ash Wednesday Masses across the Parish. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses on this day.

Changes to Mass during Lent

The Friday Mass at OLOA will be celebrated at 10.30am (instead of 9.30am), followed by Stations of the Cross at 11am. There will be a 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.

MESSAGES



My Day by Day Lent - From this weekend 'My Day by Day Lent' booklets will be available in our churches. My Day by Day Junior is free to children, however a suggested donation of £1 each for the Adult booklets would be most welcome. The Walk With Me Lent Calendar is also free for the children.

Stations of the Cross During Lent

OLOA: Fridays at 11am (after Mass);

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).

World Day of Prayer Bible Study

Friday 24th February, 10am

Methodist Church, Winchester Road, Chandlers Ford, SO53 2GJ, Meeting Room 1. Please join us for an informal time together, commencing with refreshments.

MESSAGES CONTINUED

World Day of Prayer Service - focus on Taiwan

Friday 3rd March, 7.30pm

Hosted by St Francis Church, Pilgrims Close, Chandlers Ford, SO53 4ST

Lent Ecumenical Study Group in Romsey Parish Centre, 26, Abbey Water, Romsey, on **Tuesday evenings 6.30pm-8pm**, starting on Tues 28th Feb. All are welcome. Please bring a bible if you can.

Lunches & Suppers being held across the Parish during Lent

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. There will be a Lenten Study at 7.45pm on Wednesday evenings (see Fellowship notice in Parish Groups for more info), anyone is welcome to come to the Lenten supper or just the Lenten Study or to both.

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.

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

Romsey Churches Lenten Lunch - this year the Catholic community will be providing lunch on **Friday 10th March, 12-1.30pm, in the Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water**. As a change from the usual fare, lunch will consist of sandwiches, cakes, fruit, tea and coffee, including gluten free, vegan and dairy free options. If you can offer to bake a cake or help on the day, please contact Teresa Rayment (01794 513528). It will be much appreciated.

Good Companions - Our next get-together will be at **12 Noon on Friday 3rd March in the Cloister of St. Edward's** when we will join the Lenten lunch. Please ring Tony Wilson on 02380 266617 if you wish to come along. We look forward to seeing you.

Lent Parish Retreat - We will hold a Parish Retreat for Lent on **Sunday 12th March, 2.30pm-4.30pm at St Edward**. Open to everyone. There will be a talk about Lent, some time for private prayer in the church and a time for questions and sharing thoughts.

Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 5th March, 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 discussion on the topic of **'Freedom of your spouse and also of your children as they develop into adults.'** 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: 2nd April*

OLQA St Patrick's Day Social

17th March at 7pm in the Church hall in Bishop's Waltham - OLQA Social Group would like to invite members of the Parish to a musical evening with a local group called 'Shantyhead'. Tickets £5 a head, byo nibbles and drinks. Please contact Marie Kemp on 07760 809640 for more info/to reserve your tickets.

Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Sr Rosaleen Dunne and for her family. Sr Rosaleen's Funeral Mass takes place on **Tuesday 21st February at 2pm in St Joseph's Church**.

St Swithun Wells Church - Can you spare 2 hours (once every 8 weeks) on a Monday or Tuesday to help us keep our lovely church clean? Please contact Pat Baggott (02380 694060) if you can help or want to know more. Many thanks.

St Swithun Wells Parish Online Giving

If you would like to give directly online please scan in this QR code.



Vacancy for Eastleigh CAP Centre Manager

Manager needed to effectively run the Eastleigh CAP Centre. Please see job advert on church noticeboards. 16 hours per week, £11,000 per annum & pension. Closing date for applications 28th February 2023.

SCHOOL NOTICES

Warm Room - St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School are holding a Warm Room every **Thursday between 1-3pm**. This will provide somewhere for parishioners to enjoy the company of others in a warm and welcoming environment.

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Tuesdays: Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh
Wednesdays: Fr Luca, 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

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 Feb	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Eileen Wilkie (Birthday Anniversary) Andrew Russell-Smith RIP Richard Bradley & Deceased Members of the Bradley Family RIP
Sunday 19th Feb <i>Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	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> The New Family (Special Intention) Eileen Joyce RIP (Birthday Anniversary) Edwin Legare RIP People of the Parish
Mon 20th	9.30am	Holy Cross	Regina Turl (Special Intention)
Tues 21st	10.00am <u>2.00pm</u> 6.00pm	St Andrew <u>St Joseph</u> St Edward	Margaret Martindale RIP <u>Funeral Mass: Sr Rosaleen Dunne RIP</u>
Wed 22nd <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am 2.00pm 7.00pm 7.00pm 7.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph SSW School St Andrew St Edward OLQA	Phyllis Altman RIP Deceased Members of the Roddy Family RIP FM Victims of the Turkey/Syria Earthquake Noel Baker RIP Anniversary
Thurs 23rd Feb	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Raymond Harrison RIP Ramon & Nelita Hechanova RIP
Fri 24th Feb	10.00am 10.00am 10.30am	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	Win Harris RIP (Birthday Anniversary) The Colyer Family (Intentions)
Saturday 25th Feb	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Andrew Bates RIP John Hooley RIP Intentions of Cathyleen Divilly
Sunday 26th Feb <i>First Sunday of Lent</i>	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> People of the Parish Eileen Smith-Pasini RIP Liza Marie Haynes RIP Anniversary Eric Clarke RIP Anniversary

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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)