



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

22nd MARCH 2020: **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

Letter from our Parish Priests

Dear parishioners,

Sadly, from Thursday, 19th March 2020, until further notice, all public Masses and groups in our Parish have been suspended. It is the same across the country. We would like to help you to live through these times in a positive way. COVID-19 is a challenge in our lives. We understand that it is not enough just to comply with good hygiene practises, we also need to live these events within the horizon of our faith. But how can we live through what is happening in a better way? What does our faith say? Three points are of particular importance.

1. **Deepen our faith.** Usually when we speak about this virus we focus on the health services and the doctors, nurses and health care professionals; the families of the sick, the elderly and those in quarantine; the effects on economic life in the country and around the world; jobs; the responsibility of government officials and authorities.

All of these aspects are important, but they are not everything. We have to look deeper. The virus, and what is happening, raises questions that we cannot avoid any more. Deep questions like: If our lives can change so quickly what is essential and what is not in what we do? If we are so fragile what is the meaning of our lives? What lessons does God want to teach us with all of this? What can help us to overcome our fears? These questions are the important ones, that will lead us during the following weeks to deepen our lives.

This virus can be an opportunity for us to grow as human beings, to challenge the way we usually think or behave. We will discover that many things we usually do are not essential, we will discover that our relationship with others and with the Lord is what matters. Will we be better after this virus? It depends on us!

2. **Charity.** Our faith makes us look at what is happening with love for others. With this in mind we must carefully comply with all the recommendations given to us to prevent the spread of the disease. All precautions to avoid contagions must be put in place, however, our charity must be more than this.

As Christians we are called to take care of the ones who are more in need, to help each other more, to speak more. In the face of fear and suffering, only a friendly presence can ensure serenity and give meaning to life, and we want to be that presence, even if we have to use technological means to fulfil this.

3. **Prayer.** We have to live everything that is happening in prayer. Praying as an act of trust in God implies two things:

Ask: for the quick recovery of the sick and to spare those in self isolation; that the dying and those who die are welcomed by God in a fullness that brings relief to all suffering; that those who care for the sick feel accompanied and do not lack strength; that the rulers have a view to the common good and lead with wisdom; that the whole society lives these events with the perception that we are all interconnected and that we need God.

Reinforce our dialogue with God. We have to deepen our faith through a more serious relationship with the Lord. Some of us will have more time, we can use that time to read more, to pray more. Current circumstances demand that.

In our Parish of St Swithun Wells, although many parish activities (groups for children and young people, groups for adults, public Masses...) have been suspended, we still want to grow in our life of faith. **God challenges us to be creative.** Families have to maintain a Christian life. Let's make the most of our time. If because of the danger of contagion, we have to stay at home, let's try not to waste this time. Although it is important to keep informed about the current situation, it is not good to spend hours on the internet or in front of television watching news about the Coronavirus.

In our families, we have to help each other to live well these days, having good conversations and praying together. During the week it will be possible to pray the rosary with the priests every day via the internet or by telephone. We have to be attentive to those who suffer and be there for people who need help. We should also take the opportunity to read a good book. Students should study a bit every day. Although Stars of Abraham, Grails Seeker and TOZ have stopped meeting physically together there will be the possibility to meet each other online.

Some of our churches will be open normally during the day, at certain times a priest will be there to talk or take

Letter from our Parish Priests (Continued)

confession, but there will be no public Masses. On weekdays and Saturdays the priests will celebrate Mass at 9:30am and on Sundays at 10.00am (from Holy Cross Church). It will be possible to join us online at these Masses via internet streaming, details about how to do this are included in this newsletter, on the parish website and on church posters. It will also be possible to make a spiritual communion.

Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.

I love you above all things

and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,

come spiritually into my soul

so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

Each one of you has a special place in our prayers. We will offer Mass everyday for you and your families. Even though we are physically far from each other, you are all in our hearts!

Our Lady, Mother of Jesus, who was with Him at the Cross, is certainly at the cross of each of her children and does not abandon us. She intercedes for us all. Mary, Mother of hope, pray for us so that this trial may pass and that we may take advantage of this moment to lead a fuller life.

Fr Raffaele, Fr Luca, Fr Marco, Canon Alan

PARISH GROUPS



The following groups are continuing to meet through ZOOM:

- **Stars of Abraham** (Live meeting) 7.00pm Tuesdays (from 24th March)
- **Grail Seekers** (Live meeting) 4.00pm Saturdays (from 28th March)
- **TOZ** (Live meeting) 7.00pm Sundays (from 29th March)
- **School of Community** (Live meeting) 8.00pm Wednesdays

Please follow the ZOOM meeting instructions to connect to the group.

All other groups have been suspended until further notice:

- **Growing in Faith Together (GIFT)** (Contact Deacon Paul Wilson)
- **Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)** (Deacon Paul Owen)
- **Journey in Faith with the Bible** (Anne Owen)
- **Fellowship Group** (Peter Baggott/Deacon Bob Birtles).
- **CaFE** (Sheila on 01794 518071).
- **60 Club** (Maureen on 80692682).
- **Knit for Peace** (Anne on 02380 734710).
- **Knit and Natter** (Maureen on 02380 252104).
- **Mothers Prayers of the Solace Community**
- **Oasis Women's Group**
- **Afternoon Club (Romsey)**

MESSAGES



Bishop's Pastoral Letter and Decree regarding Coronavirus (19th March 2020)

A copy is available to read in our churches alternatively please visit our website: www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk.

Good Companions

It is with great reluctance that we have to cancel the April (and probably June) lunches due to the coronavirus. We pray that you keep well and, hopefully, we will be able to get together again later in the year. Pauline (023 80266617) and Susie (023 80263436).

Coffee Stop (Thursdays in the Resource Centre)

will be closed for the foreseeable future. We will reopen when it is deemed safe to do so.

St Edward's Spring-clean - has now been cancelled.

Safeguarding Training

The previously advertised training at St Joseph's Parish Centre on the 28th March has been cancelled.

Planned Giving Weekly Envelope Boxes

The new boxes of envelopes which begin on the 6th April are available in the welcoming areas of our churches. When convenient please collect the box with your name on it. Your Gift Aid Co-ordinators are: **St Joseph and St Andrew** - Please contact David Martin to arrange collection. **St Edward** - Ian Fearon and Mike Greenslade. **Holy Cross and St Swithun Wells** - Pat Baggott.

Clock Changes (British Summer Time)

Please be aware that the clocks go forward by one hour next weekend (29th March).

REVISED MASS TIMES, CHURCH OPENING & PRIEST AVAILABILITY



Mass will be live streamed from Holy Cross Church (from Sun 22nd March):

Sundays at 10.00am

Mon to Sat at 9.30am

Please go to our website

<https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/> where you will be able to watch and join in Mass being celebrated live from Holy Cross Church.

Communal Praying of the Rosary with Meditations from the Holy Cross Presbytery

Monday to Friday at 7.00pm

Please follow the guidelines for the Zoom meetings. You will be able to listen to a meditation given by one of our priests and then join in the Rosary being prayed.

Church Opening Times

Holy Cross	Sunday 11.00am - 4.00pm
	Mon to Sat 10.00am - 4.00pm
St Edward's	Mon to Sun 9.30am - 4.00pm
St Joseph's	Friday 10.30am - 12.30pm
St Swithun Wells	Tues 10.00am - 12 Middy

How to join our ZOOM meetings

Via internet:

Go to <https://zoom.us/j/6942241055>

If you don't have the "zoom" app, it will be automatically downloaded.

Click "join a meeting"

Enter the Meeting ID: 694 224 1055

Via phone:

Dial one of these four numbers

0203 051 2874

0203 481 5237

0203 481 5240

0131 460 1196

Follow the instruction

When asked enter the Meeting ID:

694 224 1055

Times a priest will be available in the Church

Holy Cross, Tues and Thurs from 10.30am - 12.30pm

St Edward's, Wed and Fri from 10.30am - 12.30pm

St Joseph's, Friday from 10.30am - 12.30pm

CHANGES TO PARISH OFFICE OPENING & MASS INTENTIONS



Main Parish Office (Eastleigh) availability

- Sarah in the Office Wed to Fri, 9.30am - 2.30pm
- Fr Luca in the Office Tuesdays, 3.00pm - 5.00pm
- Fr Marco in the Office Thursdays, 3.00pm - 5.00pm
- Fr Raffaele in the Office Fridays 3.00pm - 5.00pm

Parish Office telephone number: 02380 273882.

If no-one is around and the matter is urgent please phone the emergency number.

Emergency Number Tel: 02380 612430

If you urgently need to speak to one of our Priests please use this number. If no-one is around to immediately answer your call please leave a message and someone will call you back as soon as possible.

Mass Intentions: Mass Intentions that have already been booked across the Parish will be offered during live streamed Masses where there is availability. Everyday 3 Priests will celebrate Mass, that means 3 Intentions can be offered. There will be times, usually at the weekend when more than 3 Mass Intentions have been booked, therefore the Priests at their discretion may need to move some Mass Intentions. If you would prefer not to have this happen due to personal reasons please let the Parish Office know as soon as possible as we may be able to suspend your booking and reschedule once the churches have reopened.

Upcoming Second Collections

These have been suspended and will be rescheduled at a later date.

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 21st			MASSES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED ACROSS THE PARISH
Sun 22nd March Fourth Sunday of Lent	10.00am	Holy Cross Live Stream	Ann Wood RIP Gladys Curmi RIP Deceased Members of the Killick Family RIP
Mon 23rd	9.30am	Holy Cross Live Stream	Charles Egan RIP Martin Ceresa (Wellbeing) Bill Jones RIP
Tues 24th	9.30am	Holy Cross Live Stream	Joanna Lake & Children (Special Intention) Dian Sebi (Birthday) Jozef Dembski RIP
Wed 25th <i>Annunciation of the Lord</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross Live Stream	John Donnelly RIP For the People of the Parish in thanksgiving Marianne Lake & Children (Special Intention)
Thurs 26th	9.30am	Holy Cross Live Stream	Grace Moore FM Bridie Roddy RIP Robert Benedict Harris RIP (Anniversary)
Fri 27th	9.30am	Holy Cross Live Stream	Marie Fodero RIP For Holy Souls - Especially for the Deceased Members of FOSS Mary McCormack RIP
Sat 28th	9.30am	Holy Cross Live Stream	Souls in Purgatory (Special Intention) Ellen-Marie Connolly (Well being) Sean Connolly (Special Intention)
Sun 29th March Fifth Sunday of Lent	10.00am	Holy Cross Live Stream	Mary McCormack RIP (28th Anniversary) Sr Rosaleen (Well being) Beatrice & George White; David, Laura & Eduardo Fernandes FM

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS

Sunday 22nd March 2020:

Year A - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 4

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: REJOICE JERUSALEM, AND ALL WHO LOVE HER. BE JOYFUL ALL WHO WERE IN MOURNING; EXULT AND BE SATISFIED AT HER CONSOLING BREAST..

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

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, 29TH MARCH 2020:

1st reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14 - Psalm: 129 - 2nd reading: Romans 8:8-11 - Gospel: John 11:1-45



PARISH EVENTS

All previously advertised Parish events, including Lenten Suppers, CAFOD/Caritas Conference in April, Gift Sales/Raffles, Stations of the Cross, Penitential Services have been suspended until further notice.



GEM OF THE WEEK

This week's GEM is 'Don't waste these difficult days' an interview with Pope Francis on the Coronavirus emergency. You can find the link on our homepage. If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact the Webmaster on website.sswp@gmail.com.

