



*Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ*

**13th APRIL 2025: PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

## **'BECAUSE IT IS REAL': BISHOP ERIK VARDEN ON HOLY WEEK**

*An interview with Bishop Erik Varden, the Trappist monk who serves as Prelate of Trondheim in Norway, which was originally published during Holy Week 2023.*

**Sometimes Holy Week seems almost too rich in meaning, too overwhelming to properly appreciate. What's the best thing to focus on as we observe it?**

Isn't the best thing to do not to make too many plans? Simply to walk through Holy Week step by step, as we do when we pray the Stations of the Cross, being intensely present before each. To pray while we walk: "Lord, open my eyes, my heart to what I need to see." Then to be attentive.

**When I was becoming a Catholic, I was struck by a friend's awestruck description of the Triduum. She said that my first experience of it would be unforgettable. She was right. Why do you think it's so powerful?**

Partly because it is such an all-encompassing experience, touching us at many levels. Primarily, though, because it is *real*.

The Carthusians have the motto, *Stat crux dum volvitur orbis*: "While the world turns, the cross stands firm." During the Triduum, we sense and vaguely understand this. We intuit that yes, this is what it's all about; this is what makes sense of everything else. We see that it's our being part of the Church that lends this perception its strength. The whole Body, of which we are members, kneels in adoration. That cannot but be an impressive, life-changing experience.

**You have said that on Good Friday, 'the Cross commands our full attention.' What do we learn about the Cross that day?**

We contemplate it first as an instrument of death, a demeaning object of torture; then as the symbol of victory. The transition is made when, after the reading of the Passion, the cross is carried onto the sanctuary in solemn procession and we kneel before it singing: "Holy God, holy immortal, holy and strong, have mercy on us."

We are part, then, of an enacted paradigm shift, enabled to glimpse the truth of what St. John speaks of — that the Cross, whose torment is unbearably present, is nonetheless an epiphany of glory. Faced with these realities, we cannot say much. But if we enter fully into the rite, our eyes, outward and inward, are opened.

**You've said that 'Easter changes everything.' How does it do this?**

There's a scene in Sigrid Undset's conversion novel *The Wild Orchid* I think of often. It describes the book's protagonist, Paul Selmer, entering St Olav's cathedral in Oslo very late one night, after an evening ill spent. He considers himself an agnostic but is informed about Catholic beliefs, being the lodger of a Catholic family.

Sitting alone in the dark, he sees the sanctuary light flicker in the distance. It suddenly occurs to him: if this tiny flame tells the truth, that is, if God is truly present here, then life needs to be rethought entirely; then nothing is the way he'd previously thought it might be.

Easter is what enables this perception. It proclaims that what we think of as defining our lives — transience, death, any number of wounds — is not, in fact, final; that there is a balm healing us *now* and effectively obliterating all that seems to sabotage joy. Well, then reality is transformed, wouldn't you say? We find ourselves stepping into a wholly new dimension of being, if we've the guts for it, and the love.

## **GEM OF THE WEEK**



This week's GEM is "Let's Disarm The Earth" by Pope Francis.  
If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact [website.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:website.sswp@gmail.com)

For the next Newsletter, items should be received into the parish office by **10am on Wednesday 16th April 2025**, please email your messages/notices to: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

If you wish to make a donation to our parish please go to: <https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/financesdonations>

# LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 13th April 2025: Year C - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 2

PSALM RESPONSE: MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?

1<sup>st</sup> reading Isaiah 50:4-7 Psalm 22 (21) 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Philippians 2:6-11 Gospel Luke 22:14-23:56

Sunday 20th April 2025: Year C - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Office Proper

PSALM RESPONSE: THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE; LET US REJOICE IN IT AND BE GLAD.

1<sup>st</sup> reading Acts 10:34a,37-43 Psalm 118 (117) 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Colossians 3:1-4 Gospel John 20:1-9

## PARISH GROUPS



Growing In Faith Together Group (GIFT) - every Tuesday at 10.15am in the H/Cross Resource Centre.

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! Next Meeting: Tuesday 15th April

## MESSAGES



Palm Sunday (13th April) - Holy Cross, 11am Mass

Please remember that the procession will start outside The Point in Eastleigh at 11am.

St Andrew's Jubilee (50 years) - we pray for the worshipping community, both past and present of St Andrew's Church, which was opened and blessed by Bishop Warlock, then Bishop of Portsmouth, on 14th April 1975.

Chrism Mass - Tuesday 15th April, 11am in St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth. Bishop Philip would like to invite you to join him for this celebration (for this reason there will be no Mass at St Andrew's on this day).

Stations of the Cross During Lent

St Andrew: Not on Tuesday 15th April due to the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral;

St Swithun Wells: Tuesdays at 10am with tea & coffee available afterwards;

Upcoming Second Collections

This Weekend (12th & 13th April) for Easter Flowers A collection will be taken for the beautiful flower arrangements that will be in all of our churches at Easter. Please do not use the yellow gift aid envelopes for this collection.

Good Friday (18th April) Collection: Holy Places Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocese is raising money for Christians in the Holy Land. Please do not use the yellow gift aid envelopes for this collection.

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/holy-places-second-collection-2025>

The Easter Sunday Collection traditionally supports our parish priests, in recognition for all their dedication, guidance and care they give across our parish. For your convenience there are several ways of making these offerings:

- Loose cash or cheques in the collection basket (please make cheques out to CDP St Swithun Wells with Easter offering on the back);
- If you are a tax payer and wish to gift aid your offering please use the yellow envelopes provided in the reception area of each church. Please ensure all relevant information is included so we can reclaim the gift aid on your behalf;
- Bank Transfer to the main parish account CDP St

Swithun wells (Sort code: 30-93-04, A/c: 01786599 using ref: Easter);

- Please click the 'Clergy Easter Offering' link on our website:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/st-swithun-wells-catholic-parish-easter-collection>

Due to a Diocesan Policy change our clergy cannot receive a proportion of planned giving in the parish as part of their Easter & Christmas offerings therefore if you are a planned giver (those who pay by Direct Debit or Standing Order) and wish to make a contribution to the Priests Easter Offerings please use one of the methods listed above.

The Good Friday, Christians Together Walk of Witness, will start at St Peter's Church in Bishop's Waltham at 10am. Members from OLQA and local churches will walk through the town, following a Cross, pausing at places for readings, and finishing with a prayer at the United Reform Church. All are welcome.

Rules for Good Friday - On Good Friday (18th April) 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.

The Parish Office will close on Thursday 17th April at 2.30pm and will reopen on Tuesday 22nd April.

OLQA - Church cleaning Saturday 19th April, 10am to 12 Noon, refreshment provided. Extra help will make the church look beautiful for Easter. All are welcome.

Easter Vigil - Please pray for the following adults from our parish who will be baptised, confirmed or received into full communion with the church during the Easter Vigil on Saturday 19th April at:

St Edward the Confessor Church:

Guy Richardson, Harmony Ozgul-Smith, Shannon Ozgul-Smith, Zahara Ozgul-Smith, Iris Lima, Margaret Daly, Robert Hayter, Charlie Purkiss, Claire McMillin & Leo Thompson.

Our Lady Queen of the Apostles: Michaela Harsley.

## MESSAGES CONTINUED



**There will be no Coffee Stop on Maundy Thursday 17th April or on Thursday 24th April.** Coffee Stop will resume on 1st May at 10am. Look forward to seeing you all then.

### **Changes to Mass (Monday 21st to Friday 26th April)**

Our priests will be away after Easter, therefore there will be changes to Mass during that week (some Masses will be cancelled, others will be celebrated and at other times Liturgy of the Word and Distribution of Holy Communion will take place instead). Please see the back page of next week's newsletter changes.

**Divine Mercy Sunday - 27th April 2025 at Holy Cross Church.** Starting at 2.45pm, with procession of the Divine Mercy Image, 3pm - prayers and Chaplet, Veneration of Divine Mercy Image and Blessing with a 1st Class Relic of St Faustina, Meditations and Litany and ending with Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament. Confessions will be available. Refreshments in the Resource Centre afterwards and sale of Divine Mercy devotional items. All are very welcome. Enquiries to Roz Monaghan 0775 263 9593 or Fr Raffaele.

**The Happy Monday Club's next event** will be a film showing on **Monday 28th April at 2pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre** in Eastleigh. The film "The Duke", a comedy starring Jim Broadbent, is based on the true story of the 1961 theft of Francisco Goya's Duke of Wellington painting by Kempston Bunton. Suggested donation of £2 to include refreshments. We hope to see you there, please contact us with any questions on [jakeman1966@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jakeman1966@hotmail.co.uk) or 07809 596831.

### **Upcoming Funerals**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of William Smith and for his family. William's Memorial Mass takes place on **Friday 2nd May at 11.30am in St Joseph's church.** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Peter Hooper and for his family. Peter's Funeral Mass takes place on **Friday 9th May at 11.30am in St Joseph's church.**

**Hampshire Parishes Lourdes Pilgrimage 8th - 17th May.** We urgently need a few more helpers to join our group to Lourdes - we have a full complement of less able/sick pilgrims, but without more helpers we will not be able to travel. The trip is with the charity Across, who provide specialist transport for those with life-limiting conditions and disabilities, who cannot travel by contemporary means. There is a cost for travelling but we have raised funds to subsidise helpers. For more details please contact Marianne at: [mwanstall@btinternet.com](mailto:mwanstall@btinternet.com).

**Sadly the Assisted Dying Bill** passed its 2nd Reading in Parliament. But it can still be defeated! Only 28 MP's need to change their minds and the Bill will fall at the 3rd Reading. You can help make this happen, by reading/sharing the publications available in the welcome areas, to canvas your neighbours, or deepen your knowledge, or write to your MP, and pray that this Bill does not become Law. Please complete an 'Assist

Us To Live, Not To Die' leaflet available in our church welcome areas and post it to your MP.

### **Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)**

If you, or someone you know would like to be baptised, confirmed or received into the Catholic Church (or know more about the Catholic faith) please email Deacon Paul Owen: [powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or alternatively please speak to a priest.

**CAFOD Myanmar Earthquake Appeal** - Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, CAFOD is responding through the Catholic Church there to support families affected by the disaster. Your donations will provide essentials like water, food, solar lights, and mosquito nets. Please give to CAFOD's Myanmar Earthquake Appeal, you can donate online at [cafod.org.uk/myanmar](http://cafod.org.uk/myanmar) or by calling 0303 303 3030. You can also text EARTHQUAKE to 70450 to donate £10.

### **Invite from Methodist Church in Colden Common**

Do you live in Colden Common? If so, you are warmly invited to meet other Christians in the village, over lunch in the **Community Centre, on the Saturday after Easter, 26<sup>th</sup> April.** The idea is to encourage each other in our local witness, share what all the many churches around the area are doing, and maybe identify ways that we can serve our village together. There'll be lots of different soups and sweets, and some games and puzzles, treasure hunt etc for the children (under 95yrs only). More details in the recent village Newsletter – any questions or ideas, pop into 11 Hill Lane or email: [simondakeyne@btinternet.com](mailto:simondakeyne@btinternet.com)

**Marriage Help** - Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Next date: 20th-22nd June. [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) Tel: 07887 296983

### **At a Glance - List of Upcoming Parish Events**

15th Apr:	Chrism Mass at St John's Cathedral
17th Apr:	Maundy Thursday
18th Apr:	Good Friday Services
19th Apr:	Holy Saturday
20th Apr:	Easter Sunday
27th Apr:	Divine Mercy Sunday Service
28th Apr:	Happy Monday Club Event

### **ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Tuesday: St Edward - after Mass (6.30pm-7.30pm)  
Wednesday: Holy Cross - after Mass (10am-11am)

### **CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)**

Tuesday: 6.30pm-7.30pm (after Mass) St Edward

### **TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET**

Frs Raffaele, Luca, Matteo, Mario and Pietro will not be available to meet during their usual times this week. If you need to speak to one of our priests please catch them after Mass.

# MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 12th April	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOA St Joseph St Edward	Lydia & Joe Fonseca RIP Tadeusz Bubien RIP Anniversary The Nuns of St Cecilia's Abbey, Ryde John Knapman & Family (In Thanksgiving)
Sunday 13th April  <i>Palm Sunday</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 5.30pm	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLOA Holy Cross (& livestreamed) St Joseph Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Enid Scappaticci RIP 10th Anniversary For The Community of St Andrew's Past & Present  Ernest Glanville RIP Anniversary Janet Cooke RIP Anniversary People of the Parish
Mon 14th	9.30am	Holy Cross	
Tuesday 15th April	<u>10.00am</u> 6.00pm	<u>St Andrew</u> St Edward	<u>No Mass</u> Peter Ashcroft RIP FM
Wednesday 16th April	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	James Pearson RIP 1st Anniversary Denis McCormack RIP
Maundy Thursday 17th April	<u>9.30am</u> 7.00pm 7.30pm 7.30pm	<u>Holy Cross</u> St Andrew Holy Cross OLOA	<u>No Mass</u>  Maguire & Richard Family FM
Good Friday 18th April	10.00am 3.00pm 3.00pm 3.00pm 5.00pm 7.00pm	St Edward St Andrew OLOA St Edward Holy Cross Holy Cross	<u>Stations of the Cross (for children and families)</u> Good Friday Service Good Friday Service Good Friday Service Good Friday Service <u>Stations of the Cross (Traditional)</u>
Holy Saturday 19th April	<u>9.30am</u> 8.30pm 8.30pm 8.30pm	<u>Holy Cross</u> St Edward OLOA St Joseph	<u>No Mass</u> People of the Parish Mai Gallagher RIP and her relations living and deceased Phyllis Cross RIP
Easter Sunday 20th April	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 5.30pm	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLOA Holy Cross (& livestreamed) St Joseph Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> George, Gertrude & Mary Lawton RIP Anniversary  Michaela (Received into the Catholic Church) Jon Davies RIP 1st Anniversary Sebi Devassy RIP Anniversary Helen & Mal Altman RIP

## CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

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

Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)  
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Fr Mario Toma (Assistant Priest)  
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Fr Matteo Pagani (Assistant Priest)  
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Deacon Paul Owen  
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Deacon Paul Wilson  
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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](mailto:accounts@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

**Parish Secretary:** Sarah Goodfellow  
Email: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

**Website Contact:** [website.sswp@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:rattfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)