



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ **21st FEBRUARY 2021: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

The New and Eternal Covenant

In the first Sunday of Lent the Church invites us to meditate on the first covenant that God made with Noah, and through Noah with all of mankind.

To understand this extraordinary text which we read in the first reading, we have to bear in mind that it is not just a story which tells of an event that happened many years ago. The Covenant that God made with Noah, which concerns the relationship between God and humanity, was everlasting and is still valid today.

‘See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you’, these are the words of the Lord. It is the first time that we find the word "covenant" to describe God's relationship with mankind; a word that is the keystone of the whole history of salvation.

What does it mean? Covenant means a free relationship between two people, the Lord and mankind. It is much more than the relationship between Creator and creature. This relationship is put in place by God himself; it is He who takes the initiative. It is a proposal that is made to mankind by pure grace. By virtue of this decision, God commits himself to mankind, solemnly, ‘No thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood’. God has committed himself forever not to let evil destroy the universe He created. Mankind is definitively freed from the fear of falling back into nothingness and being swallowed up by chaos. God has committed Himself so that His "yes" is never again changed by mankind's "no".

‘Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you’. Spouses wear a ring that is called a wedding ring. It is the sign that reminds them and others that they are united in marriage. God also wanted a sign, like a kind of wedding ring, so that He could remember the commitment He made to mankind. What is this sign? Let us listen to what St. Peter tells us in the second reading, ‘Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God’. The definitive sign of God's fidelity to mankind is Christ ‘put to death’ for us. God establishes the new Covenant with mankind in the death and resurrection of Jesus and it is remembered every time we celebrate the Eucharist.

When the priest says the words of Jesus, ‘Do this in memory of me’, it's like saying, ‘I - Jesus, who died for you - established the new Covenant in my body and in my blood. To you my disciples I give the possibility to become part of this Covenant, eating my body and drinking my blood.’ Why does the Church invite us to meditate on the Covenant, at the beginning of Lent? It is because mankind wants to continue to live independently, not in the Covenant with the Lord; this is the way that leads to death.

Lent is a favourable time. It is a time to free ourselves from falsehood and to fully confirm our baptismal promises. It is in Baptism that God has established the Covenant with each of us.

Fr Marco

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is a **Message by Bishop Philip on Ash Wednesday** - 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 21st February 2021: Year B - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 3

PSALM RESPONSE: Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

READINGS:

1st reading: Genesis 9:8-15 **Psalm:** 24 **2nd reading:** 1 Peter 3:18-22 **Gospel:** Mark 1:12-15

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 28TH FEBRUARY:

1st reading: Genesis 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18 **Psalm:** 115 **2nd reading:** Romans 8:31b-34 **Gospel:** Mark 9:2-10

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 and for more info 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 and for more info 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 and for more info please click the Student Youth Icon on our homepage.

Communion & Liberation Groups

Meets **every Wednesday** with fr Luca through Zoom.
Meets **every Thursday at 8pm** with fr Raffaele through Zoom.

For more information please click the links on the homepage of our website.

Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

If you 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 or alternatively please speak to a priest.

Fellowship Group Lenten Suppers &

Bible Study Course - Wednesday evenings Starting 24th February

Lenten Suppers - This year via Zoom! Come and join us with soup, bread and cheese or any light supper and a chat **from 7.00-7.30pm**. This has been one of our main charity events each year and we would encourage you to put aside a donation for your meal each week which will be shared between CAFOD and Fledge after Easter.

Bible Study - 7.30-9.00pm via Zoom "Rebuilding the Ruins"

Our Lenten Bible Study this year looks squarely at the world we live in - a world in which injustice remains a feature, with unequal access to decent housing, the need to embrace humanity across racial divides, stemming if not reversing creation's desecration and rebuilding God's church to reflect God's character. The unflinching look at the world of "ruins" in which we live is through the lens of the Old Testament prophets. The hope for "rebuilding the ruins" is grounded in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The theme for the first week is *Ancient Ruins*.

Everyone is welcome to come to both Supper and Bible Study or just one if you cannot make both.

Each Bible Study stands on its own.

If you would like to join us please contact Bob and Marion Birtles on bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for the Zoom link.

MESSAGES



Stations of the Cross During Lent

Holy Cross - Fridays at 6pm, this may be attended in person in the church, it will also be live streamed. Please go to our website for the link.

OLQA - Wednesdays at 7pm, this may be attended by up to 25 people in the church, it will also be available via Zoom. Please go to our website for the link.

Fridays in Lent - Continuing this Friday 26th February at 7pm, "Knowing your Catholic Faith"

A series of talks by fr Bruce, to help us understand the teaching of our church so that we may be able to explain it to others. This may be attended by up to 25 people in church and will also be available via Zoom. Please go to our website for the link.

Special Mass

Monday 22nd February is the anniversary of fr Luigi Giussani's death (the founder of Communion & Liberation). On this day we will celebrate a special Mass for him at 9.30am in Holy Cross, this will also be live-streamed.

Parish Get2Gether Via Zoom

Sunday 28th February, 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.

Upcoming Second Collection

Next weekend for **CAFOD**.

MESSAGES CONTINUED



Cultural Friday Survey

From this weekend, you will find the Cultural Friday survey on our website. This survey aims to find out what cultural activities and interests you have and will only take a few minutes to complete. Please take part as this information will then help us to better plan our Cultural Fridays.

CAFOD Lenten Fast Day - Friday 26th February

The focus is 'Putting an End to Water Poverty'. You can donate online at cafod.org.uk/lent, phone 0303 303 3030 or by using the envelopes which are available in all of our churches. If you choose to use envelopes you can send a cheque made out to CAFOD (Lenten Fast) and send it directly to CAFOD using the pre-paid envelope. Alternatively you can put your donation in the envelope and leave it in the basket provided. If you are able to gift aid please do so by filling in the gift aid slip and putting it into the envelope with your donation.

CAFOD Big Walk for Water

Moira Moriarty from the St Edward's CAFOD Group has signed up to walk 10,000 steps a day during Lent for CAFOD Walk For Water. To see Moira's progress or to donate please go to: www.justgiving/fundraising/moira-moriarty

Upcoming Funeral Liturgy

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Bernard Ennis whose funeral liturgy takes place at **St Joseph on Tuesday 23rd February at 12 Noon.**

Readers Refresher Session

Saturday 6th & Saturday 13th March, 11am-Noon

Readers are asked to choose which session they would like to attend. It will be an hour of reflection on this important ministry and how to develop it. If you are interested in becoming a Reader this is also an opportunity to sign up! **All Welcome.** Please book a session by emailing fr Bruce direct: brucebarnes01@gmail.com

Zoom World Day of Prayer Service: Fri 5th March, 11am

To receive the link ahead of time please e-mail jamie.broadey@gmail.com

If you would like a service booklet please email jocelynhalfpenny@yahoo.co.uk

All monies raised support the projects organised by Christian charities around the world. Please donate online if possible. Visit www.wwdp.org.uk and click donate.

To enable us to record donations, please e-mail heatherdibb@talktalk.net quoting the amount donated.

If you are unable to donate online, you may place your donation in an envelope and send it to 8 Calshot Drive, Chandlers Ford, SO53 3NZ.

Please make cheques to: WDP. Thank you.

MASS (STREAMING & BOOKING SYSTEM), CONFESSION & ROSARY

Live Streamed Mass

All of the Masses from Holy Cross will also be live streamed. To join please go to our parish website www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

For details of all of our Public Masses please see the timetable on the back page of the newsletter.

Confession

- OLQA, Saturdays at 10am
- St Joseph, after Mass & Saturdays at 5.30pm
- St Andrew, after Mass & Sundays at 8.30am
- Holy Cross, after Mass & Saturday at 10.00am
- If you would like to make Confession at St Edward or St Swithun Wells please speak to a Priest after Mass or alternatively please go and see either Fr Raffaele, Fr Luca or Fr Marco during one of the advertised times below.

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

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|--------------------|---|
| Tuesdays: | Fr Raffaele, 4.00pm-6.00pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church), Eastleigh |
| Wednesdays: | Fr Luca, 4.00pm-6.00pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church), Eastleigh. |
| Fridays: | Fr Marco, 10.30am-12.30pm, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey |

To reserve a seat at Mass in St Joseph's & OLQA

St Joseph's, Romsey:

• **Saturday Vigil Mass 6.00pm**

To reserve a seat for the Mass please contact Teresa Rayment from Wednesday through to Friday (Tel: 01794 513528 / teresarayment@tiscali.co.uk).

• **Sunday 11.00am**

To reserve a seat for the Mass please contact Joanna Russell from Wednesday through to Friday (Tel: 07917 802814 / joanna@silvasmiths.co.uk).

Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Bishop's Waltham:

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

Communal Praying of the Rosary with

Meditations from the Holy Cross Presbytery

Tuesdays to Thursdays at 6.00pm through Zoom

For more information and to join please click the link on the homepage of our website.

You can send your intentions to:

pagani.matteoalejandro@gmail.com

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

| DATE | TIME | CHURCH | MASS INTENTION |
|---|---|--|--|
| Sat 20th Feb | 9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm | Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) St Swithun Wells St Joseph | Kitty O'Brien RIP Agnes Carter RIP David Martin (Thanksgiving) |
| Sun 21st Feb <i>First Sunday of Lent</i> | 9.00am 9.30am 10.30am 11.00am 11.00am | St Andrew OLQA St Edward St Joseph Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) | Jeanette Butcher RIP Mary McCormack RIP Sister Pauline (Well-being) For the People of the Parish |
| Mon 22nd Feb <i>The Chair of St Peter</i> | 9.30am | Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) | Fr Luigi Giussani RIP Anniversary |
| Tues 23rd Feb | 10.00am | St Andrew | Sister Clare (Well-being) |
| Wed 24th Feb | 10.00am | St Edward | Marchesi Family Intentions |
| Thurs 25th Feb | 9.30am | Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) | Raymond Harrison RIP |
| Fri 26th Feb | 10.00am | St Joseph | For All the Daughters of Wisdom (Well-being) |
| Sat 27th Feb | 9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm | Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) St Swithun Wells St Joseph | Piedade Santan Fernandes RIP Anniversary Andrew Bates RIP Denis Dunne RIP |
| Sun 28th Feb <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i> | 9.00am 9.30am 10.30am 11.00am 11.00am | St Andrew OLQA St Edward St Joseph Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) | Norah Smewing RIP For the People of the Parish Sarah Howie RIP Anniversary Lucy Corbett (Special Intention) |

CLERGY

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: rcosa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: lspeziale@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Marco Vignolo (Assistant Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: mvignolo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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

Address: 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, is answering the Parish telephone)
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