



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ 25th FEBRUARY 2024: SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

A RELATIONSHIP BEYOND ALL EXPECTATION

It's quite amazing how human nature will often ignore the professional and seek advice from neighbours and friends. I am reminded of the patient who went to the doctor and said that the lady next door had some sleeping tablets which she wanted because, she said, they did her a "world of good," or the person who consults the window cleaner rather than the solicitor for legal advice and then wonders why things fail to go the way the window cleaner had said they would in court.

The constant reminder by the patriarchs and prophets, the selected "professional advice givers by God," that, the relationship established by God was for the good of the people, is time and again ignored. This Covenant which is so important for the good and healthy life of the people is so often ignored by the Israelites. We have been hearing about this in the graphic details we heard last week in the 1st reading during Mass of the story of Noah and the Ark; the result of ignoring the instructions for good behaviour by God, The Authentic Voice, results in the disaster of the Great Flood; here only one Family, Noah's, and representatives of other living creatures start a fresh new life in a new place. God, we see, leads to better places.

This Sunday we read of the blood sacrifice which Abraham is asked to perform as a test of his fidelity. He passes with full colours and his son is spared. God leads to protection from harm and gives us a foretaste to the end to blood sacrifice which will be achieved with the supreme sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Abraham enters willingly, like Noah, into this Covenant and he is blessed as a result. The gospel for this Sunday brings the Covenant to a new level in Jesus at His Transfiguration. No longer do we need any further prophets to tell us what God wants. It is fully revealed in Jesus; no longer do we need any more Patriarch to lead us. The Way to go and the compass to find the Way is fully complete in Jesus and, it seems to me, that after the affirmation from God that we should listen to what Jesus has to say as He is God Incarnate, it is highly significant that the disciples on the mount, "saw no one any more but only Jesus." Nothing more is necessary. Those who believe in Jesus enter the Covenant fully and may rest secure for ever.

Fr Bruce

A story of Noah and the Ark to make you smile.

(Apologies to OLQA people who have heard this before).

A Server who had thought long and hard about the story of Noah and the Ark said to his priest, "What were the only two creatures Noah did not take on to the Ark?"

The priest was puzzled and thought for some time before he said he did not know.

The Server with pride announced, "Woodworms!"

The priest not to be outdone said to the Server... "and what was the name of Noah's wife?"

The Server thought long and hard and said he did not know.

The Priest said triumphantly - Joan of Ark!

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "Message for Lent" by Pope Francis - 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 **10am on Wednesday 28th February**, please email your messages/notices to: 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 25th February 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 2

PSALM RESPONSE: I WILL WALK IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING.

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

Sunday 3rd March 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 3

PSALM RESPONSE: YOU, LORD, HAVE THE MESSAGE OF ETERNAL LIFE.

1st reading Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 18 2nd reading 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 Gospel John 2:13-25

PARISH GROUPS



Youth Groups (including First Holy Communion & Confirmation)

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

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9) &

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

For Grail Seekers & Student Youth we usually meet on Friday evenings in the Holy Cross Resource Centre at 6.30pm. Please check the parish website for the calendar of meetings, times and venues.

To register for these groups please go to our website: <https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/parishlife>

Growing In Faith Together Group

Tuesdays 10.15am to approx. 11.45am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. During Lent we will be showing the film 'Jesus of Nazareth' with Robert Powell in six parts. All are welcome!

Fellowship Group - St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. We are holding a Lenten Supper at 6.45pm

every Wednesday during Lent followed by a Fellowship Lenten Study: 'God Has No Favourites' starting at 7.30pm. We will be following this ecumenical course exploring our relationships with God and

each other. **Week 2: 28th February** - the theme is 'Neither Jew nor Gentile'. 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.

Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community meet weekly:

Holy Cross every Wednesday at 8pm;

St Edward's every Thursday at 8pm.

For more information please click the link on the homepage of our website. All are welcome!

Learn to Pray with the Weekly Scripture Readings

Wednesdays at 11am in St Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water, Romsey;

Thursdays at 10am in St Edward the Confessor Church, Chandler's Ford.

Please come along if you would like to grow in your life of prayer by praying with the following Sunday's Mass readings. All are welcome.

Please go to our website for details of more parish groups (Little Flowers, Ark of Fellowship, The Afternoon Club)

MESSAGES



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.

Stations of the Cross During Lent

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)

OLOA: Wednesdays at 6.30pm & Fridays after the 10.30am Mass.

Lent Talks at OLOA: After the Sunday 9.30am Mass, "Is Christianity a help or hindrance?"

Sunday 25th Feb: Is Christianity a help or hindrance in the Armed Forces? By Captain Anthony McKewan RN (Retired)

Sunday 3rd March: Is Christianity a help or hindrance to Science? By Dr Alex Hamilton, PhD

Sunday 10th March: Is Christianity a help or hindrance to Enjoying your Life? By Fr Bruce Barnes

Sunday 17th March: Is Christianity a help or hindrance in Married Life? By Mrs Joan Ferrer, JP DL

Second Collection for CAFOD

Sunday 25th February - Please do not use our yellow gift aid envelopes for this collection, CAFOD have provided their own envelopes (these were made available last weekend). You will be able to hand in the CAFOD envelopes during the second collection on the 24th/25th February.

Lent Parish Retreat

We will hold a Parish Retreat for Lent, led by Fr Raffaele on **Sunday 25th February, 2.30pm-4.30pm at St Edward**. The focus will be on "Lent as a Journey of Faith". 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 of thoughts.

Lent Ecumenical Study Group meets from 6.30pm-8pm in St Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water, Romsey, each **Monday in Lent**. All are welcome. Please bring a bible if you can.

Penitential Services - A number of priests will be available during these times:

Thursday 21st March, 7.30pm at OLOA

Friday 22nd March, 7.30pm at St Andrew

Saturday 23rd March, 11am at Holy Cross

MESSAGES CONTINUED



Weekday Masses & Eucharistic Adoration

One of the pillars of Lent is prayer.

A simple way to do this is to attend Mass on weekdays or to participate in one of our Eucharistic Adorations. On Tuesday in St Edward for example, there is Mass at 6pm with Eucharistic Adoration afterwards. On Wednesday there is Mass in Holy Cross at 9.30am followed by Eucharistic Adoration. At St Joseph there is Mass every Thursday at 6pm and Eucharistic Adoration one hour before from 5pm-6pm.

Lunches & Suppers being held across the Parish During Lent

St Swithun Wells, Fair Oak - at 6.45pm on Wednesdays, the Fellowship Group will be hosting Lenten Suppers of soup, bread and cheese in aid of CAFOD. There will be a Lenten Study at 7.30pm 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.

Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 3rd March, 1pm-4pm Pavillion on the Park, 1 Kingfisher Road, SO50 9LH
An event for all of the parish, especially families. We begin at 1pm, sharing a meal together followed by some activities and a discussion, the topic will be 'Relationships with Technology'. 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 use the link you find on the "Next main parish events" section.

Next Get2Gether date for your diary: 12th May

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.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tues: 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)

CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Tuesday:	6.30pm-7.30pm (after Mass)	St Edward
Tuesday:	9.30am-10.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew
Saturday:	10.00am-10.30am (after Mass)	Holy Cross
	10am or by appointment	OLQA
	1.30pm-2.30pm & 5.30pm-6pm	St Joseph
Sunday:	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Edward
	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew

World Day of Prayer Services - Friday 1st March

This year's focus is: Christian Women of Palestine
The World Day of Prayer Service for Chandler's Ford will take place in Velmore Chapel, Falkland Court, SO53 3GA at 10.30am. Please do join us.

The World Day of Prayer Service for Romsey will take place in the Methodist Church, The Hundred at 2pm followed by light refreshments. All are welcome.

The World Day of Prayer Service for Bishop's Waltham will take place in OLQA at 2pm.

Thank you message from Fr Raffaele

I just wanted to take the opportunity to thank all of you for the mountain of cards and well wishes I received for my 50th Birthday. I have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and generosity given to me by the parish and my birthday celebration at the school was an evening to remember. The beautiful Icon of the Archangel Raphael that I was presented with is now hanging in my bedroom - it is perfect, thank you all again, God Bless. *Fr Raffaele*

Message from Dcn Matteo

Dcn Matteo is looking for a cheap, but reliable car (also to be used for long journeys). If you are thinking of selling your car or you know someone who is, please email Dcn Matteo: mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

St George Catholic College Alumni Reunion

Sunday 28th April 2024 from 3pm-5pm

Did you attend or work at St George Catholic College in the 1960s, 70s or 80s?

To celebrate the school's recent outstanding Ofsted report, we are inviting past pupils and staff in the 60s, 70s or 80s to join us for a reunion afternoon tea and cakes and a tour of the school. Please spread the word and save the date!

Email Jeanine Bonavia at jbonavia@stgcc.co.uk or call 023 8067 0104 to book a place by Friday, 26th April, so we know the numbers attending. All welcome.

What does it mean to be Human? Medical Ethics and Social Care Today - Saturday 16th March

10am-4.15pm, The Arc, Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8SB. Tickets cost £20.

See poster on church noticeboards for more info.

Message from 'Right To Life' - Support an

amendment to reduce our abortion law from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Babies born prematurely at 22 weeks are thriving and there is a contradiction in our abortion law. Collect a postcard today (available in church welcome areas) and post it to your MP in support of this amendment!

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Tuesdays:	Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh
Wednesdays:	<i>Fr Luca not on 28th Feb</i> , 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh
Saturdays:	Fr Mario, 2.30pm-4.30pm, Romsey Parish Office (26A Abbey Water)

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 24th February	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Raymond Harrison RIP Andrew Bates RIP Helena Ferenc RIP People of the Parish
Sunday 25th February <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Mary McCormack RIP Diane McDonnell (Wellbeing) Sean Richardson RIP
Monday 26th Feb	9.30am	Holy Cross	Kathleen Mary Hammerton RIP Anniversary
Tuesday 27th Feb	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Piedade Fernandes RIP 4th Anniversary
Wed 28th Feb	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross OLQA St Edward	Terry Lenon (Health & Wellbeing)
Thursday 29th Feb	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Domenico Bibbo RIP George Devlin RIP
Friday 1st March <i>St David</i>	10.00am 10.00am <u>10.30am</u>	St Joseph St Edward <u>OLQA</u>	Sir Roy Calne RIP
Saturday 2nd March	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Fr Luca (Birthday Intentions) People of the Parish In Thanksgiving John Whitcher RIP Anniversary
Sunday 3rd March <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Deceased Members of the McCormack & Leavy Families Kelly & Magee Families FM Brendon McNamara RIP

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

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 Mario Toma (Assistant Priest)

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Fr Bruce Barnes (Assistant Priest)

Tel: 01489 890947 (OLQA Office)

Deacon Bob Birtles

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Deacon John di Meo

Tel: 01794 515688; E: jdimeo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Paul Owen

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Deacon Matteo Pagani

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Deacon Paul Wilson

Tel: 023 8061 6618; E: pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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