



## *Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ* 10th MARCH 2024: FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

### The Joy of Having a Mother

The fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally significant. Catholics worldwide celebrate Laetare Sunday, also known as Rejoicing Sunday. We are invited to pause on our journey towards Easter and reflect on the joy that the Resurrection of Christ brings into our lives. It is also Mothering Sunday, a day to remember our mothers: our biological mothers who carried us for nine months and were among our first teachers; the mother Church who nurtures us in faith, and mother Mary who continues to protect us and guide us closer to her Son. Let's try to connect the dots and make sense of all of this.

Mothering Sunday may have a non-Christian origin, stemming from the heathen festival honouring the Virgin Mother of the Gods, worshipped under various names globally. Often depicted as a mother with a child, this mythology symbolizes humanity's universal longing for maternal care, protection, and nurturing, as noted by C. Penswick Smith in "A Short History of Mothering Sunday".

What is great about Christianity is that rather than eradicating, it enriches and fulfils authentic human traditions. It embraces the goodness found in every culture and reinterprets it in light of divine revelation. The innate yearning for a mother figure, present since infancy in every human being, is recognized in Christianity as a sign of a deeper longing for a divine home where God resides - the only One capable of protecting from every form of evil, nurturing, and caring for us consistently throughout life.

Historically, it was customary in many places for priests and lay people to process on Mothering Sunday to the local Mother Church (it might be the cathedral or the main church of the district/diocese), making offerings at the High Altar. This practice likely originated during the Norman Conquest in England. Over time, Mothering Sunday evolved into a day for Christians to visit the church where they were baptized, commemorating their initiation into the universal Church, the mother of us all.

This brings us to Laetare Sunday. One of the secrets to joy lies in the assurance of being loved. Therefore, on this Sunday, we rejoice not only for the gift of our biological mothers but, above all, for the gift of our mother Church, which bears witness that God will never forsake us.

Let us rejoice, for we are truly loved! And let us ask Mary, the mother of the Church, to guide, nurture and protect us.

*Fr Luca*

### 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](mailto:website.sswp@gmail.com)

For the next Newsletter, items should be received into the parish office by **10am on Wednesday 13th March**, 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 10th March 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 4

PSALM RESPONSE: O LET MY TONGUE CLEAVE TO MY MOUTH IF I REMEMBER YOU NOT!

1<sup>st</sup> reading 2 Chronicles 36:14-16.19-23 Psalm 136 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Ephesians 2:4-10 Gospel John 3:14-21

Sunday 17th March 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 1

PSALM RESPONSE: A PURE HEART CREATE FOR ME, O GOD.

1<sup>st</sup> reading Jeremiah 31:34 Psalm 50 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Hebrews 5:7-9 Gospel John 12:20-33

## 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)

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>

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 4: 13th March - the theme is 'Neither Slave nor Free'. 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.

Learn to Pray with the Weekly Scripture Readings  
Wednesdays at 11am in St Joseph's Parish Centre,

*Please go to our website for details of more parish groups (Little Flowers, Afternoon Club & 60 Club)*

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.

### 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!

### 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](mailto:arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com)

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!

## 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);

Holy Cross: Fridays at 6.15pm in Malayalam (Kerala's official language)

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.

The children of Stars of Abraham will lead the Stations of the Cross on Friday 8th March, 6.15pm in St Edward. All are welcome.

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

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

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

### 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).

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.

# MESSAGES CONTINUED



## Mothering Sunday

Please say a prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary this Sunday for your mother and grandmother. Here is a prayer from the Book of Blessings, 'For our mothers, who have given us life and love, that we may show them reverence and love, we pray to the Lord.'

## Second Collection this weekend

### 9th/10th March for the Clergy Assistance Fund

You will be able to use our yellow gift aid envelopes for this collection.

## Lent & Easter 2024 Sheet

The sheet giving details of services and Masses over Holy Week was made available last weekend. If you didn't take a copy please do so, spare copies have been left in church welcome areas.

Good Companions - For our next get-together on Friday 22nd March we will be joining with the Lenten lunch in the Cloister at St Edward's. Soup, bread and cheese will be available from 12 Noon. Please come along and enjoy the food and the company. If you have any queries, please ring Tony Wilson on 023 80266617.

## Helpers needed for Children's Liturgy at Holy Cross

If you are interested in helping out with Children's Liturgy please either speak to or email Dcn Matteo. [mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Fr David Whitehead RIP - Please pray for Fr David Whitehead who died on Friday 23rd Feb, in Marie Louise House, in Romsey where he had been living for the last few years. He was 96. Once we have the details of his Requiem Mass we will include this information in our newsletter.

Bishop Philip's latest Pastoral Letter (17th March) will be made available in churches next weekend.

Message from David & Eileen Smith - We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your kind words and support during this difficult time of losing Daniel. Your words have provided us with strength and solace as we navigate through the pain of this loss. It is comforting to know that we have such a wonderful support system to lean on during this challenging period. Once again, our heartfelt thanks.

## 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!

## 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

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

## Romsey Relay Marathon - Broadlands Estate

19th May 2024 - Following our success from last year, we would like to run the relay marathon again this year. Last year, we organised two teams of 10 people and collectively ran a marathon under 4 hours, raising over £1,000 for our church youth groups, thanks to the generosity of those who supported us. Currently we have formed a team of 10, however if you would like to join us this year, then please do get in touch with me: [cklfung@btconnect.com](mailto:cklfung@btconnect.com). Details of the event can be found at: <https://www.romseymarathon.co.uk/> No training is required and no one needs to be an elite runner, it's just a bit of fun and get our church together to take part in a community event. Looking forward to hearing from you. Thanks, Carrie

## Across Pilgrimage to Lourdes, June 2024

The Eastleigh Council of the Knights of St Columba are supporting pilgrims from the local area who will travel with the charity to Lourdes in June. Across provides travel for people with complex care needs, life-limiting illnesses or disabilities, who cannot travel independently or by conventional means. The Knights presented a cheque for £500 to the organiser, Marianne Wanstall, at Our Lady Queen of Apostles, on 25th Feb. The donation will assist pilgrims of more limited means to take part. We are very grateful to the Knights for their support. There are still places available in June; if interested please contact Marianne on 07771 704600.

Amendments to Abortion Rules - Two contrasting amendments to abortion rules will shortly be debated in Parliament. One proposes reducing the current time limit from 24 weeks to 22. Research indicates that a significant number of babies born at 22 or 23 weeks can now survive outside the womb, leaving a contradiction in our abortion law. The second amendment proposes decriminalising those women who self induce their own abortion beyond 24 weeks and up to full term. Please ACT by asking your MP to support the amendment to reduce the abortion time limit, and reject the proposal to decriminalise self-induced abortion. Information regarding the first amendment is on post-cards from RightToLife which are designed to help you to write to your MP, these are available in church welcome areas, please take one if you haven't already done so.

## 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)

## TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

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

Wednesdays: Fr Luca unavailable on 13th March, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross R/Centre,

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 9th March	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Lillian Rachael Gardiner FM  Beppie Marsh RIP Baker Family RIP Anniversary
Sunday 10th March  <i>Fourth 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> Teresa Layzell (In Thanksgiving for being the mother to 11 children) Angela Pantanella RIP  People of the Parish Elvira & Manuel Golez RIP
Mon 11th March	9.30am	Holy Cross	James Russell RIP
Tues 12th March	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Dennis Gray RIP
Wed 13th March	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross OLQA St Edward	Maureen Hoskin (Wellbeing)
Thurs 14th March	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Sir Roy Calne RIP
Friday 15th March	10.00am 10.00am 10.30am	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	Beppie Marsh RIP Patrick Burke RIP FM
Saturday 16th March	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	People of the Parish The Harfield Family (Wellbeing)  Jennie Lavin RIP Andrew Wilson RIP
Sunday 17th March  <i>Fifth 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> Patricia Bradley RIP FM  Ellen Lane RIP FM John Carmody 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)  
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: mtoma@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 8025 4806; E: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Matteo Pagani  
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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