



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

22nd December 2019: **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

The light which illuminates our lives

During these final days as we are busy preparing for Christmas, perhaps buying and wrapping gifts and writing the last of our Christmas cards, have we stopped and reflected on the meaning of this feast?

I stopped for a moment and thought about the meaning of Christmas. I pondered the fact that man cannot save himself alone. To explain this better, I can use an image to describe our life, our work, our families. If our life, our work, our families is like a desk in disarray, you need the help of God to create order out of disorder. With all of our efforts, with all of our willingness, we cannot make it alone.

God became man to help us, to encounter our loneliness, our individualism, our weaknesses. Without Him we cannot be truly happy, because He is the only one who can give light and energy to our life, if we allow it. Without the light of God, everything is in obscurity and in darkness. Without His strength, we become very weak, exhausted, and our life cannot reach its purpose. Together with God, however, everything becomes possible. The angel Gabriel said to Mary, "Nothing is impossible to God" (Luke 1:37).

What we celebrate at Christmas is not a fairy tale, a story for children, it is not even a utopia, something impossible, because it is a truth that many can testify (I hope we ourselves too), because they have experienced it. Those who give their lives to be able to go to Mass in Nigeria or in Syria - for example - testifies to us that only God can make our life great. We are not alone, but

God who has become flesh keeps us company, is a real, close, concrete presence.

"They will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'" (Matthew 1:23): God is with us, if we allow Him to act in our lives and make it big and beautiful, full of happiness. Christmas is the announcement of this great news.

Father Marco



Michelangelo: Flight to Egypt

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "Admirabile Signum", Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis on the meaning and importance of the nativity scene - you can find the link on our homepage.

Parish Newsletter

The next Newsletter to be published will be the 5th January edition. Please note, as the Parish Office is closed over Christmas (re-opens 2nd January), and due to the tight publication timescales on Thursdays, your items may not be included even if you have submitted them by Wednesday 9:30am.

We apologise for this but normal service will resume the following week.

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 22nd December:

Year A; Year 2; Psalter Week: 4

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: DROP DOWN DEW FROM ABOVE, YOU HEAVENS, AND LET THE CLOUDS RAIN DOWN THE JUST ONE; LET THE EARTH BE OPENED AND BRING FORTH A SAVIOUR.

PSALM RESPONSE: LET THE LORD ENTER! HE IS THE KING OF GLORY.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, 29TH DEC 2019:

1st reading: Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6. 12-14 - **Psalm:** 127 -

2nd reading: Colossians 3:12-21 - **Gospel:** Matthew 2:13-15. 19-23

Sunday 29th December:

Year A - Year 2 - Psalter Week: Office Proper

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: THE SHEPHERDS WENT IN HASTE, AND FOUND MARY AND JOSEPH AND THE INFANT LYING IN A MANGER.

PSALM RESPONSE: O BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO FEAR THE LORD AND WALK IN HIS WAYS!

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, 5TH JAN 2020:

1st reading: Isaiah 60:1-6 - **Psalm:** 71 - **2nd reading:** Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6 - **Gospel:** Matthew 2:1-12

Growing in Faith Together (GIFT)

Tuesdays between 10.15-11.30am (after Mass) in Holy Cross Resource Centre. We are now on our Christmas break, meetings resume on 7th Jan.

Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

We are now on our Christmas break. Fortnightly meetings will resume on **Wed 8th Jan, 7.30pm-9pm** at **St Edward's Church, C/Ford**. If you would like to be baptised, confirmed or received into the Catholic Church please speak to a priest or email Deacon Paul Owen at powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Journey in Faith with the Bible - Wednesday evenings fortnightly between 7.30pm and 9pm at **St Edward's Church, Chandlers Ford**. Upcoming date: **15th January**. Anne Owen on 02380 254806.

Fellowship Group - **St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak**. We are now on our Christmas break, **resuming on 8th January 2020**. Queries to Peter Baggott or Deacon Bob Birtles.

Afternoon Club - **St. Joseph's Parish Centre (26 Abbey Water)**, first Tuesday in the month. Come and join us for tea, delicious scones/cakes, games and good fun. **Next Meeting: 2pm on 7th Jan.**

PARISH GROUPS



School of Community

The weekly catechesis of the catholic movement Communion and Liberation, Wednesdays at 8pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. **We are on our Christmas break, restarting on 8th January 2020.**

TOZ (for young people from school year 10) meet twice a month on Sunday. **Next Meeting Date: 12th January, from 2pm to 4.30pm** where we will be visiting Fryars House in Romsey. The mini bus will leave at 2pm from Holy Cross. Contact: toz.sswp@gmail.com or phone 07846 438224 (Cath Szymanski).

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

For everyone in school years 3-6, we meet every other week: *Tuesday, 5.30-7.00pm in St Edwards Cloister;*
Saturday 10.30am-Noon in HC Resource Centre.

To join the group complete the application form (available on our website or from the Parish Office) and give it to the Parish Secretary.

Grail Seekers (school years 7,8,9) - For everyone in school years 7, 8 and 9 we meet weekly every Saturday from 2.30pm-4.30pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre.

To join the group complete the application form (available on our website or from the Parish Office) and give it to the Parish Secretary.

OFFERINGS & SECOND COLLECTIONS



St Swithun Wells Parish Acknowledges with thanks

Last week's collections: £1,241.00
SO/DD for November '19: £12,281.59

Christmas Offerings

As you know, on each Sunday of the year, your Offering (whether placed in the collection, or paid through your bank account) is used for the running of the parish and all its activities.

However, by tradition at Christmas and Easter these Offerings are for the personal use of the priests and form a major part of their annual income.

As priests we do appreciate your generosity.

Fr Raffaele

Crib Collections during Christmastide

These will be for Christian Communities in the Holy Land via Friends of the Holy Land.

CHANGES TO MASS & PARISH OFFICE OPENING



There will be **no morning Mass** at Holy Cross, St Andrew's & OLQA on **Tues 24th December**. **The Parish Office** will be closed from **Midday Tues 24th Dec**, re-opening on **Thurs 2nd January**.

PARISH EVENTS



Come & See - 3 Days for Young People in School Years 7-9), Fri 14th - Sun 16th February 2020, St Joseph's Centre in Ashurst. Cost: £90 covering the 3 days. For more info & an application form go to www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk. **Registrations close on 19th January 2020.**

Confirmation of our children will be on **Sunday 24th May 2020, 3pm** at **Portsmouth Cathedral**. Further details will be announced closer to the event.

MESSAGES



A gift to you from Bishop Philip

Bishop Philip has provided to Mass-going parishioners a pocket-sized copy of the Gospel of St. Luke for you to carry with you. This will be ideal for when you have a quiet moment during the day and an encouragement to do a bit of *lectio divina*. (The Bishop's introduction at the front of the Gospel explains how to go about *lectio*, if you are unfamiliar). You will receive a copy with the Newsletter at each of our churches this weekend (21st/22nd Dec). There will also be copies of the 'Year of the Word' magazine available at church/in the welcome areas – please help yourself.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Louis Catterall SMM who died on the morning of Sunday 15th Dec. Fr Louis served at St Joseph's, Romsey from 1983 until his retirement in Feb 2005; he was a well known and much-loved presence both in St Joseph's Parish and in the town of Romsey. May he rest in peace.

St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak - CAFOD Christmas Hamper. The Christmas Hamper which was drawn at the Carol Service on Sun 15th was won by J Reidy, and the second prize of chocolate went to V Talbot. £129 was raised - many thanks to all who bought raffle tickets and donated prizes.

Mother's Prayers will resume at St Edward's on Thursday 9th January, 1.45-2.30pm.

Coffee Stop - The Christmas Special: Thank you to all those who supported this event, either by donating raffle prizes, buying tickets or joining in the fun. £140 was raised for the Salvation Army (meals for the homeless).

Car parking at St Edward's for Christmas Eve Mass and Christmas Day Mass - please note there will be overflow parking available at Thornden School for these Masses.

Children's Mass & Family Get2Gether
There will be Children's Mass at Holy Cross and St Edward's on Sunday 5th January, however we apologise but there is no Family Get2Gether that day.

Parish Office

We would like to wish all of our parishioners peace and joy at Christmas. All the best for 2020!



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
Tues: HC - First Tuesday of the Month (10am-1pm)
Thurs: St Ed - Not on 26th Dec, resumes 9th January
Thurs: St J - from 4-6pm, Rosary and Benediction at 5.30pm. Not on 26th Dec; resumes 2nd January

ROSARY AND PRAYERS

St Edward's 9.30am, Wednesday - The Holy Rosary
St Joseph's 6.00pm, Wednesday - Evening Prayer

CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)
Saturdays: 10.00am Holy Cross
5.30pm OLQA
5.30pm St Joseph's
Sundays: 8.30am St Edward's
8.30am St Andrew's

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Priests will not be able to meet from 24th December - they will restart from Tues 7th Jan.

Tues: Fr Raffaele, 4.30pm-6.30pm in the Parish Office, Holy Cross, Eastleigh (restarts 7th Jan).

Weds: Fr Luca, 4.30pm-6.30pm, Parish Office, Holy Cross, Eastleigh (restarts 8th Jan).

Fridays: Fr Raffaele, 11.30am-12.30pm, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey (restarts 10th Jan).

Saturdays: Fr Marco, 10am-Midday, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water) Romsey (restarts 11th Jan).

Father Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: rcosa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Father 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
Canon Alan Griffiths (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 07760220346; E: frgriffiths@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
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

Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh SO50 9DF
Tel: 02380 273882

Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9.30am-5pm
Thursday & Friday: 9.30am-2.30pm

Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance
Admin: Linda Roberts
(lroberts@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Parish Secretary: Sarah Goodfellow
stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website Contact: website.sswp@gmail.com

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 21st <i>St Peter Canisius</i> *Vigil Mass	9.30am	HC	Mark Fowler RIP (1st Anniversary)
	<u>11.00am</u>	HC	<u>Penitential Service</u>
	5.00pm*	SSW	Mary Farrell & Family
	6.00pm*	St J	Mrs Angela Delacey
	6.00pm*	OLQA	
	6.30pm*	St Ed	John Milne RIP (4th Anniversary)
Sun 22nd Dec 4th Sunday of Advent	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	Anna Claire Anthraper (Thanksgiving)
	9.00am	St A	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	St J	Brian Stevens RIP (Anniversary)
	11.00am	HC	Antonio Cicu FM
Mon 23rd <i>St John of Kanty</i>	10.00am	St Ed	Holy Souls of Purgatory RIP
Tues 24th Nativity of the Lord Vigils from 6pm	<u>9.30am</u>	HC	<u>No Mass</u>
	<u>10.00am</u>	St A	<u>No Mass</u>
	<u>10.00am</u>	OLQA	<u>No Mass</u>
	6.00pm	SSW	
	6.00pm	OLQA	
	6.30pm	St Ed	(Carols from 6pm)
	7.00pm	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	7.00pm	St A	
	11.00pm	St J	(Carols from 10.30pm)
Midnight	HC	Elizabeth Esther Levey FM (Carols from 11.30pm)	
Wed 25th The Nativity of the Lord	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	Mrs Edward Christian FM
	9.00am	St A	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	10.30am	St J	Fr Louis Catterall RIP
	11.00am	HC	Christine Watson (Special Int)
Thurs 26th <i>St Stephen</i>	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	10.00am	OLQA	
	11.00am	HC	Amarant Ferreria RIP
	6.00pm	St J	General Leadership of the Daughters of Wisdom
Fri 27th <i>St John</i>	10.00am	St Ed	Charles Egan RIP
	10.00am	St J:AH	Sr Louise Madore DW
	10.00am	OLQA	

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 28th <i>The Holy Innocents</i> *Vigil Mass	9.30am	HC	Margarita, Cedric & Charles Harris FM
	5.00pm*	SSW	Nora Burke (Special Intention)
	6.00pm*	St J	
	6.00pm*	OLQA	
	6.30pm*	St Ed	Sr Maureen Breen (90th Birthday)
Sun 29th Dec The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	Anthraper Family (Thanksgiving)
	9.00am	St A	Tony Armshaw RIP
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	St J	The Patrick Family
	11.00am	HC	Pauline Di Pachi (Sick)
Mon 30th	10.00am	St Ed	George, Gertrude & Mary Lawton RIP
Tues 31st	9.30am	HC	Patrick Lake RIP
	10.00am	St A	
	10.00am	OLQA	
Wed 1st Jan Mary, The Holy Mother of God	9.30am	HC	Raymond Harrison & Keith Clarke RIP (Anniversary)
	10.00am	St Ed	Eric, Roslyn Lasker & Family RIP
Thurs 2nd Jan <i>Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen</i>	9.30am	HC	Canon John Doran FM
	10.00am	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St J	
Fri 3rd Jan	10.00am	St Ed	Samuel Anthraper (Thanksgiving)
	10.00am	St J:AH	Joan Seddon
	10.00am	OLQA	
Sat 4th Jan *Vigil Mass	9.30am	HC	Emily Ray RIP
	5.00pm*	SSW	William & Esther Dwyer RIP
	6.00pm*	St J	Fr Louis Catterall RIP
	6.00pm*	OLQA	
	6.30pm*	St Ed	Tony Armshaw RIP
Sun 5th Jan The Epiphany of the Lord	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	Mrs Edward Christian FM
	9.00am	St A	Harry Roydon RIP (Anniversary)
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	St J	
	11.00am	HC	Deceased Members of the Sweeney Family RIP

CHURCH ADDRESSES

St Ed	St Edward's, 191-193, Winchester Rd, Chandlers Ford, SO53 2DU
OLQA	Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Martin Street, Bishops Waltham SO32 1DN
HC	Holy Cross Church, 53, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF
SSW	St Swithun Wells Church, Allington Lane, Fair Oak, SO50 7DB
St A	St Andrew's, Fleming Avenue, North, Baddesley, SO52 9EP
St J	St Joseph's Church, Abbey House Drive, Romsey, SO51 8YB

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES:

St Swithun Wells Primary School 023 80266210
St George Catholic V.A. College 023 8032 2603
St Anne's Catholic School 023 80328200
Charlton House 023 8067 7575
St Mary's Independent School 023 8067 1267