

Our Mission: LOVE GOD - LOVE OTHERS - MAKE DISCIPLES



www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity No. 246871

Sunday Cycle: Year C
Weekday Cycle: Year 1
Psalter Week: 2

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent is a season given to us by the Church to deepen our faith. Faith is a word that we hear often, but what is ultimately faith? What do we need faith for?

There is a quote in the Bible that explains traditionally what faith is. It is in the seventh chapter of Isaiah. The Bible of Jerusalem translates it with these words: "If you so not stand by me, you will not stand at all". Sometimes we are led to think that faith is primarily something that "I have to do". But faith, as we learn from this quote, is more an act of reliance than a particular power that we possess; is more an acknowledgment of our weakness than an extraordinary effort. I am weak, I stand by God, I rely on God, I stand on the rock that is God, not me. Ratzinger, commenting on this sentence, said:

If you do not believe, if you do not hold firm to God, then you will have no foothold. Faith includes the meanings truth, firmness, firm ground... take one's stand on something... faith in God appears as a holding on to God through which man gains a firm foothold for his life.

I'd like to give an example of this, sharing with you something that happened to me two weeks ago. I have heard about the existence in our parish of the Street Pastors, a charity born in the Caribbean, that takes care of drunk people they meet on the streets at night time.

So I invited a person engaged in our parish with this charity to understand better what it was about. I asked him to recount his experience. He said to me: "Our activity consists of something very simple: every Friday evening, at 8pm, we meet together in the church, and then we split in two different groups. Some of us remain in the church praying for our mission, some others go out on the streets, usually three of them, going around and helping people who are drunk. Sometimes we have to give them a lift home, because they are not able to drive, sometimes they fight and we have to help them to make peace. Some weeks ago we saw some of them fighting and we decided to do something. We just walked towards them and when we arrived we calmed them down".

At the end of the meeting I said to him: "Thank you for your testimony. I appreciated especially your courage". He looked at me and immediately replied: "Father...it is not courage. I am a person full of fears. It is not courage. It is faith. Whenever I go out on the streets I ask God to sustain me, to be with me, to be in me, and I repeat myself the words of saint Paul, *My grace, says the Lord, is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness. That's why I am quite content with my weaknesses, for it is when I am weak that I am strong (2Cor 12: 9-10).*

As I learned from that man the opposite of fear is not courage. The opposite of fear is faith, to stand on God.

Father Luca

Parish Office: Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF

Tel: 023 8027 3882. Email: stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Office hours: Monday–Wednesday 9.30am–5pm; Thursday & Friday 9.30–2.30pm Newsletter items should be received by Wednesday 12:00 noon

Entrance Antiphon: O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

Psalm Response: What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

Parish Groups

Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) Group

Tuesdays between 10.15-11.30am (after Mass) in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. **It is a time of simple sharing, come and join us, we start with tea and biscuits, and everyone is assured of a warm welcome.** Upcoming topics: The life of John the Baptist, the Annunciation and the Visitation.

Journey in Faith - Every Wednesday at St Edward's

Is for anyone enquiring about the Catholic faith and for people intending to become a Catholic. The sessions run from 7.30pm to 9pm. For further information please contact Deacon Paul Owen - tel: 02380 254806; email: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Fellowship Group: St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak, 7.30-9pm. **Advent Bible Study on Wednesday 12th December** entitled 'Lighten our Path' by Nick Fawcett. Join us in preparing for Christmas. Everyone is most welcome. Any queries please contact Peter Baggott or Deacon Bob Birtles.

Youth Groups at Holy Cross Resource Centre

All young people from school year 4 up to and including 6th Form are welcome to come and join us once a month on Sunday evenings from 7-8.30pm. For more info please contact: Marianne Wanstall on 07771 704600 [Inspire - school yrs 4-9], Cath Szymanski on 07846 438224 [TOZ - school yrs 10, 11 & Sixth Form College].

Upcoming dates: 9th Dec; 13th Jan; 10th Feb; 17th Mar.

CaFE - the next meetings will be on:

Monday 10th December, 2.30pm in St Joseph's;
Tuesday 11th December, 7.30pm in St Andrew's.
Further details from Sheila Keefe, 01794 518071 or s.keefe@btopenworld.com.

Oasis - Christmas Gathering Tues 11th Dec, 7.30pm

St Edward's cloister, finishes at 9pm. Come along to share some festive cheer with our parish ladies' group; including carols, craft and nibbles. **All ladies warmly welcomed.** Future dates: 15th Jan; 12th Feb; 12th Mar; 2nd Apr; 14th May; 11th Jun; 9th Jul.

Knit & Natter - St Edward's, Mon 10th Dec, 2-4pm

Refreshments available and everyone most welcome! Any queries please contact Maureen Stephenson on 02380 252104.

Knit for Peace - St Andrew's, Wed 12th Dec, 2-4pm

Donations of mens clothes and shoes for Two Saints welcome. Please contact Anne Harcourt on 02380 734710 with any queries.

Readings for next Sunday 16th December 2018 Third Sunday of Advent

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

1st reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18

Psalm: Isaiah 12

2nd reading: Philippians 4:4-7

December Parish Events

Advent Encounter for Children - Sunday 9th Dec

After Mass at St Edward's, the Children's liturgy team invites all children and their parents to stay a little bit longer for an Advent Encounter.

Essential Baptism Preparation Session

If you wish to have your child baptised, please contact the Parish Office for an application form, and return the completed form to the Office. Then we look forward to welcoming parents for an essential Preparation Session on **Sunday 9th December 2018 (4.30pm-6pm)** at Holy Cross Resource Centre. It would be very helpful if you could arrive a little early, refreshments available from 4.15pm. If you want you can attend the preparation session in advance of your baby's birth.

FAIR TRADE Christmas Stalls at St Edward's

Sat 8th & Sun 9th Dec after both Masses. Come and buy Christmas Gifts, Table Decorations, Culinary Delights and lots more. Any donations of unwanted gifts and cakes gratefully received. There will also be a raffle for a Christmas Hamper. *All proceeds to CAFOD project in Peru and Fair Trade.* For more info contact Clare Lasker on 02380 252138.

Advent Talks with Fr Alan - 11th Dec at OLQA

Fr Alan will be giving the second of his two talks (starting at 7.30pm) focussing on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If this is a Sacrament you find challenging, then this is the opportunity to get your questions answered! Everyone is welcome, we look forward to seeing you then.

Craft Stall

The Sisters from St Elisabeth's Convent (a Russian Orthodox community in Belarus) will be selling their crafts at **St Edward's Church - Wed 12th Dec** after 10am Mass; **Holy Cross - Thurs 13th Dec** after 9.30am Mass. The Convent is dedicated to helping the homeless, mentally challenged and orphaned children with special needs.

Valley Park Prayer Meeting, Thurs 13th Dec, 2pm

There will be a scripture reading and social afternoon at the home of Joan Lake, Flexford Cottage, Flexford Rd, North Baddesley, SO52 9DF. All are welcome.

"Advent to Christmas by Candlelight", St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak - as usual our Carol Service will take place on **Gaudate Sunday 16th December**. All welcome. Please note that this year it will be at 5pm to enable people to attend the Parish Party should they wish.

December Parish Events Continued



Parish Christmas Party

Sunday 16th December, 1-4pm

St Swithun Wells School, Chandlers Ford

A reminder please bring your own drinks and ticket, cups will be provided. The meal will be served promptly at 1pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

SWAG Performance: The Magi are in a Muddle

Sunday 23rd Dec, 7.30pm at St Edward's

Entry is FREE and your support is priceless!

PLEASE come and support 24 of our young people from various parts of the whole Parish as they ease you into our Christmas Celebrations.

School Notices

Reminder: St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School Christmas Fayre - **Sunday 9th December, 12.30-3pm.**

St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School Community Christmas Party - Friday 14th Dec, 2pm.

We would like to invite grandparents and retired parishioners to our annual Christmas Party. The children will sing their carols and then Year 6 will serve refreshments. Please do come along - it's a chance to meet up with old friends and share the peace and joy of Christmas.

Offerings & Second Collections

Christmas Flowers

If you would like to contribute towards the beautiful flowers and decorations in all of our churches there will be a collection next weekend.

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*

Messages

Coffee Stop Christmas Special - Thursday 13th December, 10am-12 Noon in the Resource Centre. Coffee, tea or hot chocolate and mince pie £1, and there is a Grand Raffle. Raffle prizes gratefully received. Come and join us for a Merry Morning!

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.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS

Last week's collections: £1,542.35; SO/SD for Nov '18: £13,068.59

Messages Continued

St Swithun Wells Church - will be selling Raffle tickets for a Fair Trade Christmas Hamper at the 5pm Mass from now until weekend of 15th/16th December. Tickets are £1 each and the draw will take place at the Carol Service on 16th December. Money raised will go towards a CAFOD World Gift providing water for a village.

Christmas Hampers at Holy Cross - this year at Holy Cross, not one but three Christmas hampers will be raffled in aid of CAFOD. Tickets are now on sale. The CAFOD team would like to take this opportunity to thank all who continue to support us.

Christmas Cards CAFOD Collection

St Edward's, St Swithun Wells Church & Holy Cross are encouraging parishioners to send one Christmas Card to church friends and then donate what you would have spent on cards and postage to CAFOD world gifts.

St Edward's ("Llamas for Farmers") - write a message on a card (supplied) and attach it onto the display board, please place your contribution into the CAFOD collection container. Your donation will be used to buy llamas.

Holy Cross - place your card on our special notice board, please place your contribution in the CAFOD collecting box by the notice board after Sunday Mass or hand into the Parish Office during the week. Your donation will be used to purchase CAFOD World Gifts.

St Swithun Wells Church - place your card on our special notice board, please place your contribution in the CAFOD collecting box by the notice boards where the cards are. This will be part of our special challenge this year, to raise £750 to provide a water supply for a village. **Trisha** (02380 693669)

Christmas Gifts for Poitier and Two Saints

Last weekend gift labels were given out after both Masses at St Edward's. Please bring gifts for the 2 charities to St Edward's on the weekend of Dec 15th & 16th. Suggested items: boxes of sweets, biscuits, toiletries, cakes, puddings for families; men's hats, gloves, scarves, toiletries etc. Please wrap gifts and indicate which charity they are for. Gifts will be collected and distributed to the relevant charity.

St Edward's Cleaning Rota - a new rota has now been prepared for St Edward's, covering most of 2019. If you did not get an email with the new rota, there are a few spare ones in the cleaning cupboard.

Members of Romsey United Reformed Church

invite us to join their Carols by Candlelight Service on Sunday 23rd December in their church at 6.30pm.

Parish Office Closure During Christmas

The office will be closed from Tues 25th December and re-opens on Wed 2nd January 2019.

Mass Times for our Six Church Communities

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 8th Dec Vigil Masses	5.00pm	St Sw	Mrs Edward Christian FM	Thurs 13th	9.30am	HC	Gerard Carr FM
	6.00pm	St J			10.00am	OLQA	
	6.00pm	OLQA			6.00pm	St J	
	6.30pm	St Ed					
Sun 9th Second Sunday of Advent	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta	Fri 14th	10.00am	St Ed	Patricia Cummins (Get Well)
	9.00am	St Ed	Umberto Pugi RIP (Birthday)		10.00am	St J	
	9.00am	St A				(AH)	
	9.30am	OLQA					
	11.00am	St J					
	11.00am	HC	Deceased Members of the Queen Family FM				
Mon 10th	10.00am	St Ed		Sat 15th	9.30am	HC	Ron Reynolds FM
Tues 11th	9.30am	HC	Victor Micallef & Tony Borg (Anniversary)	Sat 15th Vigil Masses	5.00pm	St Sw	Paddy McMahon RIP
	10.00am	St A			6.00pm	St J	
	10.00am	OLQA			6.00pm	OLQA	
	11.00am	HC	Funeral Mass: Carlton Hubbucks RIP		6.30pm	St Ed	
	11.30am	St J	Funeral Service: Lesley Ings RIP				
Wed 12th	9.30am	HC	Luis Castro FM	Sun 16th Dec Third Sunday of Advent	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta
	10.00am	St Ed	George, Gertrude & Mary Lawton RIP (Anniversary)		9.00am	St Ed	
	11.00am	St Ed	Funeral Mass: Eva Sandhu RIP		9.00am	St A	Michael Jeffery RIP
					9.30am	OLQA	
					11.00am	St J	Sean Kelly RIP (17th Anniversary of death)
				11.00am	HC	Bernard Chandler RIP	

Advent Penitential Services

These will be held across our parish, with the opportunity for individual confession:
Thursday 13th December 7.30pm – Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Bishop's Waltham
Friday 14th December 7.30pm – St Andrew, North Baddesley
Saturday 15th December 11am – Holy Cross, Eastleigh
A number of priests will be available on each occasion.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday HC Adoration 1st Tuesday of the month 10.00-1.00pm
Thursday St ED Holy Hour (7-8pm)
Thursday St J from Noon-6pm, Rosary and Benediction at 5.30pm (before Mass at 6pm)

Rosary And Prayers

St Edward 9.30am Wednesday The Holy Rosary
St Joseph 6.00pm Wednesday Evening Prayer

CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Saturdays: 10.00am Holy Cross Church
12 noon St Edward's
5.30pm OLQA
5.30pm St Joseph
Sundays: 8.30am St Andrew

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, 53, Leigh Road, Eastleigh. SO50 9DF
St Sw St Swithun Wells, 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

Father Raffaele Cossa (Priest in Charge)
Tel: 023 8061 2430
rcossa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Father Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430
lspeziale@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Wojciech Paszko (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 01794 522884
wpaszko@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Canon Alan Griffiths (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 07760220346
frgriffiths@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Bob Birtles Tel: 023 8069 2416
bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon John di Meo Tel: 01794 515688
jdimeo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Paul Owen Tel: 023 80254806
powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Paul Wilson Tel: 02380 616618
pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Office
Tel: 02380 273882
Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance
Admin: Linda Roberts
lroberts@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Parish Secretary: Sarah Goodfellow
stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Advent & Christmas 2018

Advent Penitential Services

These will be held across our parish, with the opportunity for individual confession:
Thursday 13th December 7.30pm – Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Bishop's Waltham
Friday 14th December 7.30pm – St Andrew, North Baddesley
Saturday 15th December 11am – Holy Cross, Eastleigh
A number of priests will be available on each occasion.

Times Of Mass For Christmas

The times for the Monday evening (Christmas Eve) and Christmas Day itself are as listed below:

Holy Cross Church, Leigh Road, Eastleigh

The Nativity of the Lord	<i>Monday 24th December Polska Msza Swieta at 6pm</i> Midnight Mass preceded by Carols at 11.30pm
Christmas Day	<i>Tuesday 25th December Polska Msza Swieta at 9am</i> Tuesday 25 th December Mass at 11am
Boxing Day	<i>Wednesday 26th December Polska Msza Swieta at 9am</i> Wednesday 26 th December Mass at 11am

St Swithun Wells Church, Allington Lane, Fair Oak

The Nativity of the Lord	Monday 24 th December at 6pm Family Mass
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St Edward the Confessor Church, 191/193 Winchester Road, Chandlers Ford

The Nativity of the Lord	Monday 24 th Dec Mass at 9pm preceded by Carols at 8.30pm
Christmas Day	Tuesday 25 th December Mass at 9am
Boxing Day	Wednesday 26 th December Mass at 10am

St Andrew Church, Fleming Avenue, North Baddesley

The Nativity of the Lord	Monday 24 th December Mass at 7pm
Christmas Day	Tuesday 25 th December Mass at 9am

St Joseph Church, Romsey

The Nativity of the Lord	Monday 24 th December Midnight Mass at 11pm preceded by Carols from 10.30pm
Christmas Day	Tuesday 25 th December, Mass at 10.30am

Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Martin Street, Bishop's Waltham

The Nativity of the Lord	Monday 24 th December Family Mass at 6pm
Christmas Day	Tuesday 25 th December Mass at 9.30am

