



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ **28th NOVEMBER 2021: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

ADVENT: A SEASON PREGNANT WITH POSSIBILITY

I have to confess that I used to find Advent a bit dull. There was something about it which seemed to put the brakes on looking forward to Christmas. It seemed that in an attempt to make it a little more interesting we have adopted the use of the Advent wreath and lighted candles, Kristingle Services and the moderate use of the Alleluia. (I would say that the hymns for Advent rather save the day as they have great tunes). I think the blame must be levelled at the theology of the Season; it is all rather Apocalyptic as we hear of the end of time, trumpet blasts, sudden judgement and the Second Coming heralded with those words ringing in our ears - "Be ready He is coming! It will be on you like a thief in the night". In the "good old days," as some might call them, the priest was encouraged to take as the "four last things" for each Sunday in Advent, Heaven, Hell, Death & Judgement. Happy days!

I have been greatly changed in my attitude towards Advent by examining the use and meaning of the word *Expectant*. Yes! I have been thinking very much of the obvious example of the expectant Mother as she prepares for the birth of her child, and as we look towards the birth of Jesus. However, there are great parallels in this example in which we can understand this time of Advent. A pregnancy alters Family Life. There is much to be done, preparation to be made and much activity; exercises for both husband and wife to perform to encourage a good birth, a nursery to organize, lots of new equipment and clothes to buy, and as the birth gets nearer there is an anticipation that it could happen at any time near the given date. Suddenly, and without warning the pangs of childbirth come but the trials are not over yet; the hours of labour, of patiently waiting and placing a lot of time and energy into the act of birth have to be endured. How wonderfully Advent it all is.

We wait *expectantly* for the coming of Jesus and during this time we are encouraged to put our spiritual house in Order ready to greet Him. We make our spiritual selves clean, like the cleaning of the house for the new child, by making our Confession, and we are reminded that as Christians our lives are changed by His presence with us and that we shall be made complete at the Second Coming. We do not know when the pangs of the Second Coming will be, but what we do know, is that, like the pregnant woman, they will come suddenly and without warning. We need not be afraid.

For all the effort of giving birth it is with the arrival of the child, that fear is left far behind and pain and suffering become faded memories. There is only the joy of holding, loving and celebrating this glorious child which has come to the world. Words fail. We can only look on like the joyful parents and enjoy what has come and ponder, with confidence, what is to come. I believe this to be the same sense that we also should have towards the Second Coming.....Certainly don't be afraid of it - leave the timing to God - He knows what He is doing.

Fr Bruce

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is **Words of Pope Francis about COP 26** - you can find this on our homepage.
If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact website.sswp@gmail.com

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 28th November 2021: Year C - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 1

PSALM RESPONSE: TO YOU, O LORD, I LIFT UP MY SOUL.

READINGS: 1st reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm: 24 2nd reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2 Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2021:

READINGS: 1st reading: Baruch 5:1-9 Psalm: 126 2nd reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11 Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

PARISH GROUPS



Stars of Abraham (school years 3-6) Meet in person:
Tues, 4.00pm-5.30pm in St Edward's Cloister;
Tues, 4.15pm-5.45pm in St Andrew;
Sat, 10.30am-Noon in Holy Cross Resource Centre.

To join and for more info please click the Stars of Abraham Icon on our homepage.

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9)

Meet in person on Saturdays in St Edward, 2.00-4.00pm. To join and for more info please click the Grail Seekers Icon on our homepage.

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

Meet in person on Friday evenings at 6.30pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre. If you would like to attend please book your place on our website by clicking the Student Youth Icon on our homepage.

Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community in Holy Cross meets every Wednesday, for more information please click the link on the homepage of our website. All are welcome!

School of Community in St Edward meets every Thursday at 8pm in St Edward's cloister. All are welcome!

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.

Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) Group

There will be clergy presentations with a general Advent theme on the following dates:

Tues 7th December - a talk by Fr Luca

Tues 14th December - a talk by Fr Marco

Start as usual at 10.15am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre, finish time approx. 11.30am.

All are welcome!

Fellowship Group Advent Bible Study Course
Wednesdays 7.30pm on Zoom

This year we are following a course from John Birch entitled 'Preparing The Way'. A four part study based on the Year C Readings.

1st December Week 3 - The Life Required

Everyone is most welcome to join us.

Please contact Bob and Marion for the Zoom link.

bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Afternoon Club

St Joseph's Parish Centre (26 Abbey Water), first Tuesday in the month. Come and join us for tea, games and good fun. All welcome!

CAFE - is on 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the month at 2pm in St. Joseph's Parish Centre and 7.30pm in St. Andrew's. Our course until December is "This is My Body", a series of DVDs which take us deeper into the Eucharist. All are welcome. For more information please contact Ann Heslop: ann.heslop@virginmedia.com / 02380 734429.

MESSAGES



Advent & Christmas 2021

Please pick up your copy of the Penitential Services & Christmas Mass timetable, it's available in all of our churches from this weekend.

Upcoming Second Collections

4th/5th December: Christmas Flowers

OLQA Advent Bible Study - 1st Letter of St Peter

Thursdays in Advent beginning Thursday 25th November 10am-11.30am followed by Mass at 12 Noon. All welcome! Please bring a Bible.

Parish Advent Retreat

We will hold a Parish Retreat for Advent on Sunday 28th November, 2.30pm-4.30pm at St Edward. Open to everyone. There will be a talk about Advent,

some time for private prayer in the church and a time for questions and sharing thoughts.

Festive Evening - With mulled wine and mince pies after Mass on Saturday 4th December at St Edward. Donations to CAFOD. For more information phone Clare Lasker on 02380 252138.

Parish Christmas Quiz - Saturday 4th December at 7pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre. Everyone's welcome, you don't need to be a genius! A fun evening - all questions based around Christmas. There will be a small charge of £2 each to cover expenses. Teams of 6. Please bring your own nibbles/refreshments. Capacity is limited so please contact Val Talbot on 07766 056488 if you are able to come along.

MESSAGES CONTINUED



Christmas Lunch

Thursday 9th December, 12.30pm at the Hunters Inn, Romsey. Menus are on the notice boards. All are welcome. If you would like to come, please contact Rosemary: 01794 522411 by 1st December. Thank you.

My Day by Day Advent

From this weekend 'My Day by Day Advent' booklets will be available in our churches. My Day by Day Junior is free to children, however a suggested donation of £1 each for the Adult booklets would be most welcome.

CAFOD Advent Prayer Cards

Please pick up your Advent prayer cards from our churches this weekend.

CAFOD Fair Trade Christmas Fayre

December 11th/12th - A date for your diaries! The Fayre will be held at St Edward's after both weekend Masses.

CAFOD World gifts

From energy saving stoves to weatherproof crops to emergency shelters, CAFOD's virtual charity gifts help transform the lives of families living in poverty. Buy online at cafod.org.uk/worldgifts or pick up a catalogue from the back of church.

Parish Christmas Party

Sunday 12th December, 1pm-4.30pm
St Swithun Wells Primary School

Menu

Main - Chicken Cacciatore (with roast potatoes & ratatouille), a vegetarian option will be available;

Dessert - Apple crumble;

Please bring your own drinks.

Price £10 per person, children 16 and under free.

Tickets will be available in our churches (in the welcoming areas) from this weekend. A limited number of tickets is available, the deadline for purchasing tickets is Sunday 5th December.

Christmas jumpers and fancy dress actively encouraged!

COVID precautions: Hand sanitiser will be available, masks are optional, please do not attend if you/your family members are unwell.

Knitting afternoon

Tuesday 14th December 2pm-4pm in the Resource Centre, Holy Cross. At the moment we are knitting squares to make blankets. If you would like to join us for a knit and cup of tea please come along.

Advent to Christmas Carol Service at St Swithun

Wells Church, Fair Oak

Sunday 19th December at 3.30pm

Please remember to wear your mask for the service, as you do for Mass. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served afterwards for those who wish to stay.

Parish Pilgrimage to Rome

Tuesday 28th June - Sunday 3rd July 2022

We are jointly planning a Pilgrimage to Rome with Tangney Tours on the occasion of the Ordination (God willing) of Dennis as a Priest, Phil and Andrew as Deacons. More details including the itinerary, prices and booking are available on our website. You can also find details on our website about alternative cheaper accommodation which will be made available for families. The pilgrimage will be led by fr Raffaele.

Parish Pilgrimage Meeting - There will be a meeting to explain the itinerary and to answer questions on Tuesday 7th December at 8pm in St Edward's. Everyone welcome.

Poitiers Care Food Bank for Christmas would be grateful for the following items:

Tinned meats, such as curry, meatballs, Irish stew, chilli or ham. Tins of fruit, soup, baked beans or any vegetable. Tea, coffee, or biscuits. There are collection baskets at St Edward's, St Andrew's and St Joseph's churches. Or if preferred, cheques can be sent to Poitiers Care c/o Mr. V Clemas (Treasurer) Cornerways House, School Lane, Ringwood, BH24 14G Please do not wrap the items.

SCHOOL NOTICES



St Anne's Catholic Secondary School

Consultation Admissions Arrangements Sept 2023

As required by regulations, the governing body of St Anne's Catholic School, Southampton, SO15 2WZ will be conducting a consultation on its proposed admissions arrangements for the school year 2023/24. The consultation period runs for a minimum period of 6 weeks from 17th Nov until 29th Dec 2021.

Please see our website for further information and to review the proposed admissions arrangements:

https://www.st-annes.uk.com/web/admissions_consultation/254331

Any feedback is welcome and should be emailed to info@st-annes.uk.com with the subject 'Admissions Guidance 2023-24 Consultation'.

CONFESSION

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesdays:	6.30pm-7.30pm	St Edward
Tuesdays:	9.30am-10.00am	St Andrew
Saturdays:	10.00am-10.30am	Holy Cross
	5.30pm-6.00pm	OLQA
	5.30pm-6.00pm	St Joseph
Sundays:	8.30am-9.00am	St Andrew
	9.00am-9.30am	OLQA

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday: St Edward's - after Mass (6.30pm-7.30pm)
Wednesday: Holy Cross - after Mass (10.00am-11.00am)
Thursday: St Joseph's - before Mass (5.00pm-6.00pm)

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 27th November	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) St Swithun Wells St Joseph OLQA St Edward	Charlie & Rita Kelly FM Marion Lloyd (Special Intention) For the People of the Parish Tom, Mary & James Haren RIP
Sunday 28th November <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA (also Live Streamed) Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> John Milne RIP 6th Anniversary Patricia Cairney RIP Anniversary Mae Keown-Boyd (Thanksgiving) For Lucy & Frances (Well-being)
Mon 29th Nov	9.30am	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	Antonio Cicu FM Kenneth Sweet FM
Tues 30th November <i>St Andrew</i>	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Jean Reavey RIP Anniversary Raffaele Bianco, Placido Bianco & Vincenzina Capodiecì RIP
Wed 1st December	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) OLQA St Edward	Catherine Pearson RIP 9th Anniversary Keith Small RIP
Thurs 2nd Dec	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) OLQA St Joseph	Salvatore & Saverina Marucci RIP (Intentions) John Firhurst RIP
Friday 3rd Dec <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	OLQA St Joseph St Edward	For Grandson's Wellbeing Ittiavirah Devasia RIP
Saturday 4th December	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) St Swithun Wells St Joseph OLQA St Edward	In Memoriam FM For the People of the Parish Herbert Howie RIP Anniversary Mary Uphill FM
Sunday 5th December <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA (also Live Streamed) Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Enid Scappaticci RIP 6th Anniversary Margaret Martindale RIP Phil Talbot RIP Baby Daniel RIP & his family

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 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 8025 4806; E: powen@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

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

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

Website Contact: website.sswp@gmail.com