



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ **6th MARCH 2022: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

Beginning of Lent

Last Wednesday (Ash Wednesday) we started the season of Lent which is a time of conversion, of spiritual change, a time to fix our eyes on Jesus Christ.

The Gospel was about the Pharisees and their way to help, to pray and to fast. Jesus criticises them saying, "Be careful not to parade your good deeds before men to attract their notice. (...) When you pray, do not imitate the Pharisees: they love to say their prayers standing up in the synagogues and at the street corners for people to see them. (...) When you fast do not put on a gloomy look as the Pharisees do: they pull on long faces to let men know they are fasting." The Pharisees were people who found their value in men's admiration, they wanted to be pleased, to be recognised and to be noticed. They were like our modern celebrities, always on a stage, sustained by the recognition of people. Sometimes we might make the same mistake, trying to find our value in what other people think of us, of our possessions, in our power over others, in what we do, in our success. Our secular society encourages us to find our value in these things.

Lent is a powerful time to reflect on where we should find our real value.

Last Wednesday, when we received the ashes, we were told, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (cf. Gen 3:19). The ashes put on our heads remind us that we are dust and to dust we shall return. We are weak, frail and mortal. Centuries and millennia pass and we come and go; before the immensity of galaxies and space, we are nothing. We are dust in the universe. Nevertheless we are dust loved by God! It pleased the Lord to gather that dust in his hands and to breathe into it the breath of life (cf. Gen 2:7). We are dust, limited, sinners, always making mistakes but we are precious in God's eyes, destined for eternal life. We have a great value because we are loved by God, created in the image and likeness of God.

I pray that every day we might wake up with this awareness, "Lord, I am a poor wretch, but I am precious in your eyes, and this gives me strength and dignity."

Fr Raffaele

GEM OF THE WEEK

This week's GEM a video, "Pope Francis calls for fasting on Ash Wednesday for peace in Ukraine" - 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 9.30am on Wednesday 9th March, please email your messages/notices to: stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 6th March 2022: Year C - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 1

PSALM RESPONSE: BE WITH ME, O LORD, IN MY DISTRESS.

READINGS: 1st reading Deuteronomy 26:4-10 Psalm 90 2nd reading Romans 10:8-13 Gospel Luke 4:1-13

Sunday 13th March 2022: Year C - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 2

READINGS: 1st reading Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18 Psalm 26 2nd reading Philippians 3:17-4:1 Gospel Luke 9:28b-36

PARISH GROUPS



Youth Groups

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

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9)

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

These groups meet regularly in person. Stars of Abraham also prepares the children for First Holy Communion usually in school year 3. Grail Seekers also prepares the children for Confirmation usually in school year 9. For more details and how to join please go to the parish website www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

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!

Fellowship Group - Wednesdays at 7.30pm in St Swithun Wells Church. This Lent we are following another John Birch course entitled '**Becoming Church**', a 5 part study on Life in the early church as brought to us by Luke in the Acts of the Apostles. Join us for all of the studies or just the ones you can manage.
Week 1 - 9th March: Learning and Growing Together. If you cannot join us in person, you can join us on Zoom. Please contact Peter Baggott peterbaggott@aol.com for the link.

Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) Group

Tuesdays 10.15am to approx. 11.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. We continue our series 'Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible'.

On **Tuesday 1st March** we look again at the 'Messianic Fulfilment Part 2 & The Church'. All are welcome!

The Little Flowers Baby & Toddler Group

Wednesdays at 10am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. The group is for 0-4 years and their families. More information is on the website or you can email: littleflowers.sswp@gmail.com

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 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. If you would be interested in volunteering to help run the group or you know some young adults who would like to join the group, please contact Fr Luca at: arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com

CaFE - The next meeting is on **Tuesday 8th & 22nd March and then 12th & 26th April, 2pm** in the Parish Centre in Romsey and **7.30pm** in St. Andrew's, North Baddesley. All are welcome, more information can be found by calling Ann Heslop on 02380 734429 or emailing ann.heslop@virginmedia.com

60 Club

We meet every fortnight on a Monday from **2pm-4pm** at Holy Cross Resource Centre. Our next meeting is on **Monday 7th March**. All are welcome!

MESSAGES



Stations of the Cross During Lent (not Holy Week)

OLQA: Weds after 9.30am Mass & Fridays at 7pm;
St Andrew: Tues at 9.30am (before Mass) starting on 15th March;

St Swithun Wells: Tues at 10am starting 15th March;
St Joseph: Fridays at 9.30am (before Mass);
Holy Cross: Thursdays at 9am (before Mass);
St Edward: Fridays at 6.15pm (Mass at 7pm just in Lent). Fri 11th March will be led by Eucharistic Ministers and Readers.

Lent Parish Retreat - We will hold a Parish Retreat for Lent on **Sunday 13th March, 3pm-5pm** at St Edward. 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 thoughts.

OLQA During Lent

Lent Discussion Groups **Wednesdays at 7pm.**
Holy Rosary: **5.30pm** before the Saturday Vigil Mass.

St Edward's Lenten Soup Suppers for CAFOD

Soup suppers started at St Edward's on **Friday 4th March** and will take place every Friday during Lent except **Friday 18th March** when there will be a lunch instead. The suppers take place following Stations of the Cross at 6.15pm and Mass at 7pm. Cost is £5 and all proceeds will go to help families around the world to fight poverty and hunger.

MESSAGES CONTINUED



CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent Appeal

Family Fast Day is Friday 11th March, a day when we eat simply and give generously to support mums around the world, with expert training in growing and making healthy food. Your small act of love this Lent will make a big difference to many communities affected by extreme hunger and children suffering from malnutrition. You can donate in church using a CAFOD envelope or by visiting the CAFOD website: <https://cafod.org.uk>

Lent in Romsey

On the Fridays during Lent, each year the churches of Romsey take turns to organise a lunch of homemade soup, bread and cheese in aid of Christian Aid. The Lent Lunch prepared by the Catholic community this year will be held at the Methodist Church, The Hundred, Romsey, on **Friday 18th March, 12 Noon to 1.30pm**. Cost is **£5 per head**. Tea and coffee also available. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Churches Together in Chandlers Ford Lent Course

The studies will be held over 5 separate weekly sessions of 1 ½ to 2 hours, **beginning in the week commencing 7th March**. Please see the flyer on the St Edward's notice board detailing the various dates and venues.

Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 6th 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. 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. Please can you bring your own cups/plates/cutlery. To book your place please go to our parish website and click the link.

Cultural Friday - 18th March, 8pm at St Edward's

We will be listening to some classical music, extracts from the orchestral work of Joseph Haydn, "The Seven Last Words of Christ". There will also be a talk and explanation about this piece of music. Cheese, wine and nibbles available from 7.30pm, suggested donation of £1. All are welcome!

Please be aware that the videos of the previous two Cultural Fridays with Dr Micha Jazz & Rose Busingye are available to view on our website in the session archives: <https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/meetings>

Upcoming funerals celebrated elsewhere

Please pray of the repose of the soul of Peter Singleton and for his family. Peter's funeral service will take place on **Thursday 10th March at Wessex Vale Crematorium**.

Invitation from Bishop Philip

I'd like to invite you to join me for a special online conference on **Thursday 10th March, 6pm-8pm**. The topic is how we welcome people into Christ's Church. The event is free to join and is called *A Deeper*

Understanding of Welcome. It promises to be a thought-provoking evening of ideas and inspiration on how to reach out to and welcome everyone to life in Jesus Christ and the community of His Church. It is open to everyone. The topics include: hospitality; meeting people where they are; the gift of listening; and accompaniment. Do join us on Zoom, register for free through Ticket Source (click on the link on Bishop Philip's latest e-news):

<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue355>

Ukraine Appeal

We are supporting the Polish Social Club in Southampton who are collecting for Ukrainian Refugees. St Swithun Wells Parish are collecting the following items for them, they are in desperate need of: **Thermal underwear, thermal underclothing (thermal only please no other clothing), hats, gloves, foam mats, warm blankets, survival foil blankets, hand/feet warmers, SMALL tents, first aid boxes, any medical equipment, wound dressings etc.**

Also necessary but less critical are:

Baby formula (including special needs formula), Sudocrem, nappy creams, medicines e.g. adult and children paracetamol, instant soups, non perishable food.

These supplies (mainly for women, children and the elderly) will be taken to the border with Ukraine.

If you would like to donate any of the above please drop them off at Holy Cross Church in Eastleigh during office hours: Mondays to Thursdays 9.30am-5.30pm & Fridays 9.30am-2.30pm, also on Saturdays and Sundays 9.30am to 12 Noon. If you would like to volunteer to take a car/van load down on our behalf to the Polish Centre please contact the parish office.

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)

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Tuesdays: Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church), Eastleigh

Wednesdays: Fr Luca, 4.30pm-6.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church), Eastleigh

Saturdays: Fr Marco, 9.30am-12.30pm, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey

CONFESSION

(SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Tuesday: 9.30am-10.00am St Andrew
6.30pm-7.30pm St Edward

Saturday: 10.00am-10.30am Holy Cross
5.30pm-6.00pm OLQA
5.30pm-6.00pm St Joseph

Sunday: 8.30am-9.00am St Andrew
9.00am-9.30am OLQA

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 5th March	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Philippe Hanna El-Hajj RIP Ronnie Castelino RIP Ann Leach RIP
Sunday 6th March <i>First Sunday of Lent</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> Bowman Family (In Thanksgiving) Margaret Martindale RIP The People of the Parish John Crowther RIP Anniversary
Monday 7th March	9.30am	Holy Cross (also live streamed)	Fraternity of St Charles Antonio Cicu RIP FM
Tuesday 8th March	<u>10.00am</u> <u>10.00am</u> 6.00pm	<u>St Andrew</u> <u>St Swithun Wells</u> St Edward	<u>Funeral Mass: Pat & Johnny Eagar RIP</u> <u>Funeral Mass: Alain Hunt RIP</u> Intentions of the Morison Family
Wed 9th March	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross (also live streamed) OLQA St Edward	Lillian Rachael Gardiner FM Eric Warne RIP 1st Anniversary
Thursday 10th March	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross (also live streamed) OLQA St Joseph	Collette Reynolds FM Margaret Martindale RIP
Friday 11th March	9.30am 10.00am 7.00pm	OLQA St Joseph St Edward	 Emilio & Janette D'Alessandro (Wedding Anniversary)
Saturday 12th March	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Frank Pessot RIP The Harfield Family (Wellbeing) Intentions of Mr M G Nutt Baker Family RIP
Sunday 13th March <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 (also live streamed) Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> The People of the Parish Anna Barrett RIP Anniversary Peter Singleton RIP John Carmody RIP Anniversary

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

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