



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

8th December 2019: **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

The Gentle Breeze

Advent is a time when we are called to be childlike, in order to find what we really need: the unconditional love of God. It is this unconditional love that is at the bottom of our aspirations and everything we try to achieve. But why is it that so often we find ourselves missing the experience of receiving this unconditional love?

I believe, from my own experience, that this happens because we look for that love in the wrong place.

There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before Yahweh. But Yahweh was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But Yahweh was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But Yahweh was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

1King 19:11-13

The first place where I can see the signs of God's presence, the master of unconditional love, is not my imagination, or the clamour of a *life changing* event, but the gentle breeze of my own life, of my daily routine.

There is a people that witnessed this gaze upon the world, a people that in the history of the world sung the sweetness of this unconditional love that reaches us through every circumstance. Unlike the other ancient people (Greeks, Romans, Assyrian...) the people of Israel identified God not with "something", like an unmoved mover or a projection of human feelings, but with "Someone", an Other, like this psalm testifies.

*O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.*

*If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.*

*If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.*

*If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.*

Father Luca

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is a song by Mumford and Sons entitled "Awake my soul" which is very fitting in this time of Advent. You can find the link on our homepage.

Newsletter items should be received into the Parish Office by **Wednesday 9:30am**

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday Cycle: Year A - Weekday Cycle: Year 2 - Psalter Week: 2

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: IN HIS DAYS JUSTICE SHALL FLOURISH, AND PEACE TILL THE MOON FAILS.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, 15TH DECEMBER 2019:

1st reading: Isaiah 35:1-6. 10 - Psalm: 145 - 2nd reading: James 5:7-10 - Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

PARISH GROUPS



Growing in Faith Together (GIFT)

Tuesdays between 10.15-11.30am (after Mass) in Holy Cross Resource Centre.

Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

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. Preparation will be on Wednesday evenings fortnightly at St Edward the Confessor Church, Chandlers Ford at 7.30pm. Dates until Christmas: 11th Dec.

Journey in Faith with the Bible: Wednesday evenings fortnightly between 7.30pm and 9pm at St Edward the Confessor Church, Chandlers Ford. All Welcome. Dates until Christmas: 18th Dec.

Further details from Anne Owen on 02380 254806.

Fellowship Group - St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak, Wednesday 11th Dec from 7.30pm-9pm

The Angels' Song, Gloria in Excelsis Deo.

Luke's Gospel has a series of songs as part of his introduction to the story of Jesus. This Advent we will be exploring them in their actual context, leading up to the birth of Jesus. Tea/coffee served at the end.

CaFE - the next meetings will be held on:

Tues 10th Dec, St Andrew's at 7.30pm.

Mon 16th Dec, St Joseph's Parish Centre at 2pm;

Further details from Sheila on 01794 518071.

School of Community

The weekly catechesis of the catholic movement Communion and Liberation every Wednesday at 8pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. On Wed 11th we will watch "Blue Cross" an episode from the Father Brown TV series. Everybody welcomed!

Fryern Prayer Group - St Edward's

Our Christmas prayer meeting will be on Monday 9th December from 2-3pm at the home of Sheila and Pauline O'Neill, 19 Carthage Close, SO53 2BL. All welcome.

Prayer Group - Valley Park

There will be a Scripture Reading and Social Afternoon at the home of Susan Johnston, 9 Danebury Gardens, Chandlers Ford, SO53 4NQ on Wednesday 11th December at 2pm. All are very welcome.

Knit for Peace - St Andrew's, Wed 11th Dec, 2-4pm

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

TOZ (for young people from school year 10) meet twice a month on Sunday. Next Meeting Date: 15th December, 7-8.30pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre. 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.

CHANGES TO MASS & PARISH OFFICE OPENING



Advent & Christmas 2019

A separate sheet detailing Penitential Services and Mass times for all our Churches is available now.

Parish Office Closure During December

The office will be closed from Midday Tuesday 24th December and re-opens on Thurs 2nd January 2020. Please note on Friday 20th Dec the Office will open from 11am rather than 9.30am.

OFFERINGS & SECOND COLLECTIONS



St Swithun Wells Parish Acknowledges with thanks

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

Second Collection - this weekend

If you would like to contribute towards the beautiful flowers & decorations that will be displayed in all of our churches there is a collection this weekend.

PARISH EVENTS

Parish Advent Retreat - Sunday 8th December, 2.30pm-5pm, St Edward's. There will be a talk by Fr Raffaele, some time for questions and personal prayer.

Parish Christmas Party - Sunday 15th December, 1.00pm-4.30pm. St Swithun Wells Catholic School, C/Ford. Tickets will be on sale 7th/8th Dec after weekend Masses in all Churches. Adults: £2; Family (Parents & Children): £5.

There will be lunch, arts & crafts for children, music and games - all parishioners invited!

Advent to Christmas Carol Service - St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak on Gaudate Sunday, 15th December at 5pm. All welcome!

Coffee Stop: The Christmas Special
Thursday 12th December in Holy Cross Resource Centre (after Mass). Coffee and a mince pie for £1 plus The Raffle. Donations for the raffle greatly received. Please come along and support us.

St Edward's CAFOD Annual Christmas Fayre - 14th/15th December. In preparation for this there will be a craft morning on Friday 13th Dec in the Cloisters after 10am Mass to make Festive table decorations. Please come along and share a morning of fun and friendship. The decorations will be sold along with other seasonal items after both Masses. Festive produce gratefully received. There will also be a raffle. All proceeds to Magdalenia Medio project.

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 on a first come first served basis and close on 19th Jan '20.

SCHOOL NOTICES

St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School Community Christmas Party, Fri 13th Dec, 2pm. The children invite all retired members of the parish to our annual Community Christmas Party. We will be singing some new and traditional Christmas carols followed by refreshments. It is a great opportunity to catch up with old friends before Christmas. If anyone would like to come along but does not have transport please contact the school office on 02380 266210 and we will aim to collect you.

St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School Admissions Arrangements September 2021-22
There will be a consultation on its proposed admissions arrangements for school year 2021-22. **This will run for 6 weeks from 2nd Dec 2019 until 12th Jan 2020.** Copies of the proposed arrangements can be obtained from the school office or downloaded from the school website (www.st-swithunwells.org.uk/admissions-information). **Comments on the arrangements should be sent to the clerk to the governing body by 12th Jan 2020.** E: l.emerson@st-swithunwells.hants.sch.uk.

MESSAGES

St Edward's Collection of Christmas Gifts for Poitiers & Two Saints - 14th & 15th Dec
For Poitiers gifts suitable for children & families e.g. Christmas food, toiletries etc. For Two Saints gifts of men's and women's hats, gloves, scarves, toiletries etc. Please indicate on your parcel which charity you are supporting and write a message for Christmas. All gifts will be brought up at the Offertory by the children and placed on the Sanctuary at 9am Mass on Sun 15th Dec.

St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak - Christmas Card CAFOD Collection. From 30th November we shall be encouraging everyone to send one Christmas Card to church friends, and place it on our special noticeboard in St Swithun Wells Church. You can donate what you would have spent on cards and postage to CAFOD World Gifts, by placing your contribution in the CAFOD collecting box by the notice board where the cards are. There will also be a draw for a Fair Trade hamper and other (chocolate!) prizes, with raffle tickets on sale after 5:00pm Mass. Final ticket sales and **the draw will be at the Advent to Christmas Carol Service on 15th December.** Our focus is to buy World Gifts of Education and Skills Training. *Trisha (02380 693669)*

St Swithun Wells Prayer Link

Please pick up your copy of the December '19 edition.

The Holy Cross Christmas CAFOD raffle has begun. Raffle tickets are available after Mass. *Prizes include Hampers and other items.* We thank all those parishioners who have kindly donated items for the raffle. We hope parishioners will continue to support CAFOD, the leading Catholic charity helping those in great need.

Carol singing for FLEDGE at ASDA - Monday 16th December from 6pm to 7.30pm Churches Together have organised their traditional carol singing at ASDA accompanied by the Velmore band. If you would like to warm up your voice for Christmas day then come along to the main entry, all welcome, proceeds are for the FLEDGE charity in Eastleigh, just turn up and join in.

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

Confirmation - Date for your diary! Please be aware Confirmation of our children will be on **Sunday 24th May 2020, 3pm at Portsmouth Cathedral.** Further details will be announced closer to the event.

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 7th <i>St Ambrose</i>	9.30am	HC	Special Intention to Our Lady & St Joseph
	5.00pm*	SSW	Peggy Barber RIP
	6.00pm*	St J	Eamon Dunne RIP
	6.00pm*	OLQA	
Vigil Mass	6.00pm	St J	Eamon Dunne RIP
	6.00pm*	OLQA	
	6.30pm*	St Ed	Mrs Edward Christian FM
	6.30pm*	St Ed	Mrs Edward Christian FM
Sun 8th Dec 2nd Sunday of Advent	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	Umberto Pugi RIP
	9.00am	St A	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	St J	Wilkinson & Probert Families
	11.00am	HC	Phil Talbot RIP
Mon 9th	10.00am	St Ed	Lake & Hill Families (Special Intention)
Tues 10th <i>St Swithun</i> <i>Wells</i>	9.30am	HC	Special Intention Our Lady & St Joseph
	10.00am	St A	
	10.00am	OLQA	
Wed 11th	9.30am	HC	Gerard Carr FM
	10.00am	St Ed	Catherine Pearson RIP
Thurs 12th	9.30am	HC	Luis Castro FM
	10.00am	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St J	
Fri 13th <i>St Lucy</i>	10.00am	St Ed	George, Gertrude & Mary Lawton RIP
	10.00am	St J:AH	
	10.00am	OLQA	
Sat 14th <i>St John of the Cross</i>	9.30am	HC	Ron Reynolds FM
	5.00pm*	SSW	Mary Quinn (Special Intention)
	6.00pm*	St J	
	6.00pm*	OLQA	
	6.30pm*	St Ed	Deceased Relatives and friends of the Bennett family
Sun 15th Dec 3rd Sunday of Advent	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	Cardinal Thomas Winning RIP
	9.00am	St A	Michael Jeffery RIP (Anniversary)
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	St J	Sean Kelly RIP (Anniversary)
	11.00am	HC	Eamon & Kathleen Hughes RIP

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
Tues: HC - First Tuesday of the Month (10am-1pm)
Thurs: St Ed - Holy Hour 7-8pm
Thurs: St J - from 4-6pm, Rosary and Benediction at 5.30pm

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

Tues: Fr Raffaele, 4.30pm-6.30pm in the Parish Office, Holy Cross, Eastleigh.
Weds: Fr Luca, 4.30pm-6.30pm, Parish Office, Holy Cross, Eastleigh.
Fridays: Fr Raffaele, 11.30am-12.30pm in the Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey.
Saturdays: Fr Marco, 10am-Midday, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey.

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

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