



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ
14th FEBRUARY 2021: SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY

The Next Step

We all love the magical atmosphere of Christmas: the silence, the tenderness that we see on the faces of Mary, Joseph and the Shepherds, the uplifting hymns and songs... everything seems to lead us in another world, ruled by serenity and joy. Trials, troubles and chaos seem to vanish. Only the peaceful face of the baby Jesus remains.

But this is only the beginning of a journey. The liturgical year yet doesn't end with Christmas. It goes on, through Lent to Easter. Why? Let me use an image: it is as if after Christmas, during the following weeks, we see the baby Jesus growing, leaving the crib and taking the first steps towards us and then, already a young man of thirty years old, asking us, "Now, who do you think I am?". And this is the beginning of Lent: Jesus asking us to take a stand. While Christmas is the time of worship and admiration, Lent is the time when we are now asked to say "yes" or "no" to Jesus. While Christmas is the time when Jesus is in front of us, Lent is the time when he has to become "ours", he has to enter in us, through the door of our freedom.

If we look at the readings the Church chooses, we notice that Lent always begins with the story of Jesus tempted in the desert by the devil. The devil always has one purpose: to make us settle, to believe that little things, like career, success, money, popularity, health... are enough to fill our heart. But the story of the temptation of Jesus, with him renouncing all of these "little things", shows us that our heart is made for something greater. Our heart desires God. He alone can give us what we look for. It is now clear that Lent is the time for choosing the right thing: we are asked to say "yes" to God and his presence and "no" to everything that is less than him.

This is also the meaning of the words the priest says while, on Ash Wednesday, he distributes ashes: Convert and believe in the Gospel, namely, "change your targets, change direction (this is the meaning of the word convert) and say yes to Jesus."

Finally, to say yes to Jesus and let him enter in us, is not rocket science! It's really easy: it means to embrace and love our life (our family, our job, our community) as a gift from Him, as the path given to us to enjoy his friendship. This is the step the following weeks are asking us to take: from the "wow" of Christmas to the "yes" of Lent.

Fr Luca

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is a video **by Bishop Robert Barron on Lent** - you can find this on our homepage. If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact website.sswp@gmail.com

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

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 14th February 2021: Year B - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 2

PSALM RESPONSE: YOU ARE MY REFUGE, O LORD; YOU FILL ME WITH THE JOY OF SALVATION.

READINGS:

1st reading: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46 **Psalm:** 31 **2nd reading:** 1 Cor 10:31-11:1 **Gospel:** Mark 1:40-45

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 21ST FEBRUARY:

1st reading: Genesis 9:8-15 **Psalm:** 24 **2nd reading:** 1 Peter 3:18-22 **Gospel:** Mark 1:12-15

PARISH GROUPS



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

All the meetings of the group will be on Zoom on **Saturday at 11.00am**. To join and for more info please click the Stars of Abraham Icon on our homepage.

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9) - All the meetings of the group will be on Zoom on **Saturday at 2.00pm**. To join and for more info please click the Grail Seekers Icon on our homepage.

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

All the meetings of the group will be on Zoom on **Friday at 8.00pm**. To join and for more info please click the Student Youth Icon on our homepage.

Communion & Liberation Groups

Meets **every Wednesday** with fr Luca through Zoom.
Meets **every Thursday at 8pm** with fr Raffaele through Zoom.

For more information please click the links on the homepage of our website.

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.

OASIS (ladies' group) – via Zoom

Tuesday 16th February, 8pm

Persecution of Christians - on the cusp of Lent we'll be sharing about how we plan to make a good Lent and spending time in prayer for those Christians around the world who are persecuted because of their faith. If you are new to Oasis you are most welcome – please email Jessie to request the Zoom link: jessie.woolgar@gmail.com

Fellowship Group

There is no Fellowship on Wednesday 17th as it is Ash Wednesday and also half term.

We will **recommence on Wednesday 24th Feb** with a 6 week Lenten Bible Study Course, details will be included in next weeks newsletter.

MESSAGES



Rules for Ash Wednesday & Lent

Roman Catholics must abstain from meat on all Fridays during Lent. On **Ash Wednesday** Roman Catholics must fast and abstain from meat. Fasting means that they may eat one full meal, and they may eat two small meals as well. The two smaller meals must not equal one full meal. There are exceptions to these rules. Those from ages 18-59 must fast. If you are younger than 18 or older than 59 you do not have to fast. Women who are pregnant or nursing also do not have to fast, furthermore, if you have a health problem that makes fasting unhealthy for you, you do not have to fast.

Stations of the Cross During Lent

Holy Cross - Fridays at 6pm (starting 19th Feb), this may be attended in person in the church, it will also be live streamed, please go to our website for the link.

OLQA - Wednesdays at 7pm (starting 24th Feb), this may be attended by up to 25 people in the church, it will also be available via Zoom, please go to our website for the link.

Fridays in Lent

Beginning Friday 19th Feb at 7pm

"Knowing your Catholic Faith" - a series of talks by fr Bruce. To help us understand the teaching of our church so that we may be able to explain it to others. This may be attended by up to 25 people in church and will also be available via Zoom. Please go to our website for the link.

Special Mass

Monday 22nd February is the anniversary of fr Luigi Giussani's death (the founder of Communion & Liberation). On this day we will celebrate a special Mass for him at 9.30am in Holy Cross, this will also be live-streamed.

Parish Get2Gether Via Zoom

Sunday 28th February, 3pm-4.30pm

An event for all the people of the parish with games, songs, activities for children and conversations for adults. Please go to our website for more details and how to join.

MESSAGES CONTINUED



Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Patricia Cowling whose Funeral Mass takes place at Holy Cross on **Friday 19th Feb at 11.00am**, and for her family.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Paul Singleton whose funeral takes place at OLQA on **Friday 19th Feb at 12 Noon** and for his family.

Message from CAFOD - This Lent, CAFOD invites you and the whole Catholic community of England and Wales to join the **Big Walk for Water event on Sat 20th Feb**. Find out more at: <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Walk-for-Water> Moira Moriarty from the St Edward CAFOD group has signed up to walk 10,000 steps a day during Lent for CAFOD Walk for Water. Her progress can be followed along with the ability to donate should you wish on her JustGiving page: www.justgiving/fundraising/moira-moriarty

CAFOD Lenten Fast Day - Friday 26th February The focus is 'Putting an End to Water Poverty'. You can donate online at cafod.org.uk/lent or by using envelopes along with prayer cards which will be available in the welcoming areas of all of our churches. If you choose to use envelopes you can send a cheque made out to CAFOD (Lenten Fast) and send it directly to CAFOD using the pre-paid envelope. Alternatively you can put your donation in the envelope and leave it in the basket provided. If you are able to gift aid please do so by filling in the gift aid slip and putting it into the envelope with your donation.

Readers Refresher Session

Saturday 6th & Saturday 13th March, 11am-Noon

Readers are asked to choose which session they would like to attend. It will be an hour of reflection on this important ministry and how to develop it. If you are interested in becoming a Reader this is also an opportunity to sign up!

All Welcome.

Please book a session by emailing fr Bruce direct: brucebarnes01@gmail.com

Churches Together in C/Ford Lent Studies

This Lent we are using the course 'Not a Tame Lion' based on the writings of C.S. Lewis. Five weekly sessions will be held **starting in the week commencing Monday 22nd February**. This year Lent groups will be held by Zoom, however there is also a possibility that one group may be able to meet in St. Boniface on a Wednesday morning in person, but this is obviously subject to existing restrictions being lifted by then and numbers will be limited. If you would like to join a group this year or find out more please contact Jackie Richardson on 023 8026 0674 or via

e-mail: jackie.h.richardson@outlook.com

The closing date for places is 14th February.

MASS (STREAMING & BOOKING SYSTEM), CONFESSION & PRAYING THE ROSARY

Live Streamed Mass

All of the Masses from Holy Cross will also be live streamed. To join please go to our parish website www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

For details of all of our Public Masses please see the timetable on the back page of the newsletter.

Confession

- OLQA, Saturdays at 10am
- St Joseph, after Mass & Saturdays at 5.30pm
- St Andrew, after Mass & Sundays at 8.30am
- If you would like to make Confession at Holy Cross, St Edward or St Swithun Wells please speak to a Priest after Mass or alternatively please go and see either Fr Raffaele, Fr Luca or Fr Marco during one of the advertised times below.

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

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|--------------------|---|
| Tuesdays: | Fr Raffaele, 4.00pm-6.00pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church), Eastleigh |
| Wednesdays: | Fr Luca, 4.00pm-6.00pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church), Eastleigh. |
| Fridays: | Fr Marco, 10.30am-12.30pm, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey |

To reserve a seat at Mass in St Joseph's & OLQA

St Joseph's, Romsey:

- **Saturday Vigil Mass 6.00pm** (the church will close after Mass). To reserve a seat for the Mass please contact Teresa Rayment from Wednesday through to Friday (Tel: 01794 513528 / teresarayment@tiscali.co.uk).
- **Sunday 11.00am** (the church will close after Mass). To reserve a seat for the Mass please contact Joanna Russell from Wednesday through to Friday (Tel: 07917 802814 / joanna@silvasmiths.co.uk).

Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Bishop's Waltham:

- **Sunday at 9.30am**. To reserve a seat please email: olqamassbook@gmail.com

Communal Praying of the Rosary with

Meditations from the Holy Cross Presbytery

Tuesdays to Thursdays at 6.00pm through Zoom

For more information and to join please click the link on the homepage of our website. You can send your intentions to: pagani.matteoalexandro@gmail.com

Please note there will be no Rosary on Ash Wednesday

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

| DATE | TIME | CHURCH | MASS INTENTION |
|---|--|--|--|
| Sat 13th Feb | 9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm | Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) St Swithun Wells St Joseph | For the People of the Parish Sister Rosaleen (60 years Jubilee) |
| Sun 14th Feb <i>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> | 9.00am 9.30am 10.30am 11.00am 11.00am | St Andrew OLQA St Edward St Joseph Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) | Denis Dunne RIP Patrick Burke RIP FM Andrew Bryceland (50th Birthday) Emmanuel Altman (Anniversary) |
| Mon 15th Feb | 9.30am | Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) | Ernest Glanville (Special Intention) |
| Tues 16th Feb | 10.00am | St Andrew | Denis Dunne RIP |
| Wed 17th Feb <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <i>(Mass with Imposition of Ashes)</i> | 9.30am 10.00am 10.00am 6.00pm 7.00pm 7.00pm | Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) St Joseph OLQA St Swithun Wells St Andrew St Edward | Gabriela Jeremiah (Well-being) Kathleen Ditte & Deceased Family RIP FM |
| Thurs 18th Feb | 9.30am | Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) | Anne & Sean Connolly RIP |
| Fri 19th Feb | 10.00am | St Joseph | Tracy Hubbard RIP |
| Sat 20th Feb | 9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm | Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) St Swithun Wells St Joseph | Kitty O'Brien RIP Agnes Carter RIP David Martin (Thanksgiving) |
| Sun 21st Feb <i>Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> | 9.00am 9.30am 10.30am 11.00am 11.00am | St Andrew OLQA St Edward St Joseph Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) | Jeanette Butcher RIP Mary McCormack RIP Sister Pauline (Well-being) For the People of the Parish |

CLERGY

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 80254806; E: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Paul Wilson

Tel: 02380 616618; E: pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

PARISH OFFICE

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

Tel: 02380 273882

Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance

Admin: Linda Roberts (works full day Mon-Wed, half day Thursday now working from home, is answering the Parish telephone)
lroberts@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Sarah Goodfellow (works Wed & Thursday, 9.30am-2.30pm now working from home)
stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website Contact: website.sswp@gmail.com