



*Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ*  
**28th FEBRUARY 2021: SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

## Transfigured by Obedience

When we think about being obedient we often think about orders and commands from our childhood and school days when we paid a painful punishment for not doing as we were asked; for some of us who are older, we remember the physical punishment for being disobedient, while others had to remain after school for "detention" to write out a series of boring "lines" from a book. In other ways we may be reminded of being obedient either through family life - disobeying our parents, or, in professions such as the Armed Services, where orders are given, and those receiving the orders are called to act on them at once!

Obedience is a way of life which is implicit in being a human being and it goes hand in hand with responsibility and living in a society where we bear some responsibility for our behaviour, knowing that bad behaviour can have an effect on other people. We can see the effects of those who are not obedient and what it does to society today. There are rules in place which prevent people just doing what they like. It recognizes that there is a *higher way* of behaviour which leads to a more fulfilled and happy way of life.

In today's Readings we see how this obedience becomes a happiness when it is rooted in following the commands and rules of God. Abraham is called by God to be obedient in a most unlikely way by being asked to sacrifice his son. At the last minute, and when God sees how obedient Abraham is, God prevents him sacrificing his son and Blesses Abraham with the freedom to become one of the greatest leaders of His people, enjoying prosperity and happiness for ever after. The same is true for us. The Commandments and Ordinances placed upon us by Scripture and the Apostolic Tradition of The Church are not there to be a burden or to "chain" us up in "suffocating doctrines". They are designed to free us so that our lives can be lived well and healthily, both physically and spiritually.

The Gospel for today gives us a wonderful example of what obedience can do for us. It can Transfigure us as we become closer to God through obedience to Him. Jesus was the ultimate example and guidelines for our obedience to God. Like Jesus we are called to live this obedient life within a Community which is made up of Believers and those, who, as yet, are not people of Faith. Jesus came down the mountain of Transfiguration and continued His life of witness among all people and asked his disciples to do the same. Our freedom as Christians comes only as people of Faith prepared to live the Christian message in obedience always to what God wants despite what a secular society may require. This may well put us in conflict with the secular powers but that has often been the case and the price we pay for our Faith. St Thomas More puts it well when challenged about his obedience to the King and the State:

*" I am the King's Servant but God's first".*

**Fr Bruce**

## **GEM OF THE WEEK**



This week's GEM is a **Message by Bishop Philip on Ash Wednesday** - you can find this on our homepage. If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact [website.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:website.sswp@gmail.com)

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

# LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



**Sunday 28th February 2021:** Year B - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 2

**PSALM RESPONSE:** I WILL WALK IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING.

**READINGS:**

**1<sup>st</sup> reading:** Genesis 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18 **Psalm:** 115 **2<sup>nd</sup> reading:** Romans 8:31b-34 **Gospel:** Mark 9:2-10

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 7TH MARCH:**

**1<sup>st</sup> reading:** Exodus 20:1-17 **Psalm:** 18 **2<sup>nd</sup> reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 **Gospel:** John 2:13-25

## 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

**Every Wednesday** with fr Luca through Zoom.

**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.

### Fellowship Group Lenten Suppers &

#### Bible Study Course - Wednesday evenings

**Lenten Suppers** - This year via Zoom! Come and join us with soup, bread and cheese or any light supper and a chat **from 7.00-7.30pm**. This has been one of our main charity events each year and we would encourage you to put aside a donation for your meal each week which will be shared between CAFOD and Fledge after Easter.

#### Bible Study - 7.30-9.00pm via Zoom

##### "Rebuilding the Ruins"

Our Lenten Bible Study this year looks squarely at the world we live in. The theme for the second week is *Housing Ruins*. Everyone is welcome to come to both Supper and Bible Study or just one if you cannot make both. Each Bible Study stands on its own. If you would like to join us please contact Bob and Marion Birtles bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for the Zoom link.

## MESSAGES



### Stations of the Cross During Lent

**Holy Cross - Fridays at 6pm**, 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 7.30pm**, 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 - "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. **At 7pm**, this may be attended by up to 25 people in OLQA and will also be available via Zoom. Please go to our website for the link.

### 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.

### St Edward's Vigil Mass on Saturdays

Restarts Saturday 27th February at 6.30pm.

### 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

### Cultural Friday & Survey

You will find the Cultural Friday survey on our website. This survey aims to find out what cultural activities and interests you have and will only take a few minutes to complete. Please take part as this information will then help us to better plan our Cultural Fridays.

**The next Cultural Friday is on Friday 12th March at 8pm via Zoom.** Please go to our website for more information and how to join.

## MESSAGES CONTINUED

### Second Collection

This weekend for **CAFOD**.

**Upcoming Funeral** - Please pray for the repose of the soul of Norah Smewing and for her family. Norah's funeral takes place at Test Valley Crematorium **on Wed 3rd March at 12.15pm**. The service will be live webcast: *You will be able to login to the website (see address below) at any time to view a test webcast (this is recommended) in plenty of time before the service. During the service window you will be automatically redirected to the live webcast.*

Website: <https://www.orbitus.com/>  
Username: Bowo2107  
Password: 151382  
Viewing Time: 12.12pm-1.05pm

### World Day of Prayer Online Service (St Joseph's)

This year Romsey will hold our World Day of Prayer Service online on **Friday 5th March**. The Service has been prepared by the Christian Women of Vanuatu. You can pray at home at any time by logging on to [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk) Here in Romsey **we plan to log on at 1.30pm**, the time we usually hold our Service. There are some Orders of Service (free) available at St Joseph's. We are encouraged to donate online to this important charity which does much to help disadvantaged people all over the world.

### World Day of Prayer Zoom Service

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 11am (Chandlers Ford Churches Together)** To receive the link ahead of time please e-mail: [jamie.broadey@gmail.com](mailto:jamie.broadey@gmail.com) If you would like a service booklet please email: [jocelynhalfpenny@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jocelynhalfpenny@yahoo.co.uk) Please donate online at [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk)

### Words from Pope Francis for Lent

#### **Do you want to Fast this Lent?**

Fast from hurting words and say kind words  
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude  
Fast from anger and be filled with patience  
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope  
Fast from worries and have trust in God  
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity  
Fast from pressures and be prayerful  
Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy  
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others  
Fast from grudges and be reconciled  
Fast from words and be silent so you can listen

## MASS (STREAMING & BOOKING SYSTEM), CONFESSION &

### 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](http://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
- Holy Cross, after Mass & Saturday at 10.00am
- If you would like to make Confession at 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**

**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**  
To reserve a seat for the Mass please contact Teresa Rayment from Wednesday through to Friday (Tel: 01794 513528 / [teresarayment@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:teresarayment@tiscali.co.uk)).
- **Sunday 11.00am**  
To reserve a seat for the Mass please contact Joanna Russell from Wednesday through to Friday (Tel: 07917 802814 / [joanna@silvasmiths.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:olqamassbook@gmail.com)  
This Mass is also streamed via Zoom:  
Meeting id: 504 727 7919  
Password: 467815

### 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.matteoalejandro@gmail.com](mailto:pagani.matteoalejandro@gmail.com)

# MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
<b>Sat 27th Feb</b>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) St Swithun Wells St Joseph St Edward	Piedade Santan Fernandes RIP Anniversary Andrew Bates RIP Denis Dunne RIP
<b>Sun 28th Feb</b>  <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.30am 10.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Andrew OLQA St Edward St Joseph Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Norah Smewing RIP For the People of the Parish  Sarah Howie RIP Anniversary Lucy Corbett (Special Intention)
<b>Mon 1st March</b> <i>St David</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	Fraternity of St Charles
<b>Tues 2nd March</b>	10.00am	St Andrew	Rosa Donovan & Family (Well-being) Valentino Poli RIP
<b>Wed 3rd March</b>	10.00am	St Edward	Mrs Edward Christian FM
<b>Thurs 4th March</b>	9.30am 12 Noon	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) OLQA	Kelly & Magee Families FM New Families in the Parish
<b>Fri 5th March</b>	10.00am	St Joseph	Kevin Kelly (Well-being)
<b>Sat 6th March</b>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) St Swithun Wells St Joseph St Edward	Eileen Lyons RIP For the People of the Parish Fr Louis Catterall RIP
<b>Sun 7th March</b>  <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.30am 10.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Andrew OLQA St Edward St Joseph Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Maria Giannini RIP  Keith Small RIP Fr Louis Catterall RIP Antonio Cicu RIP FM

## CLERGY

**Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)**

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: rcoffa@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