



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

17th May 2020: **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Growing as Church

One of the great joys for me of the Easter season is that we get to reflect on the growth of the early Church in the extracts we hear from the Acts of the Apostles. Last Sunday we heard how that growth led to the Apostles proposing to the community the selection of the first seven deacons so that the Apostles could give priority to preaching. It was a sign that under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles used their authority to adapt the structures of the developing Church to help deal with the impact of growth.

As we know, one of those first seven, Stephen, later preached fearlessly himself and that led to him becoming the first Christian martyr. In this Sunday's extract from Acts, the persecution that followed Stephen's martyrdom led to another of those seven, Philip, leaving Jerusalem to preach the Good News in Samaria which then accepted the word of God.

We are approaching the great Feast of Pentecost and in this Sunday's Gospel Jesus promises us that although he is to leave them, his Father '*will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever, the Spirit of Truth.*' The presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church shows us that the Church – the Body of Christ – is alive and active, continually feeding us and helping us to grow in all our circumstances.

But growth can take different forms and the Church has always had to adapt to deal with different circumstances. No more so than now. This is a time of great sadness especially for those who have lost loved ones through the Coronavirus. It is also a great sadness for all of us that we cannot gather as community to be fed in Word and Sacrament. It's a particular sadness for me that I cannot exercise my diaconal ministry at the altar. But we have the consolation of coming together for online Mass and to pray the Rosary and we have seen how that has drawn us together.

And growth has come in other ways. Much of my current ministry is keeping in touch with parishioners over the telephone. It's been heart-warming to hear the numbers of parishioners making personal sacrifices to help those affected by the lockdown. We have also heard how parishioners have grown in their spiritual experience through prayer. And how this time has encouraged people to seek spiritual meaning in their lives.

That growth in the early Church was not without suffering. As St Paul says elsewhere in Acts, '*We all have to experience many hardships before we enter the kingdom of God.*' What our current experience and difficulties have shown us is that if we remain faithful to the Holy Spirit, growth in our communities continues but in ways we might not have expected.

Deacon Paul Owen

GEM OF THE WEEK

This week's GEM is the video of Bishop Philip speaking to our parish. You can find the link on our homepage. If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact the Webmaster on website.sswp@gmail.com.



LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 10th May 2020:

Year A - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 2

PSALM RESPONSE: CRY OUT WITH JOY TO GOD ALL THE EARTH.

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY, 10TH MAY 2020:

1st reading: Acts 8:5-8. 14-17 **Psalm:** 65 **2nd reading:** 1 Peter 3:15-18 **Gospel:** John 14:15-21

MESSAGES



Offerings for our Parish

Due to the current lockdown for public health and safety, parish finances need to be considered. As the extended lockdown of our churches continues, the parish needs to help parishioners who are having difficulties in making their regular donations to get us through the emergency. With this in mind we have been building up our Donation section on the website. There is now a document with a comprehensive guide found at the bottom of the donation section. As we continue to develop this resource, any constructive feedback would be appreciated.

If you normally give using Planned Giving Envelopes, or in the plate, you obviously will not be able to give that way for the foreseeable future. Please consider making your offerings by direct Bank Transfer, Direct Debit or Standing Order. You may wish to pay into the bank account of the church you normally attend. We have listed the bank account details and the contact details of the Gift Aid Co-ordinators if you are a tax payer and wish to increase your donation by adding the gift aid element. The Coordinators are happy to advise you on setting up direct debit/standing orders and have the necessary documentation for your use. Thanks for your generosity, God Bless.

Romsey: St Andrew, North Baddesley and St Joseph
Bank Account: sort code 30-93-04
Account number: 00886557
Gift Aid Co-ordinator: David Martin: 01794 511883

Chandlers Ford: St Edward the Confessor
Bank Account: sort code 30-93-04
Account number: 00876187
Gift Aid Co-ordinator: Mike Greenslade: 02380 262870 or Ian Fearon: 02380 265248

Eastleigh Holy Cross & Fair Oak: St Swithun Wells,
Bank Account: sort code 30-93-04
Account number: 00877299
Gift Aid Co-ordinator: Patricia Baggot: 02380 694060

Bishops Waltham: Our Lady Queen of the Apostles

Bank Account: sort code 30-93-04

Account number: 00874648

Gift Aid Co-ordinator: Patricia Baggot: 02380 694060

Tea and Coffee with your church

Do you want to have Tea and Coffee with your church community and priests after Mass? why not! During Tea and Coffee you can see, speak, and listen to those precious friends you are missing. The only requirement for joining is a hot cup of tea or coffee! You can join the Zoom connection following the instructions on the next page of the newsletter.

-St Edward church community

Every Tuesdays at 10.15am

-Our Lady Queen of the Apostles community

Every Wednesday at 10.15am

-Holy Cross & St Swithun Wells communities

Every Thursday at 10.15am

-St Andrew and St Joseph communities

Every Saturday at 10.15am

Hospital Chaplaincy

It is important that when a Catholic is admitted to hospital, the family ensure that the Catholic Chaplaincy is contacted. One suggestion is that the patient carries a note to give to hospital staff on admission notifying staff that they are Catholic and that they would really appreciate the Catholic chaplaincy service.

Funerals

We would like to keep you informed about funerals we are having so that you can keep them in your prayers:

Angela Margaret Mary Phillips on Tuesday 19th May.

Miss Mary Frances Preston on Thursday 4th June.

ONLINE MASS TIMES & PRAYING OF THE ROSARY



Churches in our Parish

All our churches are now closed for the time being.

Mass will be live streamed from Holy Cross Church

Sundays at 10.00am

Mon to Sat at 9.30am

Please go to our website

<https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/> where you will be able to watch and join in Mass being celebrated live from Holy Cross Church.

Communal Praying of the Rosary with Meditations from the Holy Cross Presbytery

Monday to Friday at 7.00pm

Please follow the guidelines for the Zoom meetings.

You will be able to listen to a meditation given by one of our priests and then join in the Rosary being prayed.

Special guest on **Thursday 21st May**: Fr Michele Benetti, chaplain in Boston, USA.

How to join our ZOOM meetings

Via internet:

Go to <https://zoom.us/j/6942241055>

If you don't have the "zoom" app, it will be automatically downloaded.

Click "join a meeting"

Enter the Meeting ID: 694 224 1055

Via phone:

Dial one of these four numbers

0203 051 2874

0203 481 5237

0203 481 5240

0131 460 1196

Follow the instructions

When asked enter the Meeting ID:

694 224 1055

CHANGES TO PARISH OFFICE OPENING & MASS INTENTIONS



Main Parish Office/Priest Availability

The Parish Office is closed to visitors however the office telephone will be manned either by the Parish Secretary or by one of our Priests from Tuesday to Friday 10.00am-6.00pm.

If you want to speak to one of our Priests, for personal support or spiritual direction, please call this number during these times.

Parish Office telephone number: 02380 273882.

Outside of these times or if the matter is urgent please phone the emergency number below.

Emergency Number Tel: 02380 612430

If you urgently need to speak to one of our Priests please use this number. If no-one is around to immediately answer your call please leave a message and someone will call you back as soon as possible.

Mass Intentions: Everyday 3 Priests will celebrate Mass, that means 3 Intentions can be offered. There are open spaces in the following weeks. If you want to book an intention please send an email or call the office.

There are two options if you want to make an offering for your Mass intention.

(1) You can send to the office a cheque made payable to **PRCDTR St Swithun Wells** (specifying on the back that it is a Mass intention and including the name of the person and the date of the Mass), or if you want you can send a cash offering.

(2) You can make a bank transfer to the main parish account **PRCDTR St Swithun Wells** with sort code **30-93-04**

and account number **01786599** indicating the Mass intention and date.

PARISH GROUPS



The following groups are continuing to meet through ZOOM:

- **Stars of Abraham** (Live meeting) 7.00pm Tuesdays (from 24th March)
- **Grail Seekers** (Live meeting) 4.00pm Saturdays (from 28th March)
- **TOZ** (Live meeting) 7.00pm Sundays (from 29th March)

- **School of Community** (Live meeting) 8.00pm Wednesdays

Please follow the ZOOM meeting instructions to connect to the group.

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 16th May	9.30am	Holy Cross Live Stream	Ann and Margaret French (Special Intention) Dominic and Adrian Bonetti, and Karen Parish (RIP) Pat Pinkerton (RIP)
Sun 17th May <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>	10.00am	Holy Cross Live Stream	Archbishop Peter Smith (RIP) Vincent Curmi (RIP) Tom Cronin (Special Intention)
Mon 18th May	9.30am	Holy Cross Live Stream	
Tues 19th May <i>Dedication of the cathedral of St John, Portsmouth</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross Live Stream	Shina and Dian Devassy (Special Intention) George Twigg (RIP) Francesco Papallo (FM)
Wed 20th May	9.30am	Holy Cross Live Stream	Fe and Felipe (RIP) Michael Templeman (RIP) Bryan Hobbs (FM)
Thurs 21th May <i>The Ascension of the Lord</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross Live Stream	Paul Serellis (RIP)
Fri 22th May	9.30am	Holy Cross Live Stream	
Sat 23th May	9.30am	Holy Cross Live Stream	
Sun 24th May <i>Seventh Sun- day of Easter</i>	10.00am	Holy Cross Live Stream	John and Bernadette Donnelly (Special Intention) Jim and Mary Donohue (RIP) and their family: Dean, Louise, and Grace Kathleen Bernadette Reynolds (FM)

CLERGY

Father Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: rcozza@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Father Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)
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Fr Marco Vignolo (Assistant Priest)
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Canon Alan Griffiths (Assistant Priest)
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Deacon Bob Birtles
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Deacon John di Meo
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Deacon Paul Owen
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Deacon Paul Wilson
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PARISH OFFICE

Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh SO50 9DF
Tel: 02380 273882
Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday: 10.00am-6pm

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

Parish Secretary: Philip Stokman
stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website Contact: website.sswp@gmail.com