



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

24TH JANUARY 2021: THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Heading for the Kingdom

During lockdown we have been mindful of the need for social distancing and other injunctions, set by the government, to make sure that we have little contact with each other and thus not spread the virus. It's not always easy for people to remember these injunctions.

As I went to the shops last week, remembering to take my mask and keep a safe distance, I was struck by the number of times I heard people making their apologies for any supposed infringements of the rules with, "I'm sorry" and "please forgive me!"

We are all aware of how easy it is to say the word "sorry." Indeed, you do not have to be in the middle of a Covid -19 Pandemic to hear the word, as, for many, the word sorry slips readily off the tongue with little or no depth of meaning. However, I have a feeling that this word is being reassessed and people are actually and genuinely asking for forgiveness for inappropriate behaviour.

When we use the word sorry, we are acknowledging the fact that we have distorted what is the devolved way of behaviour; we have damaged the agreed way of acting. For Christians there is, here, an important theological principle. We can see how the ability to say sorry and to ask for forgiveness takes us back to a perfect state, before the Fall of Humankind. It is a place for which we long where there is no need to offer an apology because all is perfection - every word every deed.

This longing for a better and more pure way of life and living, is satisfied in the Good News which Jesus proclaims right at the beginning of today's Gospel. Such is the generosity of God that He gives us the opportunity to say sorry for our way of life and to receive a foretaste of this place of perfection, The Kingdom of Heaven, by wiping away our sins. God is prepared to do this time and time again for those who are really sorry. Jesus comes and fulfils this promise by asking us to have some sincerity behind our saying sorry. He tells us that we must make an act of faith that God will do as he has promised in Jesus and His teaching. We are called to believe that He has the words of eternal life for He is the Word of Life. As such, we can see that the Kingdom, then, is close at hand.

With that confidence we may, like the disciples, leave what has been our old way of life and pursue the new way which will lead to ultimate satisfaction, completion and eternal life. As Catholics we are privileged to receive the forgiveness of God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). It is a Sacrament of Forgiveness, healing and an encouragement to be effective disciples. It is a channel of Divine Grace.

Although we have lockdown we do not have a lockdown on Confession and if you want to make your Confession please contact one of the priests and arrange for this to take place.

Father Bruce

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is a **video by Fr Raffaele explaining the idea of a new parish centre** - 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 17th January 2021: Year B - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 3

PSALM RESPONSE: Lord, make me know your ways.

READINGS:

1st reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10 **Psalm:** 24 **2nd reading:** 1st Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 7:29-31

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 31ST JANUARY:

1st reading: Deut 18:15-20 **Psalm:** 94 **2nd reading:** 1 Cor 7:32-35 **Gospel:** Mark 1:21-28

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 the group and for more information 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 the group and for more information 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 the group and for more information please click the Student Youth Icon on our homepage.

Communion & Liberation Group (with Fr Luca)

is meeting **every Wednesday** through Zoom. For more information please click the link on the homepage of our website.

Communion & Liberation Group (with Fr Raffaele)

is meeting **every Thursday at 8pm** through Zoom. For more information please click the link 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 please email Deacon Paul Owen at: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or alternatively please speak to a priest.

Fellowship Group

Wednesday 27th January at 7.30pm via Zoom

As the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity draws to a close we shall take "A Fresh Look at Ecumenism", in light of Pope Francis' initiatives and thinking about the Post Covid Church. For further details or to request the Zoom link please email bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

MESSAGES

Message from our priests

Dear parishioners, we would like to thank you all for your support and get well messages. We have now recovered from our illness, however, due to current circumstances we have had to review and update our timetable of Masses.

Unfortunately we have had to reduce the number of Masses taking place across the Parish, please see the back page of our newsletter for the new timetable. **Starting from 24th Jan**, all of the Masses celebrated from Holy Cross will also be live streamed.

We want everyone to stay safe and take due care when they are attending Mass so it's important that everyone follows the directions of the stewards and the regulations relating to mask wearing and social distancing. Please don't socialise or stop and chat with other parishioners at the end of Mass, either inside or outside of the church. Please wave, smile, nod and greet others from a distance. Hopefully in the not to distant future the situation will be begin to get better. Take care and God bless.

Fr Raffaele, Fr Luca, Fr Marco & Matteo

Parish Get2Gether Via Zoom

Sunday 31st January 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.

Upcoming Second Collections

This weekend is the annual second collection in support of our Cathedral in Portsmouth. This collection is the only support our Cathedral receives from the wider Diocesan family. Due to the lockdown and restrictions being imposed on many people travelling, a 'Give as you Live' page has been created to enable you to donate online at: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/cathedral-annual-appeal>





MESSAGES CONTINUED

Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Gwendolyn Loth whose funeral took place on **19th January** at OLQA, and for her family.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Kieran Mooney whose Funeral Mass takes place at St Edward on **Wed 27th Jan at 11am**, and for his family.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Pasquale Marucci whose Funeral Mass takes place at Holy Cross on **Wed 3rd Feb at 11am**, and for his family.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of James Pretty whose funeral takes place at St Edward on **Thurs 4th Feb at 12.30pm**, and for his family.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of David Hanbury whose Funeral Mass takes place at St Edward on **Tues 9th Feb at 11.30am**, and for his family.

Virtual Christian Unity Service

At the end of the "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity" all the Christian churches traditionally join together to pray. Clearly, this year, we cannot meet together in one place so there is a "virtual" Unity Service at <https://www.eastleighparish.com/live-stream> from **6-7pm on Sunday 24th January**. Please join in with this united act of worship.

Parish Office – In light of the current situation the office will be closed for the next few weeks however:

Linda Roberts is working from home (Mon-Thursday) - she can be contacted through email (details on back page) and on the office telephone number. Sarah Goodfellow is working from home on Wednesday & Thursday but will also be taking Fridays off whilst the primary schools are closed.

Responding to the prompt of the Holy Spirit Zoom Conference Sat 6th February, 10am-1pm

Fr Mark Hogan, would like to invite all members of the diocese to a Zoom meeting on Sat 6th February to discuss how we have responded - or how we might respond - in practical ways, to the Great Commission (Mt 28: 19)...To register please go to <https://tinyurl.com/6th-feb-detail>

Teacher training

An online Primary Catholic Partnership Information Session can give you the opportunity to learn all you need to know about teacher training and how to apply. We have online sessions on **28th Jan (1-2pm) and 4th March (5.30-6.30pm)**. For more info and to register go to: <http://www.pcp-scitt.org.uk/home/teacher-training-information-events/>

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

Live Streamed Mass

Starting from Sunday 24th January 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
- If you would like to make Confession at Holy Cross, St Edward, St Andrew, St Joseph 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.

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

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

Communal Praying of the Rosary with Meditations from the Holy Cross Presbytery Tuesdays to Fridays at 6.00pm through Zoom
For more information and to join please click the link on the homepage of our website.

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 23rd Jan	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	Sam & Sheila Sanders RIP David & Sheila Freemantle 50th Wedding Anniversary Sr Rani Kurian (Well-being)
	6.00pm	St Joseph	
Sun 24th Jan <i>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.00am	St Andrew	Keith Small RIP Anniversary FM Sr May (Well-being) Jimmy Rice RIP
	9.30am	OLQA	
	10.30am	St Edward	
	11.00am	St Joseph	
	11.00am	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	
Mon 25th Jan <i>The Conversion of Paul</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	Maria Smyth FM Special Intention Helen Baxter (Well-being)
Tues 26th Jan <i>St Timothy & St Titus</i>	10.00am	St Andrew	Special Intention to Our Lady & St Joseph
Wed 27th Jan	10.00am	St Edward	Mrs Edward Christian FM Special Intention to Our Lady & St Joseph
Thurs 28th Jan <i>St Thomas Aquinas</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	Sylvester McMahon RIP FM Real Boucher RIP Anniversary Darren Drewery (Well-being)
Fri 29th Jan	10.00am	St Joseph	Sr Maureen (Well-being)
Sat 30th Jan	9.30am	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	Mary McMahon FM Ronnie Castelino RIP Special Intention to Our Lady & St Joseph
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	
Sun 31st Jan <i>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.00am	St Andrew	Calvin Nel RIP Anniversary Sr Margaret Mary DC (Anniversary) Winifred Harris RIP Marjorie Harris & Benji Roberts FM
	9.30am	OLQA	
	10.30am	St Edward	
	11.00am	St Joseph	
	11.00am	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	

CLERGY

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

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

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)
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