



**Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ**

**14th June 2020: CORPUS CHRISTI**

## WHO IS GOD?

I recently began reading a book by Luis Bouyer, a Jesuit theologian of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, who was an important scholar in the Second Vatican Council and one of the founders of the journal *Communio*, together with Joseph Ratzinger. He died few years ago in 2004.

The book is called *Introduction to the Spiritual Life* and it explains in a beautiful way the different ideas of God according to different religions: God as the projection of an interior human feeling, God as a spirit, God as a person... Bouyer helped me to understand better what is distinct about our faith, in this time when we are often told that in the end there are no substantial differences between religions. I want to share with you an eye opening passage that highlights the uniqueness of Christianity compared to natural religions:

*We all know the story of Robinson Crusoe. In an early period of his apparently solitary existence on that island on which the storm had cast him, he believed himself to be entirely alone. Soon, however, there came the moment when he observed the traces of someone other than himself. He came upon some branches broken in such a way that it did not seem as if the act could have been performed by any being other than a man, and he was sure that he had not done it himself. He found the remains of a fire that he had not kindled. And, finally, he saw in the sand the print of a foot that was not his own.*

*At this stage of his story, is not Crusoe, as it were, the image of the man who, in reflecting on the world in which he finds himself immersed (or, for that matter, in reflecting on himself), has discovered that God exists and that, like himself, he is not only something but someone? At this moment, man is at the highest point to which merely natural religion can lead him: the impassioned conviction that God exists and that he exists as a reality which is not only spiritual but also personal.*

*But everything is changed on the day when Crusoe sees Friday coming to meet him on the beach and when he speaks with him, even though at first he does not understand his language. Now he has something quite different from the mere conviction, however firmly this had been established, that the other existed and that he was also someone. Or, rather, this conviction is no longer the logical conclusion of a chain of abstract reasoning. It has become a fact, a fact to which his own most vital experience itself commits him.*

*The same is true of Christianity, or of Judaism before it, as compared with the highest forms of natural religion. God, his personality, is no longer simply the object of rational conviction. He is known in the supremely personal, the interpersonal, fact of his revelation. He is known, more precisely, in the personal relationship which his own initiative in coming to meet us, and this alone, is in the process of establishing. . .*

Discovering that God is a fact, a person, and not only a logical conclusion of abstract reasoning, fills my heart with a sense of responsibility: first, to rediscover this truth every day in my life. Second, to tell and show it to everyone!

Father Luca

## GEM OF THE WEEK

This week's GEM is a homily of Pope Francis, 'Familiarity with the Lord'. You can find the link on our homepage. If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact the Webmaster on [website.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:website.sswp@gmail.com)



# LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



**Sunday 14th June 2020:**

Year A - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 11

**PSALM RESPONSE: O PRAISE THE LORD, JERUSALEM!**

**READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY, CORPUS CHRISTI, 14TH JUNE 2020:**

**1<sup>st</sup> reading:** Deut 8:2-3, 14-16    **Psalm:** 147    **2<sup>nd</sup> reading:** 1 Cor 10:16-17    **Gospel:** John 6:51-58

## MESSAGES



### Reopening of our Churches for Private Prayer

The Diocese has now given us permission to reopen our churches. In the first instance this will be for private prayer only. In order to do so there are a number of things that we have to do to ensure that this is achieved in a safe way and that we have minimised or addressed any risks involved.

#### **1) Volunteers**

To make this happen we need your help. Volunteers will be needed to manage the opening of the churches, ushers to ensure and maintain social distancing and cleaners to ensure that we have a clean environment.

#### **Who can be a volunteer?**

People who are in the High or Moderate Risk Groups, as defined by the NHS, at this stage cannot be volunteers. This includes those people who are 70 yrs. or more and those who have underlying health conditions. This is to ensure that these groups of people are protected during this time of transition. As the situation is changing rapidly, this can be reviewed and we are hopeful that we can be more inclusive in the near future.

If you want to help as a volunteer please contact the following people. We really do need you!

**St Edward the Confessor:** Deacon Paul Owen  
powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Holy Cross:** Elizabeth Nash  
nashp@aol.com

**St Andrew:** Deacon John Di Meo  
jdimeo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Our Lady Queen of Apostles:** Canon Alan  
frgriffiths@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

#### **2) Requirements for parishioners coming to the church for private prayer**

Private prayer is open to all, but please consider if it is safe for you to do so. Please follow the guidance given to you by the ushers and sit in the designated seating areas. All parishioners on entering and leaving the church will need to use the alcohol based hand gel. Some Parishioners may wish to wear a mask.

### Churches that will now reopen

#### **St Edward the Confessor:**

Tuesday 3.00-6.00pm

Saturday 10.30-1.00pm

Beginning on Saturday 20th June

#### **Holy Cross:**

Thursday 10.30-1.00pm

Sunday 3.00-6.00

Beginning on Sunday 21st June

#### **St Andrew:**

Tuesday 3.00-6.00pm

Saturday 10.30-1.00pm

Beginning on Saturday 20th June

#### **Our Lady Queen of Apostles**

Friday 10.00-11.00am

Beginning on Friday 19th June

### Conclusion of virtual Tea and Coffee

Please note that there will be no more virtual tea and coffee meetings. Thanks to all who have participated. It has been a good way to keep each other company during this period of lockdown.

### K S C Donations

Both CAFOD and CARITAS would like to express their gratitude to the Knights of St Columba for their generous donations of £500 each. The Knights have also sent £200 to the Catholic Care Homes appeal in support of our retired clergy and are looking to support local charities during these troubled times.

### Red Box (Missio) Collections for St Edwards

As Mission Parish Secretary for St Edwards I will be conducting a collection in person from each individuals home. This is to protect you and our promoters. As you may be aware Charities have suffered adversely from the effects of the virus which is why I am conducting this quarters collection in this way. Please bag your box money and have it ready for when I come to collect. If you have nothing for me to collect please phone or leave me a message: 02380 394868.

Many Thanks

Mary Vokes

## ONLINE MASS TIMES & PRAYING OF THE ROSARY



### 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

You can listen to a short meditation by one of the priests or special guests and then join in praying the rosary.

Special guest on **Thursday 18th June: Rev Thomas Kleinschmidt OMV**, parish priest at St Boniface in Southampton.

### 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:** There are open spaces in the following weeks for Mass intentions. Please book them by sending an email or calling the office.

How to make an offering for your Mass intention.

(1) You can send cash or a cheque to the office made payable to **PRCDTR St Swithun Wells** (writing on the back the date your Mass was said and your Mass intention).

(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**

**Please indicate** that the transfer is for a Mass intention, the date it was celebrated and who/what the Mass was celebrated for. This is very important for keeping everything in order.

## PARISH GROUPS



### The following groups are continuing to meet through ZOOM:

#### **Stars of Abraham**

(Live meeting) 7.00pm Tuesdays.

#### **Grail Seekers**

(Live meeting) 4.00pm Saturdays.

On Wednesday evening, be sure to take a look at the upcoming input we will discuss together on Saturday. You can find the weekly input at [www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/grailseekers](http://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/grailseekers)

#### **TOZ**

(Live meeting) 7.00pm Sundays.

On Wednesday evening you can see the topic of the week at [www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/toz](http://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/toz)

#### **School of Community**

(Live meeting) 8.00pm Wednesdays.

## MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 13th June	9.30am	Holy Cross Live Stream	Antonio Cicu (FM) Tom and Rose Murray (RIP) Intentions of the Layzell Family
Sun 14th June <i>Corpus Christi</i>	10.00am	Holy Cross Live Stream	Margaret Foster (RIP) For a special intention Robert Twigg (RIP)
Mon 15th June	9.30am	Holy Cross Live Stream	Mark Owen (Wellbeing) Mary Reilly (RIP)
Tues 16th June	9.30am	Holy Cross Live Stream	Charles and Martha Barrett (FM)
Wed 17th June	9.30am	Holy Cross Live Stream	Alice (Special Intention)
Thurs 18th June	9.30am	Holy Cross Live Stream	
Fri 19th June <i>The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross Live Stream	
Sat 20th June <i>The Immaculate Heart of Mary</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross Live Stream	Jack and Chris Molloy (FM) James Kerr (RIP)
Sun 21th June <i>12th Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	10.00am	Holy Cross Live Stream	In thanksgiving for Philip Hamlin Mary Matkowski (RIP) Gail Patrick (RIP)

### CLERGY

**Father Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)**  
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: rcozza@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: 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**