

Our Mission: LOVE GOD - LOVE OTHERS - MAKE DISCIPLES
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www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk  
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity No. 246871

Sunday Cycle: Year C  
Weekday Cycle: Year 1  
Psalter Week: 1

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

I'm reading a surprising book of Eric Varden, the young Abbot of Mount St Bernard, a Trappist monastery in the Midlands. There's a passage that I want to quote because it has helped me to understand the great value of Ash Wednesday.

*"The symbol with which Lent begins [the distribution of Ashes] does not focus so much on personal sin as on our contingency as created beings.*

*To take the ashes is to confess kinship with this world of dust, to declare our readiness to abdicate pretensions to omnipotence. Standing before God in this way, I profess that I am not God. I admit the chasm that separates me from him. I accept the uncomfortable otherness of God. He is what I am not.*

*When the ashes are imposed, the priest addresses the faithful with the words: 'Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.' The words spoken by the priest quote obliquely from the third chapter of Genesis, the passage in which God confronts Adam with the rebellion we speak of as the Fall. Having set his curiosity over God's command, Adam incurs sanctions: 'In the sweat of your brow you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return' (3.19).*

*This sentence is sometimes called 'the curse of Adam'. It is a misnomer. The Lord's words do not condemn. They simply state fact. By acting as he did, disregarding the precept, Adam preferred his criteria to those of his Maker. He, who, at first, had stood face to face with the flaming countenance of God, whose being reflected God's glory, yielded to presumption. He thought he subsisted at God's level by some quality intrinsic to himself."*

I remember a couple of weeks ago I was speaking with a parishioner about the imminent beginning of the Lent season and she told me "Father, I don't like the Lent season very much. It seems to me a gloomy period, when we are called by the Church to be sad because of our sins".

I was struck by her words, because I have been told and experienced in the seminary exactly the opposite: Lent is a period of joy. The focus is not on my sins, but on my nature. The goal of the Lent season is not reminding us that we make a lot of mistakes but helping us to know our place, allowing the presence of God to enter. As Abbot Eric says:

*"To accept that my nature is defined by a sense of incompleteness so vast that it cannot be repaired within the order of creation – not by any possession, any accomplishment, any relationship – is to embrace radical poverty. I know that the fulfilment of my being can only come from outside myself, as a gift.*

*When I remember I am dust I also recall that I was destined to be more. When we humble ourselves, God responds."*

*Father Luca*

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

Tel: 023 8027 3882. Email: [stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

Office hours: Monday–Wednesday 9.30am–5pm; Thursday & Friday 9.30–2.30pm Newsletter items should be received by Wednesday 12:00 noon

**10th March 2019:**

**Entrance Antiphon:**

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

**Psalm Response:**

Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.

**Readings for next Sunday 17th March 2019  
Second Sunday of Lent**

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36

1st reading: Genesis 15:5-12. 17-18

Psalm: 26

2nd reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1

**Parish Groups**

**Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) Group**

**Tuesdays between 10.15-11.30am** (after Mass) in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. **It is a time of simple sharing, come and join us, we start with tea and biscuits, and everyone is assured of a warm welcome.** The next talk (12th March) is on Modern Day Saints with our Seminarian Dennis.

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**Journey in Faith - Every Wednesday at St Edward's**

It is for anyone enquiring about the Catholic faith and for people intending to become a Catholic. The sessions run from 7.30pm to 9pm.

For further information please contact Deacon Paul Owen - tel: 02380 254806;

email: [powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

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**Fellowship Group - St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak, Wednesday 13th March**

Lenten Supper at 7.00pm - Homemade soups and bread and cheese followed at 7.45pm by Lenten Study Course "The Mystery of God". Everyone most welcome.

**Week 1: 13th March "The Mystery of Good and Evil".**

Queries to Peter Baggott or Deacon Bob Birtles.

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**Youth Groups - Inspire and TOZ**

**Inspire** (for children from school year 4 to 8) **will meet twice a month on Saturday from 2.30pm to 4.30pm in St Edward's cloister in Chandlers Ford.**  
Upcoming Dates: 16th March; 6th & 27th April

**TOZ** (for young people from school year 9) **will also meet twice a month on Sunday at the usual time 7pm-8.30pm in the Resource Centre in Eastleigh.**  
Upcoming Dates: 17th & 31st March, 28th April.

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**CaFE**

Monday **11th March**, 2.30pm in St Joseph's;  
Tuesday **12th March**, 7.30pm in St Andrew's.  
Further details from Sheila Keefe, 01794 518071 or [s.keefe@btopenworld.com](mailto:s.keefe@btopenworld.com).

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**Knit & Natter - St Edward's, Mon 11th March, 2-4pm**

Refreshments available and everyone most welcome! Any queries please contact Maureen Stephenson on 02380 252104.

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**Knit for Peace - St Andrew's, Wed 13th Mar, 2-4pm**

Donations of mens clothes and shoes for Two Saints welcome. Please contact Anne Harcourt on 02380 734710 with any queries.

**Parish Groups Continued**

**Our Lady Queen of Apostles - Children's Liturgy**

The planned Sunday dates until Easter are:

17th & 31st March; 14th April. All are welcome.

The sessions are during 9.30am Sunday Mass.

**Joanna Somerville** ([joannasomerville1@hotmail.com](mailto:joannasomerville1@hotmail.com))

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**Oasis Women's Group - Tuesday 12th March**

**The Life and Times of Luke the Evangelist.**

Deacon Bob Birtles will join us to share a deeper understanding of Luke's Gospel. Who was Luke, what are the priorities of his Gospel...? Come along for more enlightenment! 7:30pm, St Edward's Cloister, finish at 9pm. **All Ladies Warmly Welcomed.**

Future Dates: 2nd Apr, 14th May, 11th Jun, 9th Jul.

**Offerings & Collections**

**Second Collection**

Please note, there will be a second collection for CAFOD Lent Day next Sunday.

**St Swithun Wells Parish Acknowledges with thanks**

Last week's collections: £TBC

SO/DD for Feb'19: £12,530.59

**Parish Events**

**Stations of the Cross**

Are being said during Lent at the following churches:  
**St Andrew's:** Tuesdays at 9.15am (except during Holy Week);

**St Swithun Wells:** Tuesdays at 10am; followed by tea/coffee;

**OLQA:** Wednesdays at 7pm;

**Holy Cross:** Thursdays at 9am;

**St Joseph's:** Fridays at 9.15am (excluding Good Friday);

**St Edward's:** Fridays at 6.30pm (excluding Good Friday).

**Lent Teaching Evenings at OLQA**

There are 4 teaching evenings, all start at 7.30pm:

**Tues 12th March:** 'Mystagogia' Praying the Liturgy, learning from the Liturgical action;

**Tues 19th March:** 'Year of the Penitent' - The Lectionary for the Sundays of Lent, Year 'C';

**Tues 26th March:** The Sacrament of Penance (repeated from Advent 2018) Part 1;

**Tuesday 2nd April:** The Sacrament of Penance (repeated from Advent 2018) Part 2.

## Parish Events Continued

### Communion and Liberation (CL) meets the Parish Saturday 30th March at 7.45pm

In the Cloister at St Edward's Church, Chandlers Ford. Parishioners from CL will describe how this Catholic movement was born and has spread over the world. Sharing their stories they will tell how being part of CL has made their encounter with Christ possible and has strengthened their faith.

### St Edward's - Friday Mass Time Change & CAFOD Lenten Supper

Please note that during Fridays in Lent, St Edward's Mass **will be at 7pm and not 10am**. Mass will be preceded by Stations of the Cross at 6.30pm and followed by the usual soup and bread and cheese suppers (at £5 a head). All proceeds to CAFOD.

### Lent Lunch In Romsey

The Catholic community in Romsey is hosting one of a series of Lent Lunches on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** in the Abbey Rooms (rear of Romsey Abbey), 12 noon to 1.30pm. Please support us by coming along to enjoy a bowl of home-made soup, bread and cheese. All profit is for Christian Aid's work throughout the developing countries worldwide. We will be welcoming a special visitor, Joanna Tom-Kargbo from Sierra Leone.

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Pope Francis has requested that Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament should take place for 24hrs during Lent in all Parishes throughout the world. In response to this, Eucharistic Adoration will take place at St Joseph's church for the whole Parish of St Swithun Wells on **Friday 29th March at 6pm**. The Blessed Sacrament will remain exposed until Sat 30th March concluding with Rosary and Benediction from 5.20pm prior to Saturday Vigil Mass at 6pm.

### Parish Lunch - Tuesday 26th March, 12.30pm

The Hunters Inn, Romsey. All are welcome. Menus will be on the notice boards. Please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know your choice of meal before Monday 18th March as we have to pre-order. Thank you.

### Bishop Philip's Parish Visit

During the weekend of 6th & 7th April, Bishop Philip will visit our Parish of St Swithun Wells. The pastoral visit is one of the ways through which the Bishop maintains personal contact with the clergy and with other members of the People of God.

It is an occasion to rejuvenate the energies of those engaged in evangelization, to praise, encourage and reassure them. It is also an opportunity to invite the faithful to a renewal of Christian life and to an ever more intense apostolic activity.

We are looking forward to meeting Bishop Philip and let us prepare for this visit especially through prayer.

## Parish Events Continued

### Father Wojciech's Celebration

This year Father Wojciech will celebrate 25 years as a Priest. He has invited us, his Parish Family, to share this happy occasion with him on **Sunday 2nd June**. Refreshments will be served at 12.30pm in Wisdom House, Romsey, SO51 8EL. The invitations will be available in all churches within the next two weeks. Please fill out the return slip and post it into the silver covered box marked celebration.

## Messages

### Funerals

The Funeral Mass of Kathleen Wilcox RIP (Kathleen was the Parish Secretary of Totton Parish a number of years ago, and regular at St Joseph's in Ashurst) is taking place on **14th March**, 11am at St Joseph's, Ashurst; Father Des Connelly will be celebrant.

The Funeral Mass of Canon Dermot MacDermot-Roe RIP will take place at St Boniface Church in Shirley on **19th March** at 12 noon.

### Planned Giving Weekly Envelope Boxes

The last envelope in current boxes is dated 31st March. So for Easter and the next 12 months, users of Planned Giving envelopes need a new box of envelopes. These will be available during March in our Churches.

Look out for your local organiser at weekend Masses during March and collect yours. If you want to stop or start using Planned Giving envelopes, please contact your organiser:

Pat Baggott (023 8069 4060) for Holy Cross, and St Swithun Wells;

The Parish Office (023 8027 3882) for Our Lady Queen of Apostles;

Ian Fearon (023 8026 5248) & Mike Greenslade (023 8026 2870) for St Edward's;

David Martin (01794 511883) for St Andrew's and St Joseph's.

### CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March

CAFOD Lent family fast day is an opportunity to support our brothers and sisters overseas who are in need. On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March can you eat a simple meal so that others can simply eat? Through CAFOD's global network your support can reach to the ends of the earth so please collect your fast day envelope from church and give whatever you can or you can donate online at <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Fast-Day>.

### Significant Wedding Anniversary Mass

Are you celebrating a 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> or anniversary over 60 years? If so Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of celebration at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke on **Saturday 6th July 2019**. If you would like to come, please visit the Cathedral website <http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/anniversaries/> and complete the on-line form, or send an email to [anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the Parish Office, for the form you need to complete.

# Mass Times for our Six Church Communities & Parish Contact Information

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
<b>Sat 9th</b>    <b>*Vigil Masses</b>	9.30am	HC	Lillian Rachael Gardiner FM
	5.00pm*	SSW	Jim Russell RIP
	6.00pm*	St J	Vivien Brooks RIP
	6.00pm*	OLQA	
	6.30pm*	St Ed	Friends of Suffering Souls RIP
<b>Sun 10th</b>  <b>First Sunday of Lent</b>	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	Ann Wood RIP
	9.00am	St A	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	St J	
	11.00am	HC	Emily Ray RIP
<b>Mon 11th</b>	10.00am	St Ed	40 Days for Life (Bournemouth)
<b>Tues 12th</b>	9.30am	HC	Peg McDonnell (Birthday Intention)
	10.00am	St A	
	10.00am	OLQA	
<b>Wed 13th</b>	9.30am	HC	40 Days For Life (Bournemouth)
	10.00am	St Ed	Patrick Burke FM
<b>Thurs 14th</b>	9.30am	HC	Marie Hanna Hayek Barber RIP
	10.00am	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St J	
<b>Fri 15th</b>	10.00am	St J: AH	John Carmody RIP Anniversary
	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>St Ed</b>	<b>40 Days For Life (Bournemouth)</b>
<b>Sat 16th</b>    <b>*Vigil Masses</b>	9.30am	HC	Maria Farrugia RIP
	5.00pm*	SSW	James Haren RIP
	6.00pm*	St J	Robert Harris RIP
	6.00pm*	OLQA	
	6.30pm*	St Ed	Anna Gualano RIP
<b>Sun 17th</b>  <b>Second Sunday of Lent</b>	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	Patricia Bradley FM
	9.00am	St A	Anna Barrett RIP Anniversary
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	St J	
	11.00am	HC	Allan Baxter RIP (26th Anniversary of Death)

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

**Tuesday:** HC - **No Adoration in March**  
**Thursday:** St ED Holy Hour (7-8pm)  
**Thursday:** St J from Noon-6pm, Rosary and Benediction at 5.30pm (before Mass at 6pm)

**ROSARY AND PRAYERS**

**St Edward's** 9.30am, Wednesday - The Holy Rosary  
**St Joseph's** 6.00pm, Wednesday - Evening Prayer

**CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)**

**Saturdays:** 10.00am Holy Cross Church  
 12 noon St Edward's  
 5.30pm OLQA  
 5.30pm St Joseph  
**Sundays:** 8.30am St Andrew

**Clergy**

**Father Raffaele Cossa (Priest in Charge)**  
 Tel: 023 8061 2430; Email: rcosa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Father Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)**  
 Tel: 023 8061 2430; Email: lspeziale@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Fr Wojciech Paszko (Assistant Priest)**  
 Tel: 01794 522884; Email: wpaszko@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Canon Alan Griffiths (Assistant Priest)**  
 Tel: 07760220346; Email: frgriffiths@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Deacon Bob Birtles**  
 Tel: 023 8069 2416; Email: bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Deacon John di Meo**  
 Tel: 01794 515688; Email: jdimeo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Deacon Paul Owen**  
 Tel: 023 80254806; Email: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Deacon Paul Wilson**  
 Tel: 02380 616618; Email: pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Parish Office**  
 Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh SO50 9DF  
 Tel: 02380 273882  
 Office Hours: Monday–Wednesday 9.30am-5pm;  
 Thursday & Friday 9.30am-2.30pm

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

**Parish Secretary: Sarah Goodfellow**  
 stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Website**  
**Webmaster:** website.sswp@gmail.com

**CHURCH ADDRESSES**

St Ed **St Edward's**, 191-193, Winchester Rd, Chandlers Ford, SO53 2DU  
 OLQA Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Martin Street, Bishops Waltham, SO32 1DN  
 HC Holy Cross Church, 53, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF  
 SSW St Swithun Wells Church, Allington Lane, Fair Oak, SO50 7DB  
 St A **St Andrew's**, Fleming Avenue, North, Baddesley, SO52 9EP  
 St J **St Joseph's Church**, Abbey House Drive, Romsey, SO51 8YB

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES**

St Swithun Wells Primary School 023 80266210;  
 St George Catholic V.A. College 023 8032 2603;  
 St Anne's Catholic School 023 80328200;  
 Charlton House 023 8067 7575;  
 St Mary's Independent School 023 8067 1267.