



## *Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ* 15th MAY 2022: FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### Mother of Mercy

The month of May is traditionally dedicated to Our Lady, Mary, Mother of God who can teach us how to follow Jesus with all our heart and mind.

A proper way to spend our time during this month is to dedicate a few minutes each day to pray the Rosary. For some people it is almost impossible to recite all of the 5 *Our Fathers* and 50 *Hail Marys* in the morning or in the evening, because they are busy with many things, although not always worthy of our time (like social media, television, gossip, etc.). My advice to these people is to first consider how they spend their time. Then, if they really don't have time for the Rosary, a good way is to pray a decade (4-5 minutes) in the morning and another one in the evening. In this way, they can offer to God the commitments they face during the day, and thank Him before going to sleep for the gifts they have received that day.

Some Christians manage to pray all the Rosary, but they often get distracted after a few *Hail Marys*. I am no different from them. I like to pray this prayer, especially because I can present to Our Lady all my petitions. However, I have to say that in my experience it is difficult to be focused on prayer for a long time, especially regarding a prayer like the one we are speaking about, which may seem repetitive. What I try to do (before the Rosary) is to think about a person I want to pray for. So, I "dedicate" some *Hail Marys*, or a decade, to that person. Then, I can "dedicate" other *Hail Marys* to another person, or a decade, and so on, and in this way I can pray all the Rosary and be focused in what I am doing. Our Mother in Heaven is pleased to intercede for us and for the people we pray for.

Other people are able to focus their attention on the different mysteries that we announce at the beginning of each decade. I have to say that this is a very good practice, because each mystery reminds us of an important episode of Jesus' life, or Mary's life. And we know that those episodes are not fairy tales, but real events.

What I like about the Rosary is also the final *Hail, Holy Queen*. The words of this prayer are so encouraging. They describe Our Lady as *Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope*. They are realistic about our human condition, so often a *valley of tears*. They ask the help of the *most gracious Advocate*.

We can really trust in Mary, because she is always ready to intercede for us with our heavenly Father. She wants to welcome us with open arms. How beautiful are all the images of Our Lady with an open mantle where all the faithful are gathered! Our Lady protects all who fall under her cloak. I want to conclude with some inspiring words by Pope Francis about Mary's mantle;

*We pray to Our Lady to protect us, and in times of spiritual turbulence the safest place is under the mantle of Our Lady. She is the mother who takes care of the Church. And in this time of martyrs, she is the protagonist, the protagonist of protection: She is the Mother. (...) Let us state with faith: 'Mother, the Church is under your protection: Care for the Church.'* (Pope Francis, homily on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013).

Fr Marco

### GEM OF THE WEEK

This week's GEM is, "Returning to Mass At Pentecost" by the Catholic Bishop's Conference - you can find this on our homepage. If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact [website.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:website.sswp@gmail.com)



For the next Newsletter, items should be received into the Parish Office by **9.30am on Wednesday 18th May**, please email your messages/notices to: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

# LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



**Sunday 15th May 2022:** Year C - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 1

**PSALM RESPONSE:** I WILL BLESS YOUR NAME FOR EVER, O GOD MY KING.

**READINGS:** 1<sup>st</sup> reading Acts 14:21-27 Psalm 144 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Apocalypse 21:1-5a Gospel John 13:31-33a,34-35

**Sunday 22nd May 2022:** Year C - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 2

**READINGS:** 1<sup>st</sup> reading Acts 15:1-2,22-29 Psalm 66 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Apocalypse 21:10-14,22-23 Gospel John 14:23-29

## Youth Groups

Stars of Abraham (school years 3, 4, 5 & 6)

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9)

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

For more details and how to join please go to the parish website [www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](http://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

## Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community meet weekly:

Holy Cross every Wednesday at 8pm;

St Edward's every Thursday at 8pm.

For more information please click the link on the homepage of our website. All are welcome!

## Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

If you or anyone you know 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](mailto:powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

## Fellowship Group - Wednesday 18th May

7.30pm at St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak

We are starting a new John Birch Bible Study entitled, "Firm Foundations - Looking at the beginning of the Christian Church". Week 2 - 'Empowered'.

Everyone welcome. If you would like to join us on Zoom please contact [peterbaggott@aol.com](mailto:peterbaggott@aol.com) for the link.

## Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) Group

Tuesday 17th May at 10.15am to approx. 11.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. We will be having a closer look at our faith. All are welcome!

Knitting Club - Third Tuesday of the month, from 2pm-4pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. If you would like to join us for a knit and cup of tea please come along, all levels of knitting ability welcome!

# PARISH GROUPS



## The Little Flowers Baby & Toddler Group

Wednesdays at 10am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. The group is for 0-4 years and their families. More information is on the website or you can email: [littleflowers.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:littleflowers.sswp@gmail.com)

Afternoon Club - St Joseph's Parish Centre, 26 Abbey Water, Romsey. Our next games afternoon will be on Tuesday 7th June at 2pm when we will be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Bingo, prizes and a free raffle will be enjoyed; plus the obligatory scones and cakes! Please contact Elizabeth Gare on 01794 515265 if you are intending to come along, as soon as possible please, as space will be limited to 40, or for more information.

## Ark of Fellowship - Group for learning disabilities or learning difficulties, their families and friends

Thursdays at 6.30pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. Interested in volunteering or know some young adults who would like to join the group? If yes, please contact Fr Luca at: [arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com)

## CaFE

The latest CaFE course is The Gift, a Life in the Holy Spirit. This is an inspiring series aimed at people of all ages to help them encounter the Holy Spirit and empower them to share their faith. Our meetings will be as usual at 2pm in the Parish Centre Romsey, repeated at 7.30pm in St. Andrew's N. Baddesley, on the second and fourth Tuesdays in each month, finishing on 26th July.

For more information please call/email Ann Heslop: 02380 734429 [ann.heslop@virginmedia.com](mailto:ann.heslop@virginmedia.com)

## Confirmation & FHC

Please pray for our young people who are making their Confirmations on Sunday 29th May in the Cathedral. Please also pray for our children who will be making their First Holy Communion on Sunday 19th June.

## Rosary at Holy Cross during May

The Rosary will be prayed in Holy Cross every Thursday at 9.00am (before Mass) during May.

## Ascension of the Lord (Thursday 26th May)

Masses will be held across the Parish on this day for more details please see the back-page of next weekend's newsletter.

# MESSAGES



## Closer to Christ Campaign

Please read the Bishop's letter to our Parish regarding a new fundraising initiative entitled the Closer to Christ Campaign. A copy has been inserted into each newsletter and spare copies left in all of our churches.

## CAFOD Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy Sale

Wednesday 18th May, 10.30am-1pm in St Edward's On sale will be home made cakes and produce, plants and new or nearly new items e.g. unwanted gifts. Any of these will be gratefully accepted. There will also be a raffle. For more information contact call Clare Lasker on 02380 252138.

## MESSAGES CONTINUED

### Sunday Obligation

At the Bishops' Conference in Cardiff last week, the Bishops voted unanimously to reinstate the obligation on Catholics to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. **This will take effect on Pentecost Sunday.** We understand there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation.

### Upcoming Funeral

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Pauline Wilson and for her family. Pauline's Funeral Mass takes place at **St Edward's on Wednesday 25th May at 11am.**

### Come and See Clubs & Camp

Registrations are open for our Summer Half Term Club, Summer Club and for our Summer Camp. For more information, cost and registration please click on the "Come and See" section on our website homepage.

Parish Lunch at the Hunters Inn, Romsey, on **Wed 15th June at 12.30pm.** All are welcome! Please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know your choice of meal no later than Monday 6th June as we have to pre-order.

Many thanks to everyone who supported me with my Walking-against-Hunger campaign. The total raised was the marvellous sum of **£835** and CAFOD will use it well to help feed the starving. Thank you all again!  
*Margaret Birtwistle*

### Message from CAFOD: The Paradox of Abundance

Over 800 million people go hungry each day. Yet the world produces over 4 billion tonnes of food and we only need 3.7 billion tonnes to feed everyone. From all this food produced, a third is wasted. St John Paul II called this 'the paradox of abundance.' As Pope Francis said, "Each of us has a role to play in transforming food systems for the benefit of people and the planet." Let's respond to his call! CAFOD's new campaign is called Fix the Food System - see [www.cafod.org.uk/food](http://www.cafod.org.uk/food)

### Significant Wedding Anniversaries Mass

In 2022 are you celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th anniversary, or an anniversary of over 60 years? If so, Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of celebration taking place at St Bede's church in Basingstoke on **Saturday 2nd July 2022 at 11am.** If you would like to come, please send an email to Liz Murphy at [anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk). If you know a couple who qualifies and does not have access to the internet, please contact St Bede's Parish Office and they will provide you with the form (tel: 01256 465214 E: [stbedes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stbedes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)). To help celebrate the occasion please could you provide a copy of your wedding photograph. Those without access to the internet can post a copy along with the completed form to St Bede's Parish Office,

Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX (Please mark the envelope Significant Wedding Mass).

## SCHOOL MESSAGES



### St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School

#### KS2 Teacher Required from Sept 2022

CES Application Forms and further details are available from the School Office or from <https://www.st-swithunwells.org.uk/staff-vacancies>  
**Closing date is Noon on Wednesday 18th May**

#### Invitation to Parishioners to Celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with us!

The children would like to serve you afternoon tea and celebrate this momentous event with you!  
**Friday 27th May, 2.15pm-3.15pm**

Please see the invite on the church noticeboards. Please RSVP to the School Office at: [adminoffice@st-swithunwells.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@st-swithunwells.hants.sch.uk) or contact us on 023 8026 6210

**We hope you can join us!**

\*\*\*\*\*

St George's Catholic College are recruiting for a full-time Teacher of RE. For details please go to:

<https://www.stgcc.co.uk/blog/?pid=10&nid=2&storyid=206>

Please fill out the relevant application forms on the vacancies section of their website, [www.stgcc.co.uk](http://www.stgcc.co.uk) and return to Mrs Jeanine Bonavia, PA to the Headteacher, at [headpa@stgcc.co.uk](mailto:headpa@stgcc.co.uk) **by 3pm on Thursday 19th May.**

### TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

**Tuesdays:** Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church, Eastleigh)  
**Wednesdays:** Fr Luca, 4.30pm-6.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church, Eastleigh)  
**Fridays:** Fr Raffaele, 10.30am-11.30am, Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey  
**Saturdays:** Fr Marco, 9.30am-12.30pm, Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**Tuesday:** St Edward's - after Mass (6.30pm-7.30pm)  
**Wednesday:** Holy Cross - after Mass (10.00am-11.00am)  
**Thursday:** St Joseph - before Mass (5.00pm-6.00pm)

### CONFESSION

#### (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

<b>Tuesday:</b>	6.30pm-7.30pm	St Edward
<b>Tuesday:</b>	9.30am-10.00am	St Andrew
<b>Saturday:</b>	10.00am-10.30am	Holy Cross
	5.30pm-6.00pm	OLQA
	5.30pm-6.00pm	St Joseph
<b>Sunday:</b>	8.30am-9.00am	St Andrew
	9.00am-9.30am	OLQA

## MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 14th May <i>Morning Mass:</i> <i>St Matthias</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Sheila Starrs RIP FM  People of the Parish Layzell Family Intentions
Sunday 15th May <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA (also live streamed) Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Phyllis & Georg Roman RIP FM Doris Bonello RIP Anniversary  Matthew Carlo Anthraper (Thanksgiving) Paddy & Phyllis Boyle RIP and their family
Monday 16th May	9.30am	Holy Cross (also live streamed)	Maureen Magee (Wellbeing) Jacqui Mesquita-Morris (Wellbeing)
Tuesday 17th May	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Rev Deacon Iain MacFirbhisigh RIP
Wed 18th May	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross (also live streamed) OLQA St Edward	Francesco Papallo RIP FM  Tom Holder RIP
Thursday 19th May <i>Dedication of the Cathedral of St John, Portsmouth</i>	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross (also live streamed) OLQA St Joseph	John Gibbons RIP  Special Intention
Friday 20th May	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	OLQA St Joseph St Edward	David Meaney (Wellbeing) Eric, Roslyn & Family (Anniversary)
Saturday 21st May	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Bryan Hobbs RIP FM People of the Parish  Peggy Carmody (Birthday) Margaret Martindale RIP
Sunday 22nd May <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA (also live streamed) Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Rev Deacon Iain MacFirbhisigh RIP  For Thomas Doherty in Thanksgiving for the Celebration of his 99th Birthday John Hooley - For Recovery

### CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

**Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)**

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: rcosa@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 8025 4806; E: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Deacon Paul Wilson**

Tel: 023 8061 6618; E: pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Parish Office**

Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh,  
SO50 9DF

Tel: 02380 273882

Opening Times: Mon-Thurs 9.30am-5.30pm;

Fri 9.30am-2.30pm (see newsletter for changes).

**Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance Admin: Fiona Mooney**

Email: accounts@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

**Parish Secretary: Sarah Goodfellow**

Email: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

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