



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ **11th APRIL 2021: SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

What is the Church For?

During the last decades the question about the true identity of the Church has become more and more pressing. It is hard to find an all-encompassing definition of her, and everyone seems entitled to give their own. But can we build something if we don't know what it actually is? Perhaps the best way to solve the dilemma is to ask the right question to the right people, namely to ask those who "started" the Church at the beginning "what is the Church for?". In fact you can understand the meaning of something (whether it is an object or a group of people) if you grasp its aim. And there is no better way to get to know the aim of something than to ask its "maker".

Having said that, let's ask the first disciples of Jesus: what is the Church for? The answer may be found in one episode from the Act of the Apostles: the healing of a cripple beggar (Acts 3:1-10). Peter and John are together, a few days after having received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. They are going up to the Temple for the prayers, when they see a cripple begging. They stop and say, "look at us". The cripple turns to them expectantly, hoping to get something from them, but Peter says, "I have neither silver nor gold, but I will give you what I have: in the name of Jesus walk!", and he was cured.

We can notice a few things. First: this episode is not just about Peter, but it begins with Peter and John together and goes on with Peter saying, "look at us", not "look at me". Second: the cripple asks for "something" and Peter gives him more than what he asked: his faith in Jesus.

From this episode we can learn what the Church is not and what she is for. The Church is not a supermarket. She is more. Her mission is not selling some products or merely "fix" the problems of the world with some financial support (although this can be one of the ways to accomplish her mission). The mission of the Church is to give people more than the "something" they want, as Peter gave the cripple more than what he was asking from them. Evangelization is to give people Jesus, his presence, cherished in a friendship, flowing within an already given unity between people (like the one between John and Peter). Even when she gives "something" it is because through it she wants to give "Someone".

From the Acts of the Apostles we learn that the subject of evangelization is not an "I" isolated, but it is a community, aware of being conquered by the Holy Spirit. A community with a light and clear structure: not a democracy that makes up its principles and has to discern the will of people, but an organism, that receives its principles from above and has to discern the will of the Holy Spirit. A community that brings in the world more than what people perceive their needs to be: Jesus, present in the sign of a human friendship.

Fr Luca

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is 'Jesus is not outdated' Pope Francis' homily for Easter 2021, 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 11th April 2021: Year B - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Office Proper

PSALM RESPONSE: GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HIS IS GOOD, FOR HIS LOVE HAS NO END.

READINGS:

1st reading: Acts 4:32-35 **Psalm:** 117 **2nd reading:** A reading from the 1st Letter of St John 5:1-6 **Gospel:** John 20:19-31

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 18TH APRIL:

1st reading: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19 **Psalm:** 4 **2nd reading:** A reading from the 1st Letter of St John 2:1-5a

Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

PARISH GROUPS



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

Will meet in person from Tues 20th/Sat 24th April:

Tues, 4.00pm-5.30pm in St Edward's Cloister;

Tues, 4.15pm-5.45pm in St Andrew;

Sat 10.30am-Noon in Holy Cross Resource Centre.

To join and for more info please click the Stars of Abraham Icon on our homepage.

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9)

Will meet via Zoom on **Saturday 10th April at 2.00pm.**

There will be **no meeting on Saturday 17th April**, meetings will then **resume in person from Saturday 24th April in Holy Cross Resource Centre 2-4pm.** To join and for more info please click the Grail Seekers Icon on our homepage.

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

Starting Friday 23rd April meetings will be weekly in person on a **Friday evening at 6.30pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre.** **If you would like to attend please book your place on our website** by clicking the Student Youth Icon on our homepage.

Communion & Liberation Groups

Fr Luca's Group meet every Wednesday, for more info please click the link on the homepage of our website.

Fr Raffaele's Group meet every Thursday at 8pm in St Edward's cloister.

Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

If you 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 or alternatively please speak to a priest.

Fellowship Group

There will be no Fellowship Group meetings over Easter. They will resume on **Wednesday 28th April, 7.30pm on Zoom.** If you would like to join us please contact Deacon Bob Birtles for the Zoom link: bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Oasis (ladies' group) via Zoom

Tuesday 13th April, 8pm

Creation, Faith and Our Common Home

As Earth Day, on 22nd April, approaches, we hear so much about the environment, how can we respond? Sharing our experiences of our local environment, especially in the last year. If you are new to Oasis you are most welcome - please email Jessie to request the Zoom link jessie.woolgar@gmail.com

MESSAGES



Easter Thanks

Thank you to everyone for your Easter greetings, prayers, cards and gifts. We are also very grateful for your generosity shown through the Easter Offerings which we do appreciate. Thank you to all the many people who had a part in ensuring our Triduum liturgies were well-prepared and celebrated joyfully.

Fr Raffaele, Fr Luca, Fr Marco & Fr Bruce

Proposed Parish Centre

Thank you to the very many parishioners who responded to our recent consultation on our future parish vision. The feedback has been enormously useful for us to understand your views. We are now going to take some time to properly consider all feedback received and to assess in further detail all options. We expect to come back to you soon with a list of options to meet the Parish Vision.

Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 25th April, 1.00-4.00pm

Pavillion on the Park, 1 Kingfisher Rd, SO50 9LH, Eastleigh. An event for all the parish. We begin at 1pm, sharing a meal together at our tables and then we'll have some entertainment until 4pm (games and activities for all the families). Each table should consist of people from the same household or support bubble (suggested table sizes of 6). Cost: we ask you to give a contribution of £10 per table to be paid on the day to cover expenses. Please bring your own food, beverage, cups/plates/cutlery (it's like a picnic) and remember to wear a mask (except when you are at your table). To book a table please go to our parish website and click the link, you will need to give the names filling the table. A maximum of 60 people can attend this event.

Offering - as you are aware there is no offertory during Mass, however after Mass there is a basket available in each church where you can place your offering.

MESSAGES CONTINUED



Recommended Reading

Two suggested books for the next few months are:

***Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley**

Is one of the most influential novels of the nineteenth century and is quite relevant today. What is the role of science and the scientific community? Does mankind have the right to manipulate nature? Have today's scientists developed a moral system to match their speculative knowledge? Or will they, like Victor Frankenstein, discover too late that they simply have an unhealthy, prideful curiosity? The questions posed by Mary Shelley still need to be addressed in contemporary society. We are the creatures, not the Creator. This must always be kept in mind if we are to avoid the mistakes made by Victor Frankenstein.

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley will be presented during the Cultural Friday on the 11th June.

***The Shadow of the Father* by Jan Dobraczyński**

Jan Dobraczyński tells the story of Saint Joseph's life in the form of a novel. He uses the evocative image of a shadow to define Joseph. In his relationship to Jesus, Joseph was the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father: he watched over him and protected him, never leaving him to go his own way. This book is an excellent way to live well this year dedicated to St Joseph.

Both books can be bought online, e.g. from Amazon.

Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Patricia Elwood** and her family. Patricia's funeral will take place at **Southampton Crematorium on Wednesday 14th April, 2.30pm.**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Anthony Robert Harris** and his family. Anthony's funeral will take place at **Test Valley Crematorium, Romsey on Wednesday 14th April, 3.15pm.**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Paul Murray** and his family. Paul's funeral Mass will take place at **St Edward on Friday 16th April, 2.30pm.**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Stefan Kaye** and his family. Stefan's funeral will take place at **Southampton Crematorium on Friday 23rd April, 11.30am.**

Molly Gibson R.I.P

Molly was a regular parishioner at St Edward for many years (from 1963 until 2020), sadly Molly passed away on 25th March. Please pray for the repose of her soul and for her family. A Mass for Molly will be offered on Saturday 1st May at St Edward.

The Parish Office - Normal hours will resume from Monday 12th April (see back page for opening hours).

'Easter Letter to Everyone' from Bishop Philip

To read and download it please go to our website.

LIVE STREAMED MASS, BOOKING SYSTEM & CONFESSION

Live Streamed Mass

All of the Masses from Holy Cross & OLQA are 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.

To reserve a seat at Mass in St Joseph & OLQA

St Joseph, Romsey:

- **Saturday Vigil Mass 6.00pm**

To reserve a seat for the Saturday Mass please contact Teresa Rayment from Wed through to Friday (Tel: 01794 513528 / teresarayment@tiscali.co.uk).

- **Sunday 11.00am**

To reserve a seat for the Sunday Mass please contact Joanna Russell from Wed through to Friday (Tel: 07917 802814 / joanna@silvasmiths.co.uk).

Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Bishop's Waltham:

- **Sunday at 9.30am** (no booking needed for Thurs Mass)

To reserve a seat for the Sunday Mass please email: olqamassbook@gmail.com

CONFESSION

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesdays:	6.30am-7.30pm	St Edward
Tuesdays:	10.30am	St Andrew
Saturdays:	10.00am	OLQA
	10.00am-10.30am	Holy Cross
	5.30pm-6.00pm	St Joseph
Sundays:	8.30am-9.00am	St Andrew

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

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, 4.00pm-6.00pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church), Eastleigh
Fridays:	Fr Raffaele, 11.30am-12.30pm, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey
Saturdays:	Fr Marco, 9.30am-12.30pm, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 10th April	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) St Swithun Wells St Joseph St Edward	Lorna Tyberg RIP Joe & Lydia Fonseca RIP Peter Penrose (Junior) RIP Angie & Felino Cagampang (30th Wedding Anniversary)
Sunday 11th April Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 10.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA (also Live Streamed) St Edward St Joseph Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> John Peckham RIP For the People of the Parish Ellen & Michael Moriarty RIP Norman John Spencer RIP Ted & Monica Dunne and Family (Special Intention)
Mon 12th April	9.30am	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	Margaret Martindale RIP
Tues 13th April	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	George, Gertrude & Mary Lawton
Wed 14th April	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) St Edward	Ed Bilbruck RIP
Thurs 15th April	9.30am 12.00 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) OLQA (also Live Streamed) St Joseph	Zaiga & Eduardas Numsedis RIP
Friday 16th April	10.00am 10.00am	St Joseph St Edward	Angela de Lacey RIP Peter Ashcroft RIP FM
Sat 17th April	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) St Swithun Wells St Joseph St Edward	Maguire & Richard Family FM Maureen Boog RIP Rosemary Oxby RIP
Sunday 18th April Third Sunday of Easter	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 10.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA (also Live Streamed) St Edward St Joseph Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Intentions of the Van Willigenburg family May & Gerry Flannery RIP For the People of the Parish Stanisława & Jozef Szczotka RIP

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 80254806; E: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Paul Wilson

Tel: 02380 616618; E: pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Office Address:

Holy Cross Church
53 Leigh Road
Eastleigh
SO50 9DF

Telephone: 02380 273882

Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance

Admin: Linda Roberts

Works full day Monday to Wednesday (9.30am-5.30pm, office closed on Monday & Tuesday for an hour over lunch), half day Thursday working from home
lroberts@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Sarah Goodfellow

Works Wed to Friday from 9.30am until 2.30pm
stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website Contact: website.sswp@gmail.com