

Our Mission: LOVE GOD - LOVE OTHERS - MAKE DISCIPLES



www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity No. 246871

Sunday Cycle: Year B
Weekday Cycle: Year 2
Psalter Week: 1

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Church now enters a short but magical season that prepares us for the Coming of Christ. Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us in Bethlehem is remembered, and as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's second coming at the end of time.

Advent is thus a period of hope, of devout and joyful expectations. At Sunday Mass, the Gospel readings each have a distinctive theme: the Lord's coming at the end of time (First Sunday of Advent), John the Baptist (Second and Third Sunday), and the events that prepared immediately for the Lord's birth (Fourth Sunday).

The Old Testament readings are prophecies about the Messiah and Messianic age, especially from Isaiah. On weekdays, there are two series of readings: one to be used from the beginning of Advent until 16th December, the other from 17th to 24th December. In the first part of Advent there are readings from Isaiah, distributed in accord with the sequence of the book itself and including those texts that are also read on the Sundays. In "late Advent", the last week before Christmas, the events that immediately prepared for the Lord's birth are presented from Matthew and Luke.

I always find Advent a busy period, not least writing Christmas cards! The challenge is to find time for prayer and reflection. I pray that you will be successful in finding time in order to keep a sense of true perspective during this holy season and thus be able to find from the Lord much joy and happiness.

Bishop Philip Egan

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

Tel: 023 8027 3882. Email: 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

Entrance Antiphon: To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Psalm Response: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Parish Groups

Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) Group

Tuesdays between 10.15-11.30am (after Mass) in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. We grow in faith by sharing in several different ways. Often by viewing DVD's on various topics the group select, with scripture and prayer, and occasional guest speakers. **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.** Upcoming topics: The life of John the Baptist, the Annunciation and the Visitation.

Journey in Faith - Every Wednesday at St Edward's

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.

Fellowship Group: St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. **Advent Bible Study on Wednesday 5th & 12th December** entitled 'Lighten our Path' by Nick Fawcett. The evenings begin at 7.30pm and finish with refreshments at 9pm. Join us in preparing for Christmas. Everyone is most welcome. Any queries please contact Peter Baggott or Deacon Bob Birtles.

Youth Groups at Holy Cross Resource Centre

All young people from school year 4 up to and including 6th Form are welcome to come and join us once a month on Sunday evenings. We will be running age specific activities using different rooms at Holy Cross Resource Centre 7pm-8.30pm. For more info please contact: Marianne Wanstall on 07771 704600 [Inspire - school yrs 4-9], Cath Szymanski on 07846 438224 [TOZ - school yrs 10, 11 & Sixth Form College].

Upcoming dates: 9th Dec; 13th Jan; 10th Feb; 17th Mar.

CaFE - the next meetings will be on:

Monday 10th December, 2.30pm in St Joseph's;

Tuesday 11th December, 7.30pm in St Andrew's.

Further details from Sheila Keefe, 01794 518071 or

s.keefe@btopenworld.com.

Children's Liturgy - Our Lady Queen of Apostles

Sunday 9th Dec & 23rd Dec. These sessions take place during 9.30am Mass and all are welcome.

Joanna (joannasomerville1@hotmail.com)

Oasis - Christmas Gathering Tues 11th Dec, 7.30pm

St Edward's cloister, finishes at 9pm. Come along to share some festive cheer with our parish ladies' group; including carols, craft and nibbles. All ladies warmly welcomed. Future dates: 15th Jan; 12th Feb; 12th Mar; 2nd Apr; 14th May; 11th Jun; 9th Jul.

Readings for next Sunday 9th December 2018 Second Sunday of Advent

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

1st reading: Baruch 5:1-9

Psalm: 125

2nd reading: Philippians 1:4-6. 8-11

December Parish Events

Advent Talks with Fr Alan - 4th & 11th Dec, OLQA

Fr Alan will be giving two talks (both start at 7.30pm) focussing on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If this is a Sacrament you find challenging, then this is the opportunity to get your questions answered! Everyone is welcome, we look forward to seeing you then.

Good Companions Christmas Lunch

Tues 4th Dec at Keats Restaurant, Ampfield. Meet from 12 Noon for a 12.30pm start. If you live alone or are lonely do join us for scrumptious food and good company. Please ring Pauline (023 80266617) or Susie (023 80263436). Lifts can be arranged if necessary.

Essential Baptism Preparation Session

If you wish to have your child baptised, please contact the Parish Office for an application form, and return the completed form to the Office. Then we look forward to welcoming parents for an essential Preparation Session on **Sunday 9th December 2018 (4.30pm-6pm)** at Holy Cross Resource Centre. It would be very helpful if you could arrive a little early, refreshments available from 4.15pm. If you want you can attend the preparation session in advance of your baby's birth.

CAFOD Events at St Edward's in December

Craft Morning - Friday 7th Dec after 10am Mass.

Come along and make Christmas Table decorations to sell at the Christmas Fair. No experience necessary.

FAIR TRADE Christmas Stalls - Sat 8th & Sun 9th

Dec after both Masses. Come and buy Christmas Gifts, Table Decorations, Culinary Delights and lots more. Any donations of unwanted gifts and cakes gratefully received. There will also be a raffle for a Christmas Hamper.

All proceeds to CAFOD project in Peru and Fair Trade.

For more info contact Clare Lasker on 02380 252138.

Craft Stall

The Sisters from St Elisabeth's Convent (a Russian Orthodox community in Belarus) will be selling their crafts at **St Edward's Church - Wed 12th Dec** after 10am Mass; **Holy Cross - Thurs 13th Dec** after 9.30am Mass. The Convent is dedicated to helping the homeless, mentally challenged and orphaned children with special needs.

"Advent to Christmas by Candlelight", St Swithun

Wells Church, Fair Oak - as usual our Carol Service will take place on **Gaudate Sunday 16th December**. All welcome. Please note that this year it will be at 5pm to enable people to attend the Parish Party should they wish.

December Parish Events Continued

Advent Encounter for Children - Sunday 9th Dec

After Mass at St Edward's, the Children's liturgy team invites all children and their parents to stay a little bit longer for an Advent Encounter: "How we are preparing ourselves for the arrival of Jesus in Bethlehem?" Together we would like to think about this and other questions. After that we will sing some nice Christmas carols together.

Romsey & North Baddesley Christmas Lunch

Hunters Inn, Romsey, **Tues 11th Dec** at 12.30pm. Menus are on the notice boards. Please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know your choice of meal by Sun 2nd Dec as we have to pre-order. £10 non-refundable deposit required for each person. *All are very welcome.*



Parish Christmas Party

Sunday 16th December, 1-4pm

St Swithun Wells School, Chandlers Ford
£3 per ticket, children 5 years and under are free.
We would like to get together, as a Parish, for Christmas lunch, followed by a quiz and music. Everyone is welcome, but limited space means we have to restrict numbers. Please note tickets at Holy Cross, St Swithun Wells Church and St Edward's have all been sold and there is a waiting list. The last opportunity to purchase tickets at OLQA, St Joseph & St Andrew will be 1st & 2nd December.

A vegetarian and gluten-free option will be provided - if you require this please advise the person you are buying the ticket from. All you need to do is bring your own drink.

Allergies - we cannot guarantee that the food will be free of allergens.



SWAG Performance: The Magi are in a Muddle

Sunday 23rd December at St Edward's

Entry is FREE and your support is priceless!
PLEASE come and support 24 of our young people from various parts of the whole Parish as they ease you into our Christmas Celebrations.

School Notices

St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School Christmas Fayre - Sunday 9th December, 12.30-3pm

Come along and enjoy an afternoon full of fun for all the family with Santa's grotto, hot food, refreshments, games, tombola's, trading stalls and our Grand Draw.

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.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS

Last week's collections: £1,631.51; SO/SD for Nov '18: £TBC

Messages

I Belong First Holy Communion Programme

2018/19 - Just a reminder to all, that the first meeting for parents and children, is on **Tuesday 4th December**. Check your parents' information/email for times and details.

St Swithun Wells Church - will be selling Raffle tickets for a Fair Trade Christmas Hamper at the 5pm Mass from the 24th November until weekend of 15th/16th December. Tickets are £1 each and the draw will take place at the Carol Service on 16th December. Money raised will go towards a CAFOD World Gift providing water for a village.

Christmas Hampers at Holy Cross - this year at Holy Cross, not one but three Christmas hampers will be raffled in aid of CAFOD. Tickets are now on sale. The CAFOD team would like to take this opportunity to thank all who continue to support us.

St Swithun Wells Church - Christmas Card Cafod

Collection - From the 1st of December we shall be encouraging everyone to send one Christmas Card to church friends, and place it on our special noticeboard in St Swithun Wells Church. You can donate what you would have spent on cards and postage to CAFOD World Gifts, by placing your contribution in the CAFOD collecting box by the notice board where the cards are. This will be part of our special challenge this year, to raise £750 to provide a water supply for a village. This was the theme of CAFOD's appeal at this year's Harvest Fast Day. Thank you! **Trisha** (02380 693669)

Apostleship of the Sea (AoS) Christmas Appeal:

Each year AoS seeks your kind donations of woolly hats, toblerone chocolates as well as other personal items in support of the many seafarers who work upon the high seas. As well as those much needed items, **AoS** also invites the faithful to donate any extra rosaries, bibles or small crucifixes. Financial donations are most welcomed as well. For more information please email Fr John Lavers on john.lavers@stellamarismail.org; or visit: <https://www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk>.

Christmas Gifts for Poitier and Two Saints

This weekend gift labels will be given out after both Masses at St Edward's. Please bring gifts for the 2 charities to St Edward's on the weekend of Dec 15th & 16th. Suggested items: boxes of sweets, biscuits, toiletries, cakes, puddings for families; men's hats, gloves, scarves, toiletries etc. Please wrap gifts and indicate which charity they are for. Gifts will be collected and distributed to the relevant charity.

Mustard Seed - the Advent/Christmas 2018 edition is available in all of our churches this weekend.

Coffee Stop Christmas Special - Thursday 13th December, 10am-12 Noon in the Resource Centre. Coffee, tea or hot chocolate and mince pie £1, and there is a Grand Raffle. Raffle prizes gratefully received. Come and join us for a Merry Morning!

Mass Times for our Six Church Communities

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	
Sat 1st Dec Vigil Masses	5.00pm	St Sw		Thurs 6th	9.30am	HC		
	6.00pm	St J	Sr Frances Calderbank RIP		10.00am	OLQA		
	6.00pm	OLQA			6.00pm	St J		
	6.30pm	St Ed	Mrs Edward Christian FM					
Sun 2nd First Sunday of Advent	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta	Fri 7th	10.00am	St Ed	Keith Small RIP	
	9.00am	St Ed	Enid Scappaticci RIP (3rd Anniversary of death)		10.00am	St J (AH)		
	9.00am	St A	Peter Nicholson RIP					
	9.30am	OLQA						
	11.00am	St J	Herbert Howie RIP					
	11.00am	HC	Kenneth Sweet FM					
Mon 3rd	10.00am	St Ed	Mary Uphill FM	Sat 8th	9.30am	HC	Emily Ray RIP	
Tues 4th	9.30am	HC	Patrick Lake RIP	Sat 8th Vigil Masses	5.00pm	St Sw	Mrs Edward Christian FM	
	10.00am	St A			6.00pm	St J		
	10.00am	OLQA			6.00pm	OLQA		
	12 noon	St Ed			Funeral Service: Helen Dalton RIP	6.30pm		St Ed
Wed 5th	9.30am	HC	Ann Gove (88th Birthday)	Sun 9th Dec Second Sunday of Advent	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta Umberto Pugi RIP (Birthday) Deceased Members of the Queen Family FM	
	10.00am	St Ed			9.00am	St Ed		
	12 noon	St J			Funeral Service: June Monshall RIP	9.00am		St A
						9.30am		OLQA
						11.00am		St J
			11.00am	HC				

Advent Penitential Services

These will be held across our parish, with the opportunity for individual confession:
Thursday 13th December 7.30pm – Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Bishop's Waltham
Friday 14th December 7.30pm – St Andrew, North Baddesley
Saturday 15th December 11am – Holy Cross, Eastleigh
A number of priests will be available on each occasion.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday HC Adoration 1st Tuesday of the month 10.00-1.00pm
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 9.30am Wednesday The Holy Rosary
St Joseph 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

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, 53, Leigh Road, Eastleigh. SO50 9DF
St Sw St Swithun Wells, 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

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