



## *Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ* **13th MARCH 2022: SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

### The Courage To Admit Your Weaknesses

There is an episode of the Gospel, usually read during Lent, that strikes me every time I come across it. It is the story of Jesus healing a man born blind. What surprises me is not just the miracle performed by Jesus, but what happens before, particularly the way the man approaches him.

While he is sitting at the side of the road, someone tells the man born blind that there is a man who is curing a lot of people from their diseases and he is passing by. As soon as he hears these words, his desire to be cured is so kindled in his heart, that he begins to cry, so loudly that the crowd, "scolds him and tells him to keep quiet", but he shouts louder and louder: "Son of David, have pity on me". Jesus, immediately, having perceived his insistence, cures him.

While the cry of this poor man seems to embarrass and annoy the crowd, Jesus looks at him with admiration: that man had the courage to admit his weaknesses. He was neither afraid nor ashamed of his condition. With honesty and sincerity he presented himself to Jesus as he was, weak and needy. This episode always reminds me of the importance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Maybe the greatest obstacle that prevents us to savour the taste of God's mercy in this Sacrament, is that our society revolves too much around us "pretending to be ok". It is a covering up culture, where the real elephant in the room is that we are not ok on our own. We are always in need and will always be. Particularly in need of forgiveness.

At the same time, we have to admit that we are all uncomfortable with our limits and weaknesses. But there is just one thing worse than not being perfect: it is not to be forgiven. And while being perfect is impossible, to be forgiven is actually possible. Jesus invented the Sacrament of Reconciliation to make the impossible possible: cancel all our sins and give us the experience of true freedom. Yes, we will sin again, we will experience again the sadness of our weaknesses, but he will never lose patience. He will always be there in the confessional, waiting for us to cry to him all our needs and respond with his embrace.

Last week I had the chance to go to confession. I remember how I felt before and after. Before I was weighed down with the awareness of all my limits and errors. Afterwards I felt free and definitely better. Something mysteriously real happened during that confession. It was so real that I just went and visited a family, because I felt the need to share with someone else the joy that filled my heart. Allow me to encourage you in this time of Lent to savour the taste of God's mercy, to give him a chance to enter into your heart through the Sacrament of Confession, and give you that joy that we all need in order to live our daily life.

*Fr Luca*

### **GEM OF THE WEEK**

This week's GEM is the Homily of Pope Francis for Ash Wednesday, "Enjoy An Infinite Reward" - 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 16th March, please email your messages/notices to: [stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)**

# LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 13th March 2022: Year C - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 2

PSALM RESPONSE: THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND MY HELP.

READINGS: 1<sup>st</sup> reading Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18 Psalm 26 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Philippians 3:17-4:1 Gospel Luke 9:28b-36

Sunday 20th March 2022: Year C - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 3

READINGS: 1<sup>st</sup> reading Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15 Psalm 102 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12 Gospel Luke 13:1-9

## PARISH GROUPS



### 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)

These groups meet regularly in person. Stars of Abraham also prepares the children for First Holy Communion usually in school year 3. Grail Seekers also prepares the children for Confirmation usually in school year 9. 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 in Holy Cross** meets every **Wednesday**, for more information please click the link on the homepage of our website. All are welcome!

**School of Community in St Edward** meets every **Thursday at 8pm** in St Edward's cloister. All are welcome!

### Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

**Meeting on Wednesdays, 8pm in St Edward.** 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](mailto:powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or alternatively please speak to a priest.

**Fellowship Group** - Wednesdays at 7.30pm in St Swithun Wells Church. This Lent we are following another John Birch course entitled 'Becoming Church', a 5 part study on Life in the early church as brought to us by Luke in the Acts of the Apostles. Join us for all of the studies or just the ones you can manage.

**Week 2 - 16th March: Breaking Bread Together and**

**Prayer.** If you cannot join us in person, you can join us on Zoom. Please contact Peter Baggott [peterbaggott@aol.com](mailto:peterbaggott@aol.com) for the link.

### Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) Group

**Tuesdays 10.15am to approx. 11.30am** in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. On **Tuesday 15th March** Deacon John di Meo will be talking about The Divine Office - The Liturgy of the Hours. All are welcome!

### 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)

### Knitting Club

Meets **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!

**Afternoon Club - St Joseph's Parish Centre (26 Abbey Water),** first Tuesday in the month. Come and join us for tea, games and good fun. All are welcome!

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

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

### COVID Measures in our Churches

As there is no legal requirement to wear masks, the use of masks in our churches is now a personal choice. Hand sanitisers will still be available. Holy Water will be available from next week and the Sign Of Peace can also resume.

### Stations of the Cross During Lent (not Holy Week)

**St Andrew:** Tues at 9.30am (before Mass) starting on 15th March;

**St Swithun Wells:** Tues at 10am starting 15th March;

**OLQA:** Weds after 9.30am Mass & Fridays at 7pm;

**Holy Cross:** Thursdays at 9am (before Mass);

**St Joseph:** Fridays at 9.30am (before Mass);

**St Edward:** Fridays at 6.15pm (Mass at 7pm just in Lent). Fri 18th March will be led by families of the Parish.

## MESSAGES



**Lent Parish Retreat** - We will hold a Parish Retreat for Lent on **Sunday 13th March, 3pm-5pm** at **St Edward**. Open to everyone. There will be a talk about Lent, some time for private prayer in the church and a time for questions and sharing thoughts.

### OLQA During Lent

Lent Discussion Groups **Wednesdays at 7pm.**

Holy Rosary: 5.30pm before the Saturday Vigil Mass.

### St Edward's Lenten Soup Suppers for CAFOD

Soup suppers take place every Friday during Lent following Stations of the Cross at 6.15pm and Mass at 7pm, except Friday 18th March when there will be a lunch instead. Cost £5. All proceeds will go to the CAFOD Ukraine appeal.

## MESSAGES CONTINUED



### Second Collection this weekend 12th/13th March

#### **CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent Appeal**

In light of the situation in Ukraine, those in our parish who would like to contribute to the CAFOD Ukraine appeal can use the CAFOD Lent Appeal envelopes: if you intend your donation to specifically benefit those in need in Ukraine please mark your envelope “**FOR UKRAINE**”. You can donate in church using a CAFOD envelope or by visiting the CAFOD website: <https://cafod.org.uk>

### Parishioner Walking Against Hunger

Margaret Birtwistle has started to walk at least 5km daily for the 40 days of Lent. This is in aid of the CAFOD Walk-Against-Hunger appeal. Please encourage her to continue by giving a donation to: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/walk-against-hunger3212>

Any donation helps CAFOD feed the many starving people in this unequal world. Thank you.

### Lent in Romsey

The Lent Lunch prepared by the Catholic community this year will be held at the Methodist Church, The Hundred, Romsey, on **Friday 18th March, 12 Noon to 1.30pm**. Cost is £5 per head. Tea and coffee also available. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

### Cultural Friday - 18th March, 8pm at St Edward's

We will be listening to some classical music, extracts from the orchestral work of Joseph Haydn, “The Seven Last Words of Christ”. There will also be a talk and explanation about this piece of music. Cheese, wine and nibbles available from 7.30pm, suggested donation of £1. All are welcome!

Please be aware that the videos of the previous two Cultural Fridays with Dr Micha Jazz & Rose Busingye are available to view on our website in the session archives: <https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/meetings>

### Ukraine Appeal

We are supporting the Polish Social Club in Southampton who are collecting for Ukrainian Refugees. They recently amended their donations list.

**As of 10th March they are only collecting:  
Non Perishable Food & Baby Food, Painkillers for adults and children, Sterile Adhesive Dressing Large, Bandages, Sleeping Bags & Nappies.**

The following items are NOT needed at this time:  
No bedding/towels/blankets/hats/socks/clothes.

**For the latest list please visit their Facebook page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/PolskiKlubSouthampton>  
These supplies (mainly for women, children and the elderly) will be taken to the border with Ukraine.

If you would like to donate any of the above please drop them off at Holy Cross Church in Eastleigh during office hours: Mondays to Thursdays 9.30am-5.30pm & Fridays 9.30am-2.30pm, also on Saturdays and Sundays 9.30am to 12 Noon.

### Message from our New Finance Administrator

Hi, I am Fiona Mooney and have joined the Parish team working in the Holy Cross Office as the new Finance Administrator. I am working with Linda during March and will take over when Linda retires at the end of this month. I have been a member of the Parish since 1994 and usually attend Mass at St Edward. I have been made most welcome by the Parish Office staff and volunteers. I look forward to working with you all in the coming months. *Fiona*

### Volunteer Required to Help in the Parish Office on Friday mornings

A volunteering opportunity has arisen in the Parish Office in Eastleigh for a Friday morning each week to help with filing, shredding, database updates and answering the telephone/taking messages. Please send an email to [stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) with your details, including any experience you may have and also why you would like to volunteer in this role.

### Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage

**Monday 18th to Friday 22nd July 2022**

The pilgrimage is led by Bishop Philip Egan and Pilgrimage Director Canon PJ Smith. The cost of the pilgrimage for a youth pilgrim is £575. Please see the posters on the church noticeboards for more info.

**Southampton Choral Society** are performing **The Messiah** at Romsey Abbey on the 2nd April at 7pm. Tickets are £20 each, with discounts available, and can be obtained through Music in Romsey and [www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/hampshire/romsey-abbey/southampton-choral-society-messiah/2022-04-02/19:00/t-egqrxv](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/hampshire/romsey-abbey/southampton-choral-society-messiah/2022-04-02/19:00/t-egqrxv)

#### **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's - before Mass (5.00pm-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, 4.30pm-6.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church), Eastleigh

**Saturdays:** Fr Marco, 9.30am-12.30pm, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey

#### **CONFESSION**

##### **(SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)**

**Tuesday:** 9.30am-10.00am St Andrew  
6.30pm-7.30pm St Edward

**Saturday:** 10.00am-10.30am Holy Cross  
5.30pm-6.00pm OLQA  
5.30pm-6.00pm St Joseph

**Sunday:** 8.30am-9.00am St Andrew  
9.00am-9.30am OLQA

# MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 12th March	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Frank Pessot RIP The Harfield Family (Wellbeing)  Intentions of Mr M G Nutt Baker Family RIP
Sunday 13th March  <i>Second Sunday of Lent</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> The People of the Parish Anna Barrett RIP Anniversary  Peter Singleton RIP John Carmody RIP Anniversary
Monday 14th Mar	9.30am	Holy Cross (also live streamed)	
Tuesday 15th March	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Patrick Burke RIP FM
Wed 16th March	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross (also live streamed) OLQA St Edward	Deceased Members of the Lake & Wallace Families RIP  Imelda Macalino RIP
Thursday 17th March <i>St Patrick</i>	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross (also live streamed) OLQA St Joseph	Ellen Lane RIP FM  Margaret Martindale RIP
Friday 18th March	9.30am 10.00am 7.00pm	OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Coral Rosario RIP Mary Uphill RIP FM
Saturday 19th March <i>Morning Mass: St Joseph</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	The People of the Parish Judith Van Willigenburg (In Thanksgiving for a successful recovery after a serious illness)
Sunday 20th March  <i>Third Sunday of Lent</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> Patricia Bradley RIP FM  Zaki Hanna Hayek RIP 14th Anniversary Robert Benedict Harris 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**  
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**Deacon Paul Wilson**  
Tel: 023 8061 6618; E: pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Parish Office:** Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh,  
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**Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance Admin: Linda Roberts**  
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**Parish Secretary: Sarah Goodfellow**  
Email: stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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