



## *Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ* 16th MARCH 2025: SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

### March Sunshine

Last Sunday after saying the morning prayer together with my brothers, as I do every Sunday, I left the house, got into my car and drove off to go to Bishop's Waltham to celebrate Mass. After going 100m, at the first intersection, I looked at the sun shining, looked at the forecast, which gave sun all day, so I turned around and went back home, changed my clothes, jumped on my bike and rode off toward Bishop's Waltham. The choice was apt, because both on the way out and on the way back the sun was shining and it was almost warm, unusual in these parts in early March.

If I had gone by car I would have had to go to confession, because it would have been a grave sin not to ride my bike on that beautiful day.

After celebrating Mass, on my way home, I was reflecting on the grace of such weather, which is quite an unusual thing, but absolutely welcome. And I was also reflecting on the Transfiguration, which is the topic of this Sunday's gospel, because an unusual thing happens there as well. The Apostles were used to hearing Jesus sometimes saying strange things, not very understandable, or seeing him perform miracles, which no one else would be able to do. So the thing that questions me is: After all the extraordinary things they heard and saw with Jesus, why did the three Apostles who were with Him on the mountain marvel so much when He was transfigured? So much so that Peter, not knowing what to say, but having an extraordinary scene before him, instinctively expresses a desire to be there always and then proposes to those present to set up tents.

I think this can be traced back to last Sunday's sunny day. That is, it is not the first time I have seen the sun, or spent a day where the sun shines from morning to evening. Yet when it happens, especially here, it is always a great novelty, something one would like to hold onto; instinctively, even I would be inclined to say: let's stop the time, so that it will continue to be this beautiful always. Unfortunately, neither time nor weather can be stopped, but the good news is that the sun is always shining in the sky! Often the clouds cover it, but the sun is always there, every day.

So it is with the extraordinary presence of Jesus: He is always there, He is always here ready to work miracles, to transfigure reality to make it shine with His presence. The problem is our distraction, which makes us not notice the continuous graces and miracles that God gives us. We need to stop for a moment and observe reality more carefully. The Church helps us in this, because she gives us the grace of Lent that has precisely this purpose. The sacrifices or acts of charity have precisely the purpose of helping us to notice that Jesus is present in our lives, in our days. We just need to chase away the clouds of distraction and selfishness, and our days will be transfigured as happened with the Apostles on the mountain.

Have a wonderful continuation of Lent, and if I see anyone in the car when the sun is shining, I'll wait for her/him in the confessional!

*Fr Mario*

### GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is Bishop Philip's Pastoral Letter, "Belonging".  
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 **10am on Wednesday 19th March 2025**, please email your messages/notices to: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

If you wish to make a donation to our parish please go to: <https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/financesdonations>

## LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 16th March 2025: Year C - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 2

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

1<sup>st</sup> reading Genesis 15:5-12,17-18 Psalm 27 (26) 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Philippians 3:17-4:1 Gospel Luke 9:28b-36

Sunday 23rd March 2025: Year C - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 3 (In St Edward's, on Sunday 23rd March, readings from Year A are to be used because of the Scrutinies.)

PSALM RESPONSE: THE LORD IS COMPASSIONATE AND GRACIOUS.

1<sup>st</sup> reading Exodus 3:1-8a,13-15 Psalm 103 (102) 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12 Gospel Luke 13:1-9

## PARISH GROUPS



**Growing In Faith Together Group (GIFT)** - every Tuesday at 10.15am the Holy Cross Resource Centre. All are welcome!

**Fellowship Group** - Wednesdays in St Swithun Wells Church at 7.30pm. This week we continue our 5 week

Lenten Course "Calling a Wounded Earth Home". Week 2 is entitled 'Truth'. Please come and join us, everyone is welcome. Refreshments served at the end. For more information or to join at home via Zoom, contact Peter Baggott by email on [Peterbaggott@aol.com](mailto:Peterbaggott@aol.com) or by phone on 02380 694060.

## MESSAGES



**St Patrick's Day** - On Monday 17th March we celebrate St Patrick. Let us pray for all the Irish people and our parishioners with Irish roots.

**Lenten Lunches in aid of CAFOD** every Friday in Lent at St Edward's, from 12 Noon until 1.30pm. All donations will go to CAFOD'S funds helping all who are in need due to famine, climate change, wars and disasters. Your support will be greatly appreciated. There will also be a Lenten lunch in St Joseph's on Friday 28th March at Midday in support of CAFOD.

**Lent Parish Retreat** - We will hold a Parish Retreat for Lent, led by Fr Raffaele on Saturday 15th March, 2.30pm-4.30pm 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 of thoughts. It is a powerful way to prepare for Easter.

**One of the Romsey Lent Ecumenical Study Groups** will meet in St Joseph's meeting room, 26A Abbey Water, each Tuesday during Lent at 6.30pm, starting on 11th March. All are welcome.

**OLOA - Lenten Prayer Group** Every Friday during Lent in Our Lady Queen of the Apostles there is a talk about the gospel of Sunday with tea/coffee. You will be in good company! Starting at 10am until Stations of the Cross at 11.30am.

**Upcoming Second Collections**  
**CAFOD Lent Appeal – Family Fast Day collection**  
You will be able to hand in the CAFOD envelopes that were distributed last week during the second collection this weekend (15th/16th March). Please do not use the yellow gift aid envelopes for this collection.  
**Clergy Assistance Fund** - 29th & 30th March

**Stations of the Cross During Lent**  
St Andrew: Tuesdays at 9.30am (before Mass);  
St Swithun Wells: Tuesdays at 10am with tea & coffee available afterwards;  
Holy Cross: Thursdays at 9am (before Mass);  
St Joseph: Fridays at 9.30am (before Mass);

St Edward: Fridays at 9.30am (before Mass);  
OLOA: Fridays at 11.30am (before Mass).

**Penitential Services** - A number of priests will be available during these times:  
Thursday 3rd April, 7.30pm at OLOA  
Friday 4th April, 7.30pm at St Andrew  
Saturday 5th April, 10am at Holy Cross

### Weekday Masses & Eucharistic Adoration

One of the pillars of Lent is prayer. A simple way to do this is to attend Mass on weekdays or to participate in one of our Eucharistic Adorations. On Tuesdays in St Edward for example, there is Mass at 6pm with Eucharistic Adoration afterwards. On Wednesdays there is Mass in Holy Cross at 9.30am followed by Eucharistic Adoration. At St Joseph there is Mass every Thursday at 6pm and Eucharistic Adoration one hour before from 5pm-6pm. At OLOA there is Eucharistic Adoration (after Mass) at 12.30pm every Thursday.

**Good Companions** - Our next meeting will be combined with the CAFOD Lenten lunch and will be at 12 Noon on Friday 21st March in St Edward's cloister. If you are in need of company and good food you are welcome to join us. Please contact Tony Wilson on 02380 266617 if you have any queries.

**Charity Table Top Sale at OLOA - Saturday 22nd March, 9am-12pm.** All welcome. Home made gifts, china and glassware, games, books and puzzles, second hand clothes and bric-a-brac available, all funds going to support travel to Lourdes this May, refreshments available on site. Look forward to seeing you!

**St Patrick's Day Musical Evening**  
Saturday 22nd March at OLOA. All are welcome. Tickets £7 each. Start at 7.15pm. More details to follow. Marie Kemp on 07760 809640

**Cultural Friday "The Enigma of Sexuality" Talk**  
The video and script of the talk by Fr Alberto Frigerio is available to view on the parish website.

## MESSAGES CONTINUED



**Grail Seekers & Student Youth Easter Camp (11-17yrs) 7th-10th April 2025** at St Cassian's Centre, Wallington's Road, Kintbury, RG17 9SR  
Cost **£180** eldest or only child, £120 for each additional child (sibling). In order to join the camp please go to our website and complete the form, paying the whole amount by *Sunday 30th March 2025* by bank transfer. Part bursaries may be available on application. Spaces are limited and will be granted on a first come first served basis.

### Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Denis McCormack and his family. Denis' Funeral Mass takes place on **Monday 31st March at 11am in St Edward's**.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Alfredo Xavier and his family. Alfredo's Funeral Mass takes place on **Friday 11th April at 10am in St Joseph's**.

Norah Brown (widow of Leo Brown) - parishioner at St Edward's from the 1970's until they moved to West End in 2010. The Funeral Mass will take place in **St Brigid's Church, Woodlea Gardens, West End on Tuesday 18th March at 10am**, followed by the committal at Wessex Vale Crematorium.

**Parish Office** - please note on **Friday 21st March** the office will be closing at Midday (instead of 2.30pm).

### Romsey Relay Marathon - Broadlands Estate 18th May 2025

We would like to enter a team to run the relay marathon again this year to raise funds to help support our church youth groups. If you would like to run, please get in touch with me: [edwardbible@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:edwardbible@yahoo.co.uk)

Details of the event can be found at <https://www.romseymarathon.co.uk>

No training is required and you don't need to be an elite runner. It is just a bit of fun and to get our church together to take part in a local community event. Looking forward to hearing from you. *Edward*

**HELP needed for Coffee Stop** - Can you help at Coffee Stop on a Thursday morning in Holy Cross Resource Centre? It would be on a rota basis once in every 5/6 weeks from 9am to 11.45am. Coffee Stop has been going in the parish for over 30 years and we would like it to continue. If you would like to help on your own or as a couple or with a friend, we would be very grateful. Please contact Pat Baggott for details on 02380 694060 or by email [baggott.pm@gmail.com](mailto:baggott.pm@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you.

**Hampshire Parishes Lourdes Pilgrimage 8th - 17th May**. We urgently need a few more helpers to join our group to Lourdes - we have a full complement of less able/sick pilgrims, but without more helpers we will not be able to travel. The trip is with the charity Across, who provide specialist transport for those with life-limiting conditions and disabilities, who cannot travel by contemporary means. There is a cost for travelling but we have raised funds to subsidise helpers. For more details please contact Marianne at: [mwanstall@btinternet.com](mailto:mwanstall@btinternet.com).

**St George Catholic College** is having its annual Romero Day Charity Fundraiser on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March, this year we are raising money for our twinned school in Bamenda Cameroon. We are looking for any donations of Easter Eggs for an in school raffle. If you could donate we would be very grateful. Please contact Ann Marie Lee Cann on 023 80322603 or [alee-cann@stgcc.co.uk](mailto:alee-cann@stgcc.co.uk). Many thanks.

**Ceremony of the Keys - Tower of London, 2nd April 2025**. There are a few spaces left to attend the Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London on the evening of Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025. Please contact Giuseppe Bright (Joe) on 07974 880090 for details.

**Sadly the Assisted Dying Bill** passed its 2nd Reading in Parliament. But it can still be defeated! Only 28 MP's need to change their minds and the Bill will fall at the 3rd Reading. You can help make this happen, by reading/sharing the publications available in the welcome areas, to canvas your neighbours, or deepen your knowledge, or write to your MP, and pray that this Bill does not become Law.

**Oxford Convergence** - You are warmly invited to Oxford Convergence 2025: True Companionship - Solitude and Belonging at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, from **29th-30th March**. This free cultural event explores the epidemic of loneliness in today's world, addressing its impact on climate change, economic inequality, and mental health. Focusing on the power of meaningful connection and reflection, Convergence 2025 offers a **space** for new conversations about loneliness, belonging, and solidarity. Join us for 2 days of discussions with **leading experts** like Professors Rosalind Cornforth, Sir Brian Hoskins, and John Barton. In addition, the event offers **compelling exhibitions**, including one on the life of Dame Cicely Saunders (founder of the Hospice movement), a science exhibition, and a concert honouring transformative composers such as Liszt and Pärt. For more information please go to: <https://convergenceuk.org/>

### At a Glance - List of Upcoming Parish Events

<b>15th Mar:</b>	Lent Parish Retreat
<b>21st Mar:</b>	Combined Good Companions & CAFOD Lenten Lunch at St Edward
<b>22nd Mar:</b>	Charity Table Top Sale at OLQA
<b>22nd Mar:</b>	St Patrick's Day Musical Evening OLQA
<b>28th Mar:</b>	CAFOD Lenten Lunch at St Edward
<b>28th Mar:</b>	CAFOD Lenten Lunch at St Joseph
<b>3rd Apr:</b>	Penitential Service at OLQA
<b>4th Apr:</b>	CAFOD Lenten Lunch at St Edward
<b>4th Apr:</b>	Penitential Service at St Andrew
<b>5th Apr:</b>	Penitential Service at Holy Cross
<b>6th Apr:</b>	Parish Get2Gether

### CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

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

## MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 15th Mar	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOA St Joseph St Edward	Jim Russell RIP  John Carmody RIP Anniversary Peter McCann RIP
Sunday 16th March  <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 5.30pm	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLOA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Patricia Bradley RIP FM  People of the Parish
Monday 17th Mar <i>St Patrick</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross	Ellen Lane RIP FM
Tuesday 18th Mar	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Christopher Northbourne RIP
Wed 19th March <i>St Joseph</i>	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Phyllomena Sheppard RIP
Thursday 20th Mar	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLOA St Joseph	Maureen Hoskin (Birthday Intentions)  Gil Hinguillo RIP
Friday 21st March	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLOA	Ermanno Terzaghi RIP Phyllis Altman RIP Anniversary
Saturday 22nd March	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOA St Joseph St Edward	People of the Parish Gill Skea & Mike Hooper RIP Sarah Howie RIP Anniversary Cecilia McEwen RIP
Sunday 23rd March  <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 5.30pm	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLOA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>  Gladys Curmi RIP Anniversary  Special Intention for Dian

## CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)  
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Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)  
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**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](mailto:accounts@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

**Parish Secretary:** Sarah Goodfellow  
Email: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

**Website Contact:** [website.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:website.sswp@gmail.com)

**Safeguarding:** Please see Safeguarding posters in each of our churches for details of the Parish Safeguarding Reps. Diocesan Safeguarding: Ruth Attfield [rattfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:rattfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)