

Our Mission: LOVE GOD - LOVE OTHERS - MAKE DISCIPLES
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www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk  
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity No. 246871

Sunday Cycle: Year B  
Weekday Cycle: Year 2  
Psalter Week: 3

## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A week or so ago, just before the schools went back, a phenomenon occurred in Eastleigh which is only visible at the very end of August and first few days of September. Along towards Sainsbury there is a shop selling school uniforms for a number of local schools and colleges. The name of the shop is 'Skool Kit' – which makes me wonder which marketing genius thought a mis-spelling was appropriate for a place linked to education. Anyway, for days, snaking across the pedestrian area there was a line of parents with children coming to buy uniform. The shop is quite small so only a limited number could be admitted at one time.

Now I realise that time is always short when you have children to look after but I did wonder why so many left it until the very last minute to queue and buy uniform. Was it that sensible parents wanted to buy the right size and were concerned that a growth spurt could occur in the final days of the school holidays? Although young people can grow quite suddenly I'm not sure a few days would have made much of a difference. Change and growth is a reality of human life.

Priests are often involved with the preparation and celebration of Funerals. I've always seen this is a true privilege because it is such a seminal moment in the lives of those bereaved. Helping them choose the readings, the hymns and other music enables them to express something of what they feel about their loss, and the memories they want to keep. Certain hymns are chosen more often than others and one which speaks to people still is *Abide With Me*. The second verse goes like this:

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

Some people might read or hear those words and feel slightly depressed. But in fact the verse is simply saying what we know to be true: that change is not only inevitable but to be embraced. Put it another way: a child in Primary School has to grow and change and leave childish ways behind in order to move on to the challenges of Secondary School. Once finished there, they have to change again into students ready for the next level of A Levels or College or University, or the world of work. The time comes when they have to change again and branch out on their own, maybe finding a place to live and manage their own money. Change comes again with the cementing of relationships and, perhaps one of the biggest changes of all, to becoming a parent themselves. A change that many enjoy thoroughly is the change into being grandparents, 'all of the fun and none of the hassle' I've heard it said. Change and letting go of one stage of life is essential for the next to flourish.

Jesus talks about this when he says that, unless a wheat grain falls into the ground and dies it remains but a single grain. If it does and ceases to be a single grain it can produce a great crop. So we not only accept change – we embrace it as an important part of our growth. As followers of Jesus we are called to make the most of this life in service of others, and to be ready for the life to come. It isn't all that complicated, it isn't rocket science.

*Father John*

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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:** You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

**Psalm Response:** My soul, give praise to the Lord.

**Readings for next Sunday 16th September 2018  
Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Gospel: Mark 8:27-35

1st reading: Isaiah 50:5-9

Psalm: 114

2nd reading: James 2:14-18

**Journey in Faith restarts Wed 19th September 2018**

Restarts with a special enquirers evening - if you know of anyone who would like to become a Catholic or to learn more about what the Catholic Church teaches, then bring them along on **Wednesday 19th September** from 7.30-9pm at St Edward the Confessor Church.

This is your chance to do something practical for evangelisation! For further information please contact Deacon Paul Owen. Tel: 02380 254806; E: [powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) Group**

Tuesdays (10am-12noon), Holy Cross Resource Centre. Any queries please contact Paul on 02380 616618; [pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

**Preparation for Baptism**

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 30th September 2018** at Holy Cross Resource Centre. The meeting begins at 4.30pm and ends at 6.00pm. It would be very helpful if you could arrive a little early, refreshments available from 4.15pm. You are very welcome to attend the preparation session in advance of your baby's birth.

**First Holy Communion Preparation**

Our program for First Holy Communion will start in November, with a schedule of preparation sessions running through until June 2019. Exact dates will be published shortly. Sessions typically run at regular intervals on Tuesday evenings 6.15-7.45pm, some sessions are at St Swithun Wells Primary School in Chandlers' Ford, and some at your individual churches. Registration forms will not be available in school or elsewhere this year, but must be collected from your priest at any of the weekend Masses, from Saturday 15th September to Sunday 14th October. Parents and children are invited to introduce themselves to their priest as wanting to take part in the program this year, and request a form. **Completed forms must be returned to the parish office, along with a photocopy of your child's baptismal certificate, by Monday 15th October.** Due to limited numbers of catechists this year we may be required to limit the number of children joining the program, so please request and complete your forms as soon as possible. There will be an introductory meeting for parents in early November.

**Welcome to Father Raffaele & Father Luca**

This week we welcome our new Priests Father Raffaele & Father Luca to the Parish. We wish them well in their transition and hope that that their move goes smoothly and that they come to enjoy their time in St Swithun Wells Parish as much as they did their time at St John Bosco.

**Second Collections**

Please note there will be a second collection this weekend for the Catholic Education Service and next weekend for Home Mission Sunday.

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018 - National Mass for Altar Servers**

The national Mass for Altar Servers will be held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018 in Westminster Cathedral at 2:30pm. Please see the flyer on church noticeboards for more information.

**Holy Cross Children's Liturgy - Safeguarding**

We will be registering children for children's liturgy over the next few weeks.

**Parents:** Please complete the index cards that will be available in the welcoming area (with instructions) and return them to one of the catechists. Someone will be there to help or collect them on return. This **will not** mean children **have** to attend every week, it will be as before, but it is important for us to have basic information to keep your children safe when they attend. Thank you.

**Fellowship Group - St Swithun Wells Church**

Restarts on **Wednesday 12th September 7.30- 9pm** with a Liturgy followed by a talk by Deacon Bob Birtles on the letter written by Jude, the brother of James. It is the shortest letter in the New Testament. Refreshments will be served at the end of the meeting. Queries to Peter Baggott 02380 694060 or Deacon Bob Birtles.

**15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018 – Refugee Event**

The picture of the 3-year-old Syrian boy Aylan Kurdi's lifeless body on a beach horrified us all and begs the question, just what can we do as a parish to sponsor and house refugees? In response to this a practical way of housing refugee families will be presented at two Caritas "Welcoming our Neighbour" events, one in the Sacred Heart Church, Waterlooville on 15th Sept and another repeat event at St. Joseph's, Maidenhead on 29th Sept. Find out more under "Events" on the diocesan website, look it up on Eventbrite or send an email to [caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

**Stella Maris Mass - Tuesday 18th Sept**

Apostleship of the Sea invites you to a Mass in honour of our patron Stella Maris, Our Lady Star of the Sea. Come and pray for the work of Apostleship of the Sea and for seafarers on Tues 18th Sept at 12.15pm in St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth, PO1 3HG. Bishop Philip Egan will celebrate Mass, followed by a reception. All invited. Please RSVP by email to: [salvina@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk](mailto:salvina@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk).

### **Alton Day Of REnewal – Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept 11am-4pm**

Alton School, Anstey Lane, Alton, GU34 2NG.  
There will be a shared lunch at 1pm (please bring finger food to share). The talk starting at 2.30pm is: “**New sight for the blind - Mission and healing.**” by Pauline Edwards and Fr Laurence Brassill of Little Way Healing Ministries. No need to register in advance, and no charge (though a collection will be taken to cover costs). For more info please see poster on church noticeboards or website: [www.altonrenewal.com](http://www.altonrenewal.com).

### **Saint Padre Pio of Pietrelcina Reflection Day**

**Sunday 23rd Sept 2018.** Fr Des Connolly SMM invites you to join Padre Pio Prayer Groups and other devotees to celebrate Padre Pio’s birthday/Feast day in this his 50th Anniversary of his death. The day will be held in St Joseph’s Centre, 8 Lyndhurst Rd, Ashurst, SO40 7DU. Arrival from 10am for a 10.30am start, until 4pm and will include Mass. A donation of £22.50 per person would be very much appreciated. Please bring a packed lunch.

### **St Edward’s Holy Hour (Thursdays 7-8pm)**

Restarts on **20th September 2018.**

### **Prayer Group**

Our small Prayer Group meets once a month on the 3rd Monday of the month from 2-3pm at the home of Sheila and Pauline O Neill, 19 Carthage Close, a road which is off Alexander Rd just opposite St Edward The Confessor Church. Everyone welcome.  
**Next Meeting: Monday 17th September**  
Theme: ‘Praying The Psalms’.

### **St Edward’s CAFOD Pyramid Boxes**

These will be collected and emptied on the weekend of 22nd/23rd September at St Edwards; new boxes will be available. All proceeds to Connect2 Peru.

### **Thank You’s**

A huge thank you to everyone for supporting the charity afternoon tea event at Holy Cross Resource Centre on 16th Aug in support of AWAMU. We raised a magnificent **£625!** *Jenny*

Grateful thanks to all who helped and supported the Summer Tea at St Edward’s Church in aid of Christians Against Poverty (CAP). The total sum raised was **£470**. Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a national charity specialising in debt counselling for people in financial difficulties. *John & Susan Johnston*

### **Congratulations!**

Elizabeth Hardinge celebrates her **100th birthday** on Monday 10th.

### **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;

### **WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS**

Last week’s collections: £TBA; SO/SD for August’18: £12,804.09

### **Book Sale For Poitiers Care Foodbank**

We have had such a wonderful response to the book sale we have extended it to take place after Mass at: Holy Cross Church on **Sunday 9th Sept**; St Andrew’s Church on **Sunday 9th & 16th Sept**. It is hoped the books will also be available sometime in October at St Swithun Wells Church after Sat evening Mass. Many thanks for your continuing support.

### **Parish Lunch**

**Monday 24th Sept**, 12.30pm at The Luzborough, Romsey. All are welcome. Menus are on the notice boards. Please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know your choice of meal by **Sunday 16th Sept** as we have to pre-order. Thank you.

### **Macmillan Coffee Morning - Sat 29th September**

Margaret French will be holding her annual Macmillan Coffee Morning in St Andrew’s hall on Saturday 29th September from 10.30am-12.30pm. Please come along and help to make it the best year yet!

### **60 Club - Holy Cross Resource Centre**

After our summer break the 60 Club meetings will resume on **Monday 10th September** at the usual time of 2pm. Looking forward to seeing you there. Maureen (tel: 02380 692682).

### **Knit & Natter - St Edward’s, Mon 10th Sept, 2-4pm**

Refreshments available and everyone most welcome! Any queries please contact Maureen Stephenson on 02380 252104.

### **Knit for Peace – St Andrew’s, Wed 12th Sept, 2-4pm**

Donations of mens clothes and shoes for Two Saints welcome. Please contact Anne Harcourt on 02380 734710 with any queries.

### **Youth Groups at Holy Cross Resource Centre**

Both groups run from 7.00pm to 8.30pm on a Sunday once a month:

**Inspire (School yrs 7, 8 and 9)** - please contact Marianne 07771704600 for more information.

**TOZ (Time Out Zone) (School yrs 10, 11 & Sixth Form College)** - please contact Cath on 07846 438224 for more information.

**Upcoming dates: 23rd Sept; 14th Oct; 18th Nov; 9th Dec; 13th Jan; 10th Feb; 17th Mar.**

**Prayer Link** - Please contact me if you have any requests, queries or comments. *Marion* (02380 692416) [marionbirtles@gmail.com](mailto:marionbirtles@gmail.com)

### **Street Pastors - Volunteers Required**

Could you spare 4–5 hours once a month on a Friday night to serve in our community? Next set of provisional training dates are:

**14/15/16 Sept 2018; 28/29/30 Sept & 12/13/14 Oct.**

Volunteers needed in Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh and Fair Oak.

Enquiries to Eric Hyom, t: 02380643457 or e: [erichyom@hotmail.com](mailto:erichyom@hotmail.com).

# Mass Times for our Six Church Communities

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
<b>Sat 8th Sept Vigil Masses</b>	5.00pm	St Sw	Harry Long RIP	<b>Thurs 13th</b>	9.30am	HC	Marjorie Harris RIP
	6.00pm	St J			10.00am	OLQA	
	6.00pm	OLQA	6.00pm		St J	P.V.E. Ginevra FM	
	6.30pm	St Ed					Maria Szczetnikowicz RIP
<b>Sun 9th 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta	<b>Fri 14th</b>	10.00am	St Ed	Mrs Edward Christian FM
	9.00am	St Ed	Susan & John Johnston (Golden Wedding Anniversary)		10.00am	St J (AH)	
	9.00am	St A	David & Eileen Smith's Intention				
	9.30am	OLQA	In Thanksgiving for all the Wonderful Staff at St Swithun Wells Primary School				
	11.00am	St J					
	11.00am	HC					
<b>Mon 10th</b>	10.00am	St Ed		<b>Sat 15th Sept</b>	9.30am	HC	
<b>Tues 11th</b>	9.30am	HC	Vera Murfet RIP	<b>Sat 15th Vigil Masses</b>	5.00pm	St Sw	Harry Long RIP
	10.00am	St A			6.00pm	St J	
	10.00am	OLQA			6.00pm	OLQA	
					6.30pm	St Ed	
<b>Wed 12th</b>	9.30am	HC	Emily Ray RIP & Marie Ray-Trotter (Birthday Blessing)	<b>Sun 16th Sept 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta
		St Ed			9.00am	St Ed	Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP
	10.00am				9.00am	St A	Kathleen & Albert Harrison RIP (Anniversary)
					9.30am	OLQA	Peter Byrne & Allan Baxter RIP
			11.00am	St J			
			11.00am	HC			

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

<b>Tuesday</b>	HC	Adoration 1st Tuesday of the month 10.00-1.00pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>St A</b>	<b>Adoration will restart in the Autumn.</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>St ED</b>	<b>Holy Hour (7-8pm) restarts 20th Sept</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	St J	from Noon-6pm, Rosary and Benediction at 5.30pm (before Mass at 6pm)

<b>Rosary And Prayers</b>	<b>St Edward</b>	9.30am	Wednesday	The Holy Rosary
	<b>St Joseph</b>	6.00pm	Wednesday	Evening Prayer

### CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

<b>Saturdays:</b>	10.00am	Holy Cross Church
	12 noon	St Edward's
	5.30pm	OLQA
	5.30pm	St Joseph
<b>Sundays:</b>	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

**Father Raffaele Cossa (Priest in Charge)**  
 Tel: 023 8061 2430  
 rcossa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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