

Our Mission: LOVE GOD - LOVE OTHERS - MAKE DISCIPLES



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

Sunday Cycle: Year C  
Weekday Cycle: Year 1  
Psalter: Office Proper

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Today we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord. Three wise men came to Bethlehem to offer gold, frankincense and myrrh.

It is a story full of symbols that are very familiar to us. First of all there is the star that the wise men follow. Difficult to say what star it was, but surely it was for the men a symbol of something new. For me, the star represents the desires, wishes and expectations that live in our heart. The three men followed their hearts and we have to follow ours. Something will happen if we don't silence what is in our heart. The three kings saw the "star that filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child".

The three presents are equally full of mystery. They are symbols of the regality, divinity and humanity of Christ. But first of all they are the sign of the dependence of man on God. The three kings knelt in front of the child; this teaches us that we are not the centre of the universe, we need to obey the Lord if we want to be free and fulfilled.

Using this beautiful story and all the Christmas ones, I wish you all a Happy New Year because we are all part of the play...

*Jesus is born among a crowd of different characters. A happy New Year to everyone.*

*Happy New Year to those who, like Mary and Joseph, are near the Child and warm him with the warmth of their hearts.*

*Happy New Year to the donkey and the ox, who are there without understanding and take the opportunity of the hustle and bustle only to eat a little more.*

*Happy New Year to those who, like the shepherds, are quick to approach the great mystery with simplicity and joy.*

*Happy New Year to the other shepherds, who have continued to sleep, deliberately ignoring the angel's announcement believing that it was all propaganda, and so they missed an opportunity that will not come back again just to sleep a little bit more.*

*Happy New Year to the Magi, who come today to Bethlehem as good intellectuals with their heads full of ideas and calculations at the end of the show; but at least they get there.*

*And Happy New Year to the other Magi, those who follow the wrong star, and after long discussions, arrive in Dubai, instead of before the Lord of the world.*

*Happy New Year also to Herod, who is enraged with jealousy in his wonderful palace; instead of being able to get to Christ on an easy road, he prefers to go on a difficult road to the Devil's house.*

*Happy New Year to all.*

*All of us, whether we want it or not, feature in the Christmas play, however the choice of character is up to you!*

*Father Raffaele*

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

Tel: 023 8027 3882. Email: [stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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

**6th January 2019:**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

**Psalm Response:** All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

**Readings for next Sunday 13th January 2019  
The Baptism of the Lord**

Gospel: Luke 3:15-16. 21-22  
1st reading: Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11  
Psalm: 103  
2nd reading: Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7

**Parish Groups**

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

**Tuesdays between 10.15-11.30am** (after Mass) in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. **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 topic: John baptising Jesus.  
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**Journey in Faith - Every Wednesday at St Edward's**

There will be no Journey in Faith over Christmas; sessions will restart on Wednesday 9th January 2019. For further information please contact Deacon Paul Owen - tel: 02380 254806; email: [powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).  
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**Fellowship Group - Resumes Wed 9th January 2019**

St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak, 7.30-9pm. We will start with a Liturgy for the New Year followed by planning for next term to Easter. Any queries to Peter Baggott or Deacon Bob Birtles.  
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**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 from 7-8.30pm. 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:** 13th Jan; 10th Feb; 17th Mar.  
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**CaFE**

The next meetings will be on:  
Monday 14th January, 2.30pm in St Joseph's;  
Tuesday 15th January, 7.30pm in St Andrew's.  
Further details from Sheila Keefe, 01794 518071 or [s.keefe@btopenworld.com](mailto:s.keefe@btopenworld.com).  
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**Knit for Peace - St Andrew's, Wed 9th Jan, 2-4pm**

Donations of mens clothes and shoes for Two Saints welcome. Please contact Anne Harcourt on 02380 734710 with any queries.  
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**Knit & Natter - St Edward's, Mon 14th Jan, 2-4pm**

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

Will meet this **Monday 7th January** at 2pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. Hope to see you then. Maureen (tel: 02380 692682).

**January Parish Events**

**Children's Mass at St Edward's**

Once a month there will be a Children's Mass involving the children in Church; this will normally be held on the first Sunday of the month, however for January the Children's Mass will be celebrated on **13th January**.

**Cinema at Holy Cross**

The next film showing at Holy Cross Resource Centre will be The Giver (Cert 12A) on **Saturday 19th January** at 7pm. See posters on church noticeboards for more information.

**Churches Together United Service**

This will be held at Holy Cross Church on **Sunday 20th January** at 6.30pm.

**School Notices**

Congratulations to St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School for their outstanding achievement. The school's achievement sees them placed in the **top 10% of all schools nationally** and in the top 10 of all Hampshire Schools for the progress children make whilst at the school. This is a fantastic result and we are really proud of the children for their hard work and determination to do their best. Thank you to the parents for all their support and strong partnership.

**Messages**

**Diocesan Christmas Crib Offerings 2018**

In the Diocese, we alternate our annual Christmas Crib offerings between Friends of the Holy Land and the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre (KHS). The KHS is made up of 30,000 members from 40 countries, lay people and priests who economically support Christians in the Middle East, but who above all, pray for them.

They find many works that support the Christians living in the Holy Land, thus ensuring that they survive and that the Holy Sites are still populated by Christians and do not become museums. The Knights do everything they can to help with practical projects to stabilise Christian communities. The key partner for the KHS in the Holy Land is the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and through the Patriarchate, they fund-raise to maintain schools, formation, charitable and social activities.

St Swithun Wells Parish will be sending our Christmas Crib offerings to the Diocese for the KHS. If you would like to make a separate donation these can be sent directly to the Diocese of Portsmouth Finance Office marked 'Knights of the Holy Sepulchre'.

## Messages Continued

### **Building Work at Holy Cross**

The building work will start on **Monday 7th January** (to be completed the week before Easter) to fit the escape staircase serving the balcony at Holy Cross Church. From this date you won't be able to enter the church via the welcome area, only through the link (from the car park), or the old ceremonial doors off of Leigh Road. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused.

### **I Belong First Holy Communion Programme 2018/2019**

Just a reminder to all, that the next meeting for parents and children, is on **Tuesday 8th January 2019**. Check your parents' information/email for times and details. Please note the children should go straight to their classrooms so that their catechists can begin promptly.

### **St Swithun Wells Parish Website**

Our website has been redesigned and updated! Please take a look at:

<https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/>

### **St Edward's Church Shop**

Open before and after all weekend Masses.

### **CTCF Church 'Swaps' 2019**

As part of the week of prayer for Christian Unity this year, Churches Together in Chandlers Ford have organised their annual visits between churches. St Edward's will be visiting the URC 9.30am Communion service on Sunday 20th January, and so volunteers are invited to attend. In previous years around 4-6 parishioners have enjoyed these exchanges and we hope for a similar number this year, so if you are interested please contact Paul Carmody on 02380 615373; email [carmody16@btinternet.com](mailto:carmody16@btinternet.com).

### **Prayer Link**

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

### **New to the Parish?**

A very warm welcome to our Parish; we are delighted that you have joined us. Please feel free to make yourself known to one of the Welcomers or Priest at each Mass and join us for a cup of coffee after Mass.

Please complete one of the 'New to the Parish Registration Forms' available in the church foyers, giving us your contact details and leave the form with one of the Priests or Welcomers. All families are welcome at **ALL** Masses; however we have specific Children's Liturgies on Sundays. Please ask one of the Welcomers for details of the times at your Church.

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### **St Swithun Wells Parish Acknowledges with thanks**

Last week's collections: TBC; SO/SD for Dec'18: TBC

### **CAFOD - Gifts in Wills**

You might be surprised to learn that gifts in wills raised £9 million last year - enough to pay for a third of our international work.

To find out more about leaving a gift to CAFOD in your will and our free will-writing service please see the leaflets available in our churches, or call Hannah on 020 7095 5367.

### **Bishop Philip's FREE weekly e-Newsletter**

Keep in touch with the latest news and forthcoming events around the diocese. Visit [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews) to sign up.

### **Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath Street Pastors - Request for support**

Our dedicated Prayer Pastors meet every Friday from 7.45-10pm to support our teams as they go out on patrol, however we desperately need more. We also need more Street Pastor volunteers.

For more information on how to be involved and what this would entail please email Liz Richardson on [fair oak@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:fair oak@streetpastors.org.uk).

### **St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak - CAFOD Water Project Update.**

We have raised **£750** for our Christmas CAFOD Water Project (from a combination of Christmas card donations, Fair trade hamper raffle, and coffee money). Truly amazing! Thank you to everyone who supported us.

**Trisha Holmes**

### **Thank you so much for your generous contributions to Elderfield for Christmas 2018.**

A total of **£465** was raised which enabled us to buy a good range of gifts. We were able to give the following to each resident: a hat, socks and gloves, a towel and flannel, toiletries and chocolate. These were wrapped individually and packed with a personal card, Christmas cake and a cracker. These gifts certainly helped the residents to enjoy Christmas and in many cases were the only ones they received.

**Thanks to all at St Edward's** who supported World Gifts. Enough money was raised to purchase 6 llamas and some chickens.

### **Thank you from the Parish Office**

Linda and Sarah would like to offer their thanks for all the lovely Christmas greetings and edible goodies. It is much appreciated!



# Mass Times for our Six Church Communities & Parish Contact Information

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
<b>Sat 5th Jan Vigil Masses</b>	5.00pm	SSW	
	6.00pm	St J	Sr Anselm
	6.00pm	OLQA	
	6.30pm	St Ed	Eva Ann Sandhu RIP
<b>Sun 6th The Epiphany of the Lord</b>	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	Albert James Boaden FM
	9.00am	St A	Harry Roydon RIP
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	St J	Mary Costigan
	11.00am	HC	Deceased Members of the Sweeney Family RIP
<b>Mon 7th</b>	10.00am	St Ed	Mrs Edward Christian FM
<b>Tues 8th</b>	9.30am	HC	Arthur Mason FM
	<u>10.00am</u>	<u>St A</u>	<u>No Mass</u>
	10.00am	OLQA	
	<u>11.00am</u>	<u>St Ed</u>	<u>Funeral Service: Brenda Mills RIP</u>
<b>Wed 9th</b>	9.30am	HC	Kate Mason FM
	10.00am	St Ed	In Thanksgiving for all those involved in the Parish Christmas Party
<b>Thurs 10th</b>	9.30am	HC	Michael Lane FM
	10.00am	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St J	
<b>Fri 11th</b>	10.00am	St Ed	Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP
	10.00am	St J: AH	
<b>Sat 12th *Vigil Masses</b>	9.30am	HC	FOSS (Friends of Suffering Souls) RIP
	5.00pm*	SSW	Terry Rogers (Sick)
	6.00pm*	St J	Muriel
	6.00pm*	OLQA	
	6.30pm*	St Ed	Molly Oag RIP
<b>Sun 13th The Baptism of the Lord</b>	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	Consecration Thanksgiving
	9.00am	St A	Sheila & George Marshall RIP
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	St J	Sr Maureen
	11.00am	HC	Margaret Egan RIP

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

**Tuesday:** HC - Adoration **restarts 1st Tues in Feb** 10am-1pm  
**Thursday:** St ED Holy Hour (7-8pm) **restarts on 10th Jan 2019**  
**Thursday:** St J from Noon-6pm, Rosary and Benediction at 5.30pm (before Mass at 6pm)

**ROSARY AND PRAYERS**

**St Edward's** 9.30am, Wednesday - The Holy Rosary  
**St Joseph's** 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

**Clergy**

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

**Father Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)**  
Tel: 023 8061 2430; Email: lspeziale@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Fr Wojciech Paszko (Assistant Priest)**  
Tel: 01794 522884; Email: wpaszko@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Canon Alan Griffiths (Assistant Priest)**  
Tel: 07760220346; Email: frgriffiths@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Deacon Bob Birtles**  
Tel: 023 8069 2416; Email: bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Deacon John di Meo**  
Tel: 01794 515688; Email: jdimeo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Deacon Paul Owen**  
Tel: 023 80254806; Email: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Deacon Paul Wilson**  
Tel: 02380 616618; Email: pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Parish Office**  
Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh SO50 9DF  
Tel: 02380 273882  
Office Hours: Monday–Wednesday 9.30am–5pm;  
Thursday & Friday 9.30am–2.30pm

**Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance**  
**Admin: Linda Roberts**  
lroberts@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Parish Secretary: Sarah Goodfellow**  
stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Website**  
**Webmaster:** website.sswp@gmail.com

## CHURCH ADDRESSES

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 Church, 53, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF  
SSW St Swithun Wells Church, 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

## CATHOLIC 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.