

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 C  
Weekday Cycle: Year 1  
Psalter Week: 4

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Rorate caeli desuper!* You heavens, let fall your dewdrops from above! These words from Isaiah give us the Entrance Antiphon for this Sunday's Mass. The text then calls on the earth to bring forth the Saviour. Heaven showers down, earth brings forth; earth and heaven become one. Christ, Son of Heaven, is made Incarnate as Son of Earth, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh.

Christmas is about so much more than a baby in a manger, shepherds and all the other cast members of the School nativity play. The beautiful account woven by Saint Luke of the Annunciation and Nativity of Jesus is replete with a deeper message. *He shall be great and shall be called Son of the Most High*, says Gabriel, the heavenly messenger, to Mary. *Glory to God and peace to people of his goodwill*, sing the Angels to the Shepherds.

St. Luke also hints at darker depths. *There was no room for them at the inn*, he writes. There was no room either for Jesus in Jerusalem as he carried his Cross, expelled from the City to die on its rubbish tip. It's not the wood of the manger that saves mankind. It is the wood of the Cross. That's what Christmas means.

The Scripture readings for the Mass of Christmas day are often ignored in practice and that is a real loss. The Gospel is the great poem of the Incarnation from Saint John. *In the beginning was the Word ... and the Word was made Flesh ... and we saw his glory ..* The Epistle is the opening of the Letter to the Hebrews: *God ... spoke to our ancestors through Prophets. Now in these last days he has spoken to us through his Son.*

Christmas asks us to look beyond the newborn in the stable. The wonder of his holy Birth foreshadows a greater wonder, the Paschal Mystery of his Death and Resurrection. The Birth of the Saviour is the birthday of our salvation. One of the Christmas prefaces says: *When our frailty is assumed by your Word, not only does human mortality receive unending honour, but by this wondrous union we too are made eternal.* Christmas is a real 'Wow!' moment.

Charles Wesley's Christmas hymn 'Hark! The herald Angels sing!' has a final verse that doesn't usually get into our hymn books. Wesley echoes much Patristic preaching when he writes:

*Come, Desire of Nations, come,  
Fix in us thy humble home;  
Rise, the Woman's conquering seed,  
Bruise in us the serpent's head.*

*Now display thy saving power,  
Ruined nature now restore,  
Now in mystic union join  
Thine to ours and ours to thine.*

Canon Alan

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

**23rd December 2018:**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

**Psalm Response:** God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

**30th December 2018:**

**Entrance Antiphon:** The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

**Psalm Response:** They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

### Upcoming Readings

**Sunday 30th December 2018**

***The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph***

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

1st reading: Samuel 1:20-22. 24-28

Psalm: 83

2nd reading: 1 John 3:1-2. 21-24

**Sunday 6th January 2019**

***The Epiphany of the Lord***

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

1st reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm: 71

2nd reading: Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6

### Parish Groups

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

The GIFT Group is now on holiday and will reconvene on Tuesday 8th January with the topic of 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

St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak, 7.30-9pm. There will be no Fellowship meetings for the rest of the year. Meetings will commence on Wednesday 9th January 2019.

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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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#### Children's Liturgy at OLQA, Bishops Waltham

On Sunday 23rd December - Children's Liturgy is held during the 9.30am Mass - all are very welcome.

**Joanna** ([joannasomerville1@hotmail.com](mailto:joannasomerville1@hotmail.com)).

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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.

### December Parish Events

#### SWAG Performance: The Magi are in a Muddle

**Sunday 23rd Dec, 7.30pm 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.

### Parish Office Closure

The office will be closed from Tues 25th December and re-opens on Wed 2nd January 2019.

There will be no Parish Newsletter produced for the weekend of 29th/30th December.

### 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.

### Offerings & Second Collections

#### Christmas Offerings

As you know, on each Sunday of the year, your Offering (whether placed in the collection, or paid through your bank account) is used for the running of the parish and all its activities. However, by tradition at Christmas and Easter these Offerings are for the personal use of the priests and form a major part of their annual income. As priests we do appreciate your generosity. *Fr Raffaele*



## Messages

### Intercessions for Vocations – Dec 2018/January 2019

#### **Fourth Sunday of Advent -- December 23, 2018**

God chose to become man to lead us in a path of righteousness, is God calling you to grow in holiness? He may be inviting you to the priesthood, diaconate or consecrated life.

#### **Christmas -- December 25, 2018**

“He gave power to become children of God.” If you think you may be called to share the Father’s love as a priest, deacon, religious sister or brother.

#### **Feast of the Holy Family -- December 30, 2018**

Are you called to serve the family of the Lord and share the Father’s love as a priest, deacon, sister or brother?

#### **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God -- January 1, 2019**

“God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts.” Do you feel the Spirit of Jesus prompting you to love and serve Him as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life?

To explore these further, please contact Fr. John Cooke - [vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or call 01329 318869.

### Members of Romsey United Reformed Church

invite us to join their Carols by Candlelight Service on Sunday 23rd December in their church at 6.30pm.

### Car parking at St Edward’s for Christmas Eve

**Mass and Christmas Day Mass** - please note there will be overflow parking available at Thornden School for these Masses.

### Prayer Link

A new Prayer Link is available in all of our Churches. **Marion** (02380 692416) [marionbirtles@gmail.com](mailto:marionbirtles@gmail.com)

**Holy Cross Christmas Hampers** - Thank you to all the people who donated food for our hampers and all who bought raffle tickets. We are now able to send **£200** to CAFOD.

**St Swithun Wells Raffle** for the Fairtrade Hamper was won by Dennis Bensiek who kindly donated it to Eastleigh Basics Bank. The box of Fairtrade chocolates was won by Mrs Joan Leith. The Raffle raised **£229** towards SSW church CAFOD Water Project.

### 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: £1,361.59;  
SO/SD for Nov ‘18: £13,068.59

## 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.

### 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).

### 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.

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**Tuesday** HC Adoration **restarts 1st Tues in February** 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** 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

**Father Raffaele Cossa (Priest in Charge)**  
Tel: 023 8061 2430  
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**Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance**  
**Admin:** Linda Roberts  
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**Parish Secretary:** Sarah Goodfellow  
[stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

## Mass Times for our Six Church Communities

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
<b>Sat 22nd Dec Vigil Masses</b>	5.00pm	St Sw		<b>Sun 30th Dec The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph</b>	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	6.00pm	St J	Joan Seddon		9.00am	St Ed	Joseph & Mahima Anthraper (Thanksgiving)
	6.00pm	OLQA			9.00am	St A	
	6.30pm	St Ed	Mrs Hewitt RIP		9.30am	OLQA	
					11.00am	St J	Robert Twigg RIP
					11.00am	HC	Mrs Nessie Mason (O'Boyle & Reynolds Families)
<b>Sun 23rd Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>	<b>Mon 31st Dec</b>	10.00am	St Ed	George, Gertrude & Mary Lawton RIP Anniversary
	9.00am	St Ed	Holy Souls in Purgatory				
	9.00am	St A					
	9.30am	OLQA					
	11.00am	St J	Norma Simmons				
	11.00am	HC	Elizabeth Esther Levey FM				
<b>Mon 24th Dec The Nativity of the Lord</b>	10.00am	St Ed		<b>Tues 1st Jan</b>	9.30am	HC	Canon John Doran FM
	6.00pm	SSW			10.00am	OLQA	
	6.00pm	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>				
	6.00pm	OLQA					
	7.00pm	St A					
	9.00pm	St Ed	(N.B. Carols from 8.30pm)				
	11.00pm	St J	General Council of Daughters of Wisdom (N.B. Carols from 10.30pm)				
	Midnight	HC	(N.B. Carols from 11.30pm)				
<b>Tues 25th Dec Christmas Day</b>	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>	<b>Wed 2nd Jan</b>	9.30am	HC	Gualtero Family FM
	9.00am	St Ed	Mrs Edward Christian FM		10.00am	St Ed	Ann Sandhu RIP
	9.00am	St A					
	9.30am	OLQA					
	10.30am	St J	Sr Margaret				
	11.00am	HC					
<b>Wed 26th Dec Boxing Day</b>	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>	<b>Thurs 3rd Jan</b>	9.30am	HC	Emily Ray RIP (Birthday Anniversary)
	10.00am	St Ed	Mrs Edward Christian FM		10.00am	OLQA	
	11.00am	HC			6.00pm	St J	
<b>Thurs 27th Dec</b>	9.30am	HC	Margarita, Cedric & Charles Harris FM	<b>Friday 4th Jan</b>	10.00am	St Ed	Keith Small RIP
	10.00am	OLQA			10.00am	St J: AH	
	2.00pm	St Ed	<b>Funeral Mass: Mary Oag RIP</b>				
<b>Friday 28th Dec</b>	10.00am	St Ed	Eric & Roslyn Lasker and Family (RIP Anniversary)	<b>Sat 5th Jan</b>	9.30am	HC	Smyth Family FM
	10.00am	St J: AH			5.00pm*	SSW	
<b>Sat 29th Dec *Vigil Masses</b>	9.30am	HC			6.00pm*	St J	Sr Anselm
	5.00pm*	St Sw	Jozef and Jadwiga Michalak RIP		6.00pm*	OLQA	
	6.00pm*	St J	Sr Marie Bernadette	6.30pm*	St Ed	Eva Ann Sandhu RIP	
	6.00pm*	OLQA		<b>Sun 6th Jan The Epiphany of the Lord</b>	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
6.30pm*	St Ed	Ann Sandhu RIP	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	