



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ
2nd MAY 2021: FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE ART OF PRUNING

On Sundays and weekdays during the time of Easter we have been reading many parts of St John's gospel, especially those parts which are related to Jesus Christ risen from the dead. We have listened to the gospels proclaiming Jesus as the bread of life, as the good shepherd and as the light of the world. Today we hear that Jesus is the true vine, the Father is the vinedresser and we are the branches that need to be pruned in order to bear more fruit.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more" (Gv 15, 1-2).

A vinedresser expects a lot from the pruning; he knows it can bear fruit; he has confidence in it. He knows that if it is not pruned, the strength of the vine is wasted; it will bear perhaps more bunches than it should, with the consequence that not all will ripen and that the quality of the wine will be lower. If it remains a long time without being pruned, the vine can even become wild, producing only wild grapes.

God the Father, as a wise vinedresser, does the same with us. He sometimes intervenes in our lives by pruning us, taking away something and removing what is not essential. It is a process that might hurt us at the start, but that is necessary for our spiritual growth. God does not proceed in this way because he is irritated with us, on the contrary, He knows that we need some pruning in order to grow in holiness.

We have seen this act of pruning over the last year. The Coronavirus pandemic has been something negative, which has resulted in many people facing difficult hardships. At the same time, it is true that God used it to prune our lives. Many activities, routines and habits we were used to, have suddenly been removed from us, and for many people this has resulted in a process of spiritual growth. I have heard people say that this year's Holy Week has been more prayerful and reverent. The restricted circumstances helped people to be more focused on the essential. People have said that they have learned the value of silence and simplicity during our celebrations. Other people have spoken about their family and friends, saying that they have learned not to take for granted all those around them.

Through this pandemic we have been pruned and transformed, hopefully for the better.

Leonardo da Vinci defined sculpture as "the art of removing". The other arts consist of adding something: colour in painting, stones in architecture, notes in music. Only sculpture is based on removing, of taking away the pieces of marble that are in excess, so that the figure we have in mind can emerge. Spiritual growth is sometimes obtained in the same way. By pruning us and removing something God helps us to become better people.

Fr Raffaele

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "Offer It Up" a short video by Fr James Brent, you can find this on our homepage. If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact website.sswp@gmail.com

Newsletter items should be received into the Parish Office by **Wednesday 9:30am**

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 2nd May 2021: Year B - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 1

PSALM RESPONSE: YOU, LORD, ARE MY PRAISE IN THE GREAT ASSEMBLY.

READINGS:

1st reading: Acts 9:26-31 **Psalms:** 21 **2nd reading:** A reading from the 1st Letter of St John 3:18-24 **Gospel:** John 15:1-8

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 9TH MAY:

1st reading: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 **Psalms:** 97 **2nd reading:** A reading from the 1st Letter of St John 4:7-10

Gospel: John 15:9-17

PARISH GROUPS



Stars of Abraham (school years 3, 4, 5 & 6)

Meet in person:

Tues, 4.00pm-5.30pm in St Edward's Cloister;

Tues, 4.15pm-5.45pm in St Andrew;

Sat, 10.30am-Noon in Holy Cross Resource Centre.

To join and for more info please click the Stars of Abraham Icon on our homepage.

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9)

Meet in person on Saturdays in the Holy Cross Resource Centre, 2-4pm. To join and for more info please click the Grail Seekers Icon on our homepage.

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

Meet in person on Friday evenings at 6.30pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre. If you would like to attend please book your place on our website by clicking the Student Youth Icon on our homepage.

Communion & Liberation Groups

Fr Luca's Group meet every Wednesday, for more information please click the link on the homepage of our website.

Fr Raffaele's Group meet every Thursday at 8pm in St Edward's cloister.

Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

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 or alternatively please speak to a priest.

Fellowship Group - Starting on Wednesday 5th May,

7.30pm we begin a 4 week bible study on Jonah who has a lot to teach us about our relationship with God and others, even if we struggle with that 'fish'. *Week 1: The Call to Action.* If you would like to join us please contact Deacon Bob Birtles for the Zoom link: bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Recommended Reading

Two suggested books for the next few months are:

***Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley**

Is one of the most influential novels of the nineteenth century and is quite relevant today. What is the role of science and the scientific community? Does mankind have the right to manipulate nature? Have today's scientists developed a moral system to match their speculative knowledge? The questions posed by Mary Shelley still need to be addressed in contemporary society. We are the creatures, not the Creator. This must always be kept in mind.

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley will be presented during the Cultural Friday on the 11th June.

***The Shadow of the Father* by Jan Dobraczyński**

Jan Dobraczyński tells the story of Saint Joseph's life in the form of a novel. He uses the evocative image of a shadow to define Joseph. In his relationship to Jesus, Joseph was the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father: he watched over him and protected him, never leaving him to go his own way. This book is an excellent way to live well this year dedicated to St Joseph.

Both books can be bought online, e.g. from Amazon.

MESSAGES



Cultural Friday - 14th May, 8pm on Zoom (link on our website)

In this year dedicated to St Joseph we want to reflect on the meaning of being a father. On this Cultural Friday three guests will tell us their experiences as fathers:

Bishop Philip will speak about being a spiritual father of our diocese.

David Walford, Chaplain of St George's College, will speak about being a spiritual father of many students.

Joseph Anthraper, one of our parishioners, will speak about being a Christian father of three children and one on the way.

We invite everyone to prepare for the meeting by reading Bishop Philip's 'Letter to Everyone', you can find this on our website.

Holy Cross Right of Way

Annually we have to bar access through our car park for 24 hours to prevent it becoming a public right of way.

The main Leigh road gate will be closed from 10.30am on Monday 3rd May and it will re-open at 11.30am on Tuesday 4th May. The barrier and pedestrian gate next to it will remain operational.

MESSAGES CONTINUED



Thank you

The laptop used to stream Mass unfortunately collapsed on the Monday of Holy Week which meant the priests had to urgently buy a new one! The Zoom Rosary Group heard about this predicament and kindly helped contribute towards covering some of expense of the replacement laptop. They collected £226, a massive thank you for your kind generosity!

Parish Office

Please note that the Parish Office is closed on Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May.

SCHOOL NOTICES



St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School

We currently have places for September in the Reception class and in other year groups.

We can offer:

- A Christian education open to all families
- High Standards
- Excellence in all that we do
- Very good behaviour

Please contact the school office for further information.

Tel: 02380 266210

Email: adminoffice@st-swithunwells.hants.sch.uk

Web: www.st-swithunwells.hants.sch.uk

LIVE STREAMED MASS, BOOKING SYSTEM & CONFESSION

Live Streamed Mass

All of the Masses from Holy Cross & the Sunday Mass at OLOA are live streamed. To join please go to our parish website www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk For details of all of our Public Masses please see the timetable on the back page of the newsletter.

To reserve a seat at Mass in St Joseph, Romsey

- **Saturday Vigil Mass 6.00pm**
To reserve a seat for the Saturday Mass please contact Teresa Rayment from Wed to Friday (Tel: 01794 513528 / teresarayment@tiscali.co.uk).
- **Sunday 11.00am**
To reserve a seat for the Sunday Mass please contact Joanna Russell from Wed through to Friday (Tel: 07917 802814 / joanna@silvasmiths.co.uk).

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday: St Edward's - after Mass (6.30-7.30pm)

Thursday: Holy Cross - 10.00-11.00am

Thursday: St Joseph's - before Mass (5.00-6.00pm)

CONFESSION

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesdays:	6.30am-7.30pm	St Edward
Tuesdays:	10.30am	St Andrew
Saturdays:	10.00am	OLOA
	10.00am-10.30am	Holy Cross
	5.30pm-6.00pm	St Joseph
Sundays:	8.30am-9.00am	St Andrew

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, 4.00pm-6.00pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church), Eastleigh
Fridays:	Fr Raffaele, 11.30am-12.30pm, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey
Saturdays:	Fr Marco, 9.30am-12.30pm, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: rcossa@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 (OLOA 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

Tel: 023 80254806; E: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Paul Wilson

Tel: 02380 616618; E: pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Office Address

Holy Cross Church
53 Leigh Road
Eastleigh
SO50 9DF
Telephone: 02380 273882

Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance

Admin: Linda Roberts

Works full day Mon to Wed (9.30am-5.30pm, office closed on Mon & Tues for an hour over lunch); half day Thursday working from home.

lroberts@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Sarah Goodfellow

Works Wed to Friday from 9.30am until 2.30pm
stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website Contact: website.sswp@gmail.com

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 1st May	9.30am 9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) OLQA St Swithun Wells St Joseph OLQA St Edward	Cristina & Alessandro (Special Intention - Wedding) The People of the Parish Patrick & Patricia Coughlan (Well-being) Molly Gibson RIP
Sunday 2nd May Fifth Sunday of Easter	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 10.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA (also Live Streamed) St Edward St Joseph Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Tom's Birthday Keith Small RIP Special Intention for Frances & Ruth Lucien Boucher RIP
Mon 3rd May <i>Ss Philip & James</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	Fraternity of St Charles Rosemary & Anthony Mitchell (40th Wedding Anniversary) Tyra & Tiana Fernandes (Birthday Intentions)
Tues 4th May <i>The English Martyrs</i>	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Margaret Martindale RIP (Anniversary) Mrs Edward Christian RIP FM
Wed 5th May	9.30am 10.00am 7.30pm	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) St Edward OLQA	Rammond RIP Beryl James RIP
Thurs 6th May	9.30am 12.00 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) OLQA St Joseph	Eva, Jonas & Restas Navickai RIP
Friday 7th May	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Joe Jackson RIP
Sat 8th May	9.30am 9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) OLQA St Swithun Wells St Joseph OLQA St Edward	Kathleen Mary Boaden FM
Sunday 9th May Sixth Sunday of Easter	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 10.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA (also Live Streamed) St Edward St Joseph Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Marchesi Family Intentions For the People of the Parish Eric & Roslyn Lasker & Family Allan Barltrop (Special Intention)

CHURCH ADDRESSES

Eastleigh & Fair Oak

Holy Cross Church
53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF

St Swithun Wells Church

Allington Lane, Fair Oak, SO50 7DB

Bishop's Waltham

Our Lady Queen of Apostles (OLQA) Church
Martin Street, Bishop's Waltham, SO32 1DN

Chandler's Ford

St Edward the Confessor Church
191-193, Winchester Rd, Chandler's Ford, SO53 2DU

North Baddesley & Romsey

St Andrew's Church
Fleming Avenue, North, Baddesley, SO52 9EP

St Joseph's Church

Abbey House Drive, Romsey, SO51 8YB