



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ **20th MARCH 2022: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

Instrument of God's Mercy

Last week Father Luca wrote in the newsletter about the courage to admit to our weaknesses in the Sacrament of Confession.

I would like to carry on speaking about this Sacrament, focusing on the human aspect of it. In particular, I think some of you may ask yourselves, "Why do I need a priest to have my sins forgiven? Is it not enough to confess my sins to God directly?"

I would like to highlight something which is very important. When a Catholic goes to Confession, they confess their sins to God. They tell God their sins but through the priest who is the instrument God has chosen. The priest acts in the person of Christ (1 Cor. 2:10, Jms. 5:14-15) and as his human representative (1 Cor. 5:17-21) to forgive sins in this "ministry of reconciliation."

There is a biblical foundation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Following his resurrection, Jesus appeared to the Twelve. At the evening of the day of Pentecost, after breathing upon them, he said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained" (Jn 20:22-23; see also Mt 18:18). So, Jesus gave the authority to the Apostles to forgive us our sins. This authority has been transmitted to the successors of the Apostles, the bishops and to their collaborators, the priests. When the priest gives you the absolution in Confession, it is Christ who absolve you. Christ is using the human instrument of the priest to reach you with his mercy.

We can say that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is founded on the powerful revelation of God's love and mercy for his people throughout Scripture. God's delegation of his authority to the priest in Confession is a continuation of the way God uses both angels and men in Scripture as his mediators. More importantly He uses the humanity of Jesus Christ as a mediator. God decided to use human flesh to reach us. So, we need to pass through human flesh to experience the grace of God. This is the beauty of the Incarnation, as well as the seven Sacraments.

In my experience, this Sacrament in particular, is a continuous challenge. Even as a priest I have to go to another priest to confess, I cannot absolve myself. And there is a bit of embarrassment before Confession, because a lot of the time my sins are the same as the previous Confession. However, afterwards there is great joy of the forgiveness received.

I find it quite challenging being an instrument of God's mercy. Therefore, I pray to be a transparent instrument, to allow the grace of God to pass through me without obstacles.

To conclude, I would like to encourage you to go to Confession. It is really an uplifting and rewarding experience, which fills one's heart with joy.

Fr Marco

GEM OF THE WEEK

This week's GEM is Bishop Philip's Pastoral Letter, "A Massive Spiritual Campaign" - you can find this on our homepage. If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact website.sswp@gmail.com



LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 20th March 2022: Year C - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 3 (except Holy Cross where Year A readings will be used instead)

PSALM RESPONSE: THE LORD IS COMPASSION AND LOVE.

READINGS: 1st reading Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15 Psalm 102 2nd reading 1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12 Gospel Luke 13:1-9

Sunday 27th March 2022: Year C - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 4 (except Holy Cross where Year A readings will be used instead)

READINGS: 1st reading Joshua 5:9a,10-12 Psalm 33 2nd reading 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 Gospel Luke 15:1-3,11-32

PARISH GROUPS



Youth Groups

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

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9)

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

These groups meet regularly in person. Stars of Abraham also prepares the children for First Holy Communion usually in school year 3. Grail Seekers also prepares the children for Confirmation usually in school year 9. For more details and how to join please go to the parish website www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community in Holy Cross meets every Wednesday, for more information please click the link on the homepage of our website. All are welcome!

School of Community in St Edward meets every Thursday at 8pm in St Edward's cloister. All are welcome!

Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

Meeting on Wednesdays, 8pm in St Edward. 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 - Wednesdays at 7.30pm in St Swithun Wells Church. This Lent we are following another John Birch course entitled 'Becoming Church', a 5 part study on Life in the early church as brought to us by Luke in the Acts of the Apostles. Join us for all of the studies or just the ones you can manage.

Week 3 - 23rd March: God's Power At Work

If you cannot join us in person, you can join us on Zoom. Please contact Peter Baggott peterbaggott@aol.com for the link.

Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) Group

Tuesdays 10.15am to approx. 11.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. On Tuesday 22nd March Deacon Bob Birtles will give a talk about 'How God Communicates With Us' - All are welcome!

The Little Flowers Baby & Toddler Group

Wednesdays at 10am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. The group is for 0-4 years and their families. More information is on the website or you can email: littleflowers.sswp@gmail.com

Knitting Club

Meets third Tuesday of the month, from 2pm-4pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. If you would like to join us for a knit and cup of tea please come along, all levels of knitting ability welcome!

Afternoon Club - St Joseph's Parish Centre (26 Abbey Water), normally 2pm on the first Tuesday in the month except in April when we will meet on Wednesday 6th April instead. Come and join us for tea, games and good fun. For more information please phone Elizabeth Gare on 01794 515265. All are welcome!

Ark of Fellowship - Group for learning disabilities or learning difficulties, their families and friends

Thursdays at 6.30pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. If you would be interested in volunteering to help run the group or you know some young adults who would like to join the group, please contact Fr Luca at: arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com

MESSAGES



Stations of the Cross During Lent (not Holy Week)

St Andrew: Tues at 9.30am (before Mass);

St Swithun Wells: Tues at 10am;

OLQA: Weds after 9.30am Mass & Fridays at 7pm;

Holy Cross: Thursdays at 9am (before Mass);

St Joseph: Fridays at 9.30am (before Mass);

St Edward: Fridays at 6.15pm (Mass at 7pm just in Lent). Friday 25th March will be led by Grail Seekers & Student Youth.

OLQA During Lent

Lent Discussion Groups Wednesdays at 7pm.

Holy Rosary: 5.30pm before the Saturday Vigil Mass.

St Edward's Lenten Soup Suppers for CAFOD

Soup suppers take place every Friday during Lent following Stations of the Cross at 6.15pm and Mass at 7pm, except Friday 18th March when there will be a lunch instead. Cost £5. All proceeds will go to the CAFOD Ukraine appeal.

Cultural Friday

18th March, 8pm at St Edward's

We will be listening to some classical music, extracts from the orchestral work of Joseph Haydn, "The Seven Last Words of Christ". There will also be a talk and explanation about this piece of music. Cheese, wine and nibbles available from 7.30pm, suggested donation of £1. All are welcome!

Second Collection next weekend 26th/27th March

Clergy Assistance Fund

Parish Get2Gether

Sunday 3rd April, 1pm-4pm

Pavillion on the Park, 1 Kingfisher Road, SO50 9LH
An event for all of the parish. We begin at 1pm, sharing a meal together. No cost, however we kindly ask you to give a donation to cover the hire of the Pavillion. Please bring some food, beverages or cakes to share with others. Please can you bring your own cups/plates/cutlery. To book your place please go to our parish website and click the link.

Baptisms and Reception of Adults

Please pray for Kit Webber and James Daas who are to be baptised and for Stuart Kester who is to be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil.

Parishioner Walking Against Hunger

Margaret Birtwistle has started to walk at least 5km daily for the 40 days of Lent. This is in aid of the CAFOD Walk-Against-Hunger appeal. Please encourage her to continue by giving a donation to: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/walk-against-hunger3212>

Any donation helps CAFOD feed the many starving people in this unequal world. Thank you.

CAFOD Ukraine Appeal

Like you, CAFOD is deeply disturbed by the ongoing attacks on Ukraine. Together, we stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian people and send our prayers to our sister organisation Caritas Ukraine, and those Caritas agencies in neighbouring countries, who are already helping people affected by this conflict. If you would like to read more about this work and donate to the Ukraine appeal please go to: <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news/Ukraine-crisis>

Ukraine Appeal

We are supporting the Polish Social Club in Southampton who are collecting for Ukrainian Refugees. They recently amended their donations list.

As of 16th March they are now collecting:
Sleeping Bags, Folding Camping Beds, Head Torches, Tinned Meats & Fish, Baby Food & Milk, Instant Food, Protein Bars, First Aid Kits, Non-Applicator Tampons, Baby & Adult Painkillers, Supplements and Vitamins.

The following items are NOT needed at this time:
No bedding/towels/blankets/hats/socks/clothes.

MESSAGES CONTINUED



For the latest list please visit their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/PolskiKlubSouthampton>

If you would like to donate any of the above please drop them off at Holy Cross Church in Eastleigh during office hours: Mondays to Thursdays 9.30am-5.30pm & Fridays 9.30am-2.30pm, also on Saturdays and Sundays 9.30am to 12 Noon. Alternatively, if you would prefer to take your own donation, the Polish Social Club have a new collection point at the former ToysRUs building in Southampton City Centre. Please check their Facebook page/posts for details of drop off times as they are only open on certain days at certain times.

Coffee Stop

There will be **no Coffee Stop on Thursday 31st March** as many of us will be attending Jackie Higgins funeral at 11am. Jackie was a supporter of Coffee Stop for many years, may she rest in peace. **We will reopen on 7th April, 10am-11.30am.**

COVID Measures in our Churches

As there is no legal requirement to wear masks, the use of masks in our churches is now a personal choice. Hand sanitisers will still be available. Holy Water will be available from next week and the Sign Of Peace can also resume.

Volunteer Required to Help in the Parish Office on Friday mornings

A volunteering opportunity has arisen in the Parish Office in Eastleigh for a Friday morning each week to help with filing, shredding, database updates and answering the telephone/taking messages. Please send an email to stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk with your details, including any experience you may have and also why you would like to volunteer in this role.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday: St Edward's - after Mass (6.30pm-7.30pm)
Wednesday: Holy Cross - after Mass (10.00am-11.00am)
Thursday: St Joseph's - before Mass (5.00pm-6.00pm)

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, 4.30pm-6.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church), Eastleigh
Saturdays: Fr Marco, 9.30am-12.30pm, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey

CONFESSION

(SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Tuesday:	9.30am-10.00am	St Andrew
	6.30pm-7.30pm	St Edward
Saturday:	10.00am-10.30am	Holy Cross
	5.30pm-6.00pm	OLQA
	5.30pm-6.00pm	St Joseph
Sunday:	8.30am-9.00am	St Andrew
	9.00am-9.30am	OLQA

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 19th March <i>Morning Mass: St Joseph</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	The People of the Parish Judith Van Willigenburg (In Thanksgiving for a successful recovery after a serious illness)
Sunday 20th March <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA (also live streamed) Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Patricia Bradley RIP FM Zaki Hanna Hayek RIP 14th Anniversary Robert Benedict Harris RIP
Monday 21st Mar	9.30am	Holy Cross (also live streamed)	Phyllis Altman RIP Anniversary Fr Michael Peters (Special Intention)
Tuesday 22nd March	10.00am <u>12 Noon</u> 6.00pm	St Andrew <u>St Edward</u> St Edward	Margaret Sides RIP <u>Funeral Mass: Catherine Calcott RIP</u> Gwen & Maurice Joyce RIP
Wed 23rd March	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am <u>12 Noon</u>	Holy Cross (also live streamed) OLQA St Edward <u>Holy Cross</u>	Jackie Higgins RIP Layzell Family Intentions <u>Funeral Service: Francis Gault Reid RIP</u>
Thursday 24th March	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross (also live streamed) OLQA St Joseph	Ludwick Kolacz & Deceased Members of the Killick Family RIP Special Intention for Dian
Friday 25th <i>Annunciation of the Lord</i>	9.30am 10.00am 7.00pm	OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Margaret Martindale RIP Oliver Shamkhani (Birthday Intention)
Saturday 26th March	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Grace Moore RIP FM Alan Jones RIP 3rd Anniversary Sr Marie Bernadette RIP The People of the Parish
Sunday 27th March <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA (also live streamed) Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Mary McCormack RIP Gladly Curmi RIP Anniversary Janice Hamlin (Special Intention)

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

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