



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

24th MARCH 2024: PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

OUR KING COMES ON A DONKEY: PALM SUNDAY

There is a dignified simplicity about the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem. It is a strange turn of events which could so easily have become a farce. Think, for instance, what it would have been like for King Charles the Third to have attended his Coronation riding on a donkey! All the pomp and majesty taken away and the lone figure of King Charles riding along the way on a donkey. It would have been a comical sight. If King Herod or Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor, were making a triumphal entry into a city or town they would be accompanied by the pomp and circumstances of their days; troops, music, rich embroidered robes of State all signifying the importance of the person.

In the simple act of entering Jerusalem on a donkey Jesus immediately identifies with the common people. It speaks to them that he is on their side as their Saviour, their friend, their representative. The reaction of the people responds to this clear message and they rejoice at its significance. However, it seems to me, that there is also a deeper message. Jesus leads a procession to the Heavenly Jerusalem and he marches at the head of this procession and brings those who believe and rejoice in Him to that holy place and spiritual home. All that has gone before in His teaching and healing and preaching mitigates belief in Him as the Son of God. We, for our part, are now challenged to live that belief in imitation of His humility and sensitivity to the needs of those around us.

There would have been many in the crowd who did not acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God and we know that for many their expectation of an earthly ruler will be dashed. These people will be hurt and will want revenge on Jesus; we shall see the rich, powerful, and the religious leaders turn on Jesus and seek His destruction. Each of the characters of the Passion story as it unfolds during Holy Week will represent a particular aspect of human nature which prompts that turning away from Jesus; the refusal to acknowledge truth by Pontius Pilate, the injustice of the High Priest, the scepticism of the thief on the cross; the fear and denial of Peter. But there are also those who show great virtues; Mary and her stability, love and constancy towards her Son; Veronica who wipes the face of Jesus, the repentant thief, the centurion at the foot of the Cross. Might I suggest that you take one of the characters of the Passion Narrative from St Mark or from St John's Gospel and meditate upon their reaction to Jesus. The well known poem by GK Chesterton, *The Donkey*, is a good reminder that Jesus cares for the marginalised, the strange, and those with burdens.

1. When fishes flew and forests walked
And figs grew upon thorn,
Some moment when the moon was blood
Then surely I was born.

2. With monstrous head and sickening cry
And ears like errant wings,
The devil's walking parody
On all four-footed things.

3. The tattered outlaw of the earth,
Of ancient crooked will;
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,
I keep my secret still.

4. Fools! For I also had my hour;
One far fierce hour and sweet:
There was a shout about my ears,
And palms before my feet.

With this in mind, dear strange people of God, let us turn our hearts to the East and with Jesus enter Jerusalem.

Fr Bruce

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is Bishop Philip's Pastoral Letter: Regular Confession - you can find this on our homepage. If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact website.sswp@gmail.com

For the next Newsletter, items should be received into the parish office by **10am on Wednesday 27th March**, please email your messages/notices to: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

If you wish to make a donation to our parish please go to: <https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/financesdonations>

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 24th March 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 2

PSALM RESPONSE: MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?

1st reading Isaiah 50:4-7 Psalm 21 2nd reading Philippians 2:6-11 Gospel Mark 14:1-15:47

Sunday 31st March 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: Office Proper

PSALM RESPONSE: THIS DAY WAS MADE BY THE LORD: WE REJOICE AND ARE GLAD.

1st reading Apostles 10:34a,37-43 Psalm 117 2nd reading Colossians 3:1-4 Gospel John 20:1-9

PARISH GROUPS



Youth Groups (including First Holy Communion & Confirmation)

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

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9) &

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

Please check the parish website for the calendar of meetings, times and venues. To register for these groups please go to our website:

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

Growing In Faith Together Group

Tuesdays 10.15am to approx. 11.45am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. During Lent we will be showing the film 'Jesus of Nazareth' with Robert Powell in six parts. All are welcome!

Fellowship Group - St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. There will be no Fellowship Group meetings on Wed 27th March and 3rd April.

Meetings will resume on Wednesday 10th April at 7pm.

Afternoon Club - St. Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water, first Tuesday in the month at 2pm.

Come and join us for tea, games and good fun.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 2nd April.

Knitting Club - 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!

Please go to our website for details of more parish groups: Communion & Liberation, Prayer Groups, Little Flowers

MESSAGES



Penitential Services

A number of priests will be available during these times:

Friday 22nd March, 7.30pm at St Andrew

Saturday 23rd March, 11am at Holy Cross

Stations of the Cross During Holy Week:

St Swithun Wells: Tuesday at 10am with coffee available afterwards;

OLQA: Wednesday at 6.30pm

On Good Friday (29th March): There will be Stations of the Cross for families at St Edward and OLQA both starting at 10am. All are welcome.

Chrism Mass - Tuesday 26th March, 11am in Portsmouth Cathedral. Bishop Philip would like to invite you all to join him for this great celebration (for this reason there will be no Mass at St Andrew's on this day).

It is Possible to Live Like Jesus: An Introduction to the Holy Week - On Wednesday 27th March at 7.30pm in Holy Cross Church the CL communities of our parish are inviting you to spend an evening together to prepare for Holy Week, with the help of some classical music, poems, songs and scripture readings. The service will last about 90 minutes. If you intend to come please arrive on time in the church for a prompt start.

Rules for Good Friday - On Good Friday (29th March) Roman Catholics must fast and abstain from meat. Fasting means reducing considerably the amount of food we eat (e.g. having just one meal) and abstinence means abstaining from eating meat. The law of fasting applies to anyone aged 18-60. The law of abstinence applies to those who are over 14.

Hope at the Cross - Good Friday 29th March, 11am next to the Railway Man in Eastleigh with Churches Together in Eastleigh. Please see the poster on church noticeboards for more information.

Second Collections

This weekend (23rd/24th March): Easter Flowers

A collection will be taken for the beautiful flower arrangements that will be in all of our churches at Easter. Please do not use the yellow gift aid envelopes for this collection.

Pontifical Good Friday Collection (29th March) supports the Christian community in the Middle East. Please do not use the yellow gift aid envelopes for this collection. To donate online please go to: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/good-friday-collection-for-christians-in-the-holy-land>.

The Easter Sunday Collection traditionally supports our parish priests, in recognition for all their dedication, guidance and care they give across our parish. For your convenience there are several ways of making these offerings:

- Loose cash or cheques in the collection basket (please make cheques out to CDP St Swithun Wells with Easter offering on the back);
- If you are a tax payer and wish to gift aid your offering please use the yellow envelopes provided in the reception area of each church. Please ensure all relevant information is included so we can reclaim the gift aid on your behalf;
- Bank Transfer to the main parish account CDP St Swithun wells (Sort code: 30-93-04, A/c: 01786599 using ref: Easter);
- Please click the 'Clergy Easter Offering' link on our website (see green heart button on the homepage).

Easter Vigil - Baptism & Confirmation

Please pray for **James Daas, Ray Bowman, and Shane Mullen** who will be baptised; **Peter Ford** who will be received into the Church and **Aisaac Magtanong** and **Joshua Taylor** who with the others will be confirmed at the Easter Vigil at St Edward the Confessor Church on Holy Saturday 30th March.

Divine Mercy Sunday - 7th April, Holy Cross Church, starting at 2.45pm with procession of the Divine Mercy Image, 3pm prayers and Chaplet, Veneration of Divine Mercy Image and Blessing with a 1st Class Relic of St Faustina, Meditations and Litany and ending with Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament. Confessions will be available. Refreshments in the Resource Centre afterwards, all very welcome. Enquiries to Roz Monaghan on 07752 639593 or to Fr Raffaele.

Easter Camp 2024 (8th - 11th April)

School years 7 to 11 & Sixth Form
St Cassian's Centre, Wallington's Road, Kintbury, RG17 9SR

Cost: £150 for the eldest or only child, £100 for each additional child (siblings)

For more info & to book your space/your child's space please go to our website and complete the form as soon as possible. Part bursaries may be available on application. **Full payment by bank transfer must be received by Sunday 24th March** (account details are on the booking form on our website). For any enquiries please email either: grailseekers.sswp@gmail.com or studentyouth.sswp@gmail.com

Belong & Believe at OLOA - Exploring Celtic spirituality through CaFE (**C**atholic **F**aith **E**xploration) – as we watch an inspirational DVD taking us to the beautiful locations of the saints whose spreading of the gospel influenced our lands. We will explore and discuss what these seemingly ordinary men and women might teach us about living more lovingly and more creatively in our fragmented world of today. Wednesdays: refreshments from 7pm for a 7.30pm start - April 24th, May 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd. Please book your place via Sue Thomson on 07393 917202 sue.thomson.st@gmail.com

Fr David Whitehead RIP - we now have details of Fr David's Requiem Mass which will be on **Wednesday 27th March at 11am in The Immaculate Conception Church, Stubbington**. Fr David will then be taken to South Stoneham Cemetery, Mansbridge Road, Southampton for a burial service at 1.30pm. Following the Requiem Mass, there will be refreshments provided in the parish hall at Stubbington.

Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Ronnie Wichman** and for his family. **Ronnie's Funeral Service** takes place on **Tuesday 26th March** at Test Valley Crematorium.

Coffee Stop - There will be no Coffee Stop on **Thursday 28th March (Maundy Thursday)** and **Thursday 4th April**. Coffee Stop will resume on **Thursday 11th April** at 10am. Hope to see you all then.

Refurbishment of Holy Cross Resource Centre

It has been agreed, to use some of the funds we hold in parish reserves, to reconfigure and refurbish the Resource Centre at Holy Cross. The changes will include dividing the upper office and loft into three separate offices, upgrading the kitchen and toilets as well as renewing the floors, main door, rendering and plastering the walls and decorating throughout. The Resource Centre is our most popular community space, and we hope that internal parish groups, external groups and individuals hosting private functions will be encouraged to hire/use it more and more often. The refurbishment has been agreed by the Parish Finance Committee and is awaiting final approval by the Diocese as part of the St Swithun Wells Parish Mission.

Car Parking at St Edward's

For all regular users of St Edward's car park, we would like to let you know that we have entered into an agreement with the Nuffield Hospital on Winchester Road. It has been agreed that Monday to Friday, fifteen hospital staff will be able to park their cars from 7.30am-5.30pm in the car park at the front of the church. They will use the spaces around the perimeter of the car park church and there will still be disabled spaces available close to the church entrance. This will provide some much-needed additional income to support our parish. This arrangement will start the week beginning 1st April.

Parish Office Closures

Please note the office will close at 2.30pm on **Wed 27th & Thursday 28th March** (as Fiona is not in) and will be **closed on Good Friday, Easter Monday & Tuesday 2nd April**. On **Wed 3rd April & Thurs 4th April** the Office will close at 2.30pm and be **closed on Friday 5th April**.

British Summer Time - Clock Change

Please remember that the clocks **go forward by one hour** next weekend (30th/31st March).

CLERGY CONTACTS

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: rcossa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Luca Speciale (Assistant Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: lspeziale@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Mario Toma (Assistant Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: mtoma@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Bruce Barnes (Assistant Priest)

Tel: 01489 890947 (OLQA 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 8025 4806; E: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Matteo Pagani

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Paul Wilson

Tel: 023 8061 6618; E: pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Office

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

Opening Times: Mon-Thurs 9.30am-5.30pm; Fri 9.30am-2.30pm (see newsletter for changes).

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 23rd March	9.30am <u>11.00am</u> 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross <u>Holy Cross</u> St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Peter Crawford RIP <u>Penitential Service</u> Alan Stuart Jones RIP Sr Joseph (Wellbeing) Dr Teresa Layzell (In thanksgiving for 30yrs repository efforts)
Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA Holy Cross* St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Umberto Pugi RIP Anniversary Gladys Curmi RIP Anniversary Children of Palestine People of the Parish
Monday of Holy Week	9.30am	Holy Cross	Grace Moore RIP FM; Ursula & Allan Barltrop RIP
Tuesday of Holy Week	<u>10.00am</u> <u>11.00am</u> 6.00pm	<u>St Andrew</u> <u>Portsmouth</u> <u>Cathedral</u> St Edward	<u>No Mass</u> <u>Chrism Mass</u> Holy Souls RIP
Wednesday of Holy Week	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross OLQA St Edward	Mary Webber RIP FM Fr David Whitehead RIP
Maundy Thursday 28th March	<u>7.00pm</u> <u>7.30pm</u> <u>7.30pm</u>	<u>No Morning Mass</u> <u>St Andrew</u> <u>Holy Cross</u> <u>OLQA</u>	<i>All Masses followed by Watch before the Blessed Sacrament:</i> <u>Mass of the Lord's Supper</u> <u>Mass of the Lord's Supper</u> Mass Intention: Beatrice & George White; David, Laura & Eduardo Fernandes FM <u>Mass of the Lord's Supper</u>
Good Friday 29th March	<u>10.00am</u> <u>10.00am</u> <u>3.00pm</u> <u>3.00pm</u> <u>3.00pm</u> <u>5.00pm</u>	<u>St Edward</u> <u>OLQA</u> <u>OLQA</u> <u>St Edward</u> <u>St Andrew</u> <u>Holy Cross</u>	<u>Stations of the Cross for Families</u> <u>Stations of the Cross for Families</u> <u>Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion</u> <u>Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion</u> <u>Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion</u> <u>Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion</u>
Holy Saturday 30th March	<u>8.30pm</u> <u>8.30pm</u> <u>8.30pm</u> <u>9.00pm</u>	<u>OLQA</u> <u>St Edward</u> <u>St Joseph</u> <u>Holy Cross</u>	<u>Easter Vigil</u> <u>Easter Vigil</u> Mass Intention: Keith Small RIP <u>Easter Vigil</u> Mass Intention: People of the Parish <u>Polska Msza Święta EASTER VIGIL IN POLISH</u>
Easter Sunday 31st March	9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	St Edward St Andrew OLQA Holy Cross* St Joseph	Julia Jackson RIP FM Chris Hodson RIP Annina Neri RIP Anniversary John Crowther RIP Anniversary

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT During Holy Week

Tues: St Edward - after Mass (6.30pm-7.30pm)
Wednesday: Holy Cross - after Mass (10.00am-11.00am)

CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

During Holy Week

Tuesday: 6.30pm-7.30pm (after Mass) St Edward
There will also be the possibility of Confession after the Good Friday Services

* Mass Live Streamed please go to our website
www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

St Edward the Confessor Church
191-193, Winchester Rd, Chandlers Ford, SO53 2DU

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

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

St Swithun Wells Church
Allington Lane, Fair Oak SO50 7DB

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

St Joseph Church
Abbey House Drive, Romsey, SO51 8YB