



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ
11th FEBRUARY 2024: SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Love and Sacrifice

It might seem that Lent, the season preceding the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus, is a somewhat dark period: we give up things, we focus more on sacrifice and renunciation. Is that really all we can say about Lent? I don't think so. Let me share something with you. When I was 14, I founded a punk rock band with three of my classmates. We were deeply passionate about music, spending most afternoons writing songs and practicing. Being just a kid without much money of my own, aside from the occasional gift from relatives, I could only afford a fairly cheap electric guitar. Renting music practice rooms was also costly, but thankfully, Father Patrizio, a generous priest with a large parish centre, allowed us to use one of his rooms for free almost every week.

Within a couple of years, we became a fairly skilled band, and I realized I needed a new guitar and amplifier. However, they were expensive, costing around £1000. I wanted a Red Gibson Diavoleto and a Marshal Amplifier 4x12. When I asked my parents for help, their wise response was essentially, "You have to earn what you want." They suggested I spend the summer holidays working as a waiter in a hotel.

It turned out to be one of the most memorable summers of my life. I worked tirelessly, from 6am to 9pm, nearly every day. Yet, it didn't feel burdensome. I understood that everything I sacrificed was for love, for my passion. And when I finally bought my new guitar, it felt truly earned, truly *mine*. This simple experience taught me that genuine love always involves sacrifice. That if you want to call something "yours", you have to give up something for it.

During Lent, we frequently use the phrase "give up", yet we may overlook the question of "For whom?" Surrendering something gains significance when it's done out of love, for someone. Hence, Lent entails deepening our love for God by dedicating a part of our lives to Him. When we relinquish something to God, our connection with Him becomes increasingly personal, *ours* and less abstract. Sacrifice transforms love into a tangible reality.

Whatever you choose to give up this Lent, remember that you're doing it out of love, to draw closer to the One who loves you so deeply that He sacrificed everything to be near you.

Fr Luca

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "Message for Lent" by Pope Francis - 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 14th February**, 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 11th February 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 2

PSALM RESPONSE: YOU ARE MY REFUGE, O LORD; YOU FILL ME WITH THE JOY OF SALVATION.

1st reading Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46 Psalm 31 2nd reading 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 Gospel Mark 1:40-45

Sunday 18th February 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 1

PSALM RESPONSE: YOUR WAYS, LORD, ARE FAITHFULNESS AND LOVE FOR THOSE WHO KEEP YOUR COVENANT.

1st reading Genesis 9:8-15 Psalm 24 2nd reading 1 Peter: 3:18-22 Gospel Mark: 1:12-15

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)

For Grail Seekers & Student Youth we usually meet on Friday evenings in the Holy Cross Resource Centre at 6.30pm. 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. All are welcome!

Fellowship Group - St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. Please note there will be no Fellowship on 14th February as it is Ash Wednesday.

We are holding a Lenten Supper at 6.45pm every Wednesday during Lent followed by a Fellowship Lenten Study: 'God Has No Favourites' starting at

7.30pm. We will be following this ecumenical course exploring our relationships with God and each other. **Week 1: 21st February** - the theme is 'The Best Picture of God'. For the Zoom link contact Peter at peterbaggott@aol.com

Anyone is welcome to come along just to the Lenten Supper or just to the Lenten Study or to both. For more details about the Supper please see the main messages section of the newsletter.

Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community meet weekly:

Holy Cross every Wednesday at 8pm;

St Edward's every Thursday at 8pm.

For more information please click the link on the homepage of our website. All are welcome!

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!

Rules for Ash Wednesday & Lent

On Ash Wednesday (14th February) 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. Roman Catholics must also abstain from eating meat on all Fridays during Lent.

Additional Masses on Ash Wednesday

Please see the back page of the Newsletter for details of Ash Wednesday Masses across the Parish. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses on this day.

Rite of Election - Let us ask the Holy Spirit to guide all of our Catechumens and Candidates preparing to join the Church at Easter, especially those attending the Rite of Election on Saturday (17th February) at the Cathedral in Portsmouth.

Changes to Mass during Lent

The Friday Mass at OLOA will be celebrated at 10.30am (instead of 9.30am), followed by Stations of the Cross.

Lent Ecumenical Study Group will meet from 6.30pm -8pm in St Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water, Romsey, each Monday in Lent starting on 19th Feb. All are welcome. Please bring a bible if you can.

MESSAGES



Stations of the Cross During Lent

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

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

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

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

St Edward: Fridays at 9.30am (before Mass) beginning 23rd February

OLOA: Wednesdays at 6.30pm (beginning 21st Feb) & Fridays at 11am (after Mass).

Lent Talks at OLOA: After the Sunday 9.30am Mass, "Is Christianity a help or hindrance?"

Sunday 18th Feb: Is Christianity a help or hindrance in Psychiatry? By Dr John Sharpley, CBE

Sunday 25th Feb: Is Christianity a help or hindrance in the Armed Forces? By Captain Anthony McKewan RN (Retired)

Sunday 3rd March: Is Christianity a help or hindrance to Science? By Dr Alex Hamilton, PhD

Sunday 10th March: Is Christianity a help or hindrance to Enjoying your Life? By Fr Bruce Barnes

Sunday 17th March: Is Christianity a help or hindrance in Married Life? By Mrs Joan Ferrer, JP DL

Fr Raffaele's Book Recommendation

The Bridge of San Luis Rey by Thornton Wilder.

MESSAGES CONTINUED

Lent Parish Retreat

We will hold a Parish Retreat for Lent on **Sunday 25th February, 2.30pm-4.30pm** at St Edward. Open to everyone. There will be a talk about Lent, some time for private prayer in the church and a time for questions and sharing thoughts.

Lunches & Suppers being held across the Parish during Lent

St Swithun Wells, Fair Oak - at **6.45pm** on **Wednesdays**, the Fellowship Group will be hosting Lenten Suppers of soup, bread and cheese in aid of CAFOD. There will be a Lenten Study at 7.30pm on Wednesday evenings (see Fellowship notice in Parish Groups for more info), anyone is welcome to come to the Lenten supper or just the Lenten Study or to both.

St Edward's - Soup lunches will take place on **Fridays** during Lent from **12-1.30pm (starting 23rd February)** Donations greatly received, all proceeds will go to CAFOD.

Penitential Services - A number of priests will be available during these times:

Thursday 21st March, 7.30pm at OLQA

Friday 22nd March, 7.30pm at St Andrew

Saturday 23rd March, 11am at Holy Cross

Walk With Me Lent Booklets & Children's Lent

Calendars - From this weekend the Lent booklets will be available in our churches. The Calendar is free to children, however a suggested donation of £1 each for the 'Walk With Me' booklets would be most welcome.

Fr Raffaele's 50th Birthday Party

We are organizing a party to celebrate Fr Raffaele's 50th Birthday. It will be on **Monday 12th February 2024, 6pm** at **St Swithun Wells Primary School**. Please bring cake and snacks just enough for you and your family for the evening. We will provide coffee, tea and beverages. We also ask you to bring a donation for his present. Looking forward to seeing as many people as possible.

Cultural Friday - 23rd February, 7pm at St Edward's

We are delighted to be welcoming Dr Giles Mercer of the English Catholic History Association who is coming to give a talk on, "Why was St Thomas More executed?"

Cheese and wine from 7pm, talk starts at 7.30pm.

CL Diocesan Day

The CL (Communion and Liberation) group in the Parish invites you to join in a special CL day, to be held on **11th February at St Edward the Confessor Catholic**

CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Tuesday: 6.30pm-7.30pm (after Mass)	St Edward
Tuesday: 9.30am-10.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew
Saturday: 10.00am-10.30am (after Mass)	Holy Cross
10am or by appointment	OLQA
1.30pm-2.30pm	St Joseph
5.30pm-6.00pm	St Joseph
Sunday: 8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Edward
8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew

Church, 191-193 Winchester Rd, SO53 2DU. Please arrive at **12.30pm** for a bring and share lunch, at

2.30pm: Games and Songs

3.15pm: Witness and Conversation about Married life (children activities simultaneously)

4.30pm: Mass

Please bring some food to share. We will provide drinks, pudding and plates and cutlery. Please bring a donation for the venue. This is a great opportunity to invite any family or friends, **make sure you register** using the link you find on the "Next main parish events" section on our website, so that we know how many people are coming.

CAFOD Family Fast Day - Friday 23rd February

This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Give today online at cafod.org.uk or fill out a Family Fast Day envelope and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families.

Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Beppie Marsh and for her family. Beppie's Funeral Mass takes place in **St Joseph's on Monday 12th February at 4pm**.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Sylvia Cooper and for her family. Sylvia's Funeral Mass takes place in **OLQA on Thursday 15th February at 12 Noon**.

St Joseph's Church Keys - If anyone from St Joseph's has a church key that they no longer use, please could they speak to Samantha Harris after Mass or on 01794 503716.

Parish Office - please note that Fiona is taking a days holiday on **Thursday 15th February**, therefore the office will close on 2.30pm that day.

What does it mean to be Human? Medical Ethics and Social Care Today - Saturday 16th March

10am-4.15pm, The Arc, Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8SB. Tickets cost £20.

See poster on church noticeboards for more info.

SCHOOL NOTICES

St Swithun Wells Primary School OFSTED Report

To view the report please go to our parish website. The inspectors concluded that St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School continues to be a 'Good' school.

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Tuesdays: Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh

Wednesdays: Fr Luca, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh

Saturdays: Fr Mario, 2.30pm-4.30pm, Romsey Parish Office (26A Abbey Water)

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 10th February <i>Morning Mass: St Scholastica</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Doreen Townsend RIP Muriel Matthias (Wellbeing) Tom Connolly (Wellbeing)
Sunday 11th February <i>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Catherine & Thomas McVeigh RIP Jeanette Butcher RIP Anniversary People of the Parish Patrick Duffey RIP
Mon 12th Feb	9.30am 4.00pm	Holy Cross St Joseph	Fr Raffaele (Birthday Intentions) Funeral Mass: Beppie Marsh RIP
Tues 13th Feb	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Kathleen Ditte RIP & Deceased Family FM
Wed 14th Feb <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am 7.00pm 7.00pm 7.30pm	OLQA St Edward St Joseph St Andrew Holy Cross OLQA	Emmanuel Altman RIP (Sung Mass)
Thurs 15th Feb	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Geoff and Maru (Wellbeing) Funeral Mass: Sylvia Cooper RIP Sr Philomena (Wellbeing)
Fri 16th February	10.00am 10.00am 10.30am	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	Sr Paschal (Wellbeing)
Saturday 17th February	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Children of Palestine Sr Norbert (Wellbeing) Monica Hermolle RIP
Sunday 18th February <i>First Sunday of Lent</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Mark Herbich RIP People of the Parish Joya Elie Bassil RIP Winifred Harris RIP Anniversary

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: rcossa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)
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Fr Mario Toma (Assistant Priest)
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Fr Bruce Barnes (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 01489 890947 (OLQA Office)

Deacon Bob Birtles
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Deacon John di Meo
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Deacon Paul Owen
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Deacon Matteo Pagani
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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).

Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance Admin: Fiona Mooney
Email: accounts@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Sarah Goodfellow
Email: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Website Contact: website.sswp@gmail.com

Safeguarding: Please see Safeguarding posters in each of our churches for details of the Parish Safeguarding Reps. Diocesan Safeguarding: Ruth Attfield rattfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk