



*Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ*  
**29TH NOVEMBER 2020: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

HOPE – ANCHOR FOR THE SOUL

This weekend the Church begins a new liturgical year (Year B, the Year of Mark). Advent is a season of hope and expectation, of forward movement and long-term vision. I'm sure we are all longing for a new beginning after the sadness and suffering of 2020.

The past, the present and the future are all brought into focus in Advent. We look back to that period in history when there was expectation and longing for the Messiah, to be fulfilled at Christmas in the reality that God became Man for us. We ponder too the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time, another reality which informs our faith and action.

And so to the present: strange though it seems, it is often through trial and adversity that we can move forward with renewed hope and determination. In this time of Covid, we have seen innovation and breakthroughs in Science and Medicine; collaboration between and support for many people; and a profound and far-reaching adaptation of our normal routines. The message of Advent, while the same from year to year, has a special resonance with us right now.

When we read the First Letter of Peter (now there is an idea for this present time) we see the emphasis which is placed on 'the sure hope and the promise of an inheritance...' This is the hope that we are called to transmit to others. Peter confronts suffering and adversity head on, but he places it in the context of God's grace and eternal glory in Christ. In the words of the hymn: 'All my hope on God is founded; he doth still my trust renew. Me through change and chance he guideth, only good and only true.'

The themes of the season are neatly summarised in the Solemn Blessing for Advent in the Roman Missal: the First and Second Coming; Faith, Hope and Love; the Incarnation; and our Eternal Destiny. In addition, we remember the role that Mary plays in the great plan of salvation. In sadness and suffering but also in joy and hope, we draw nearer with Mary to the Son who has been revealed for us.

The word 'Advent' can be traced to two Latin verbs '*advenire*' and '*adventare*': to come towards, to approach or to draw near. These roots also give us the English words 'adventure' and 'adventitious'. In the wonderful world of plants there are such things as adventitious roots: these often arise not from the main root but from unexpected parts of the plant, often in response to flooding, damage or nutrient deficiency. Plants have a way of fighting back against adversity! This Advent we need ways of being 'adventitious', drawing on untapped resources, reaching out to those in need and being the messengers of hope.

Let us use this season prayerfully and wisely, to persevere in faith, move forward in hope and reach out in charity to those whose lives we can help to enhance and transform. May the Lord help us in our quest to be anchored in hope, as the psalmist prays: 'In God alone is my soul at rest, my help comes from Him. He alone is my rock, my stronghold, my fortress: I stand firm.'

*Deacon John*

## GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "About Civil Unions" a letter by Bishop Philip Egan - you can find this on our homepage. If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact [website.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:website.sswp@gmail.com)

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

## LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



**Sunday 29th November 2020:** Year B - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 1

**PSALM RESPONSE:** GOD OF HOSTS, BRING US BACK; LET YOUR FACE SHINE ON US AND WE SHALL BE SAVED.

**1<sup>st</sup> reading:** Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8 **Psalm:** 79 **2<sup>nd</sup> reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 **Gospel:** Mark 13:33-37

**READINGS FOR SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER (SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT):**

**1<sup>st</sup> reading:** Isaiah 40:1-5; 9-11 **Psalm:** 84 **2<sup>nd</sup> reading:** 2nd Letter of St Peter 3:8-14 **Gospel:** Mark 1:1-8

## PARISH GROUPS



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

**Meet weekly from 2nd December:**

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

Tues, 4.00pm-5.30pm in St Andrew;

Sat 10.30am-Noon in Holy Cross Resource Centre.

To join Stars of Abraham please click the link on our website.

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9) - our next meeting will be an 'XL' on 5th December. We will meet in person at 1pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre with a packed lunch. Please remember to bring food for the Poitier Care food bank. To join the group and for more information please click the Grail Seekers Icon on our homepage.

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form) meet weekly from 2nd December on a Friday evening at 6.30pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre. If you would like to attend please book your place on our website by clicking on the Student Youth Icon on our homepage.

### Communion & Liberation Group

(with Fr Luca) is meeting every Wednesday, for more information please click the link on the homepage of our website.

### Communion & Liberation Group

(with Fr Raffaele) is meeting from 2nd December every Thursday at 8pm in St Edward's cloister.

### Fellowship by Zoom

Advent Bible Study on the theme of Hope continues on Wednesday 2nd December at 7.30pm with Week 2 'Listen to the Witnesses'. If you would like to join the Zoom meeting please contact Bob and Marion Birtles for the link on: [bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

### Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

If you would like to be baptised, confirmed or received into the Catholic Church please speak to a priest or email Deacon Paul Owen at [powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

## MESSAGES



### Carols by Zoom!

**Sunday 13th December at 4.30pm**

As congregational singing is not allowed at the moment we have had an idea! We shall have our "Advent to Christmas Carol Service" on Zoom. As far as the Christmas Carols go, there will be piano/organ music, everybody will be 'muted' so you can sing along to the carols at home, on your own, or in your family or "bubble" or just listen to both the music and readings if you prefer! We shall send the Zoom link nearer the time - email Marion if you would like to join us, [marionbirtles@gmail.com](mailto:marionbirtles@gmail.com)

Paul Murray - the son of the late Tom and Rose Murray died on Friday 20th November at his home in Whitchurch. Paul served on the altar at St Edwards, Chandler's Ford from the mid 60's for approximately 10 years. He was a Fire fighter and he was part of the USAR team at Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service based in Eastleigh. He will be sadly missed by the family and sisters Sandy and Caroline.

### Mini Advent Retreat on Zoom

**Starting on Saturday 28th November.** Please go to <http://www.laybenedictines.org/ad> for details and timings of the event.

### CAFOD World Gifts

This Christmas why not buy gifts that will change lives and bring happiness! CAFOD's World Gifts are a range of virtual gifts that transform the lives of those living in poverty overseas. New gifts this year include Keep Clean £6 (soap and washing powder for a family) and Emergency Food £50 so please look online at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

Mary's Meals - Throughout this year of many challenges, thanks to our generous supporters Mary's Meals has continued to say yes to feeding desperately hungry children with a daily meal in a place of education. From now until 31st January 2021, donations made to our Double the Love campaign will be matched by the UK government up to £2 million. More information on how to support us can be found at [www.marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove)

# ONLINE MASS & PRIVATE PRAYER (Until 2nd December inclusive)



## During Lockdown there will be no Public Masses

Mass will be live streamed from Holy Cross Church  
Sundays at 10.00am

Mon to Sat at 9.30am

Please go to our website

<https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/> where you will be able to watch and join in Mass being celebrated live from Holy Cross Church.

**Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Bishop's Waltham**

You will be able to follow Fr Bruce celebrating Mass via Zoom on:

Thursdays at 12.00 Midday

Sundays at 9.30am

To connect via Zoom, the login details are

655.161 0661, password 016150.

Please remember when connecting via Zoom to mute your microphone at the start, otherwise it interferes with the audio from the Mass.

Times the Churches are open for Private Prayer until 2nd December inclusive (during those times a Priest will be available for Confession)

**St Edward the Confessor, Chandlers Ford:**

Sunday 11.00am-12.30pm

Tuesday 6.00pm-7.30pm

Wednesday 10.30am-12.00 Midday

**Holy Cross, Eastleigh:**

Saturday 10.00am-12.00 Midday

Sunday 11.00am-12.30pm

Wednesday 10.00am-12.00 Midday

**St Andrew, North Baddesley:**

Sunday 11.00am-12.30pm

Tuesday 10.30am-12.00 Midday

**St Joseph, Romsey:**

Saturday 5.30pm-7.00pm

Sunday 11.00am-12.30pm

**St Swithun Wells, Fair Oak:**

Saturday 5.00pm-6.00pm

## MASS (STREAMING & BOOKING SYSTEM) & CONFESSION (from 3rd December Public Worship will restart in our Churches)

### Live Streamed Mass

Mass at Holy Cross on Thursday, 9.30am and Sunday, 11am is streamed. To join please go to our parish website [www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](http://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

### To reserve a seat at Mass in St Joseph's & OLQA

**St Joseph's, Romsey:**

- Thursday 6.00pm (no booking required)
- Friday 10am (no booking required)
- Saturday Vigil Mass 6.00pm the church will close after Mass). To reserve a seat for the Mass please contact Teresa Rayment from Wednesday through to Friday (Tel: 01794 513528 / [teresarayment@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:teresarayment@tiscali.co.uk)).
- Sunday 11.00am (the church will close after Mass). To reserve a seat for the Mass please contact Joanna Russell from Wednesday through to Friday (Tel: 07917 802814/ [joanna@silvasmiths.co.uk](mailto:joanna@silvasmiths.co.uk)).

**Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Bishop's Waltham:**

- Thursday 12pm (Midday) & Sunday 9.30am (the church will close after Mass). To reserve a seat please email: [olqamassbook@gmail.com](mailto:olqamassbook@gmail.com)

Private Prayer - The following churches will remain open after Mass until 11.30am for private prayer (see back page for Mass times):

Tuesday: St Andrew's

Wednesday: St Edward's

Thursday: Holy Cross

### CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

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

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesdays: St Edward's - after Mass (6.30-7.30pm)  
Thursday: St Joseph's - before Mass (5.00-6.00pm)

### TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Wednesdays: Fr Luca, 4.30pm-6.30pm, Parish Office, Holy Cross, Eastleigh.  
Saturdays: Fr Marco, 9.30am-12.30pm, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water) Romsey

## MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 28th Nov	9.30am	Holy Cross - Live Stream	Roberto Consigli RIP The good estate of John Connolly Karl McGuirk (Sick)
Sun 29th Nov <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	9.30am 10.00am	OLQA - Via Zoom Holy Cross - Live Stream	Antonio Cicu FM The Deceased Relatives & Friends of the Bennett Family RIP Mrs Ann Sandhu RIP (2nd Anniversary)
Mon 30th Nov <i>St Andrew</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross - Live Stream	Kenneth Sweet FM Cardinal Thomas Winning RIP James Henry (Well-being)
Tues 1st Dec	9.30am	Holy Cross - Live Stream	In Memoriam FM Pauline Brosnan RIP Richard Edwin (Healing)
Wed 2nd Dec	9.30am	Holy Cross - Live Stream	Rita Small (Special Intention) Keith Small RIP Mamu Ratna RIP
Thurs 3rd Dec <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	9.30am 12.00pm 6.00pm	<u>CHURCHES REOPEN FOR</u> Holy Cross (Also Streamed) OLQA St Joseph	<u>PUBLIC WORSHIP</u> Well-being of Dennis Bensiek's Father
Fri 4th Dec	10.00am 10.00am	St Joseph (Church not AH) St Edward	Intentions of Rebecca Haughian Mary Uphill FM
Sat 5th Dec	9.30am 5.00pm* 6.00pm* 6.30pm*	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells St Joseph St Edward	Phil Talbot RIP (Birthday) Mason Moore RIP Herbert Howie RIP (Anniversary)
Sun 6th Dec <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 10.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA St Edward Holy Cross (Also Streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Mrs Edward Christian FM  Mahima Anthraper (Special Intention) Colleen Patricia Recardo RIP John & Beppie Marsh (Well-being)

### CLERGY

**Father Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)**  
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: rcosa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Father 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 (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 80254806; E: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Deacon Paul Wilson**  
Tel: 02380 616618; E: pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

### PARISH OFFICE

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

Office Hours:  
Monday-Wednesday: 9.30am-5.30pm (closed for an hour over lunchtime on Monday & Tuesday)  
Thursday-Friday: 9.30am-2.30pm

**Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance**  
**Admin: Linda Roberts** (works full day Mon-Wed, half day Thursday but working from home)  
lroberts@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Parish Secretary: Sarah Goodfellow** (works Wed-Fri from 9.30am-2.30pm)  
stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Website Contact:** website.sswp@gmail.com