



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

1st December 2019: **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

WAITING FOR GOD

This Sunday we begin the liturgical season of Advent. The word advent comes from the Latin "Adventus" and means arrival. But **who is coming?** And if in this season we are supposed to wait, **who we are waiting for?**

For us Christians, Advent is like a big and beautiful gate through which we pass to enter a shrine. This gate is flanked by two figures guarding it. They will tell us what kind of shrine we are entering and will ask us to purify our intentions. The two figures are very dissimilar, yet on some old pictures they are found on the right and on the left side of the Expected One.

One figure is a tall man, wearing clothes of camel hair, living on locusts and wild honey. He proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin. He wants to be nothing but a Voice.

The other figure is gentle and pure. Her body tells us she is expecting the One. Her words changed our lives forever: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord".

Both these two figures help us during Advent. We read their stories and we meditate their life during Mass. They are obviously John the Baptist and the Virgin Mary. **Both of them know who they are waiting for. They are waiting for no less than God.** They are waiting in the certainty that he is actually at the door.

The Virgin Mary knows what the angel told her: "The child to be born of you will be called holy, the Son of God, Son of the most High, and of his Kingdom there will be no end" (Lk 1:31). Unlike the Baptist, who is waiting for someone to appear with fire, with an axe and a winnowing fork, she is waiting for a little child.

Both are waiting for the Coming One. They have a different idea of him, but they have in common the same yearning, a longing that fills their whole being. They wait with such a profound and violent emotion that they do not know how they will be able to face up to the gigantic event that is about to take place.

These two figures are the help Advent gives us to refresh and invigorate our expectancy. We need to be open to the future, to something new. As Christians we know God is always coming and we can live in joy waiting for something God will give us.

Unfortunately John the Baptist and the Virgin Mary are not the only figures during Advent. Zechariah is there as well, with his negative attitude. Even if we don't know completely his thoughts, we know he was punished by the angel: "And now you will be silent and unable to speak until the day this comes to pass, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled at their proper time" (Lk 1:20). He was a man full of disappointment and frustration, a man who had given up hope. "Life has not been good to me", he thought without knowing the plan of God.

We are more like Zechariah in our daily lives. And that is why every year we have this amazing time of Advent to go back to childhood, to go back to expectancy.

Father Raffaele

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is an article on a speech made by Father Julian Carron entitled "Who can overcome solitude". You can find the link on our homepage.

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

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday Cycle: Year A - Weekday Cycle: Year 2 - Psalter Week: 1

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: TO YOU, I LIFT UP MY SOUL, O MY GOD. IN YOU, I HAVE TRUSTED; LET ME NOT BE PUT TO SHAME. NOR LET MY ENEMIES EXULT OVER ME; AND LET NONE WHO HOPE IN YOU BE PUT TO SHAME.

PSALM RESPONSE: I REJOICED WHEN I HEARD THEM SAY: "LET US GO TO GOD'S HOUSE."

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, 8TH DECEMBER 2019:

1st reading: Isaiah 11:1-10 - Psalm: 71 - 2nd reading: Romans 15:4-9 - Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

PARISH GROUPS



Growing in Faith Together (GIFT)

Tuesdays between 10.15-11.30am (after Mass) in Holy Cross Resource Centre.

Journey in Faith with the Bible: Wednesday evenings fortnightly between 7.30pm and 9pm at St Edward the Confessor Church, Chandlers Ford. All Welcome.

Dates until Christmas: 4th & 18th Dec.

Further details from Anne Owen on 02380 254806.

Fellowship Group - St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak, Wednesdays from 7.30pm-9pm

Luke's Gospel has a series of songs as part of his introduction to the story of Jesus. This Advent we will be exploring them in their actual context, leading up to the birth of Jesus.

4th December: Mary's Song, Magnificat;

11th Dec: The Angels' Song, Gloria in Excelsis Deo.

Tea & coffee will be served at the end.

CaFE - the next meetings will be held on:

Tues 10th Dec, St Andrew's at 7.30pm.

Mon 16th Dec, St Joseph's Parish Centre at 2pm;

Further details from Sheila on 01794 518071.

School of Community

The weekly catechesis of the catholic movement Communion and Liberation every Wednesday at 8pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre.

TOZ (for young people from school year 10) meet twice a month on Sunday. Next Meeting Date: 1st December, 7-9pm (with Dinner) in Holy Cross Resource Centre. Contact: toz.sswp@gmail.com or phone 07846 438224 (Cath Szymanski).

Oasis Women's Group - Tuesday 3rd

December: Preparing for Christmas: Making cards and cookies to give to local people in need. Please bring a small gift to donate to Women in Prison - suggestion is notebooks, word search, crossword or adult colouring books. All ladies warmly welcomed - See you there! 7:30pm, St Edward's Cloister, finish at 9pm. Future Dates: 14th Jan, 11th Feb, 10th Mar.

Afternoon Club - St. Joseph's Parish Centre (26 Abbey Water), first Tuesday in the month. Come and join us for tea, delicious scones/cakes, games and good fun. No qualifications required and you could win a prize in the free raffle! Next Meeting: 2pm on 3rd Dec.

CHANGES TO MASS & PARISH OFFICE OPENING



Advent & Christmas 2019

A separate sheet detailing Penitential Services and Mass times for all our Churches is available now.

Parish Office Closure During Christmas

The office will be closed from Midday Tuesday 24th December and re-opens on Thurs 2nd January 2020.

OFFERINGS & SECOND COLLECTIONS



St Swithun Wells Parish Acknowledges with thanks

Last week's collections: £1,604.74;
SO/DD for October '19: £12,952.59

Second Collection - next weekend

If you would like to contribute towards the beautiful flowers & decorations that will be displayed in all of our churches there is a collection next weekend.

PARISH EVENTS



Parish Advent Retreat - Sunday 8th December, 2.30pm-5pm, St Edward's. There will be a talk by Fr Raffaele, some time for questions and personal prayer.

Parish Christmas Party - Sunday 15th December, 1.00pm-4.30pm. St Swithun Wells Catholic School, C/Ford. Tickets will be on sale 30th Nov/1st Dec and 7th/8th Dec after weekend Masses in all Churches. Adults: £2; Family (Parents & Children): £5. There will be lunch, arts & crafts for children, music and games - all parishioners invited!

Good Companions Christmas Lunch

12 noon for 12.30pm start on Wed 4th December 2019 at Keats Restaurant, Ampfield. All who live alone or are lonely are most welcome to join us for this Christmas special, with delicious food and pleasant company. Please contact Pauline on 023 80266617 / Susie on 023 80263436.

Advent to Christmas Carol Service - St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak on Gaudate Sunday, 15th December at 5pm. All welcome!

PARISH EVENTS (CONTINUED)

Coffee Stop: The Christmas Special

Thursday 12th December in Holy Cross Resource Centre (after Mass). Coffee and a mince pie for £1 plus The Raffle. Donations for the raffle greatly received. Please come along and support us.

St Edward's CAFOD Annual Christmas Fayre -

14th/15th December. In preparation for this there will be a craft morning on Friday 13th Dec in the Cloisters after 10am Mass to make Festive table decorations. Please come along and share a morning of fun and friendship. The decorations will be sold along with other seasonal items after both Masses. Festive produce gratefully received. There will also be a raffle. All proceeds to our current project in Magdalena Medio in Colombia.

Come & See - 3 Days for Young People in School

Years 7-9, Fri 14th - Sun 16th February 2020, St Joseph's Centre in Ashurst. Cost: £90 covering the 3 days. For more info & an application form go to www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk. Registrations on a first come first served basis.

SCHOOL NOTICES



St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School

PTA Christmas Fayre - Fri 6th Dec, 6pm-8.30pm

Children's games, Father Christmas, mulled wine, hot dogs, pasta dishes, please come and join us! Raffle tickets for the grand draw will be sold after wk/end Masses at St Edward's & Holy Cross.

St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School

Community Christmas Party, Fri 13th Dec, 2pm

The children invite all retired members of the parish to our annual Community Christmas Party. We will be singing some new and traditional Christmas carols followed by refreshments. It is a great opportunity to catch up with old friends before Christmas. If anyone would like to come along but does not have transport please contact the school office on 02380 266210 and we will aim to collect you.

MESSAGES



St Edward's Annual Collection of Christmas Gifts for Poitiers & Two Saints

14th & 15th December - For Poitiers gifts suitable for children & families e.g. Christmas food, toiletries etc. For Two Saints gifts of men's and women's hats, gloves, scarves, toiletries etc. Please indicate on your parcel which charity you are supporting and write a message for Christmas (**labels will be given out weekend of 30th Nov/1st Dec**). All gifts will be brought up at the Offertory by the children and placed on the Sanctuary at 9am Mass on Sun 15th December.

St Andrews - 'Little Blue Book'

Is a companion spiritual guide for the Advent and Christmas season. There are only a limited number of books available, confined to St Andrews church only, but please do take one. A small discretionary donation is welcome, and this will be given entirely to the preferred parish charity. Your feedback on the value of this book would be welcome.

Damien Doherty

Chandlers Ford Repository

The Book Bible, which people have been enquiring about, is now £25, but I have one or two still at £20. We also have reading booklets for Advent, Advent candles and some Advent calendars and Crib figures.

Teresa

Winchester Cathedral Mass

Every 3 months on the first Sunday, the Catholic Parish of St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs is invited to celebrate Mass in the lady chapel of Winchester Cathedral. Mgr Tom McGrath will be celebrating the next Mass on **Saturday 7th Dec at 10am** and would love parishioners from St Swithun Wells to join them.

St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak - Christmas

Card CAFOD Collection. From 30th November we shall be encouraging everyone to send one Christmas Card to church friends, and place it on our special noticeboard in St Swithun Wells Church. You can donate what you would have spent on cards and postage to CAFOD World Gifts, by placing your contribution in the CAFOD collecting box by the notice board where the cards are.

There will also be a draw for a Fair Trade hamper and other (chocolate!) prizes, with raffle tickets on sale after 5:00pm Mass. Final ticket sales and **the draw will be at the Advent to Christmas Carol Service on 15th December**. Our focus is to buy World Gifts of Education and Skills Training. *Trisha (02380 693669)*

Elderfield 2019 - As many of you may have noticed, Elderfield at Otterbourne has now closed down and its residents have been placed elsewhere. St. Edward's have generously provided Christmas presents and money donations for the residents for over 25years. I recently received a letter of thanks:

"St Edward's Catholic Church have been supporting Elderfield for so many years now, and I would truly like to thank you for your kind donations over the years, particularly at Christmas... Thank you so much for your part in pouring out God's love and blessings on such a broken and vulnerable client group."

Hiltingbury Area would also like to thank everyone who has supported this initiative over the years. The balance of our Elderfield fund from 2018 has been donated to Pact, the national Catholic charity supporting prisoners, people with convictions and their families.

Moira Moriarty

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 30th <i>St Andrew</i> *Vigil Mass	9.30am	HC	Kenneth Sweet FM
	5.00pm*	SSW	Helen Sanders
	6.00pm*	St J	Mary Carlow RIP
	6.00pm*	OLQA	
	6.30pm*	St Ed	Ann Sandhu RIP (1st Anniversary)
Sun 1st Dec 1st Sunday of Advent	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	Enid Scappaticci RIP (4th Anniversary)
	9.00am	St A	Tony Armshaw RIP
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	St J	Herbert Howie RIP (Anniversary)
	11.00am	HC	In Memoriam FM
Mon 2nd	10.00am	St Ed	Deceased Members of the Layzell & Moyses Family RIP
Tues 3rd <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	9.30am	HC	Kasia Monid RIP
	10.00am	St A	Funeral Mass: Tony Armshaw RIP
	10.00am	OLQA	
Wed 4th	9.30am	HC	Special Intention to Our Lady & St Joseph
	10.00am	St Ed	Mary Uphill FM
	11.30am	St Ed	Funeral Mass: Jacqueline Eve Freeman-Wallace RIP
Thurs 5th	9.30am	HC	Danny Connolly RIP
	10.00am	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St J	
Fri 6th	10.00am	St Ed	Keith Small RIP
	10.00am	St J:AH	Sr Dorothy Baxter RIP
	10.00am	OLQA	
Sat 7th <i>St Ambrose</i> *Vigil Mass	9.30am	HC	Special Intention to Our Lady & St Joseph
	5.00pm*	SSW	Peggy Barber RIP
	6.00pm*	St J	Eamon Dunne RIP
	6.00pm*	OLQA	
	6.30pm*	St Ed	Mrs Edward Christian FM
Sun 8th Dec 2nd Sunday of Advent	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	Umberto Pugi RIP
	9.00am	St A	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	St J	
	11.00am	HC	Phil Talbot RIP

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
 Tues: HC - First Tuesday of the Month (10am-1pm)
 Thurs: St Ed - Holy Hour 7-8pm
 Thurs: St J - from 4-6pm, Rosary and Benediction at 5.30pm

ROSARY AND PRAYERS
 St Edward's 9.30am, Wednesday - The Holy Rosary
 St Joseph's 6.00pm, Wednesday - Evening Prayer

CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)
Saturdays: 10.00am Holy Cross
 5.30pm OLQA
 5.30pm St Joseph's
Sundays: 8.30am St Edward's
 8.30am St Andrew's

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET
Tues: Fr Raffaele, 4.30pm-6.30pm in the Parish Office, Holy Cross, Eastleigh.
Wed: Fr Luca, 4.30pm-6.30pm, Parish Office, Holy Cross, Eastleigh.
Fridays: Fr Raffaele, 11.30am-12.30pm in the Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey.
Saturdays: Fr Marco, 10am-Midday, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey.

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

Canon Alan Griffiths (Assistant Priest)
 Tel: 07760220346; E: frgriffiths@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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-5pm
 Thursday & Friday: 9.30am-2.30pm
Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance
Admin: Linda Roberts
 (lroberts@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)
Parish Secretary: Sarah Goodfellow
 stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Website Contact: website.sswp@gmail.com

CHURCH ADDRESSES

- St Ed St Edward's, 191-193, Winchester Rd, Chandlers Ford, SO53 2DU
 OLQA Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Martin Street, Bishops Waltham SO32 1DN
 HC Holy Cross Church, 53, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF
 SSW St Swithun Wells Church, Allington Lane, Fair Oak, SO50 7DB
 St A St Andrew's, Fleming Avenue, North, Baddesley, SO52 9EP
 St J St Joseph's Church, Abbey House Drive, Romsey, SO51 8YB

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES:

- St Swithun Wells Primary School 023 80266210
 St George Catholic V.A. College 023 8032 2603
 St Anne's Catholic School 023 80328200
 Charlton House 023 8067 7575
 St Mary's Independent School 023 8067 1267