



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

23rd FEBRUARY 2020: **SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

The Path of Lent

With Ash Wednesday we begin Lent. It will be forty days during which the Father, who is rich in mercy, wants to make us more like his Son. "Now is the favourable time; this is the day of salvation," says St Paul (2 Cor. 6:2).

We begin Lent with a specific sign (the ashes) which orientates our whole journey towards Easter. The priest asks us to remember that we are dust, and he places some ashes on our heads.

Why does the Church begin the Lenten journey with such a serious expression? Because we become Christians and we are converted to Christ only if we become aware of our condition as sinners. Jesus said that he came not for the righteous, but for the sinners. The words that the priest says during the distribution of the ashes are taken literally from the words of God. They are His words to the first man and woman, as they are driven away from the garden, the place of their friendship with God himself: "Remember that you are dust, and you must return to dust" (Gen. 3:19). Without God, our life can only be dust. During Lent we are called to become aware that we are estranged from the One who is the source of Life. St Paul tells us: "The appeal we make in the name of Christ is: to be reconciled with God" (2 Cor. 5:20). The good news is that God wants this reconciliation to happen, He wants us to rediscover our relationship with Him. For this reason Confession during Lent is of fundamental importance, because it allows us to truly welcome the Lord.

Perhaps someone could say to himself: "But I have not done anything serious; my sins are daily trifles: I am even ashamed to confess them because they are always the same". Let me explain with an example. If you catch a bird and you want to keep it from flying away, it doesn't matter if you tie it with a string or an iron chain. Both prevent it from taking flight. We must listen to the Lord, because even small attachments to sin prevent us from being fully His.

In the Gospel, Jesus indicates three acts which help us to be reconciled with God. They are almsgiving, prayer, and fasting. Jesus did not choose them by chance. They are acts that truly express and bring about the conversion of the heart.

The first - almsgiving - heals our relationship with others, because it educates us to justice and charity. The second - prayer - puts our relationship with God in the right place because it introduces us to the most intimate truth of our person: we are beggars before God, we need to ask for everything. The third - fasting - brings order to ourselves, since it educates us to live by following Jesus' invitation to the disciples to abandon themselves confidently to the Providence of God, without any anxiety about material food.

These three suggestions, together with the confession of our sins, can accompany us during Lent, in order to celebrate Easter as people who are truly free.

Father Marco

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is an article by Julian Carron entitled 'Faith and Solitude' - you can find the link on our homepage. If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact the Webmaster on website.sswp@gmail.com.

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 23rd February 2020:

Year A - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 3

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: O LORD, I TRUST IN YOUR MERCIFUL LOVE. MY HEART WILL REJOICE IN YOUR SALVATION. I WILL SING TO THE LORD WHO HAS BEEN BOUNTIFUL WITH ME.

PSALM RESPONSE: THE LORD IS COMPASSION AND LOVE.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, 1ST MARCH 2020:

1st reading: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 - **Psalm:** 50 - **2nd reading:** Romans 5:12-19 - **Gospel:** Matthew 4:1-11

PARISH GROUPS



Growing in Faith Together (GIFT)

Tuesdays between 10.15-11.30am (after Mass) in Holy Cross Resource Centre. It is a time of simple sharing, come and join us, we start with tea and biscuits, and everyone is assured of a warm welcome.

Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

Preparation will be on Wednesday evenings fortnightly at **St Edward the Confessor Church, Chandlers Ford at 7.30pm.** 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. Upcoming dates: 4th Mar, 18th Mar

Journey in Faith with the Bible

Wednesday evenings fortnightly between **7.30pm and 9pm at St Edward's Church, Chandlers Ford.** All Welcome. Upcoming dates: **26th Feb**
See poster on Church Noticeboards or contact Anne Owen on 02380 254806 for more information.

Fellowship Group - There will be *no meeting* on **Wednesday 26th Feb** as it is Ash Wednesday.
Wednesday evenings in Lent at St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. We will be having a Lenten Supper of Homemade soup, bread, cheese and fruit at 7pm followed at 7.45pm by a Bible Study Course '*Opening The Scriptures and Setting our hearts on fire*'. There is no charge for the Suppers but donations to our Lenten Alms fund would be welcome. The first session is on **Wednesday 4th March** and everyone in the Parish is very welcome. Queries to Peter Baggott and Deacon Bob Birtles.

School of Community

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

CaFE: Next Meetings

Mon 24th Feb, 2.30pm in Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water).

Details from sheila.keefe20@gmail.com.

TOZ (for young people from school year 10) meet twice a month on Sunday. Next Meeting Date: 23rd February, from 7pm to 9pm (with dinner) in the Resource Centre. Contact: toz.sswp@gmail.com or phone 07846 438224 (Cath Szymanski).

CHANGES TO MASS & PARISH OFFICE OPENING



The Parish Office will, from the **24th Feb**, be closed on **Mondays (all day) and Tuesday afternoons** until Linda has recovered from her operation and is back at work. Please note the Office will be open from 10.15am instead of 9.30am on **Friday 6th & 27th March** - we apologise for any inconvenience.

OFFERINGS & SECOND COLLECTIONS



St Swithun Wells Parish Acknowledges with thanks

Collection for weekend 15/16th Feb '20: £1,161.07;
SO/DD for January '20: £13,020.59

The next Second Collection

Will be for CAFOD on 7th/8th March (Lenten Fast Day will be on Friday 6th March).

PARISH EVENTS

Get 2Gether Family Afternoon

Sunday 1st March, from 2.30pm to 4.30pm in St Edward's Church (Cloister). It is an event for all the families of the Parish: parents, children, grandparents... During that afternoon we will have some music and games for all the families, and a short discussion with the parents about some topics of family life like education of the children, prayer in family and so on. It will be an opportunity to have some time together, with fun and friendship. If you want to bring a cake or some juice, it will be much appreciated, at the end we will finish with some refreshments.

Parish Lunch

Monday 2nd March, 12.30pm at the Luzborough, Romsey. All welcome. Menus will be on the notice boards. Please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know your choice of meal *by Sunday 23rd Feb.*

Parish Lent Retreat - Sunday 8th March, 2.30pm-5pm at St Edward's. There will be a talk by Fr Raffaele, some time for questions and personal prayer. It will be an opportunity for all parishioners to be helped to make of Lent a new time of conversation.



MESSAGES



Rite of Election - St John's Cathedral,

Portsmouth (Saturday 29th February, 11am)

Please pray for the 6 people in our parish of St Swithun Wells who are to be baptised, received into the Church and confirmed at Easter this year. They will be going next Saturday to the Rite of Election with their godparents/sponsors to be presented to the Bishop and to receive the Church's blessing.

Stations of the Cross

Are being said during Lent at the following churches:

St Andrew's: Tuesdays at 9.15am (excluding Holy Week);

St Swithun Wells: Tuesdays at 10am; followed by tea/coffee;

OLQA: Wednesdays at 7pm;

Holy Cross: Thursdays at 9am;

St Joseph's: Fridays at 9.15am (excluding Good Friday);

St Edward's: Fridays at 6.30pm (excluding Good Friday).

Rules for Ash Wednesday and Lent

Roman Catholics must **abstain from meat** on all Fridays during Lent. On **Ash Wednesday** Roman Catholics must **fast and abstain from meat**. Fasting means that they may eat one full meal, and they may eat two small meals as well. The two smaller meals must not equal one full meal. There are exceptions to these rules. Those from ages 18-59 must fast. If you are younger than 18 or older than 59, you do not have to fast. Women who are pregnant or nursing also do not have to fast. Furthermore, if you have a health problem that makes fasting unhealthy for you, you do not have to fast.

Lent at St Edward's - During Lent Mass on Fridays at St Edward's will be at 7pm (instead of 10am) preceded by Stations of the Cross at 6.30pm.

After Mass there will be a CAFOD Lenten Supper on each Friday *except March 13th* when there will be a Lenten lunch instead from 12.30pm -1.30pm. All suppers and lunch will be £5 (£1 for children).

Ecumenical Lent House Groups in Romsey

There will be Ecumenical Lent House Groups during Lent at different churches in Romsey. Apologies for the late notice, names of those wishing to attend are required **by Monday 24th February**. Please phone Sue Derbyshire on 01794 651350 for more details and the venues.

Mothers Prayer Group will resume as usual on **Thursday 27th Feb (1:45pm-2:30pm) at St Edward's**.

Message of Thanks - The family of Russell Speight would like to thank all those who attended his celebration of life Mass on 14th February and joined us afterwards at the Point. A very special thank you to the wonderful music group and to our close friends Marion Lloyd and James McElhinney. We know Dad would have loved it.

Saturday 7th March – 6.30pm at St Edward's

Mass will be celebrated in memory of fr Giussani. It will be a good opportunity for every one to get to know better the founder of Communion and Liberation catholic movement. After Mass everyone is invited to a light refreshment (bring and share).

Recommended Reading

The current suggested books for parishioners are:

A Song for Nagasaki: The Story of Takashi Nagai by Fr. Paul Glynn (£12);

I'm Not Scared by Niccolò Ammaniti (£8).

It is possible to buy I'm Not Scared after weekend Masses but not A Song for Nagasaki due to delivery delays, as soon as copies are available a note will be put in the Newsletter.

Wheelchair wanted - To assist in the mobility of some of our less able parishioners we need a folding (collapsible) wheelchair in good working order. If you own one that is no longer required and are happy to donate it to the Parish please can you email me, Lorraine Clapham at claphamlmt@gmail.com.

CAFOD Lent family fast day - Friday 6th March

Please consider eating a simple meal and put what you save in the CAFOD collection envelope. Through CAFOD's global Church family your support can help those living in poverty overseas, thank you.

Parish Office - Linda Roberts is due for surgery on her right shoulder on 24th February. She will be away on sick leave for a number of weeks. If you have any invoices or claims please continue to send all claims into the office as usual and the cheques will be sent out as soon as possible however, please be aware there may be some delay. Please also ensure your address is available to facilitate the posting of cheques. Due to a reduction in office opening and staffing during this period there may be delays in the processing of ad hoc and general requests as well. Thank you for your patience and co-operation.

World Day of Prayer Bible Study in Preparation for World Day of Prayer for Zimbabwe - **Thursday 27th February, 10.30am at Velmore Church, Somerset Room on Falkland Road, Chandlers Ford, SO53 3GA.**

World Day of Prayer Services - Friday 6th March

The World Day of Prayer this year has been prepared by the Women of Zimbabwe and is entitled "Rise! Take your Mat and Walk!":

- In Romsey the service is at the Elim Church in Middlebridge Street at 1 30pm. All are welcome.
- In Chandlers Ford the service is at 1.45pm at St Boniface Anglican Church, Hursley Road. Everyone is welcome and refreshments are served.
- In Wickham the service is at 2pm at St Nicholas's Church, which is celebrating the 900th anniversary of the church's foundation. Rev Jane Isaac will give a short presentation.

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 22nd Feb <i>The Chair of St Peter</i> *Vigil Mass	9.30am	HC	Ellen Lane (Special Intention)
	5.00pm*	SSW	Doreen Cortis RIP
	6.00pm*	St J	Sarah Howie RIP Anniversary
	6.00pm*	OLQA	
	6.30pm*	St Ed	Special Intention to St Joseph & Our Lady
Sun 23rd-Feb Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	Patrick Lake RIP
	9.00am	St A	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	St J	Sr Anne Goodman (Jubilee)
	11.00am	HC	Raymond Harrison RIP
Mon 24th	10.00am	St Ed	Special Intention to St Joseph & Our Lady
Tues 25th	9.30am	HC	
	10.00am	St A	
	10.00am	OLQA	
Wed 26th <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	9.30am	HC	Russell Speight RIP
	10.00am	St J	
	10.00am	OLQA	
	2.00pm	St S.W. School	<i>Open to all parishioners</i>
	7.30pm	St Ed	John Phelan RIP
Thurs 27th	9.30am	HC	Denis Dennehy RIP
	10.00am	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St J	
Fri 28th	10.00am	St J:AH	Phil Sillence (Well being)
	10.00am	OLQA	
	7.00pm	St Ed	The Marsh Family (Special Int)
Sat 29th Feb *Vigil Mass	9.30am	HC	
	5.00pm*	SSW	Andrew Bates RIP
	6.00pm*	St J	Susan Harry RIP
	6.30pm*	St Ed	Matt & Caroline RIP
Sun 1st March First Sunday in Lent	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	Lake & Hill Families (Special Int)
	9.00am	St A	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	St J	Paul Kieran RIP
	11.00am	HC	Roger Roling 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 - 4-6pm, Rosary & Benediction at 5.30pm	
ROSARY AND PRAYERS (except Ash Wed)	
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, Parish Office, Holy Cross, Eastleigh.	
Weds: Fr Luca, 4.30pm-6.30pm, Parish Office, Holy Cross, Eastleigh.	
Fridays: Fr Raffaele, 11.30am-12.30pm, 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 Speciale (Assistant Priest)
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Fr Marco Vignolo (Assistant Priest)
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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
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Deacon Paul Owen
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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