



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

15th December 2019: **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

A Time For Change

Last Tuesday 10th December, we celebrated the Feast of St Swithun Wells and the 9th anniversary of our new parish. Yes, remarkable as it might seem, it is now 9 years since the four parishes of our church communities came together as the one parish of St Swithun Wells. How time flies! But how has our combined parish changed? How have we changed? Because our shared future was for a purpose. It was to help us express better our responsibility for the life and mission of the Church. To bring us together that we might be better equipped for that mission – to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

In the 1st reading for this Sunday, the prophet Isaiah gives hope to the people of Israel who had been scattered and sent into exile. His message was that they would be helped on their journey of return by visions of a saving God, by transformation of their desert land and by divine strengthening and healing.

In today's Gospel from Matthew, Jesus sets out for his listeners the role of John the Baptist. A prophet, "*.. yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you.*"

In the Old Testament, prophets were people called by God to speak God's message in a specific historical situation. The prophets communicated God's judgement but they also communicated God's promise of mercy. John the Baptist was the last great prophet in the Old Testament line. He was the one who foretold the coming of the Messiah. He called the people to repentance and pointed the way to Jesus.

We can only point the way to Jesus if we ourselves repent and return to Jesus. To examine our own lives and turn again to the Lord relying on him rather than ourselves. But how often do we do so? How often do we seek to encounter Christ's strengthening and healing through the Sacrament of Reconciliation? If we look at the small numbers who make use of the sacrament you might think that we must all be living perfect lives!

Advent gives us a special opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation through the penitential services in our parish the week before Christmas:

Thursday 19th December - 7.30pm at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church;

Friday 20th December – 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church;

Saturday 21st December – 11am at Holy Cross Church.

We are God's prophets today. We are called by God to speak his message through the example of our faith lives so that we may be, in the words from the prayer to St Swithun Wells, "*proud of the faith that we have inherited from the saints and martyrs, and through our work and prayers, deepen the roots of the Catholic faith in the soil of this area.*"

Deacon Paul Owen

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is a short video by Ken Yasinski entitled "Why do we celebrate Christmas?" - 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: 3

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS; AGAIN I SAY, REJOICE. INDEED, THE LORD IS NEAR.

PSALM RESPONSE: COME, LORD AND SAVE US. OR, ALLELUIA!

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, 22ND DECEMBER 2019:

1st reading: Isaiah 7:10-14 - Psalm: 23 - 2nd reading: Romans 1:1-7 - Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

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)

We are now on our Christmas break. Fortnightly meetings will resume on Wednesday 8th January, 7.30pm-9pm at St Edward's Church, Chandlers Ford. 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.

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: 18th December, 15th January.
Further details from Anne Owen on 02380 254806.

Fellowship Group - Wed 18th Dec, 7.30pm, St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak.

Christmas Liturgy & End of Year Celebration. This is our last meeting before Christmas, we will then resume on 8th January 2020. Everyone welcome. Queries to Peter Baggott or Deacon Bob Birtles.

CaFE - the next meetings will be held on:
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, Wednesdays at 8pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre.

The last meeting before Christmas is on Wed 18th Dec, we then restart on 8th January 2020.

TOZ (for young people from school year 10) meet twice a month on Sunday. Next Meeting Date: 15th December, 7-8.30pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre. Contact: toz.sswp@gmail.com or phone 07846 438224 (Cath Szymanski).

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

For everyone in school years 3-6, we meet every other week: Tuesday, 5.30-7.00pm in St Edwards Cloister; Saturday 10.30am-Noon in HC Resource Centre.

To join the group complete the application form (available on our website or from the Parish Office) and give it to the Parish Secretary.

Grail Seekers (school years 7,8,9)

For everyone in school years 7, 8 and 9 we meet weekly every Saturday from 2.30pm-4.30pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre. To join the group complete the application form (available on our website or from the Parish Office) and give it to the Parish Secretary.

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 7th Jan.

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 December

The office will be closed from Midday Tuesday 24th December and re-opens on Thurs 2nd January 2020. Please note on Friday 20th Dec the Office will open from 11am rather than 9.30am.

OFFERINGS & SECOND COLLECTIONS



St Swithun Wells Parish Acknowledges with thanks

Last week's collections: £1,446.79;
SO/DD for November '19: £12,281.59

Christmas Offerings

As you know, on each Sunday of the year, your Offering (whether placed in the collection, or paid through your bank account) is used for the running of the parish and all its activities.

However, by tradition at Christmas and Easter these Offerings are for the personal use of the priests and form a major part of their annual income.

As priests we do appreciate your generosity.
Fr Raffaele

Crib Collections during Christmastide

These will be for Christian Communities in the Holy Land via Friends of the Holy Land.

PARISH EVENTS



Parish Christmas Party - Sunday 15th December, 1.00pm-4.30pm. St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School, Chandlers Ford. Tea and Coffee will be provided however please feel free to bring your own drinks.

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

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 and close on 19th Jan '20.

Confirmation - Date for your diary! Please be aware Confirmation of our children will be on **Sunday 24th May 2020, 3pm at Portsmouth Cathedral**. Further details will be announced closer to the event.

SCHOOL NOTICES



St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School Admissions Arrangements September 2021-22

There will be a consultation on its proposed admissions arrangements for school year 2021-22.

This will run for 6 weeks from 2nd Dec 2019 until 12th Jan 2020.

Copies of the proposed arrangements can be obtained from the school office or downloaded from the school website (www.st-swithunwells.org.uk/admissions-information).

Comments on the arrangements should be sent to the clerk to the governing body by 12th Jan 2020. E: l.emerson@st-swithunwells.hants.sch.uk.

MESSAGES



St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak -

Christmas Card CAFOD Collection. We are 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)*

World Gifts at St Edward's

This years project for World Gifts is "Change a Woman's World". By saving money on sending cards to all your friends in the parish why not use one of the cards provided to write your message, put it on the board and put the money saved into the CAFOD bucket? In this way you will be supporting girls and young women in the developing world to reach their full potential.

Holy Cross CAFOD donation instead of Christmas Cards. Like last year, those who wish to can leave one Christmas Card to be displayed in the parish, for all their parish friends. Then donate the savings in cards and stamps to CAFOD to improve the lives of those in desperate need overseas.

Bring the Bible to life in 2020!

Buy 'The Big Picture' (£10) - a CaFE DVD exploring 12 Bible themes. And/Or come to CaFE meetings showing this DVD throughout 2020, details from sheila.keefe20@gmail.com.

Mustard Seed - Please pick up your copy of the 'Year of the Word' edition in our churches this wk/end.

The Holy Cross Christmas CAFOD raffle has begun. Raffle tickets are available after Mass. *Prizes include Hampers and other items.* We thank all those parishioners who have kindly donated items for the raffle. We hope parishioners will continue to support CAFOD, the leading Catholic charity helping those in great need.

Carol singing for FLEDGE at ASDA - Monday 16th December from 6pm to 7.30pm Churches Together have organised their traditional carol singing at ASDA accompanied by the Velmore band. If you would like to warm up your voice for Christmas day then come along to the main entry, all welcome, proceeds are for the FLEDGE charity in Eastleigh, just turn up and join in.

St Joseph's & St Andrew's Christmas Mini Fayre - Thank you. The Mini Fayre held in St Andrew's on 30th November was a huge success - thank you to everyone for your support, donations and coming along to enjoy the event. The Draw raised **£900** which will be presented to Fryers House in January. A further **£265.53** was raised from the bottle, biscuit and chocolates stall, and the tea, coffee and cake stall, and this will go to the Children's Liturgy Group enabling them to purchase new resources.

Alton Day of Renewal

25th January 2020, 11am - 4pm

Alton School, Anstey Lane, Alton, GU34 2NG

Please bring finger food to share at lunchtime.

A talk by Alice Hall, full time missionary with Sion Community, "The Almighty has done great things for me". How can we know God wants to do great things for us?

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

| DATE | TIME | CHURCH | MASS INTENTION |
|---|---------|---------|--|
| Sat 14th <i>St John of the Cross</i> *Vigil Mass | 9.30am | HC | Ron Reynolds FM |
| | 5.00pm* | SSW | Mary Quinn (Special Intention) |
| | 6.00pm* | St J | Pinto Family |
| | 6.00pm* | OLQA | |
| | 6.30pm* | St Ed | Deceased Relatives and friends of the Bennett family |
| Sun 15th Dec 3rd Sunday of Advent | 9.00am | HC | <i>Polska Msza Święta</i> |
| | 9.00am | St Ed | Cardinal Thomas Winning RIP |
| | 9.00am | St A | Michael Jeffery RIP (Anniversary) |
| | 9.30am | OLQA | |
| | 11.00am | St J | Sean Kelly RIP (Anniversary) |
| | 11.00am | HC | Eamon & Kathleen Hughes RIP |
| Mon 16th | 10.00am | St Ed | Peggy Marchesi (Special Intention) |
| Tues 17th | 9.30am | HC | Ana Thomas RIP |
| | 10.00am | St A | |
| | 10.00am | OLQA | |
| Wed 18th | 9.30am | HC | Paddy McMahon FM |
| | 10.00am | St Ed | Patrick & Mary Burke FM |
| Thurs 19th | 9.30am | HC | Flora Kelly FM |
| | 10.00am | OLQA | |
| | 6.00pm | St J | |
| | 7.30pm | OLQA | <u>Penitential Service</u> |
| Fri 20th | 10.00am | St Ed | Dudley Roberts FM |
| | 10.00am | St J:AH | Nanie Askham RIP |
| | 10.00am | OLQA | |
| | 7.30pm | St A | <u>Penitential Service</u> |
| Sat 21st <i>St Peter Canisius</i> *Vigil Mass | 9.30am | HC | Mark Fowler RIP (1st Anniversary) |
| | 11.00am | HC | <u>Penitential Service</u> |
| | 5.00pm* | SSW | Mary Farrell & Family |
| | 6.00pm* | St J | Mrs Angela Delacey |
| | 6.30pm* | St Ed | John Milne RIP (4th Anniversary) |
| Sun 22nd Dec 4th Sunday of Advent | 9.00am | HC | <i>Polska Msza Święta</i> |
| | 9.00am | St Ed | Anna Claire Anthraper (Thanksgiving) |
| | 9.00am | St A | |
| | 9.30am | OLQA | |
| | 11.00am | St J | Brian Stevens RIP (Anniversary) |
| | 11.00am | HC | Antonio Cicu FM |

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| 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. | | |
| Weds: Fr Luca, 4.30pm-6.30pm, Parish Office, Holy Cross, Eastleigh. | | |
| Fridays: Just for 20th Dec - Fr Raffaele, 10.30am-11.30am in St Joseph's Church, Romsey. | | |
| Saturdays: Fr Marco will not be available to meet on Sat 21st December in Romsey. | | |

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

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Deacon Paul Owen
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Deacon Paul Wilson
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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