



## Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ 26<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

### Creation, Earthquakes and Mystery

I think it is true to say that the whole of Creation remains a mystery despite the efforts of scientists and theoreticians to winkle out every fact and statistic associated with it. It is still a mystery of which only a fraction is understood by the finite minds of the human race. I believe very much in the goodness of God's Creation but I find that His Creation is never more mysterious as when *natural disasters* occur as has happened in the recent earthquakes to hit Turkey and Northern Syria.

As I ponder this phenomena I find there is no easy answer especially to the question often posed by people as to, "Why does God let these things happen?" It is one of those questions which can be applied to any difficult personal or international problem.

All I can suggest is an answer I heard many years ago that has helped me understand this. It is one which suggests that at the fall of Adam (Humankind) it was not just humanity that fell from perfection but the whole world; snakes would bite; bees and wasps would sting; meteorites would hit the earth and the elements would be subject to their own ways.

What I do know is that we should all help to relieve suffering wherever we see it and governments should act to help other Nations in need. It is also our duty to pray for those who suffer as a result of these elemental disasters. However, there is one other disaster which has gone unnoticed and that is the Spiritual earthquake which has hit Western Europe! There are many who lie buried under the rubble of their misspent lives of unbelief; who have been trapped under the weight of their materialistic and God-less behaviour. These people cry out and wait to be rescued. We need to respond to their need and gather ourselves together and provide the Teams necessary to go out and rescue them from the suffocation of their *crumbling houses* built on sand. Here is our Mission and here is the totality of meaning to the work of the Red Cross under whose banner we, as Christians, go forward to the rescue. It may take a while to dig deep enough for that rescue to take place and there will be a lot of time as we try to listen as to where the cry for help comes. The damage which has been done by the spiritual earthquake has fatal results in the death of a Christian soul. But rescue is at hand in the empathy we should have for the sinner, for we realise that but for the grace of God, we, too, can so easily walk away from him and crumble under the weight of our option for self. We are called not to despair in times of need. We can be small beacons of hope to set the way again before others that they may re-join the firm ground and continue back again in God's Holy Church towards the Kingdom where all mystery will be revealed.

I finish with some words by Timothy Radcliffe OP which I have found helpful in trying to live within the mystery of creation, and of the commission to serve and respect that crown of creation which we call humankind.

*We dare to set out on this perilous path, endure moments of turmoil, and even crisis, because we trust that God is there, in all the mess, to bless us. We may not sometimes love well, go astray, and suffer. But God is with us to make our lives fertile. So we have no need to be afraid. We can have courage. (What is the point of being a Christian? Timothy Radcliffe p.110)*

Fr Bruce

### GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is a 'Message of Pope Francis for Lent 2023' - You can find this on our homepage. If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact [website.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:website.sswp@gmail.com)

For the next Newsletter, items should be received into the Parish Office by **9.30am on Wednesday 1st March 2023**, please email your messages/notices to: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

## LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



**Sunday 26th February 2023:** Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Psalter Week 1

PSALM RESPONSE: HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD, FOR WE HAVE SINNED.

READINGS: 1<sup>st</sup> reading Genesis 2:7-9;3:1-7 Psalm 50 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Romans 5:12-19 Gospel Matthew 4:1-11

**Sunday 5th March 2023:** Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Psalter Week 2

PSALM RESPONSE: MAY YOUR LOVE BE UPON US, O LORD, AS WE PLACE ALL OUR HOPE IN YOU.

READINGS: 1<sup>st</sup> reading Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 32 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 2 Timothy 1:8b-10 Gospel Matthew 17:1-9

### Growing In Faith Together Group

Tuesday 28th February at 10.15am to approx.

11.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre.

We will be reflecting on the Stations of the Cross.

All are welcome!

Fellowship Group - St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. We are holding a Lenten Supper at 7pm every Wednesday during Lent followed by a Fellowship Lenten Study: **Belong and Believe** starting at 7.45pm. We will be following this CaFE course exploring how our Celtic past can help us in refreshing our communities and renewing our mission.

**Week 1: 1st March** - the theme is 'Building Welcoming Communities'. For the Zoom link contact Peter at peterbaggett@aol.com

## PARISH GROUPS



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.

Romsey Prayer Group - Every Wednesday morning at 11am in the St Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water. All will be made very welcome.

Afternoon Club - St. Joseph's Parish Centre (26 Abbey Water), first Tuesday in the month. Come and join us for tea, games and good fun. All welcome! **Next Meeting: 2pm on 7th March**

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 (25th Feb) at the Cathedral.

### Changes to Mass during Lent

The Friday Mass at OLQA will be celebrated at 10.30am (instead of 9.30am), followed by Stations of the Cross at 11am and soup lunch at Midday.

This year the St Edward's Friday Mass will remain at 10am preceded by Stations of the Cross at 9.30am. There will be a soup lunch at Midday.

### 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)

OLQA: Fridays at 11am (after Mass).

Lent Ecumenical Study Group in Romsey Parish Centre, 26, Abbey Water, Romsey, on Tuesday evenings 6.30pm-8pm, starting on Tues 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. All are welcome. Please bring a bible if you can.

Lent Parish Retreat - We will hold a Parish Retreat for Lent on Sunday 12th March, 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.

### Penitential Services

Saturday 25th March, 11am at Holy Cross

## MESSAGES



Thursday 30th March, 7.30pm at OLQA

Friday 31st March, 7.30pm at St Andrew

A number of priests will be available during these times.

Bishop Philip invites you to join him for three online Lent Reflections - these will each be broadcast as a 40 minute webinar on Thursdays 2nd March, 9th March and 16th March at 7.30pm. Numbers are limited so sign up now (please note that you have to register for each webinar separately), go to <https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/from-the-bishop-three-lent-reflections>

The Liturgy Project - The Diocese is pleased to announce a Diocesan website dedicated to liturgical formation called *The Liturgy Project*. The website is a continuous project, in that more will be added through the months and years so please keep checking for updates. Go to <https://www.theliturgyproject.com>

Upcoming Second Collection - 4th/5th March  
**CAFOD Fast Day Appeal** (CAFOD envelopes will be made available in our churches from this weekend). Thanks to all in our Community who so generously supported the recent appeal for the disaster in Syria and Turkey. Money was sent immediately to CAFOD's regional partner, Caritas, so that that aid work could begin. Your generosity to previous Fast Day appeals has helped even more. **Fast Day this year is on Friday 3rd March.** Please give whatever you can so that CAFOD can continue it's ongoing work. You can donate in the usual ways (in the CAFOD envelopes or direct at [www.cafod.org.uk/give](http://www.cafod.org.uk/give)) or by joining fellow parishioners at the Lenten Lunches throughout the Parish.

## MESSAGES CONTINUED

Sunday Mass at OLOA will no longer be livestreamed.

Lent & Easter Sheet 2023 - is available in all of our churches from this weekend. Please pick up your copy.

### Lunches & Suppers being held across the Parish during Lent

**St Swithun Wells, Fair Oak** - at 7pm on Wednesdays, the Fellowship Group will be hosting Lenten Suppers of soup, bread and cheese in aid of the CAFOD Disaster Emergencies Fund. There will be a Lenten Study at 7.45pm 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. Donations greatly received, all proceeds will go to CAFOD.

**OLOA** - Soup lunches will take place on Fridays at Midday (after Mass), donations will go to CAFOD.

**Romsey Churches Lenten Lunch** - this year the Catholic community will be providing lunch on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 12-1.30pm, in the Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water. As a change from the usual fare, lunch will consist of sandwiches, cakes, fruit, tea and coffee, including gluten free, vegan and dairy free options. If you can offer to bake a cake or help on the day, please contact Teresa Rayment (01794 513528). It will be much appreciated.

**Good Companions** - Our next get-together will be at 12 Noon on Friday 3rd March in the Cloister of St. Edward's when we will join the Lenten lunch. Please ring Tony Wilson on 02380 266617 if you wish to come along. We look forward to seeing you.

### World Day of Prayer Services

On Friday 3rd March a number of Prayer Services will be held locally:

**At 1.30pm, held at the Baptist Church in Bell Street Romsey.** This year's Service has been prepared by the women of Taiwan. All are welcome. There will be refreshments after the Service.

**At 3pm, there will be a service for everyone at St Mary's and All Saints Church, Droxford.**  
Speaker: **Geoff Page** - Trustee of the Rowan's Hospice. All are welcome.

At 7.30pm, hosted by St Francis Church, Pilgrims Close, Chandlers Ford, SO53 4ST

**Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 5th March, 1-4pm**  
Pavillion on the Park, 1 Kingfisher Road, SO50 9LH. An event for all of the parish, especially families. We begin by sharing a meal together followed by some activities and a discussion on the topic of 'Freedom of your spouse and also of your children as they develop into adults.' No cost, however we kindly ask you to give a donation to cover the hire of the Pavillion. Please bring some food, beverages or cakes to share with others. We would be grateful if you could please write down the main ingredients and allergens on a piece of paper so people can make an informed decision as to whether the food is suitable for them. Please can you bring your own cups/plates/cutlery. To book your place please go to our parish website and click the link.  
*Future Get2Gether date for your diaries: 2nd April*

### OLOA St Patrick's Day Social

**17th March at 7pm in the Church hall in Bishop's Waltham** - OLOA Social Group would like to invite members of the Parish to a musical evening with a local group called 'Shantyhead'. Tickets £5 a head, byo nibbles and drinks. Please contact Marie Kemp on 07760 809640 for more info/to reserve your tickets.

### Easter Camp (Grail Seekers - School years 7, 8, 9 and Student Youth - School years 10, 11 & Sixth Form)

**Mon 3rd April - Wed 5th April £110 (all inclusive)**  
**St Joseph's House - 8 Lyndhurst Rd, Southampton**  
For more info & to book your space/your child's space please go to our website and complete the form as soon as possible. Part bursaries may be available on application. **Full payment by bank transfer must be received by Friday 31st March** (account details are on the booking form on our website). For any enquiries please email either: [grailseekers.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:grailseekers.sswp@gmail.com) or [studentyouth.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:studentyouth.sswp@gmail.com)

### New Episcopal Vicar for Religious

Fr David O'Sullivan (who used to be St Swithun Wells Parish Priest from 2014-2015) has stepped down from this role and our own Fr Bruce Barnes, Assistant Priest at OLOA, in addition to his duties in Bishop's Waltham has kindly agreed to become the new Episcopal Vicar, alongside his other role as Bishop's Chaplain to Heads and Principals. Please pray for Fr Bruce as he resumes a role that he undertook a few years before.

### St Swithun Wells Parish Online Giving

If you would like to give directly online please scan in this QR code.



### CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Tuesday:	6.30pm-7.30pm	St Edward
Tuesday:	9.30am-10.00am	St Andrew
Saturday:	10.00am-10.30am	Holy Cross
	10am or by appointment	OLOA
	5.30pm-6.00pm	St Joseph
Sunday:	8.30am-9.00am	St Edward
	8.30am-9.00am	St Andrew

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday: St Edward - after Mass (6.30pm-7.30pm)  
Wednesday: Holy Cross - after Mass (10.00am-11.00am)  
Thursday: St Joseph - before Mass (5.00pm-6.00pm)

### 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  
Fridays: Fr Raffaele, 10.30am-11.30am, Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey  
Saturdays: Fr Marco, 9.30am-12.30pm, Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey

# MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 25th Feb	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Andrew Bates RIP  John Hooley RIP Intentions of Cathyleen Divilly
Sunday 26th Feb  <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 live streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> People of the Parish Eileen Smith-Pasini RIP  Liza Marie Haynes RIP Anniversary Eric Clarke RIP Anniversary
Mon 27th	9.30am	Holy Cross	Cheryl Robinson RIP 2nd Anniversary
Tues 28th Feb	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Sr Theresa RIP
Wed 1st March <i>St David</i>	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross OLQA St Edward	Keith Small RIP
Thurs 2nd March	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Kelly & Magee Families FM  Sr Theresa RIP
Fri 3rd March	10.00am 10.00am 10.30am	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	Rod Beirne RIP Imelda Macalino RIP 1st Anniversary
Saturday 4th March	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Jackie Higgins RIP Anniversary Jim Russell RIP  People of the Parish Mrs Edward Christian FM
Sunday 5th March  <i>Second 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 live streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>  Margaret Martindale RIP  Michel Nakhle RIP For Frances & Lucy

HC - Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF  
 SSW - St Swithun Wells, Allington Lane, Fair Oak SO50 7DB  
 OLQA - Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Martin Street, Bishop's Waltham, SO32 1DN

St Ed - St Edward, 191-193, Winchester Rd, Chandlers Ford, SO53 2DU  
 St A - St Andrew, Fleming Avenue, North, Baddesley SO52 9EP  
 St J - St Joseph, Abbey House Drive, Romsey, SO51 8YB

## CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

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

**Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)**  
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**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 8025 4806; E: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Deacon Paul Wilson**  
 Tel: 023 8061 6618; E: pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Deacon Andrew Lee**  
 Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: alee@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)