



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ 17th MARCH 2024: FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Easter Is At Hand

We are at the end of Lent, in a week's time there will be Palm Sunday, after which the Holy Week leading up to the solemnity of Easter will begin. To be honest, this time has passed very quickly, I feel as though I only distributed the ashes yesterday, and now we are already towards the end of Lent.

It is true that the time of Lent - in the end just over a month - passes quickly, but what we learn, the small sacrifices we make during Lent, are not actions strictly related to Lent. In fact Lent is like a sort of 'training gym' to then live the same things more consciously throughout the year. This, of course, has to be done intelligently: one has to understand the deeper meaning of what one does, why one renounces something or why one behaves in a certain way, so that one does not get attached to the form, but to the substance. I, for example, gave up sweets in Lent, but that does not mean that I have to give up sweets (the form) for the rest of the year, but giving up sweets in Lent makes me learn to give up something for Jesus (the substance), which I can do throughout the year, and that is a good thing. It is clear that among the things that can be renounced the most important are those that do not help us follow Jesus, such as excessive use of social media, too much complaining, or too much attachment to the things we possess. But apart from these general examples, each one of us knows well, what the particular thing is, that makes life difficult to live in a holier way.

This Sunday is also the feast of St Patrick, one of the first English saints who, after being taken by kidnappers in Scotland and imprisoned in Ireland, managed to escape and went to study theology in France. Despite the bad adventure of the kidnap, St Patrick did not give up returning to the Green Isle to bring the good news of Jesus, and travelled all over Ireland evangelising it.

He followed the very advice of Jesus that we find in today's gospel: *"Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life"*. St Patrick did not stay safe in France, but returned to Ireland to bring Jesus so that the people there could come to faith; somehow he abandoned the possibility of a comfortable life in Europe, and returned to Ireland with all the risks and difficulties out of love for Jesus, to make him known.

May St Patrick's zeal be an example to us and give us an impetus to continue our journey towards holiness, which if it has periods to train us more intensely, such as Lent, is in fact a road we are called to travel throughout our lives.

Fr Mario

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is **"Message for Lent"** by Pope Francis - you can find this on our homepage. If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact website.sswp@gmail.com

For the next Newsletter, items should be received into the parish office by **10am on Wednesday 20th March**, please email your messages/notices to: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

If you wish to make a donation to our parish please go to: <https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/financesdonations>

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 17th March 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 1

PSALM RESPONSE: A PURE HEART CREATE FOR ME, O GOD.

1st reading Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 50 2nd reading Hebrews 5:7-9 Gospel John 12:20-33

Sunday 24th March 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 2

PSALM RESPONSE: MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?

1st reading Isaiah 50:4-7 Psalm 21 2nd reading Philippians 2:6-11 Gospel Mark 14:1-15:47

PARISH GROUPS



Youth Groups (including First Holy Communion & Confirmation)

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

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9) &

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

Please check the parish website for the calendar of meetings, times and venues. To register for these groups please go to our website:

<https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/parishlife>

Fellowship Group - St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. We are holding a Lenten Supper at 6.45pm every Wednesday during Lent followed by a Fellowship Lenten Study: 'God Has No Favourites' starting at 7.30pm. We will be following this ecumenical course exploring our relationships with God and each other. Week 5: 20th March - the theme is 'What is a Christian?' For the Zoom link contact Peter at: peterbaggott@aol.com

Anyone is welcome to come along just to the Lenten Supper or just to the Lenten Study or to both.

Growing In Faith Together Group

Tuesdays 10.15am to approx. 11.45am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. During Lent we will be showing the film 'Jesus of Nazareth' with Robert Powell in six parts. All are welcome!

Knitting Club - third Tuesday of the month, from 2pm-4pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. If you would like to join us for a knit and cup of tea please come along, all levels of knitting ability welcome!

60s Club - meets every fortnight on a Monday from 2pm-4pm at Holy Cross Resource Centre. Our next meeting is on Monday 18th March. All welcome!

Please go to our website for details of more parish groups (Little Flowers, Prayer Groups, Ark of Fellowship)

MESSAGES



Changes to Mass during Lent

The Friday Mass at OLOA will be celebrated at 10.30am (instead of 9.30am), followed by Stations of the Cross.

Stations of the Cross

During Lent:

St Andrew: Tuesdays at 9.30am (before Mass) but not on 26th March;

St Swithun Wells: Tuesdays at 10am with coffee available afterwards;

Holy Cross: Thursdays at 9am (before Mass);

Holy Cross: Fridays at 6.15pm in Malayalam (Kerala's official language)

St Joseph: Fridays at 9.30am (before Mass);

St Edward: Fridays at 9.30am (before Mass)

OLOA: Wednesdays at 6.30pm & Fridays after the 10.30am Mass.

On Good Friday (29th March):

There will be Stations of the Cross for families at St Edward and OLOA both starting at 10am.

All are welcome.

Lent Ecumenical Study Group meets from 6.30pm-8pm in St Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water, Romsey, each Monday in Lent.

All are welcome. Please bring a bible if you can.

Lent Talks at OLOA: After the Sunday 9.30am Mass, "Is Christianity a help or hindrance?"

Sunday 17th March: Is Christianity a help or hindrance in Married Life? By Mrs Joan Ferrer, JP DL

Penitential Services - A number of priests will be available during these times:

Thursday 21st March, 7.30pm at OLOA

Friday 22nd March, 7.30pm at St Andrew

Saturday 23rd March, 11am at Holy Cross

Lunches & Suppers being held across the Parish During Lent

St Swithun Wells, Fair Oak - at 6.45pm on Wednesdays, the Fellowship Group will be hosting Lenten Suppers of soup, bread and cheese in aid of CAFOD. There will be a Lenten Study at 7.30pm on Wednesday evenings (see Fellowship notice in Parish Groups for more info).

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.

Chrism Mass - Tuesday 26th March, 11am in Portsmouth Cathedral. Bishop Philip would like to invite you all to join him for this great celebration (for this reason there will be no Mass at St Andrew's on this day).

Helpers needed for Children's Liturgy at Holy Cross

If you are interested in helping out with Children's Liturgy please either speak to or email Dcn Matteo.

mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

MESSAGES CONTINUED



Second Collections

Next weekend (23rd/24th March): Easter Flowers

A collection will be taken for the beautiful flower arrangements that will be in all of our churches at Easter. Please do not use the yellow gift aid envelopes for this collection.

Good Friday Collection: Holy Places (Please do not use the yellow gift aid envelopes for this collection).

The Easter Sunday Collection traditionally supports our parish priests, in recognition for all their dedication, guidance and care they give across our parish. For your convenience there are several ways of making these offerings:

- Loose cash or cheques in the collection basket (please make cheques out to CDP St Swithun Wells with Easter offering on the back);
- If you are a tax payer and wish to gift aid your offering please use the yellow envelopes provided in the reception area of each church. Please ensure all relevant information is included so we can reclaim the gift aid on your behalf;
- Bank Transfer to the main parish account CDP St Swithun wells (Sort code: 30-93-04, A/c: 01786599 using ref: Easter);
- There will also be a 'Clergy Easter Offering' link on our website which will be made available next week.

Bishop Philip's Pastoral Letter - Please read Bishop Philip's Pastoral Letter, "Regular Confession", copies have been inserted into our parish newsletter and are also available to pick up from church welcome areas.

Good Companions - For our next get-together on Friday 22nd March we will be joining with the Lenten lunch in the Cloister at St Edward's. Soup, bread and cheese will be available from 12 Noon. Please come along and enjoy the food and the company. If you have any queries, please ring Tony Wilson on 023 80266617.

Divine Mercy Sunday

7th April 2024, Holy Cross Church, starting at 2.45pm with procession of the Divine Mercy Image, 3pm prayers and Chaplet, Veneration of Divine Mercy Image and Blessing with a 1st Class Relic of St Faustina, Meditations and Litany and ending with Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament. Confessions will be available. Refreshments in the Resource Centre afterwards, all very welcome. Enquiries to Roz Monaghan on 0775 263 9593 or to Fr Raffaele.

Easter Camp 2024 (8th - 11th April)

School years 7 to 11 & Sixth Form
St Cassian's Centre, Wallington's Road, Kintbury, RG17 9SR

Cost: £150 for the eldest or only child, £100 for each additional child (siblings)

CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Tuesday:	6.30pm-7.30pm (after Mass)	St Edward
Tuesday:	9.30am-10.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew
Saturday:	10.00am-10.30am (after Mass)	Holy Cross
	10am or by appointment	OLQA
	1.30pm-2.30pm & 5.30pm-6pm	St Joseph
Sunday:	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Edward
	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew

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 Sunday 24th March** (account details are on the booking form on our website). For any enquiries please email either: grailseekers.sswp@gmail.com or studentyouth.sswp@gmail.com

Fr David Whitehead RIP - we now have details of Fr David's Requiem Mass which will be on **Wednesday 27th March at 11am in The Immaculate Conception Church, Stubbington**. Fr David will then be taken to South Stoneham Cemetery, Mansbridge Road, Southampton for a burial service at 1.30pm. Following the Requiem Mass, there will be refreshments provided in the parish hall at Stubbington.

Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ronnie Wichman and for his family. Ronnie's Funeral Service takes place on Tuesday 26th March at Test Valley Crematorium.

St George Catholic College Alumni Reunion

Sunday 28th April 2024 from 3pm-5pm

Did you attend or work at St George Catholic College in the 1960s, 70s or 80s? To celebrate the school's recent outstanding Ofsted report, we are inviting past pupils and staff in the 60s, 70s or 80s to join us for a reunion afternoon tea and cakes and a tour of the school. Please spread the word and save the date! Email Jeanine Bonavia at jbbonavia@stgcc.co.uk or call 023 8067 0104 to **book a place by Friday, 26th April**, so we know the numbers attending. All welcome.

Refurbishment of Holy Cross Resource Centre

It has been agreed, to use some of the funds we hold in parish reserves, to reconfigure and refurbish the Resource Centre at Holy Cross. The changes will include dividing the upper office and loft into three separate offices, upgrading the kitchen and toilets as well as renewing the floors, main door, rendering and plastering the walls and decorating throughout. The Resource Centre is our most popular community space, and we hope that internal parish groups, external groups and individuals hosting private functions will be encouraged to hire/use it more and more often. The refurbishment has been agreed by the Parish Finance Committee and is awaiting final approval by the Diocese as part of the St Swithun Wells Parish Mission.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tues: 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
Saturdays: Fr Mario, 2.30pm-4.30pm, Romsey Parish Office (26A Abbey Water)

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 16th March	9.30am	Holy Cross	People of the Parish The Harfield Family (Wellbeing) Jennie Lavin RIP Andrew Wilson RIP
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	
	6.00pm	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	
	6.30pm	St Edward	
Sunday 17th March <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Patricia Bradley RIP FM Ellen Lane RIP FM John Carmody RIP
	9.00am	St Edward	
	9.00am	St Andrew	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	Holy Cross (also livestreamed)	
11.00am	St Joseph		
Mon 18th March	9.30am	Holy Cross	Regina Turl (Special Intention) Helen Baxter RIP
Tues 19th March <i>St Joseph</i>	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Dian (Special Intention)
Wed 20th March	9.30am	Holy Cross	Maureen Hoskin (Birthday Intentions)
	9.30am	OLQA	
	10.00am	St Edward	
Thurs 21st March	9.30am	Holy Cross	Phyllis Altman RIP Brigid Roddy RIP <u>Penitential Service</u>
	12 Noon	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	
	<u>7.30pm</u>	<u>OLQA</u>	
Friday 22nd March	10.00am	St Joseph	John & Beppie Marsh RIP <u>Penitential Service</u>
	10.00am	St Edward	
	<u>10.30am</u>	<u>OLQA</u>	
	<u>7.30pm</u>	<u>St Andrew</u>	
Saturday 23rd March	9.30am	Holy Cross	Peter Crawford RIP <u>Penitential Service</u> Alan Stuart Jones RIP Sr Joseph (Wellbeing) Dr Teresa Layzell (In thanksgiving for 30yrs repository efforts)
	<u>11.00am</u>	<u>Holy Cross</u>	
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	
	6.00pm	OLQA	
	6.30pm	St Edward	
Sunday 24th March <i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Umberto Pugi RIP Anniversary Gladys Curmi RIP Anniversary Children of Palestine People of the Parish
	9.00am	St Edward	
	9.00am	St Andrew	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	Holy Cross (also livestreamed)	
	11.00am	St Joseph	

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

Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: lspeziale@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Mario Toma (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: mtoma@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 Matteo Pagani
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Paul Wilson
Tel: 023 8061 6618; E: pwilson@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