



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ 28th APRIL 2024: FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ONCE BITTEN TWICE SHY

"Once bitten twice shy" is a saying which finds its way into the English language. "Once bitten, twice shy" means that you won't do something a second time if you had a bad or unpleasant experience when you did it the first time or, at the very least, you will be extremely cautious if you have to do it again.

The principle appears in one of *Aesop's Fables*, which is a collection of little ancient Greek stories that have strong moral messages. This one is about a wolf who approaches a house being guarded by a dog at the gate and corners him. He tells the dog that he is going to eat him. The dog argues that he is too thin to make a good meal and that he should allow him to fatten up first. The wolf goes away and when he returns he finds the dog has positioned himself safely on the other side of the gate. I mention this because I find myself thinking the same about the arrival of Saul and his attempt to join the disciples. Imagine what must have gone through the disciples minds. Here was the very man who persecuted the church and caused the death of the Deacon St Stephen. Was he going to be the same to them and should they be wary of his intentions. Was he genuine? Could they take a risk? - "Once bitten twice shy!"

The miracle is that Barnabas had the courage to forgive because he understood that God had forgiven Saul. Barnabas not only forgave but he spoke on behalf of Saul and by this act of forgiveness and trust, he managed to influence the other disciples into accepting Saul into their company. Saul goes forward as the Apostle Paul teaching and preaching in the knowledge that he had been accepted. BUT I hazard a guess that Paul had to live with the personal knowledge of what he did despite being accepted and that must have caused him great personal pain and sorrow.

In this First Reading at Mass we too are confronted with our own ability or lack of it to forgive others and to trust them by giving them a second chance. I am sure that there have been times when we have been dismissive of people, even members of our families. We know that people get into trouble and can make serious mistakes in their lives but instead of being dismissive we are asked to have an open heart, a forgiving disposition and a trust that God may work for the good of the person involved. This is not easy.

I am grateful to Barnabas who took a risk on Paul and was rewarded by Paul's loyal service and his apostleship to the Gentiles. I pray that I may try to imitate Barnabas with his God centred discernment, and, may I be truly thankful for the way God continues to trust me and give me a second, third and *ad infinitum* number of chances.

Fr Bruce

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is the Vatican Declaration on Human Dignity "Infinite Dignity" - 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 1st May**, 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 28th April 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 1

PSALM RESPONSE: YOU, LORD, ARE MY PRAISE IN THE GREAT ASSEMBLY.

1st reading Acts 9:26-31 Psalm 21 2nd reading 1 St John 3:18-24 Gospel John 15:1-8

Sunday 5th May 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 2

PSALM RESPONSE: THE LORD HAS SHOWN HIS SALVATION TO THE NATIONS.

1st reading Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48 Psalm 97 2nd reading 1 St John 4:7-10 Gospel John 15:9-17

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 - Wednesday 1st May, 7pm at St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. This week we will be having an evening on Mary, Mother of God and the Church. Everyone is most welcome. If you want to join by Zoom please contact Peter Baggott on peterbaggott@aol.com.

Please go to our website for details of more parish groups (e.g. Communion & Liberation & Ark of Fellowship)

Growing In Faith Together Group

Tuesdays 10.15am to approx. 11.45am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. All are welcome!

Afternoon Club - St. Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water, Romsey. There will be no meeting on **Tues 7th May** as many parishioners will be attending the funeral of Janet Cooke, who was well known and greatly respected in the St Joseph's community. **Our next meeting will be at 2pm on Tues 4th June.** Come and join us for tea, games and good fun.

The Little Flowers Baby & Toddler Group - Meet on Wednesdays during term time from 10am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh. The group is for 0-4 years and their families. More info on the parish website or email: littleflowers.sswp@gmail.com

Mass for the Sick & Housebound

Saturday 27th April at 2pm in St Edward's Church

There will be a special Mass in which we will pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish. During the Mass it will be possible to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. All who are sick, elderly, facing surgery, or seeking the gift of God's healing are welcome to participate. The whole Parish will be invited to join in prayer for those who are sick and for their caregivers.

Upcoming Baptisms & First Confessions - this Sunday

28th April at 3pm in Holy Cross we will have the joy to baptise some children, most of which are part of the Stars of Abraham groups. They are, **Emilie, Crixus, Rheia, Olivia, Robert, Emma, Chloe, Mufaro, Jayden, Winston and Brietta.** Please pray also for the children of Stars of Abraham who will be making their First Confessions this week.

Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Siobhan Waters and for her family. Siobhan's Funeral Mass takes place on **Tuesday 30th April at 2pm in Holy Cross.**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Janet Cooke and for her family. Janet's Funeral Mass takes place on **Tuesday 7th May at 11.30am in St Joseph's Church.**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Alberto Marucci and for his family. Alberto's Funeral takes place on **Wednesday 8th May at 11.30am in Holy Cross.**

White Fathers - OLOA is pleased to welcome priests from the White Fathers (Missionaries of Africa) at the Saturday Vigil and Sunday Morning Mass this weekend.

MESSAGES



What is the Fraternity of St Charles?

On **Sunday 5th May at 3pm in St Edward's**, Fr Paolo Sottopietra, General Superior of the Fraternity of St Charles, the Society the priests of our parish belong to, will held a meeting for all the parish where he will describe what the Fraternity of St Charles is. There will also be time for questions.

Mass in Cantonese 廣東話彌撒

Fr. Bruno Lepeu, MEP, who served in Hong Kong for many years will come to celebrate Mass and hear Confessions in Cantonese. Welcome all faithfuls and friends from nearby areas!
在香港服務多年的巴黎外方傳教會龐樂培神父 將會在 Eastleigh 為大家以廣東話舉行感恩祭及辦修和，歡迎在附近地區的兄弟姊妹及朋友參加，同頌主恩！

Date 日期：**Monday 6th May 2024**

星期一 (Bank Holiday 英國假期)

Place 地點：**Holy Cross RC Church (53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh SO50 9DF)**

Time 時間：

2.00pm Confessions 修和 - 請報名

3.00pm Mass 感恩祭

4.00-6.00pm Tea & Coffee 茶聚

Please enrol through the google form below. 請填妥以下表格，於2024年5月5日晚上6時前報名。

<https://forms.gle/gvQbZkjNt775aXPY7>

CAFOD Coffee morning - Wed 22nd May, 10.30am-12 Noon at St Edward's. Cakes, produce and plants on sale. There will also be a raffle. Donations of cakes & produce gratefully accepted. All proceeds to CAFOD.

MESSAGES CONTINUED

Belong & Believe at OLOA

Exploring Celtic spirituality through CaFE – Catholic Faith Exploration – as we watch an inspirational DVD taking us to the beautiful locations of the saints whose spreading of the gospel influenced our lands. We will explore and discuss what these seemingly ordinary men and women might teach us about living more lovingly and more creatively in our fragmented world of today. Wednesdays: refreshments from 7pm for a 7.30pm start - May 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd. It's not too late to come and join us - contact Sue Thomson on 07393 917202

sue.thomson.st@gmail.com

Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 12th May, 1pm-4pm Pavillion on the Park, 1 Kingfisher Road, SO50 9LH

An event for all of the parish, especially families. We begin at 1pm, sharing a meal together followed by some activities and a discussion, the topic will be again 'Relationships with Technology'. 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 use the link you find on the "Next Main Parish Events" section.

Next Get2Gether date for your diary: Saturday 15th June (this will be a walk instead).

Romsey Relay Marathon, Broadlands Estate 19th

May 2024 - Update: following on from my message a few months ago, a fundraising page has now been set up: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/sswpyouthgroups>. We need your support! Please could you help us by sharing this link with your friends & family and let them know we are raising money for our youth groups and/or give generously by donating whatever you can. Details of the event can be found at: <https://www.romseymarathon.co.uk/> Thanks, Carrie

Referees Required

We are looking to arrange a St Swithun Wells parish football tournament for children (up to 18 yrs old) in the Summer. If you have experience of refereeing children's football matches and would like to help please contact Fr Raffaele as soon as possible:

rcossa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Gift Aid Personal Statements

This year the parish has decided not to send out individual personal statements due to the high cost of postage. However, if you require a personal statement, please contact your church's gift aid coordinator

(details below and on the parish website) and they will be happy to email you the amounts of gift aid claimed on your donations.

St Andrew's and St Joseph's: David Martin

giftaid.sjsa@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

St Edward's: Donna Scappaticci

giftaid.seb@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Holy Cross, St Swithun Wells & OLOA: Patricia Baggott

giftaid.hcolqa@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Our Father In Heaven Retreat - Fr Mark Hogan invites us all to a FREE Year of Prayer Retreat on **Friday 4th May (evening) and Saturday 5th May (all day)** at St Peter's Church Pastoral Centre in Winchester. Once you have registered, you will receive further details nearer to the date of the event. Please confirm your attendance by **Monday 29th April** latest by registering here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/year-of-prayer-our-father-in-heaven-retreat-days-fri-3-pm-and-sat-4-may-tickets-877957062207?aff=oddtcreator>

Churches Together in Chandler's Ford - Fryern

Funtasia (6th May 2024) - We have a stand at the Fryern Funtasia and are in urgent need of volunteers from our church congregations to help staff this on the day. The Funtasia runs from 12.00-4.30pm. If anyone can help even for an hour or two during that time, or alternatively with the set up earlier in the morning please contact Mike Greenslade (our Parish Contact) on 01962 715894

A Year of Encounter - With a UK general election due sometime this year, politicians will be looking for our votes. We have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty, injustice, abortion and euthanasia. Raising our voices and contacting parliamentary candidates as a parish community will send a strong signal to those standing for election in our local constituencies. A *Year of Encounter* is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see cafod.org.uk/encounter for more info, including an online session on Sat 4th May to learn more.

SCHOOL NOTICES

St Swithun Wells Primary School - Vacancies

Site Manager - 5 days a week, 52 weeks a year.

Minibus Driver - Term time only, 12hrs per week.

For more information please see posters on church noticeboards or go to:

<https://www.st-swithunwells.org.uk/vacancies/>

Email: adminoffice@st-swithunwells.hants.sch.uk

Closing date for both applications is Wednesday 15th May 2024.

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

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Tuesdays:	Fr Raffaele not 30th Apr, 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 27th April	9.30am	Holy Cross	John Quinn RIP FM <u>Mass for the Sick & Housebound</u> People of the Parish Sarah Howie RIP Anniversary Rosemary Oxby RIP
	<u>2.00pm</u>	<u>St Edward</u>	
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	
	6.00pm	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	
Sunday 28th April <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Susan Johnston (Special Intention) Ivy & Ted Bowerman RIP Christine Watson & Chloe Godding RIP Anniversary Robert Benedict Harris RIP
	9.00am	St Edward	
	9.00am	St Andrew	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	Holy Cross (also livestreamed)	
Monday 29th April <i>St Catherine of Siena</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross	Children of Palestine
Tuesday 30th April	10.00am	St Andrew	John Harrison RIP <u>Funeral Mass: Siobhan Waters RIP</u> Peter Kelly RIP
	<u>2.00pm</u>	<u>Holy Cross</u>	
	6.00pm	St Edward	
Wednesday 1st May	9.30am	Holy Cross	Jack & Maureen Howard RIP Keith Small RIP
	9.30am	OLQA	
	10.00am	St Edward	
Thursday 2nd May <i>St Athanasius</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross	Margaret Goodfellow (Wellbeing) Bernie Hanley RIP
	12 Noon	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	
Friday 3rd May <i>Ss Philip & James</i>	9.30am	OLQA	Sean Adams RIP Mrs Edward Christian FM
	10.00am	St Joseph	
	10.00am	St Edward	
Saturday 4th May <i>Morning Mass: The English Martyrs</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross	The Pritchard Family (Wellbeing) Peter Penrose (Wellbeing) Pauline Wilson RIP 2nd Anniversary
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	
	6.00pm	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	
	6.30pm	St Edward	
Sunday 5th May <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Jan & Helena Gaca RIP Doris Briddon RIP 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	

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

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