



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ **9th JANUARY 2022: THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

WHAT IS RELIGION?

Recently I happened to read a very interesting article of George Weigel, written for the American catholic magazine "First Things".

The article starts with a quote of Cardinal Newman, that I believe is still relevant to describe today's society. Here is the quote: "I know that all times are perilous, and that in every time serious and anxious minds, alive to the honour of God and the needs of men, are apt to consider no times as perilous as their own... And all times have their special trials which others have not. And ... I will admit that there were certain specific dangers to Christians at certain other times, which do not exist in this time... Still, I think that the trials which lie before us are such as would appall and make dizzy even such courageous hearts as St. Athanasius, St Gregory the Great or St Gregory VII. And they would confess that, dark as the prospect of their own day was to them severally, ours has a darkness different in kind from any that has gone before it... For Christianity has never yet had the experience of a world simply irreligious".

I believe that what Newman meant by "a world simply irreligious" was not a world without religious believers. At his time Mass attendance was higher than today! He meant something deeper: the dawn of an ego-centred world, a society that has no end beyond the satisfaction of personal desire, where conceit leads to self-destruction, like in the ancient fable of Aesop "The Frog and the Ox", where a frog, bragging he can be as big as an ox, inflates himself, swallowing as much air as he can, but eventually bursts. What was the frog's mistake? He didn't accept that there was something bigger than himself. The word religion means "to establish bonds". Therefore, irreligiosity is the refusal of any relationship and it cannot but lead us to self-destruction, like the fable of the frog teaches us.

Religion, before being a practise or a belief, is the awareness that I'm not alone in the world, that there is and there will always be Someone beyond me, greater than me. It is also the discovery that when I stop worrying about me and my feelings and I start, like a child staring at his mother's presence, to look up and open myself up to the "beyond", life gets easier. I realize that no man is an island, that I rest in a relationship with Someone bigger than me, who is more a friend or a father, rather than a competitor that jeopardises my freedom.

True religion is communion with a transcendent reality and, good news for us Catholics, it is a reality that is more at hand than what we think: it is present in the carnal companionship of the Church. The Church is the shrine of religiosity, whose life (Masses, groups, conversations, events...) is the best antidote to our self-destructive ego-centrism.

Fr Luca

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is a short video by Communion & Liberation, 'Christmas 2021' - 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 9.30am on Wednesday 12th January, please email your messages/notices to: stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 9th January 2022: Year C - Year 2 - Psalter Week: Office Proper

PSALM RESPONSE: BLESS THE LORD, MY SOUL! LORD GOD, HOW GREAT YOU ARE.

READINGS: 1st reading Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11 Psalm 103 2nd reading Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7 Gospel Luke 3:15-16,21-22

Sunday 16th January 2022: Year C - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 2

READINGS: 1st reading Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 95 2nd reading 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 Gospel John 2:1-11

PARISH GROUPS



Stars of Abraham (school years 3-6)

Meetings restart in person this week:

Tues, 4.00pm-5.30pm in St Edward's Cloister;

Tues, 4.15pm-5.45pm in St Andrew;

Sat, 10.30am-Noon in Holy Cross Resource Centre.

To join and for more info please click the Stars of Abraham Icon on our homepage.

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9)

Meet in person on Saturdays in St Edward, 2.00-4.00pm. To join and for more info please click the Grail Seekers Icon on our homepage.

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

Meet in person on Friday evenings at 6.30pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre. If you would like to attend please book your place on our website by clicking the Student Youth Icon on our homepage.

Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community in Holy Cross meets every Wednesday, for more information please click the link on the homepage of our website. All are welcome!

School of Community in St Edward meets every Thursday at 8pm in St Edward's cloister. All are welcome!

Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

Meetings restart on Wed 12th January, 8pm in St Edward. If you would like to be baptised, confirmed or received into the Catholic Church (or know more about the Catholic faith) please email Deacon Paul Owen: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or alternatively please speak to a priest.

Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) Group

Tuesdays 10.15am to approx. 11.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. On Tuesday 11th Jan we start a new series called 'Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible'. All are welcome!

Fellowship Group - Meetings will resume in the New Year, date to be announced.

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 are welcome!

60 Club - will restart on Monday 10th January in the Holy Cross Resource Centre at 2.00pm. All are welcome!

The Little Flowers Baby & Toddler Group

Will start on Wednesday 12th January, 10am, at Holy Cross Resource Centre and each Wednesday thereafter. The group is for 0-4 years and their families. More information is on the website or you can email: littleflowers.sswp@gmail.com More volunteers are always welcome.

Knitting Club - meets third Tuesday of the month, the next meeting is on Tuesday 18th January 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!

Ark of Fellowship - Group for learning disabilities or learning difficulties, their families and friends

Thursdays at 6.30pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre for a couple of hours, commencing Thursday 27th January. We will have fun and games and meals together. We are open to suggestions to make this group an inclusive and enjoyable one. It is important that we build a good community spirit which recognises that there is value in every individual, no matter their strengths or perceived weaknesses and certainly that there is value to be found in the bonds created within such a group. We are looking for volunteers to help run the group. If you would be interested in volunteering or you know some young adults who would like to join the group, please contact Fr Luca at: arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com

MESSAGES



St Joseph's Church Private Prayer times

The church will be open for private prayer every Thursday (10am-6.30pm) and Sunday (10am-12 Noon).

Holy Cross Shop

Reopens on Thursday 13th January after Mass.

Meeting for Parish Eucharistic Ministers

Sunday 16th January, 3pm-4.30pm at St Edward's In our Parish we are blessed with many Eucharistic Ministers and this meeting is an opportunity to thank you all. During the afternoon there will be a formation and follow-up discussion. We hope that you can all attend. Refreshments will be available.

MESSAGES CONTINUED

Cultural Friday - 21st January, 8pm at St Edward's

As it is during the week of Prayer for Christian Unity we are going to look at some hymns, popular across all Christian Denominations that show how and why the church sings it's way through thick and thin. We will focus on the background behind hymns including, Lead Kindly Light by St John Henry Newman, Amazing Grace by John Newton and the classic Abide With Me by Henry Francis Lyte. Cheese, wine and nibbles will be available throughout the evening, suggested donation of £1.

Meeting for Parish Readers

Sunday 23rd January, 3pm-4.30pm at St Edward's

We are blessed with many Readers in our Parish and would like to take the opportunity to thank you all. During the Readers afternoon there will be a talk and time for sharing experiences. We hope that you can all attend. Refreshments will be available.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th-25th January

The ecumenical service closing the week in Chandler's Ford will be at **4pm on Sunday 23rd January at St Martin in the Wood Church, Queens Road, Chandlers Ford, SO53 5AG.** All are invited so please attend if you can. On that Sunday we are also invited to send representatives to attend the service at St Boniface Church, Hursley Road, Chandlers Ford, SO53 2FT. If you are interested, please speak to Mike Greenslade (02380 262870) or email him at mikeg5@ntlworld.com.

Thank you to everyone for your Christmas greetings, prayers, cards and thoughts expressed in so many different ways. We are also very grateful for your generosity shown through the Christmas Offerings which we do appreciate.

Fathers Raffaele, Luca, Marco & Bruce.

CONFESSION

(SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Tuesday:	9.30am-10.00am 6.30pm-7.30pm	St Andrew St Edward
Saturday:	10.00am-10.30am 5.30pm-6.00pm 5.30pm-6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph
Sunday:	8.30am-9.00am 9.00am-9.30am	St Andrew OLQA

Coffee Stop - a big thank you to everyone who has supported us since lockdown ended in May last year. We donated £453 to the Parish. Come along on Thursday mornings 10.00-11.30am in the Resource Centre for Coffee/Tea/Hot chocolate and biscuits only £1. Meet your friends there and make new friends. A friendly welcome awaits all!

Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Lisa-Marie Haynes and for her family. Lisa's Funeral Mass takes place at **Holy Cross Church on Friday 14th January at 11.30am.**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Nora Martin and for her family. Nora's Funeral Mass takes place at **St Edward on Tuesday 18th January at 11am.**

Holy Cross Live Streamed Masses

Unfortunately we sometimes experience bad internet connections from our provider which has meant that the quality of the live streamed Masses has been affected. We apologise for this, however it is out of our hands.

Portsmouth Diocese Job Vacancies

There are a number of vacancies at the Diocese: Senior IT Technician, Campaign/Gift Aid Officer, Deputy Director of Estates and more.

For more information please go to <https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/vacancies>

Eastleigh Street Pastors urgently need more volunteers. Our training programme starts on 25th March 2022. Please contact Eric Hyom on 07736 967921 / erichyom@sky.com for an informal chat.

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Tuesdays:	3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church), Eastleigh
Wednesdays:	Fr Luca, 4.00pm-6.00pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church), Eastleigh
Fridays:	Fr Raffaele, 10.30am-11.30am, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey
Saturdays:	Fr Marco, 9.30am-12.30pm, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey

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 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

Parish Office: Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF
Tel: 02380 273882

Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance Admin: Linda Roberts
Email: lroberts@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Sarah Goodfellow
Email: stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website Contact: website.sswp@gmail.com

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 8th Jan	9.30am	Holy Cross*	Alex Hill (Birthday)
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	Living & Deceased Members of the Dwyer & Breen Families
	6.00pm	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	Fr George Ngwa
	6.30pm	St Edward	Hugh & Mary Ann McTernan RIP and their Relatives Both Living & Deceased
Sunday 9th Jan <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Edward	The People of the Parish
	9.00am	St Andrew	Harry Roydon RIP Anniversary
	9.30am	OLQA*	
	11.00am	Holy Cross*	Deceased Members of the Knights of St Columba (Eastleigh) RIP
	11.00am	St Joseph	Jean Gallagher RIP
Monday 10th Jan	9.30am	Holy Cross*	Michael Lane RIP FM Special Intention
Tuesday 11th Jan	10.00am	St Andrew	
	6.00pm	St Edward	Pasquale Marucci RIP
Wed 12th Jan	9.30am	Holy Cross*	Elizabeth Nash (Special Intention)
	9.30am	OLQA	
	10.00am	St Edward	Luke & Claire (Special Intention)
Thursday 13th Jan	9.30am	Holy Cross*	Gualteri Smyth FM
	12 Noon	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	Dora Pond RIP Anniversary
Friday 14th Jan	9.30am	OLQA	
	10.00am	St Joseph	Ann Brennan RIP
	10.00am	St Edward	Jenny Blackstaffe RIP 2nd Anniversary
	<u>11.30am</u>	<u>Holy Cross</u>	<u>Funeral Mass: Lisa-Marie Haynes RIP</u>
Saturday 15th Jan	9.30am	Holy Cross*	Margaret Martindale RIP
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	Rocio Bates (Thanksgiving)
	6.00pm	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	Roni Brown (Birthday)
	6.30pm	St Edward	Alison Gosnell RIP
Sunday 16th Jan <i>Second Sunday In Ordinary Time</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Edward	
	9.00am	St Andrew	The People of the Parish
	9.30am	OLQA*	
	11.00am	Holy Cross*	Catherine Mary Robinson FM
	11.00am	St Joseph	Henry Glassett RIP Anniversary
			* Also Live Streamed

OUR CHURCHES

St Edward the Confessor
191-193, Winchester Rd, Chandlers Ford, SO53 2DU

Our Lady Queen of Apostles
Martin Street, Bishop's Waltham, SO32 1DN

Holy Cross Church
53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF

St Swithun Wells
Allington Lane, Fair Oak, SO50 7DB

St Andrew
Fleming Avenue, North Baddesley, SO52 9EP

St Joseph
Abbey House Drive, Romsey, SO51 8YB