



*Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ*

**31st MARCH 2024: EASTER SUNDAY**

**This Newsletter Covers Sunday 31st March & Sunday 7th April 2024**

## Easter Joy

This Sunday we celebrate the most precious event of our lives, the glorious resurrection of Our Lord.

The gospel of the Vigil Mass describes what happened when Jesus rose from the dead. It starts in this way: "When the Sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices with which to go and anoint him. And very early they went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising". In this gospel sentence we can feel the **sadness and despair** of the women as they approached the garden, the tomb and the place of the crucifixion.

Sometimes we too experience moments of sadness and despair, like these women. We are slaves to our thoughts and feelings. We are imprisoned in a tomb we have created for ourselves. And the reason why we experience such a painful state is because we have removed God from our lives, from our thoughts and from our hearts. Every day we crucify Jesus, we put him in a tomb and we roll a stone against the entrance so that God is so far away from us that he practically does not exist. The stone is the barrier that we put between ourselves and God.

The question those women had was, "Who will roll away the stone from the entrance of the tomb for us?" And the question we have is similar: "Who will help us to remove the stone from our tomb? Who will remove the barrier between us and God?" And the answer for those women and for us is the same: "The angel said, 'Do not be afraid. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth: he has risen'". Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, was the one who gave joy to those women, and at the same time he is the one who helps us, gives us **hope, freshness, enthusiasm, joy**.

So, a question arises: "Where do we meet Jesus now? How do we encounter Jesus as a living presence in our lives?" The presence of Jesus comes to us constantly in numerous ways. First of all, I meet him in the living **Word of God**. The Scriptures are not just the words of the past, they are the words that God speaks to us in the present, the Scriptures are the living Word of God. Jesus comes to us now and speaks his words directly into our hearts.

We encounter the living Jesus Christ personally in the **church community** which we believe to be his body. The Church is not a building, the Church is not just a gathering of people, although we are a gathering of his people, his disciples. We Catholics believe that the Church is the presence of Jesus Christ, the body of Christ in our lives. And so when we come together in our church communities to pray and worship, Jesus Christ comes to us. And when we gather on Sunday, we should expect to experience him in a personal way. We come with the expectation of meeting Jesus who comes to us.

We also believe that we meet Jesus in the **sacramental life** of the Church. When we are baptised, Jesus comes to us and embraces us. When we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Confession, we believe that we meet the living Jesus Christ in the Sacrament. We believe that every time we gather around the altar of the Eucharist, the living Lord Jesus comes among us. The bread becomes his body and the wine his blood and he gathers us to himself. We believe that the risen Lord Jesus meets us in the sacramental life of the Church.

We also believe that the risen Lord Jesus meets us in the lives of our brothers and sisters, especially our **brothers and sisters who have experienced the gift of conversion**, who have been personally changed by their encounter with Jesus Christ. When we observe the witness of faith they give us, we meet the living Lord Jesus.

Finally, we meet the risen Lord Jesus in our lives of **prayer**. If you and I find a few moments each day to make ourselves available to God, Jesus will come to us and reveal Himself in our prayers.

Let's give thanks for the risen Jesus who comes to us every day.

Happy Easter to all!

*Fr Raffaele*

## GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is the **Easter Videoposter by Communion and Liberation** - 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 **10am on Wednesday 10th April 2024**, please email your messages/notices to: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

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

# LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



**Sunday 31st March 2024:** Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: Office Proper

PSALM RESPONSE: THIS DAY WAS MADE BY THE LORD: WE REJOICE AND ARE GLAD.

1<sup>st</sup> reading Apostles 10:34a,37-43 Psalm 117 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Colossians 3:1-4 Gospel John 20:1-9

**Sunday 7th April 2024:** Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: Office Proper

PSALM RESPONSE: GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD, FOR HIS LOVE HAS NO END.

1<sup>st</sup> reading Apostles 4:32-35 Psalm 117 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 1 John 5:1-6 Gospel John 20:19-31

**Sunday 14th April 2024:** Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 3

PSALM RESPONSE: LIFT UP THE LIGHT OF YOUR FACE ON US, O LORD.

1<sup>st</sup> reading Apostles 3:13-15,17-19 Psalm 4 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 1 John 2:1-5a Gospel Luke 24:35-48

## PARISH GROUPS



### Growing In Faith Together Group

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

Fellowship Group - St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. There will be no Fellowship Group meeting on Wed 3rd April. Meetings resume **Wed 10th April, 7pm.**

Afternoon Club - St. Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water, first Tuesday in the month at 2pm. Come and join us for tea, games and good fun. Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 2nd April.**

60s Club - meets every fortnight on a Monday from 2pm-4pm at Holy Cross Resource Centre.

There is no meeting on 1st April, our next meeting is on **Monday 8th April.** 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!

## MESSAGES



### Second Collections

Pontifical Good Friday Collection (29th March) supports the Christian community in the Middle East. Please do not use the yellow gift aid envelopes for this collection. To donate online please go to: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/good-friday-collection-for-christians-in-the-holy-land>.

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);
- Please click the 'Clergy Easter Offering' link on our website (see green heart button on the homepage).

### Easter Vigil - Baptism & Confirmation

Please pray for **James Daas, Ray Bowman, and Shane Mullen** who will be baptised; **Peter Ford** who will be received into the Church and **Aisaac Magtanong** and **Joshua Taylor** who with the others will be confirmed at the Easter Vigil at St Edward the Confessor Church on Holy Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March.

### British Summer Time - Clock Change

Please remember that the clocks go forward by one hour this weekend (30th/31st March).

Car Parking at St Edward's - For all regular users of St Edward's car park, we would like to let you know that we have entered into an agreement with the Nuffield Hospital on Winchester Road. It has been agreed that Monday to Friday, fifteen hospital staff will be able to park their cars from 7.30am-5.30pm in the car park at the front of the church. They will use the spaces around the perimeter of the car park church and there will still be disabled spaces available close to the church entrance. This will provide some much-needed additional income to support our parish. This arrangement will start the week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Coffee Stop - There will be no Coffee Stop on Thursday 28th March (Maundy Thursday) and Thursday 4th April. **Coffee Stop will resume on Thursday 11th April at 10am.** Hope to see you all then.

Message of Thanks - A huge thank you to all who supported the Lenten Lunches at St Edward's. An amazing **£820.20** was raised for CAFOD projects.

St Anne's Catholic School & 6th Form College are looking to appoint a Lay Chaplain (35 hrs a week, term time only) however they will consider a more part time role for the right candidate. For more information please see posters on church noticeboards or go to: [www.st-annes.uk.com](http://www.st-annes.uk.com) where you will also find the application forms. Alternatively please contact the Head's PA via email [pahead@st-annes.uk.com](mailto:pahead@st-annes.uk.com) or call 023 8032 8200. Closing date for applications: Friday 19th April 2024.

### Latest Diocesan Job Vacancies

Please go to:

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/people/careers/>

# MESSAGES CONTINUED



## Changes to Mass (Monday 1st – Friday 5th April)

**Holy Cross:** No Mass or Adoration except the Polish Mass on Monday 1st April;

**St Andrew's:** No Mass or Confession at St Andrew's on Tuesday 2nd April;

**St Edward's:** No Mass on Wed 3rd & Friday 5th April;

**St Joseph:** Liturgy of the Word and Distribution of Communion will take place instead of Mass on Thursday 4th & Friday 5th April.

**Divine Mercy Sunday - 7th April, 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 07752 639593 or to Fr Raffaele.

**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 - April 24th, May 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd. Please book your place via Sue Thomson on 07393 917202 [sue.thomson.st@gmail.com](mailto:sue.thomson.st@gmail.com)

## Parish Office Closures

Please note the office will be closed on **Good Friday, Easter Monday & Tuesday 2nd April**. On Wed 3rd April the Office will close at 2.30pm and be closed on **Friday 5th April**.

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tues: St Edward - after Mass (6.30pm-7.30pm)  
**Wednesday:** Holy Cross - after Mass (10.00am-11.00am) **not Wed 3rd April**  
 Thursday: St Joseph - before Mass (5.30pm-6.00pm)

### CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Tuesday: 6.30pm-7.30pm (after Mass) St Edward  
 Tuesday: 9.30am-10.00am (before Mass) St Andrew  
**Not Tues 2nd April**  
 Saturday: 10.00am-10.30am (after Mass) Holy Cross  
 10am or by appointment OLQA  
 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 on 2nd Apr**, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh  
 Wednesdays: **Fr Luca not on 3rd & 10th Apr**, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre,  
 Saturdays: **Fr Mario not on 6th & 13th Apr**, 2.30pm-4.30pm, Romsey Parish Office (26A Abbey Water), Romsey



## MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Good Friday 29th March	10.00am	St Edward	<u>Stations of the Cross for Families</u>
	10.00am	OLOA	<u>Stations of the Cross for Families</u>
	3.00pm	OLOA	<u>Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion</u>
	3.00pm	St Edward	<u>Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion</u>
	3.00pm	St Andrew	<u>Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion</u>
Holy Saturday 30th March	5.00pm	Holy Cross	<u>Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion</u>
	8.30pm	OLOA	<u>Easter Vigil</u>
	8.30pm	St Edward	<u>Easter Vigil</u> Mass Intention: Keith Small RIP
	8.30pm	St Joseph	<u>Easter Vigil</u> Mass Intention: People of the Parish
Easter Sunday 31st March	9.00pm	Holy Cross	<u>Polska Msza Święta</u>
	9.00pm	Holy Cross	<u>No Mass</u>
	9.30am	St Edward	Julia Jackson RIP FM
	11.00am	St Andrew	Chris Hodson RIP
Monday 1st April	9.30am	OLOA	Annina Neri RIP Anniversary
	11.00am	Holy Cross (also livestreamed)	John Crowther RIP Anniversary
	11.00am	St Joseph	
	11.00am		
Tuesday 2nd April	8.30am	Holy Cross	
	9.30am	Holy Cross	
Tuesday 2nd April	10.00am	St Andrew	<u>No Mass</u>
	6.00pm	St Edward	

## MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES (CONTINUED)

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Wed 3rd April	<u>9.30am</u>	<u>Holy Cross</u>	<u>No Mass</u>
	9.30am <u>10.00am</u>	OLQA <u>St Edward</u>	<u>No Mass</u>
Thurs 4th April	<u>9.30am</u>	<u>Holy Cross</u>	<u>No Mass</u>
	12 Noon <u>6.00pm</u>	OLQA <u>St Joseph</u>	<u>Liturgy of the Word &amp; Distribution of Communion</u>
Friday 5th April	9.30am <u>10.00am</u>	OLQA <u>St Joseph</u>	<u>Liturgy of the Word &amp; Distribution of Communion</u>
	<u>10.00am</u>	<u>St Edward</u>	<u>No Mass</u>
Saturday 6th April	9.30am	Holy Cross	Caroline Rice RIP
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	People of the Parish
	6.00pm	OLQA	Sr Maureen (Wellbeing)
	6.00pm 6.30pm	St Joseph St Edward	Mrs Edward Christian FM
Sunday 7th April <i>Second Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Edward	Enid Scappaticci RIP Birthday Anniversary
	9.00am	St Andrew	Hesla Rayment RIP Anniversary
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	Holy Cross (also livestreamed)	Ann Brockway RIP FM
11.00am	St Joseph	Mrs Tren Ginevra RIP FM	
Mon 8th April <i>The Annunciation of the Lord</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross	Fraternity of St Charles
Tuesday 9th April	10.00am	St Andrew	Shina & Dian (Wellbeing)
	6.00pm	St Edward	Mrs Edward Christian FM
Wednesday 10th April	9.30am	Holy Cross	Emily Ray RIP
	9.30am	OLQA	
	10.00am	St Edward	Keith Small RIP
Thurs 11th <i>St Stanislaus</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross	Holy Souls
	12 Noon	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	Sean Adams RIP
Friday 12th April	9.30am	OLQA	
	10.00am	St Joseph	John McGrory RIP
	10.00am	St Edward	George, Gertrude & Mary Lawton RIP Anniversary
Saturday 13th April	9.30am	Holy Cross	In Grateful Thanksgiving To St Joseph
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	Joe & Lydia Fonseca RIP
	6.00pm	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	Joyce Austin RIP
	6.30pm	St Edward	Felino & Angie Cagampang (In Thanksgiving)
Sunday 14th April <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Edward	Dr Teresa Layzell (In Thanksgiving for 30yrs repository efforts)
	9.00am	St Andrew	Doris Bonello RIP Anniversary
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	Holy Cross (also livestreamed)	People of the Parish
	11.00am	St Joseph	Tony Perry RIP Anniversary

## CHURCH ADDRESSES

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

Our Lady Queen of Apostles (OLQA)  
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 Joseph  
Abbey House Drive, Romsey, SO51 8YB

St Andrew  
Fleming Ave, North Baddesley SO52 9EP