



## *Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ* 30th MARCH 2025: FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

### Purification and Enlightenment

For those adults in our Parish who have been journeying towards Easter and the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Reception into Full Communion and Confirmation), Lent is a very important time. It coincides with their final period of preparation, called the Period of Purification and Enlightenment.

This period began with the Rite of Election at the Cathedral on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March when their desire to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church was recognised by Bishop Philip on behalf of the Church. In the catechesis for Lent the preparation for the reception of baptism or the reminder of baptism already received renew those being prepared as well as the entire parish community. The period concentrates less on the teachings of the Church and more on their intense spiritual preparation. It is intended to purify their minds and hearts as they search their own conscience and do penance.

The celebration of certain rites, particularly the Scrutinies for those who are to be baptised, as well as the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation for those already baptised, bring about this process of purification and enlightenment. For those who will be baptised at Easter (the elect), the Scrutinies are being celebrated on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of Lent at the 9am Mass at St Edward the Confessor Church. They are intended to: *"...uncover, then heal, all that is weak, defective or sinful in the hearts of the elect, to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong and good."* These rites, therefore *"...should complete the conversion of the elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all."*

But for all of us, not just those who are to be received into the church, conversion should very much be a priority in Lent. As the prophet Joel urges us in the 1<sup>st</sup> reading from Ash Wednesday: *"Now, now – it is the Lord who speaks – come back to me with all your heart..."* The process that those to be baptised and received go through during Lent is one that we should all go through. As we pray for them, we might also remember that during this Lenten season we are all called to turn again to the Lord so that we can better live up to our own Baptismal calling. Receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation is therefore an essential part of this process.

So please make use of the opportunities for Confession in the coming weeks especially at one of the Penitential Services when a number of priests will be available on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 7.30pm at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church; Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church or 10am on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April at Holy Cross Church, Eastleigh.

*Dcn Paul Owen*

### GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "Let's Disarm The Earth" by Pope Francis.  
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 2nd April 2025**, 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: <https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/financesdonations>

# LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



**Sunday 30th March 2025:** Year C - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 4 (In St Edward's, on Sunday 30th March, readings from Year A are to be used because of the Scrutinies.)

**PSALM RESPONSE:** TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD.

**1<sup>st</sup> reading** Joshua 5:9a,10-12 **Psalm** 34 (33) **2<sup>nd</sup> reading** 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 **Gospel** Luke 15:1-3,11-32

**Sunday 6th April 2025:** Year C - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 1 (In St Edward's, on Sunday 6th April, readings from Year A are to be used because of the Scrutinies.)

**PSALM RESPONSE:** WHAT GREAT DEEDS THE LORD WORKED FOR US! INDEED, WE WERE GLAD.

**1<sup>st</sup> reading** Isaiah 43:16-21 **Psalm** 126 (125) **2<sup>nd</sup> reading** Philippians 3:8-14 **Gospel** John 8:1-11

## PARISH GROUPS



### The Little Flowers Baby & Toddler Group

Meet on **Wednesdays** during term time from 10am in Holy Cross Resource Centre. The group is for 0-4 years and their families. More information is on the website or you can email: [littleflowers.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:littleflowers.sswp@gmail.com)

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

**Thursdays** at 6.30pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre. Interested in volunteering or know some young adults

who would like to join the group?

Contact: [arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com)

### Fellowship Group - Wednesdays in St Swithun Wells Church at 7.30pm.

We continue our 5 week Lenten Course "Calling a Wounded Earth Home". Week 4 (2nd April) is entitled 'Justice'.

### Growing In Faith Together Group (GIFT) - every

**Tuesdays** at 10.15am in the H/Cross Resource Centre.

### Mothering Sunday

Please say a prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary this Sunday for your mother and grandmother. Here is a prayer from the Book of Blessings, 'For our mothers, who have given us life and love, that we may show them reverence and love, we pray to the Lord.'

### Lenten Lunches in aid of CAFOD every Friday in Lent at St Edward's, from 12 Noon until 1.30pm.

All donations will go to CAFOD. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

### One of the Romsey Lent Ecumenical Study Groups

meets in St Joseph's meeting room 26A Abbey Water, each Tuesday during Lent at 6.30pm. All are welcome.

### OLQA - Lenten Prayer Group

**Every Friday** during Lent in Our Lady Queen of the Apostles there is a talk about the gospel of Sunday with tea/coffee. You will be in good company! Starting at 10am until Stations of the Cross at 11.30am.

### Second Collections

**This weekend (29th & 30th March) for the Clergy Assistance Fund** - Please note, the yellow gift aid envelopes can be used for this collection. Alternatively you can give online at:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/clergy-assistance-fund-second-collection-2025>

### Easter Flowers on 12th & 13th April

A collection will be taken for the beautiful flower arrangements that will be in all of our churches at Easter.

### Stations of the Cross During Lent

**St Andrew:** Tuesdays at 9.30am (before Mass);

**St Swithun Wells:** Tuesdays at 10am with tea & 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 11.30am (before Mass).

## MESSAGES



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

**Thursday 3rd April, 7.30pm at OLQA**

**Friday 4th April, 7.30pm at St Andrew**

**Saturday 5th April, 10am at Holy Cross** (please note the earlier start time as previously it was 11am)

**The Lent & Easter Sheet 2025** was made available last weekend. If you didn't take a copy please do so from church welcome areas or go to our parish website.

### Weekday Masses & Eucharistic Adoration

One of the pillars of Lent is prayer. A simple way to do this is to attend Mass on weekdays or to participate in one of our Eucharistic Adorations. On Tuesdays in St Edward for example, there is Mass at 6pm with Eucharistic Adoration afterwards. On Wednesdays there is Mass in Holy Cross at 9.30am followed by Eucharistic Adoration. At St Joseph there is Mass every Thursday at 6pm and Eucharistic Adoration one hour before from 5pm-6pm. At OLQA there is Eucharistic Adoration (after Mass) at 12.30pm every Thursday.

### The Good Friday, Christians Together Walk of

**Witness**, will start at **St Peter's Church in Bishop's Waltham at 10am**. Members from OLQA and local churches will walk through the town, following a Cross, pausing at places for readings, and finishing with a prayer at the United Reform Church. All are welcome.

### Grail Seekers & Student Youth Easter Camp (11-17yrs) 7th-10th April 2025

at St Cassian's Centre, Wallington's Road, Kintbury, RG17 9SR  
Cost **£180** eldest or only child, **£120** for each additional child (sibling).

In order to join the camp please go to our website and complete the form, paying the whole amount by **Sunday 30th March 2025** by bank transfer.

Part bursaries may be available on application.

Spaces are limited and will be granted on a first come first served basis.

## MESSAGES CONTINUED



### **Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 6th April, 1-4pm Pavilion 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 about 'The Education of Children'. No cost, however we kindly ask you to give a donation to cover the hire of the Pavilion. 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 scroll to see the "Next Main Parish Events" section. Next *Get2Gether*: 11th May

**OLQA - Church cleaning Saturday 19th April, 10am to 12 Noon**, refreshment provided. Extra help will make the church look beautiful for Easter. All are welcome.

### **Upcoming Funerals**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Denis McCormack and his family. Denis' Funeral Mass takes place on **Monday 31st March at 11am in St Edward's**.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Phyllomena Sheppard and her family. Phyllomena's Funeral Mass takes place on **Thursday 3rd April at 11.30am in St Edward's**.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Alfredo Xavier and his family. Alfredo's Funeral Mass takes place on **Friday 11th April at 10am in St Joseph's**.

**Romsey Relay Marathon - Broadlands Estate 18th May 2025.** We would like to enter a team to run the relay marathon again this year to raise funds to help support our church youth groups. If you would like to run, please get in touch with me:

[edwardbible@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:edwardbible@yahoo.co.uk)

Details of the event can be found at <https://www.romseymarathon.co.uk>

No training is required and you don't need to be an elite runner. It is just a bit of fun and to get our church together to take part in a local community event. Looking forward to hearing from you. *Edward*

**HELP needed for Coffee Stop** - Can you help at Coffee Stop on a Thursday morning in Holy Cross Resource Centre? It would be on a rota basis once in every 5/6 weeks from 9am to 11.45am. Coffee Stop has been going in the parish for over 30 years and we would like it to continue. If you would like to help on your own or as a couple or with a friend, we would be very grateful. Please contact Pat Baggott for details on 02380 694060 or by email [baggott.pm@gmail.com](mailto:baggott.pm@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you.

### **Cultural Friday "The Enigma of Sexuality" Talk**

The video and script of the talk by Fr Alberto Frigerio is available to view on the parish website.

**Hampshire Parishes Lourdes Pilgrimage 8th - 17th May.** We urgently need a few more helpers to join our group to Lourdes - we have a full complement of less able/sick pilgrims, but without more helpers we will not

be able to travel. The trip is with the charity Across, who provide specialist transport for those with life-limiting conditions and disabilities, who cannot travel by contemporary means. There is a cost for travelling but we have raised funds to subsidise helpers. For more details please contact Marianne at: [mwanstall@btinternet.com](mailto:mwanstall@btinternet.com).

**Have you visited the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth's Jubilee Year website?** There is a special page on the Diocesan website for the Jubilee Year which contains a lot of resources for Lent. Go to: <https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/jubilee-year-2025/>

**Sadly the Assisted Dying Bill** passed its 2nd Reading in Parliament. But it can still be defeated! Only 28 MP's need to change their minds and the Bill will fall at the 3rd Reading. You can help make this happen, by reading/sharing the publications available in the welcome areas, to canvas your neighbours, or deepen your knowledge, or write to your MP, and pray that this Bill does not become Law.

**Oxford Convergence** - You are warmly invited to Oxford Convergence 2025: True Companionship - Solitude and Belonging at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, from **29th-30th March**. This free cultural event explores the epidemic of loneliness in today's world, addressing its impact on climate change, economic inequality, and mental health. For more information please go to: <https://convergenceuk.org/>

### **British Summer Time - Clock Change**

Please remember that the clocks go forward by one hour this weekend (29th/30th March).

## SCHOOL NOTICES

### **St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School**

#### **Passion Play - Wednesday 2nd April at 2pm**

The children have organised a Passion Play and would like to invite parishioners to attend. You will be most welcome.

#### **Stations of the Cross - Thursday 3rd April**

Parishioners are invited to join in the Stations of the Cross at the school. Please turn up at any time between **1pm and 2.30pm**.

### **At a Glance - List of Upcoming Parish Events**

<b>3rd Apr:</b>	Penitential Service at OLQA
<b>4th Apr:</b>	CAFOD Lenten Lunch at St Edward
<b>4th Apr:</b>	Penitential Service at St Andrew
<b>4th Apr:</b>	Lenten Prayer Group at OLQA
<b>5th Apr:</b>	Penitential Service at Holy Cross
<b>6th Apr:</b>	Parish Get2Gether
<b>11th Apr:</b>	Lenten Prayer Group at OLQA
<b>15th Apr:</b>	Chrism Mass at St John's Cathedral

### **CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)**

<b>Tuesday:</b>	9.30am-10.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew
<b>Tuesday:</b>	6.30pm-7.30pm (after Mass)	St Edward
<b>Saturday:</b>	10.00am-10.30am (after Mass)	Holy Cross
	5.30pm-6.00pm	OLQA
	5.30pm-6.00pm	St Joseph
<b>Sunday:</b>	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Edward
	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew

## MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 29th March	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOA St Joseph St Edward	Beatrice & George White; David, Laura & Eduardo Fernandes FM Alan Stuart Jones RIP 6th Anniversary  Alfred & Kathleen Allen RIP Donald Boggenpoel RIP
Mothering Sunday 30th March	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLOA	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Denis McCormack RIP Deceased Members of the Law & Ma Families Kirsty Rice (Wellbeing)
<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>	11.00am 11.00am 5.30pm	Holy Cross (& livestreamed) St Joseph Holy Cross	Keith Small RIP Robert Benedict Harris RIP Anniversary People of the Parish
Monday 31st March	9.30am <u>11.00am</u>	Holy Cross <u>St Edward</u>	Siobhan Waters RIP 1st Anniversary; Patsy Kolacz (Wellbeing) <u>Funeral Mass: Denis McCormack RIP</u>
Tuesday 1st April	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Joseph Paulo RIP
Wednesday 2nd April	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Mary Webber RIP FM Julia Jackson RIP FM
Thursday 3rd April	9.30am <u>11.30am</u> 12 Noon 6.00pm <u>7.30pm</u>	Holy Cross <u>St Edward</u> OLOA St Joseph <u>OLOA</u>	Scrayia Scrayia RIP <u>Funeral Mass: Phyllomena Sheppard RIP</u>  Virginia Weegenaar RIP <u>Penitential Service</u>
Friday 4th April	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon <u>7.30pm</u>	St Joseph St Edward OLOA <u>St Andrew</u>	Mrs Tren Ginevra RIP FM  <u>Penitential Service</u>
Saturday 5th April	9.30am <u>10.00am</u> 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross <u>Holy Cross</u> St Swithun Wells OLOA St Joseph St Edward	<u>Penitential Service</u>  Kathleen Glackin RIP Leo & Norah Brown RIP
Sunday 6th April	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLOA	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Umberto Pugi RIP 7th Anniversary Eustacio Guia Snr & Flotilda Guia RIP Anniversary People of the Parish
<i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>	11.00am 11.00am 5.30pm	Holy Cross (& livestreamed) St Joseph Holy Cross	Ann Brockway RIP FM Hesla Rayment RIP Anniversary Edith & Elizabeth (Birthday Intentions)

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: [rcossa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:rcossa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: [lspeziale@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lspeziale@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Fr Mario Toma (Assistant Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: [mtoma@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:mtoma@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Fr Matteo Pagani (Assistant Priest)

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Fr Pietro Paiusco (Assistant Priest)

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Deacon John di Meo

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Deacon Paul Owen

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Deacon Paul Wilson

Tel: 023 8061 6618; E: [pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:accounts@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

**Parish Secretary: Sarah Goodfellow**

Email: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

**Website Contact:** [website.sswp@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:rattfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)