



## *Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ* **21st MARCH 2021: FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

### The Desire to see Jesus

On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, John the Evangelist draws our attention to a curious detail: some "Greeks", of the Jewish religion, who have come to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, turn to Philip and say to him, 'Sir, we would like to see Jesus'. There are many people in the holy city, where Jesus has come for the last time. Many of them warmly welcome the Prophet of Nazareth, recognizing Him as the Messenger of the Lord, however the High Priests and the leaders of the people want to eliminate Him because they consider him a heretic and dangerous. There are also people, like those "Greeks", who are curious to see Him and to know more about his person and about the works He has performed, the last of which — the resurrection of Lazarus — has caused quite a stir.

'We would like to see Jesus': these words, like so many others in the Gospels, go beyond this particular episode and express something universal; they reveal a desire that passes through the ages and cultures, a desire present in the heart of so many people who have heard of Christ, but have not yet encountered Him. 'I wish to see Jesus', thus He fills the heart of these people.

Responding indirectly, in a prophetic way, to that request to be able to see Him, Jesus pronounces a prophecy that reveals His identity and shows the path to know Him truly, 'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified'. It is the hour of the Cross! It is the time to defeat Satan, prince of evil, and of the definitive triumph of the merciful love of God. Christ declares that He will be 'lifted up from the earth', an expression with a twofold meaning: "lifted" because He is crucified, and "lifted" because He is exalted by the Father in the Resurrection, to draw everyone to Him and to reconcile mankind with God and among themselves. The hour of the Cross, the darkest in history, is also the source of salvation for those who believe in Him.

Continuing in his prophecy of the imminent Passover, Jesus uses a simple and suggestive image, that of a grain of wheat, that once fallen onto the earth dies in order to bear fruit. In this image we find another aspect of the Cross of Christ: that of fruitfulness. The death of Jesus, in fact, is an inexhaustible source of new life, because it carries within itself the regenerative strength of God's love. Immersed in this love through Baptism, Christians can become "grains of wheat" and bear much fruit if they, like Jesus, "lose their life" out of love for God and brothers and sisters.

We as Christians can offer to those who "wish to see Jesus" three things: the Gospel, the Crucifix and the witness of our faith, poor but sincere.

The Gospel: there we can encounter Jesus, listen to Him, know Him.

The Crucifix: the sign of the love of Jesus who gave Himself for us.

Faith that is expressed in simple gestures of fraternal charity.

*Fr Marco*

### **GEM OF THE WEEK**



This week's GEM is the **Best Images of Pope Francis in Iraq** you can find this on our homepage.  
If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact [website.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:website.sswp@gmail.com)

**Newsletter items should be received into the Parish Office by Wednesday 9:30am**

# LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



**Sunday 21st March 2021:** Year B - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 1

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

**READINGS:**

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

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 28TH MARCH:**

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

## PARISH GROUPS



**Stars of Abraham (school years 3, 4, 5 & 6)** All the meetings of the group will be on Zoom on **Saturday at 11.00am**. To join and for more info please click the Stars of Abraham Icon on our homepage.

**Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9)** All the meetings of the group will be on Zoom on **Saturday at 2.00pm**. To join and for more info please click the Grail Seekers Icon on our homepage.

**Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)** All the meetings of the group will be on Zoom on **Friday at 8.00pm**. To join and for more info please click the Student Youth Icon on our homepage.

### **Communion & Liberation Groups**

**Every Wednesday** with fr Luca through Zoom.

**Every Thursday at 8pm** with fr Raffaele through Zoom.

For more information please click the links on the homepage of our website.

### **Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)**

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.

### **Fellowship Group Lenten Suppers & Bible Study Course** **Wednesday evenings**

#### **Lenten Suppers - 7.00-7.30pm via Zoom**

Join us with soup, bread, cheese and a chat. Raising funds for CAFOD and Fledge Eastleigh.

#### **Bible Study - 7.30-9.00pm via Zoom**

**"Rebuilding the Ruins"** looking at our world through the eyes of the Old Testament Prophets.

*Week 5 - Church Ruins*

If you would like to join us please contact Bob and Marion Birtles for the Zoom link:

bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

## MESSAGES



### **Stations of the Cross During Lent**

**Holy Cross - Fridays at 6pm**, this may be attended in person in the church, it will also be live streamed. Please go to our website for the link.

**St Swithun Wells - Tuesdays at 10am**, this may be attended in person in the church.

**OLQA - Wednesdays at 7.30pm**, this may be attended by up to 25 people in the church, it will also be available via Zoom. Please go to our website for the link.

### **Lent Penitential Services**

**Thursday 25th March, 7.30pm OLQA**

**Friday, 26th March, 7.30pm St Andrew**

**Saturday 27th March, 11am Holy Cross**

A number of priests will be available for confession.

### **Parish Get2Gether via Zoom**

**Sunday 28th March, 3.00-4.30pm**

An event for all the people of the parish. Please go to our website for more information and how to join.

### **Changes to St Edward's Mass**

The following Masses will also resume:

**Starting from 21st March - Sunday Mass at 9am**

**Starting from 23rd March - Tuesday Mass at 6pm (with one hour of Adoration after Mass)**

**Starting from 26th March - Friday Mass at 10am**

### **Upcoming Collections**

Good Friday for the **Holy Places**.

**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 PRCDTR St Swithun Wells with Easter offering on the back);
- If you are a tax payer and wish to gift aid your offering you can use the yellow envelopes provided in the reception area of each church. Please ensure all relevant info is included so we can reclaim the gift aid on your behalf.
- Bank Transfer to the main parish account (Sort code: 30-93-04, A/c: 01786599 using ref: Easter);
- Click the 'Clergy Easter Offering' donate button on our parish website.

### **Upcoming Funerals**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Angela de Lacey and for her family. Angela's funeral Mass takes place on **Tuesday 23rd March, 2.15pm** at St Joseph's.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ursula Boyd and for her family. Ursula's funeral liturgy takes place on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March** at Test Valley Crematorium.

## MESSAGES CONTINUED



### **Booking System for Easter**

Please pick up your copy of the Easter Triduum Services Sheet. Just like Christmas there is an online booking system in place for Holy Week (from Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday). Please go to our website to book your places. If you do not have access to a computer please ask friends/family to book on your behalf.

**Frassati Centre Survey** - What do you think about the Frassati Centre and our parish vision? We would really like to know and understand your views on this. Please take the time to fill in the survey which is on our website, it should only take 10 minutes to complete and your comments and thoughts are important in shaping our future! If you don't have access to the internet please pick up a paper copy of the survey from one of our churches.

**John Peckham R.I.P** - John lived for many years in the parish and passed away peacefully last Tuesday morning. Please pray for the repose of his soul.

### **National Day of Reflection - Tuesday 23rd March**

Marking the first anniversary of the first lockdown. Cardinal Nichols and Archbishop McMahon are asking all Catholics to hold this day not only as one of Reflection but of Prayer, with an encouragement for all our people to pay a visit to churches and pray for the many needs, hopes and sorrows that have emerged over the last year.

### **Are you being called to be a street pastor?**

Is God unlocking a new ministry in your life? Over the next few months as people are able to begin to go out there will be an ever greater need for the support and example of those of faith to give hope and keep people safe. Please do consider whether God is calling you to serve as a street pastor. New training begins on the **23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021** and applications need to be made by **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March**. For more info contact Eric Hyom on 07736967921 or email [eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk) or go to <https://streetpastors.org/locations/eastleigh/about-us/training/>

### **21st March 2021 - Census Day**

A reminder that today is Census Day, so please make sure you are counted. There is a question on Religion - with Census an important opportunity to demonstrate the level of Christianity within our community. If you need help, reach out to a trusted friend or family member, or the letter and leaflet which came in the post has a help number to call. Remember, Census staff will never ask you for money, bank details, personal documents or to enter your home.

### **Clock Changes - British Summer Time**

Please remember the clocks *go forward* by 1 hour on the **weekend of 27th/28th March**.

## MASS (STREAMING & BOOKING SYSTEM), CONFESSION &

### **Live Streamed Mass**

All of the Masses from Holy Cross will also be live streamed. To join please go to our parish website [www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](http://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)  
For details of all of our Public Masses please see the timetable on the back page of the newsletter.

### **Confession**

- OLQA, Saturdays at 10am
- St Joseph, Saturdays at 5.30pm
- St Andrew, Sundays at 8.30am
- Holy Cross, Saturdays at 10.00am
- St Edward, Tuesdays 6.30-7.30pm

### **TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET**

<b>Tuesdays:</b>	Fr Raffaele, 4.00pm-6.00pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church), Eastleigh
<b>Wednesdays:</b>	Fr Luca, 4.00pm-6.00pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church), Eastleigh
<b>Fridays:</b>	Fr Marco, 10.30am-12.30pm, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey

### **To reserve a seat at Mass in St Joseph's & OLQA**

#### **St Joseph's, Romsey:**

- **Saturday Vigil Mass 6.00pm**  
To reserve a seat for the Saturday Mass please contact Teresa Rayment from Wed through to Friday (Tel: 01794 513528 / [teresarayment@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:teresarayment@tiscali.co.uk)).
- **Sunday 11.00am**  
To reserve a seat for the Sunday Mass please contact Joanna Russell from Wed through to Friday (Tel: 07917 802814 / [joanna@silvasmiths.co.uk](mailto:joanna@silvasmiths.co.uk)).

#### **Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Bishop's Waltham:**

- **Sunday at 9.30am** (no booking needed for Thurs Mass)  
To reserve a seat for the Sunday Mass please email: [olqamassbook@gmail.com](mailto:olqamassbook@gmail.com)  
This Mass is also streamed via Zoom:  
Meeting id: 504 727 7919  
Password: 467815

### **Communal Praying of the Rosary with Meditations from the Holy Cross Presbytery**

#### **Tuesdays to Thursdays at 6.00pm through Zoom**

For more information and to join please click the link on the homepage of our website. You can send your intentions to:

[pagani.matteoalejandro@gmail.com](mailto:pagani.matteoalejandro@gmail.com)

# MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
<b>Sat 20th March</b>	9.30am	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	James & Kate Ann Kelly RIP & their deceased and living relatives
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	For the People of the Parish
	6.00pm	St Joseph	Margaret Fielder RIP
	6.30pm	St Edward	Andrew Wilson RIP
<b>Sun 21st March</b> <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Edward	Patricia Bradley RIP FM
	9.00am	St Andrew	Norah Smewing RIP
	9.30am	OLQA	
	10.30am	St Edward	Eileen Oag, recently deceased, RIP
	11.00am	St Joseph	John Crowther RIP Anniversary
	11.00am	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	Phyllis Altman (Anniversary)
<b>Mon 22nd March</b>	9.30am	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	Cheryl Robinson RIP Mrs Rabiya Nabhan (Well-being)
<b>Tues 23rd March</b>	10.00am	St Andrew	Gladys Curmi RIP (50th Anniversary)
	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>St Edward</b>	
<b>Wed 24th March</b>	10.00am	St Edward	Sheila Mundy RIP Anniversary
<b>Thurs 25th March</b> <i>The Annunciation of the Lord</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	Grace Moore RIP FM Father Roger Adayme (Well-being)
	12 Noon	OLQA	
	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>OLQA</b>	<b>Lent Penitential Service</b>
<b>Fri 26th March</b>	10.00am	St Joseph	Ann Ryan (Well-being)  <b>Lent Penitential Service</b>
	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>St Edward</b>	
	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>St Andrew</b>	
<b>Sat 27th March</b>	9.30am	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	Patricia Cowling RIP <b>Lent Penitential Service</b> Mary Quinn (Well-being) Dian Sebi (Birthday) Angie & Felino Cagampang (In Thanksgiving)
	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Holy Cross</b>	
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	
	6.30pm	St Edward	
<b>Sun 28th March</b> <i>Palm Sunday</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> For the People of the Parish Maria Giannini RIP  Anne & Sean Connolly RIP Sr Bernadine McAuliffe (Well-being) Alan Jones RIP (2nd Anniversary)
	9.00am	St Edward	
	9.00am	St Andrew	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	10.30am	St Edward	
	11.00am	St Joseph	
	11.00am	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	

## CLERGY

### Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: rcoffa@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 80254806; E: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

### Deacon Paul Wilson

Tel: 02380 616618; E: pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

## PARISH OFFICE

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

Tel: 02380 273882

### Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance Admin:

**Linda Roberts** (works full day Mon-Wed, half day Thursday now working from home, is answering the Parish telephone)  
lroberts@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Parish Secretary: Sarah Goodfellow** (works Wed-Friday 9.30am-2.30pm (working from home on Wednesday, in the office Thursday & Friday)  
stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Website Contact:** website.sswp@gmail.com