



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

**4th OCTOBER 2020: TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

## God's absence

This Sunday's liturgy offers us the parable of the tenants to whom a landowner lends the vineyard which he has planted, and then goes away (Mt 21:33-43). This is how the loyalty of these tenants is tested: the vineyard is entrusted to them, they are to take care of it, make it bear fruit and deliver its harvest to the owner. When the time comes to harvest the grapes, the landlord sends his servants to pick the fruit. However, the vineyard tenants assume a possessive attitude. They do not consider themselves to be simple supervisors, but rather landowners, and they refuse to hand over the harvest. They mistreat the servants, to the point of killing them. The landowner is patient with them. He sends more servants, larger in number than the previous ones, but the result is the same. In the end, he patiently decides to send his own son. But those tenants, prisoners to their own possessive behaviour, also kill the son, reasoning that, in this way, they would have the inheritance. At the end, the owner comes to the vineyard, destroys the tenants and gives the vineyard to others.

It is a lengthy and quite intricate parable, but for a good reason: in symbolic language it contains the whole history of human salvation. It first looks backwards to the election and formation of Israel by God and to the long line of prophets he sent to his people, culminating in Jesus. It portrays graphically the long history of the brutal rejection of the prophets (including Jesus himself) by the leaders of Israel. And it then looks forward at Jesus' Passion and death at the hands of his own people, with the final triumph of the Resurrection and of the Second Coming.

I would like to focus on the very beginning of the parable, when it is said that, after all his detailed planning and successful labour to plant the vineyard, the **landowner went into another country**. The key to the whole story, what makes all its events possible, is the owner's physical absence from the scene. The theme of God's absence to man's senses is one of the structural features of all Scripture and all human experience. It is not rare in the Scripture and in our best human artistic expressions to read questions like, "If God is real, why cannot we see him?" or "Why is he absent?" How can we understand this absence? Is it true that God is absent from the world? Is God's absence only apparent or real?

The Gospel gives the best answer to all these questions when it says that God is absent because WE should become the eyes, hands and heart of God in this world. By giving us his own animating and sanctifying Spirit, Christ has implanted in us a wholly new life, his joy and unity with the Father, the love of the Holy Trinity. We have all we need to make God visible to all through our thoughts, words and deeds!

*Fr Raffaele*

## **GEM OF THE WEEK**



This week's GEM is an interview with Cardinal Ladaria  
"Necessary teaching in light of legislation on euthanasia" - 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 4th October 2020:**

Year A - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 3

**PSALM RESPONSE:** THE VINEYARD OF THE LORD IS THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL.

**1<sup>st</sup> reading:** Isaiah 5:1-7 **Psalm:** 79 **2<sup>nd</sup> reading:** Philippians 4:6-9 **Gospel:** Matthew 21:33-43

**READINGS FOR SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER:**

**1<sup>st</sup> reading:** Isaiah 25:6-10 **Psalm:** 22 **2<sup>nd</sup> reading:** Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20 **Gospel:** Matthew 22:1-14

## PARISH GROUPS



### Stars of Abraham (school years 3, 4, 5 & 6)

Meet weekly:

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

Tues, 4.00pm-5.30pm in St Andrew;

Sat 10.30am-Noon in Holy Cross Resource Centre.

To join Stars of Abraham please click the link on our website.

There will be a meeting for the parents in October:

**Sat 10th October, 10.30am at St Edward for the St Edward's & Holy Cross groups.**

**Tues 6th October, 6pm at St Andrew for the St Andrew's group.**

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9) - meet weekly every Saturday from 2.00pm-4.00pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre. To join the group please click the link on our website.

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form) meet weekly on a Friday evening in Holy Cross Resource Centre. To join the group please click the link on our website.

### Communion & Liberation Group (with

Fr Luca) is meeting every Wednesday, for more information please click the link on the homepage of our website.

### Communion & Liberation Group (with Fr Raffaele)

is meeting every Thursday at 8pm in St Edward's cloister.

### Fellowship Group (Zoom Meeting): Wednesday

7th Oct, 7.30pm. This week's meeting will be on "The Rosary." Everyone welcome - email Bob for more details. [bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### Oasis (Women's Group) Zoom

A chance to catch up, pray together and build fellowship across the parish.

Zoom meeting Tuesday 13th October, 8pm.

Please contact Jessie if you are not already on the email list and would like to receive joining information. [jessie.woolgar@gmail.com](mailto:jessie.woolgar@gmail.com)

## MESSAGES



### First Holy Communion & Confirmation

If a child or a teenager wants to be prepared to receive First Holy Communion (and is at least in school year 3) or Confirmation (and is at least in school year 8) we will ask them to participate in one of the three youth groups according to their age. They will receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation when they are ready (usually after one year). Please click on the links on our website to join one of these groups: <https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/sacramentalpreparation>

### Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

If you would like to be baptized, confirmed or received into the Catholic Church please speak to a priest or email Deacon Paul Owen at: [powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)  
**Preparation will restart in October.**

Parish Leaving Gift for Canon Alan - If you would like to contribute to the Parish's farewell gift please either make a bank transfer to the main parish account (PRCDTR St Swithun Wells, sort code 30-93-04, a/c no: 01786599) using Fr Alan as the reference, or send cash/cheque with his name on the back to the Parish Office as soon as possible.

Upcoming Funerals - Amparo Castro's funeral is at Holy Cross on 6th Oct at 11am, this will be live streamed, to view please go to <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZc1JNRUa3WcnDn1Zr-GKGA>

Volunteers & Volunteers 70 years plus - Our churches have now been open since June 2020 for both private prayer and the celebration of Mass. This has been possible because of our amazing group of volunteers, without them it could not have happened. We wish to thank all those involved for their dedication and hard work. We are also aware that there are many 70 years plus people in our community who would have liked to help but were unable to do so because of being considered to be in a "Moderately at Risk Group" even though fit and healthy. Since the 1st August the rules have been relaxed. Having now established in all our Churches safe COVID protection practices we would like to be more inclusive as to who can volunteer. If you are in the 70 years plus group and feel you would like to join our teams of volunteers please contact:  
*Holy Cross - Elizabeth Nash ([nashp@aol.com](mailto:nashp@aol.com))*  
*St Edward's - Dcn Paul Owen*  
*St Joseph's & St Andrew's - Dcn John Di Meo*  
*OLQA - Father Bruce*  
*St Swithun Wells - [peterbaggott@aol.com](mailto:peterbaggott@aol.com)*

## MESSAGES CONTINUED



### Additional Mass

From 4th October there will be an additional Sunday Mass at St Edward's starting at 10.30am.

### Eucharistic Adoration at St Joseph's

Thursdays before Mass (5-6pm) - restarts 8th Oct

### Upcoming Second Collections - 3rd/4th October

For Peters Pence - the online giving page can be found at:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/second-collection-for-peters-pence-1>

Missio Red Boxes St Edward's Church - Please empty your red boxes into a named sandwich bag or such like. Bring it to St Edward's at either weekend Masses and give it to myself or Teresa in the repository. Alternatively post it through my letter box: 65 Pine Crescent, Chandlers Ford. Many thanks, Mary Vokes (Chandlers Ford only).

CAFOD Harvest Family Fast Day - Fri 9th Oct (Survive, Rebuild & Heal). Due to present circumstances there will not be a second collection. If you wish to make a donation you can donate on line at [cafod.org.uk/give](http://cafod.org.uk/give)

There will be envelopes available in all our churches from 3rd Oct onwards, if you would like to donate this way, we are encouraging people if they can, to donate by cheque or credit/debit card. Just fill in the form on the back of the envelope and send it directly to CAFOD. If you are able to gift aid please fill in the relevant details on the form.

### Alton Day of Renewal (ADoRE) Sat 24th October

10am-12.45pm. There will be an inspiring talk "My Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour" from Mgr John Armitage. Please register in advance for Zoom by following this link: [bit.ly/ADOREOCT20](http://bit.ly/ADOREOCT20) For more information go [www.altonrenewal.com](http://www.altonrenewal.com)

## MASS (STREAMING & BOOKING SYSTEM) & CONFESSION



### Live Streamed Mass

Mass at Holy Cross on Thursday, 9.30am and Sunday, 11am is streamed. To join please go to our parish website [www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](http://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

### To reserve a seat at Mass in St Joseph's & OLQA St Joseph's, Romsey:

- **Thursday 6.00pm** (the church will close after Mass). To reserve a seat for the Mass please contact Teresa Rayment from Monday through to Wednesday (Tel: 01794 513528 / [teresarayment@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:teresarayment@tiscali.co.uk)).
- **Friday 10am** (no booking required)
- **Saturday Vigil Mass 6.00pm** (the church will close after Mass). To reserve a seat for the Mass please contact Joanna Russell from Wednesday through to Friday (Tel: 07917 802814 / [joanna@silvasmiths.co.uk](mailto:joanna@silvasmiths.co.uk)).
- **Sunday 11.00am** (the church will close after Mass). To reserve a seat for the Mass please contact Charles Crampin from Wednesday through to Friday (Tel: 02380 410595 / [sancha@virginmedia.com](mailto:sancha@virginmedia.com)).

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

- **Sunday 9.30am** (the church will close after Mass). To reserve a seat please email: [olqamassbook@gmail.com](mailto:olqamassbook@gmail.com)

### St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak

5pm Vigil Mass on Saturdays. Doors open at 4.30pm. Please wear a mask before entering the church. A Steward will direct you to a designated seat. In order to keep the church open, we need cleaners. If you are able to volunteer a couple of hours to help, please contact Pat Baggott on [baggott.pm@gmail.com](mailto:baggott.pm@gmail.com) or telephone 02380694060.

Private Prayer - The following churches will remain open **after Mass until 11.30am** for private prayer (see back page for Mass times):

**Tuesday:** St Andrew's  
**Wednesday:** St Edward's  
**Thursday:** Holy Cross

### CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

<b>Tuesdays:</b>	6.30-7.30pm	St Edward's
<b>Saturdays:</b>	10.00-10.30am	Holy Cross
	5.30-6.00pm	St Joseph's
<b>Sundays:</b>	8.30-9.00am	St Andrew's

### TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

<b>Tuesdays:</b>	Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Parish Office, Holy Cross, Eastleigh.
<b>Wednesdays:</b>	Fr Luca, 4.30pm-6.30pm, Parish Office, Holy Cross, Eastleigh.
<b>Fridays:</b>	Fr Raffaele, 11.30am-12.30pm, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey
<b>Saturdays:</b>	Fr Marco, 9.30am-12.30pm, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water) Romsey

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**Tuesdays:** St Edward's - after Mass (6.30-7.30pm)  
**Thursday:** St Joseph's - before Mass (5.00-6.00pm)

## MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 3rd Oct	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells St Joseph St Edward	Antonio Cicu FM Andrew Bates RIP Patricia Wilson RIP Matteucci Family (Thanksgiving - 50th Wedding Anniversary)
Sun 4th Oct <i>Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary time</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am <u>10.30am</u> 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA <u>St Edward</u> Holy Cross (Also Streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Living & deceased members of the Murphy & Lucas Families Mary Byrne RIP  Mike Walsh RIP Deceased members of the Kelly, Slevin & Fox families
Mon 5th Oct	9.30am	Holy Cross	Robert Brockway FM
Tues 6th Oct	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Macalino & Gonzaga Family (Special Intention)
Wed 7th Oct <i>Our Lady of the Rosary</i>	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Regina Turl (Special Intention) Keith Small RIP
Thurs 8th Oct	9.30am 6.00pm	Holy Cross (Also Streamed) St Joseph	Frederick Bishop FM Patricia Wilson RIP
Fri 9th Oct <i>St John Henry Newman</i>	10.00am	St Joseph (Church not AH)	Mike McCarthy RIP (1st Anniversary)
Sat 10th Oct	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells St Joseph St Edward	Maria Jacobs RIP Anniversary The Boog Family James Kerr RIP
Sun 11th Oct <i>Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary time</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 10.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA St Edward Holy Cross (Also Streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Paulina Lesniczuk FM  Peter Postlethwaite RIP Anna & Steven Goodfellow (50th Wedding Anniversary)

### CLERGY

**Father Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)**  
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: rcosa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Father 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)**  
E: bbarnes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**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

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

Office Hours:  
Monday-Wednesday: 9.30am-5.30pm (closed for an hour over lunchtime on Monday & Tuesday)  
Thursday-Friday: 9.30am-2.30pm

**Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance**  
**Admin: Linda Roberts** (works full day Mon-Wed, half day Thursday but working from home)  
lroberts@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Parish Secretary: Sarah Goodfellow** (works Wed-Fri from 9.30am-2.30pm)  
stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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