



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

1st MARCH 2020: **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

First Sunday of Lent: Temptations

In this weekend's Gospel, after receiving baptism from John the Baptist, Jesus is led into the desert to be tempted by the devil. The devil puts him to the test in three ways.

1. First temptation: possession.

To begin with, the devil says to Jesus: "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves". This is a great temptation for Jesus. After forty days of fasting, Jesus is hungry. He would like some bread, but he does not accept the devil's invitation. Why? Because, for Jesus, in the first place there is God. God is above bread, food and things. The devil invites Jesus to put food, things and needs in place of God, but Jesus refuses. In the first place there is God, as the first commandment says. So it must be for us too: the food, the things, the interests we have are all good things, but in the first place there must be God. Otherwise everything is lost.

2. Second temptation: vanity.

But the devil is not happy and decides to try to tempt Jesus again. This time he takes him to the highest point of the temple and tells him: "Throw yourself down (...), the angels will support you". Even here Jesus refuses. Why? Because Jesus does not want to reveal himself through great things. Jesus wants to love people. He knows that the greatest thing is love for people, not doing prodigious things. The same must be for us. We are often tempted by vanity. We often want to do great things, we want to show what we are able to do in order to be recognised, to enjoy a sense of glory. We do not realise that the most important thing that Jesus taught us is the normal, concrete, hidden love for others.

3. Third temptation: power.

But the devil is still not happy. He decides to tempt Jesus for the third time, with the greatest of temptations. This time he takes Jesus to a very high mountain and shows him the whole earth. And he says to him: "I will give you (all the kingdoms of the earth) if you fall at my feet and worship me". Power is the greatest of the temptations. Yet, Jesus again refuses this invitation from the devil. He did not come to govern the whole world, to stay in palaces, to be successful, like the princes of the earth. He came to be among normal people, among us, among the needy - and to serve them. We too can suffer from the same temptation as Jesus, when we want power, when we want others to do what we say, when we want to command and possess. Like Jesus, we should resist this. We must do as he did, wanting only to serve people, and not to be served.

We give thanks this Sunday to the presence of Jesus who was able to resist the temptations of the devil, not only during the forty days in the desert, but also throughout his life. And let us also engage ourselves in this Lent, with the help of Jesus, to resist the same temptations.

Father Raffaele

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is a message from Pope Francis "Message for Lent 2020" - you can find the link on our homepage. If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact the Webmaster on website.sswp@gmail.com.

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 1st March 2020:

Year A - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 1

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: WHEN HE CALLS ON ME, I WILL ANSWER HIM; I WILL DELIVER HIM AND GIVE HIM GLORY, I WILL GRANT HIM LENGTH OF DAYS.

PSALM RESPONSE: HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD, FOR WE HAVE SINNED.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, 8TH MARCH 2020:

1st reading: Genesis 12:1-4 - **Psalm:** 32 - **2nd reading:** 2 Timothy 1:8-10 - **Gospel:** Matthew 17:1-9

Growing in Faith Together (GIFT)

Tuesdays between 10.15-11.30am (after Mass) in Holy Cross Resource Centre. It is a time of simple sharing, come and join us, we start with tea and biscuits, and everyone is assured of a warm welcome.

Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

Preparation will be on Wednesday evenings fortnightly at **St Edward the Confessor Church, Chandlers Ford at 7.30pm.** If you would like to be baptised, confirmed or received into the Catholic Church please speak to a priest or email Deacon Paul Owen at powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Upcoming dates: **4th Mar, 18th Mar, 1st Apr.**

Journey in Faith with the Bible

Wednesday evenings fortnightly between **7.30pm and 9pm at St Edward's Church, Chandlers Ford.**

All Welcome. Upcoming dates: **11th Mar, 25th Mar.**

See poster on Church Noticeboards or contact Anne Owen on 02380 254806 for more information.

Fellowship Group - Wednesday 4th March, 7pm at St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. Lenten Supper followed by Lenten Study Course.

Week 1 "The Fire and the Name". Moses encountered God in a burning bush and God revealed his name as Yahweh. We will be reflecting on the 'holiness' and uncontrollable nature of God. Everyone in the Parish is most welcome. There is no charge for the Suppers but donations to our Lenten Alms fund would be welcome. Queries to Peter Baggott and Deacon Bob Birtles.

School of Community

The weekly catechesis of the catholic movement Communion and Liberation every **Wednesday at 8pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre.**

60 Club - Mon 2nd March, 2pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre. Maureen (tel: 80692682).

PARISH GROUPS



CaFE: Next Meetings

Tues 17th Mar, 7.30pm in St Andrew's Social Centre; Mon 23rd March, 2.30pm in Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water).

There are just 4 books/DVDs left - £10 each from Sheila 01794 518061.

TOZ (for young people from school year 10) meet twice a month on Sunday. Next Meeting Date: 8th March from 7pm to 8.30pm (topic) in the Resource Centre. Contact: toz.sswp@gmail.com.

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

We meet every other week:

Tuesday, 5.30-7.00pm in St Edwards Cloister (3rd Mar); Sat 10.30am-Noon in HC Resource Centre (7th Mar).

To join the group complete the application form (available on our website or from the Parish Office) and give it to the Parish Secretary.

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9) - We meet weekly every Saturday from 2.30pm-4.30pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre. To join the group complete the application form (available on our website or from the Parish Office) and give it to the Parish Secretary.

Afternoon Club - St. Joseph's Parish Centre (26 Abbey Water), first Tuesday in the month. Come and join us for tea, delicious scones/cakes, games and good fun. **Next Meeting: 2pm on 3rd March.**

Oasis Women's Group – Tuesday 10th March

Loving Lent: Join us to reflect on the season of Lent and how to respond to the call love others.

All ladies warmly welcomed!

7:30pm, St Edward's Cloister, finish at approx.

9.15pm. Future Dates: 31st Mar, 12th May, 9th Jun, 14th July & Sat 16th May Retreat, more info to follow.

CHANGES TO MASS & PARISH OFFICE OPENING



The Parish Office is closed on Mondays (all day) and Tuesday afternoons until Linda has recovered from her operation and is back at work. Please note the Office will be open from 10.15am instead of 9.30am on **Friday 6th & 27th March** - we apologise for any inconvenience.

OFFERINGS & SECOND COLLECTIONS



St Swithun Wells Parish Acknowledges with thanks SO/DD for January '20: £13,020.59

The next Second Collection

Will be for CAFOD on **7th/8th March** (please note that the **Lenten Fast Day** will be on **Friday 6th March**).

PARISH EVENTS



Get 2Gether Family Afternoon

Sunday 1st March, 2.30pm to 4.30pm in St Edward's Church (Cloister). It is an event for all the families of the Parish: parents, children, grandparents...

During that afternoon we will have some music and games for all the families, and a short discussion with the parents about some topics of family life like education of the children, prayer in family and so on. If you want to bring a cake or some juice, it will be much appreciated, at the end we will finish with some refreshments.

Saturday 7th March – 6.30pm at St Edward's

Mass will be celebrated in memory of fr Giussani. It will be a good opportunity for every one to get to know better the founder of Communion and Liberation catholic movement. After Mass everyone is invited to a light refreshment (bring and share).

Parish Lent Retreat

Sunday 8th March, 2.30pm-5pm at St Edward's.

There will be a talk by Fr Raffaele, some time for questions and personal prayer. It will be an opportunity for all parishioners to be helped to make of Lent a new time of conversion.

Stations of the Cross

Are being said during Lent at:

St Andrew's: Tues at 9.15am (excluding Holy Week);

St Swithun Wells: Tues at 10am, tea/coffee after;

OLQA: Wednesdays at 7pm;

Holy Cross: Thursdays at 9am;

St Joseph's: Fri at 9.15am (excluding Good Friday);

St Edward's: Fri at 6.30pm (excluding Good Friday).

Lent at St Edward's - During Lent Mass on Fridays at St Edward's will be at 7pm (instead of 10am) preceded by Stations of the Cross at 6.30pm.

After Mass there will be a CAFOD Lenten Supper on each Friday *except March 13th* when there will be a Lenten lunch instead from 12.30pm -1.30pm. All suppers and lunch will be £5 (£1 for children).

Classical Music Evening - Friday 13th March 8.00pm-9.00pm at St Edward's Church.

In this period of Lent we will listen to the *Stabat Mater* of Pergolesi and Vivaldi and the *Miserere* of Allegri. All are welcome!

MESSAGES

Walk with Me - A Lenten Journey

Copies are available at all of our churches from this weekend, please note if you are able to, there is a suggested donation of £1 per copy. Thank you.

Recommended Reading

The current suggested books for parishioners are:

A Song for Nagasaki: The Story of Takashi Nagai by Fr. Paul Glynn (£12);

I'm Not Scared by Niccolò Ammaniti (£8).

It is possible to buy I'm Not Scared after weekend Masses but not A Song for Nagasaki due to delivery delays, as soon as copies are available a note will be put in the Newsletter.

CAFOD Lent family fast day - Friday 6th March

Please consider eating a simple meal and put what you save in the CAFOD collection envelope (attached to this Newsletter). Through CAFOD's global Church family your support can help those living in poverty overseas, thank you.

Parish Office - Linda Roberts is now recovering from her shoulder operation and will be away on sick leave for a number of weeks. If you have any invoices or claims please continue to send all claims into the office as usual and the cheques will be sent out as soon as possible however, please be aware there may be some delay. Please also ensure your address is available to facilitate the posting of cheques. Due to a reduction in office opening and staffing during this period there may be delays in the processing of ad hoc and general requests as well. Thank you for your patience and co-operation.

Message of Thanks – The family of Gill

Farnsworth would like to thank all those who sent kind cards, messages and attended the celebration of her life Mass on 21st February. We were delighted that so many could join us afterwards in the Church Cloisters to reminisce and share their memories of her. Thank you to all who helped to make it such a special memorial for Gill. She would so have approved!

World Day of Prayer Services - Friday 6th March

The World Day of Prayer this year has been prepared by the Women of Zimbabwe and is entitled "Rise! Take your Mat and Walk!":

- In Romsey the service is at the Elim Church in Middlebridge Street at 1 30pm. All are welcome.
- In Chandlers Ford the service is at 1.45pm at St Boniface Anglican Church, Hursley Road. Everyone is welcome and refreshments are served.
- In Wickham the service is at 2pm at St Nicholas's Church, which is celebrating the 900th anniversary of the church's foundation. Rev Jane Isaac will give a short presentation.

EU citizens in our Diocese

All EU, EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK are required by the government to apply through its Settlement Scheme to continue living, working and accessing services here. The deadline for applications is **30th June 2021**. Details and links to the application process can be found at: gov.uk/eusettledstatus. Please bring this to the attention of friends, family members and fellow parishioners who may need to apply.



MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 29th Feb	9.30am	HC	
	5.00pm*	SSW	Andrew Bates RIP
	6.00pm*	St J	Susan Harry RIP
	6.00pm*	OLQA	
	6.30pm*	St Ed	Matt & Caroline RIP
*Vigil Mass			
Sun 1st March	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	Lake & Hill Families (Special Int)
	9.00am	St A	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	St J	Paul Kieran RIP
	11.00am	HC	Roger Roling RIP
First Sunday of Lent			
Mon 2nd	10.00am	St Ed	John & Maureen Baker RIP
Tues 3rd	9.30am	HC	Kelly & Magee Families FM
	10.00am	St A	
	10.00am	OLQA	
Wed 4th	9.30am	HC	Regina Turl (Special Intention)
	10.00am	St Ed	Mrs Edward Christian FM
Thurs 5th	9.30am	HC	Mary O Reilly (Sick)
	10.00am	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St J	
Fri 6th	10.00am	St J:AH	Keith Small RIP
	10.00am	OLQA	
	7.00pm	St Ed	
Sat 7th	9.30am	HC	Antonio Cicu FM
	5.00pm*	SSW	The Harfield Family (Well-being)
	6.00pm*	St J	
	6.00pm*	OLQA	
	6.30pm*	St Ed	Father Giussani RIP (15th Annv)
*Vigil Mass			
Sun 8th March	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	Gill Farnsworth RIP
	9.00am	St A	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	St J	
	11.00am	HC	Collette Reynolds FM
Second Sunday of Lent			

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT	
Tues: HC - First Tuesday of the Month (10am-1pm)	
Thurs: St Ed - Holy Hour 7-8pm	
Thurs: St J - 4-6pm, Rosary & Benediction at 5.30pm	
ROSARY AND PRAYERS	
St Edward's	9.30am, Wednesday - The Holy Rosary
St Joseph's	6.00pm, Wednesday - Evening Prayer
CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)	
Saturdays:	10.00am Holy Cross
	5.30pm OLQA
	5.30pm St Joseph's
Sundays:	8.30am St Edward's
	8.30am St Andrew's
TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET	
Tues: Fr Raffaele, 4.30pm-6.30pm, Parish Office, Holy Cross, Eastleigh.	
Weds: Fr Luca, 4.30pm-6.30pm, Parish Office, Holy Cross, Eastleigh.	
Fridays: Fr Raffaele, 11.30am-12.30pm, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey.	
Saturdays: Fr Marco, 10am-Midday, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water) Romsey.	

Father Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)
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Father Luca Speciale (Assistant Priest)
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Fr Marco Vignolo (Assistant Priest)
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Canon Alan Griffiths (Assistant Priest)
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Deacon Paul Owen
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Deacon Paul Wilson
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PARISH OFFICE

Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh SO50 9DF
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Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9.30am-5pm
Thursday & Friday: 9.30am-2.30pm

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

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

Website Contact: website.sswp@gmail.com

CHURCH ADDRESSES

St Ed St Edward's, 191-193, Winchester Rd, Chandlers Ford, SO53 2DU
OLQA Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Martin Street, Bishops Waltham SO32 1DN

HC Holy Cross Church, 53, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF
SSW St Swithun Wells Church, Allington Lane, Fair Oak, SO50 7DB
St A St Andrew's, Fleming Avenue, North, Baddesley, SO52 9EP
St J St Joseph's Church, Abbey House Drive, Romsey, SO51 8YB

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES:

St Swithun Wells Primary School 023 80266210
St George Catholic V.A. College 023 8032 2603
St Anne's Catholic School 023 80328200
Charlton House 023 8067 7575
St Mary's Independent School 023 8067 1267