



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ 5th MARCH 2023: SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

The Transfiguration

The Second Sunday of Lent is always dedicated to the Transfiguration of the Lord. As we journey through the penitential period of Lent, we are reminded of the end of this same journey which is our transfiguration. In fact, Jesus' experience of light and joy is something that is accessible to all of us.

But first of all, what is the origin of Jesus' transfiguration and of ours? We read in the gospel that "suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son.'" This passage points out that Jesus' transfiguration comes from the divine atmosphere in which he lives. He is always in contact with the Father, symbolized by the bright cloud, and this relationship is the source of the light and joy on his face. This can also happen to us, we can live transfigured if we immerse ourselves in the divine atmosphere, if we are in contact with the Lord. This is the reason why the Church suggests we should spend more time in prayer during Lent, there is the source of true peace and joy.

We can say something more about the proper experience of transfiguration. In the gospel we read how "Jesus' face shone like the sun and his clothes become as white as the light." Jesus was changed but remained the same person. We can say that it was an experience of intensification. In a certain way the same intensification can happen to us. The encounter with Christ doesn't change who we are but we become capable of living MORE: we love our children, our father and mother more, we forgive more, our human feelings become richer and more intense. Jesus Christ brings a fresh enthusiasm to all aspects of our human existence: working, studying, eating, culture, charity, holidays, free time and the like. It is the experience of the hundredfold.

The experience of the hundredfold is a grace. At the same time, we need to welcome this grace through our openness. That's why the six holy habits that Bishop Philip suggested to us are a good way to open our life to Christ and be changed by him. The six holy habits are:

1. First, to keep Sunday special, as a family day, by attending Mass, the 'source and summit' of the Christian life, supporting your parish community.
2. Second, to resolve to spend at least five minutes a day in prayer, at whatever time you find best, using the Scriptures, maybe the Gospel of the day.
3. Third, to keep Friday as a day of penance in honour of the Lord's Passion, intentionally serving the poor and needy.
4. Fourth, at least once a fortnight, to pay a private visit to church for a short period of prayer before the Tabernacle.
5. Fifth, to go to Confession once a month or so, like a spiritual check-up when you can personally experience God's love and mercy.
6. Sixth, to join a small group for formation, prayer and fellowship, where you can share with others your own experience and hear what God is doing in the lives of others.

Let's try to follow these holy habits through our journey towards Easter.

Fr Raffaele

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "Create a Society Open to the Transcendent" by Bishop Philip - You can find this on our homepage. If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact website.sswp@gmail.com

For the next Newsletter, items should be received into the Parish Office by **9.30am on Wednesday 8th March 2023**, please email your messages/notices to: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 5th March 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Psalter Week 2

PSALM RESPONSE: MAY YOUR LOVE BE UPON US, O LORD, AS WE PLACE ALL OUR HOPE IN YOU.

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

Sunday 12th March 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Psalter Week 3

PSALM RESPONSE: O THAT TODAY YOU WOULD LISTEN TO HIS VOICE! "HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS."

READINGS: 1st reading Exodus 17:3-7 Psalm 94 2nd reading Romans 5:1-2,5-8 Gospel John 4:5-42

PARISH GROUPS



Youth Groups (including First Holy Communion & Confirmation)

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

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9) &

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

This week we invite the parents of Stars of Abraham to attend the session with their children.

Please check the parish website for the calendar of meetings, times and venues.

www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community meet weekly:

Holy Cross every Wednesday at 8pm;

St Edward's every Thursday at 8pm.

For more information please click the link on the homepage of our website. All are welcome!

Growing In Faith Together Group

Tuesday 7th March at 10.15am to approx. 11.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre.

We will be reflecting on the Stations of the Cross. All are welcome!

Fellowship Group - St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. We are holding a Lenten Supper at 7pm every Wednesday during Lent followed by a Fellowship Lenten Study: **Belong and Believe** starting at 7.45pm. We will be following this CaFE course exploring how our Celtic past can help us in refreshing our communities and renewing our mission.

Week 2: 8th March - the theme is 'Growing in Faith Together'. For the Zoom link contact Peter at peterbaggott@aol.com

Anyone is welcome to come along just to the Lenten Supper or just to the Lenten Study or to both. For more details about the Supper please see the main messages section of the newsletter.

Romsey Prayer Group - Every Wednesday morning at 11am in the St Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water. All will be made very welcome.

Afternoon Club - St. Joseph's Parish Centre (26 Abbey Water), first Tuesday in the month.

Come and join us for tea, games and good fun.

All welcome! **Next Meeting: 2pm on 7th March**

Oasis Women's Group - Wow! What a great evening we had listening to the experiences of Marianne Wanstall with the group 'Across' who take people on pilgrimage to Lourdes. We are delighted to welcome Clare Lasker this month, **13th March**, to speak to us about the incredible work being done by CAFOD. Come and find out how CAFOD is responding to the earthquake disaster in Syria and Turkey; the crisis in Ukraine and their ongoing work throughout the world, especially in Bangladesh.

All women are warmly welcomed, come and enjoy our companionship, **7.30pm, Monday 13th March at St. Edward the Confessor Church.**

Changes to Mass during Lent

The Friday Mass at OLQA will be celebrated at 10.30am (instead of 9.30am), followed by Stations of the Cross at 11am and soup lunch at Midday.

This year the St Edward's Friday Mass will remain at 10am preceded by Stations of the Cross at 9.30am.

There will be a soup lunch at Midday.

Stations of the Cross During Lent

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

St Swithun Wells: Tuesdays at 10am with 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 11am (after Mass).

Lent Ecumenical Study Group in Romsey Parish Centre, 26, Abbey Water, Romsey, on **Tuesday evenings 6.30pm-8pm**. Please bring a bible if you can.

MESSAGES



Lent Parish Retreat - We will hold a Parish Retreat for Lent on **Sunday 12th March, 2.30pm-4.30pm at St Edward**. Open to everyone. There will be a talk about Lent, some time for private prayer in the church and a time for questions and sharing thoughts.

Penitential Services

Saturday 25th March, 11am at Holy Cross

Thursday 30th March, 7.30pm at OLQA

Friday 31st March, 7.30pm at St Andrew

A number of priests will be available during these times.

Upcoming Second Collection - 4th/5th March

CAFOD - Please give whatever you can so that CAFOD can continue it's ongoing work. You can donate in the usual ways (in the CAFOD envelopes or direct at www.cafod.org.uk/give) or by joining fellow parishioners at the Lenten Lunches throughout the Parish.

MESSAGES CONTINUED

Lent & Easter Sheet 2023

Available in all of our churches, please pick up a copy.

Lunches & Suppers being held across the Parish during Lent

St Swithun Wells, Fair Oak - at 7pm on Wednesdays, the Fellowship Group will be hosting Lenten Suppers of soup, bread and cheese in aid of the CAFOD Disaster Emergencies Fund. There will be a Lenten Study at 7.45pm on Wednesday evenings (see Fellowship notice in Parish Groups for more info), anyone is welcome to come to the Lenten supper or just the Lenten Study or to both.

St Edward's - Soup lunches will take place on **Fridays** during Lent from **12-1.30pm**. Donations greatly received, all proceeds will go to CAFOD.

OLQA - Soup lunches will take place on **Fridays at Midday** (after Mass), donations will go to CAFOD.

Romsey Churches Lenten Lunch - this year the Catholic community will be providing lunch on **Friday 10th March, 12-1.30pm, in the Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water**. As a change from the usual fare, lunch will consist of sandwiches, cakes, fruit, tea and coffee, including gluten free, vegan and dairy free options. If you can offer to bake a cake or help on the day, please contact Teresa Rayment (01794 513528). It will be much appreciated.

Sunday Mass at OLQA will no longer be livestreamed.

Parish Get2Gether - **Sunday 5th March, 1-4pm** Pavillion on the Park, 1 Kingfisher Road, SO50 9LH. An event for all of the parish, especially families. We begin by sharing a meal together followed by some activities and a discussion on the topic of **'Freedom of your spouse and also of your children as they develop into adults.'** No cost, however we kindly ask you to give a donation to cover the hire of the Pavillion. 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 click the link. *Future Get2Gether date for your diaries: 2nd April*

OLQA St Patrick's Day Social

17th March at 7pm in the Church hall in Bishop's

Waltham - OLQA Social Group would like to invite members of the Parish to a musical evening with a local group called 'Shantyhead'. Tickets £5 a head, byo nibbles and drinks. Please contact Marie Kemp on 07760 809640 for more info/to reserve your tickets.

Ordination to the Priesthood of Edward Hauschild

Edward lived in Chandlers Ford for 22 years and was a server for many years at St Edward's. He is being ordained to the priesthood at 11am on Saturday 25th March in St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth. He has invited parishioners to come to his ordination and he will say his first Mass at St Edward's at 9am on Sunday 26th March. This is an occasion of great joy for both Edward and for the parish and we would like to mark it by a collection for him. If you would like to make a donation for Edward please either put cash or a cheque (made payable to CDP St Swithun Wells) in an envelope and hand this to the clergy or take the envelope down to the parish office. If you would like to contribute to the collection please do so by **Sunday 19th March**. You can also make a transfer to the parish account.

The account details are as follows:

Account Holder: CDP ST SWITHUN WELLS

Account number: 01786599

Sort Code: 30-93-04

Reference: please indicate "EDHH_yoursurname" (for example: EDHH_Smith)

Easter Camp (Grail Seekers - School years 7, 8, 9 and Student Youth - School years 10, 11 & Sixth Form)

Mon 3rd April - Wed 5th April £110 (all inclusive)

St Joseph's House - 8 Lyndhurst Rd, Southampton

For more info & to book your space/your child's space please go to our website and complete the form as soon as possible. Part bursaries may be available on application. **Full payment by bank transfer must be received by Friday 31st March** (account details are on the booking form on our website). For any enquiries please email either: grailseekers.sswp@gmail.com or studentyouth.sswp@gmail.com

Latest Diocesan Job Vacancies

Full Time Accounts Technician (based in Portsmouth) Please go to the Diocesan website for more info and how to apply for this role or other roles that are available.

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs/>

St Swithun Wells Parish Online Giving

If you would like to give directly online please scan in this QR code.



TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Tuesdays: Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh

Wednesdays: Fr Luca, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh

Fridays: Fr Raffaele, 10.30am-11.30am, Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey

Saturdays: **Fr Marco is not available on 11th March** 9.30am-12.30pm, Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey

CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Tuesday: 6.30pm-7.30pm St Edward

Tuesday: 9.30am-10.00am St Andrew

Saturday: 10.00am-10.30am Holy Cross

10am or by appointment OLQA

5.30pm-6.00pm St Joseph

Sunday: 8.30am-9.00am St Edward

8.30am-9.00am St Andrew

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday: St Edward - after Mass (6.30pm-7.30pm)

Wednesday: Holy Cross - after Mass (10.00am-11.00am)

Thursday: St Joseph - before Mass (5.00pm-6.00pm)

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 4th March	9.30am	Holy Cross	Jackie Higgins RIP Anniversary
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	Jim Russell RIP
	6.00pm	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	People of the Parish
	6.30pm	St Edward	Mrs Edward Christian FM
Sunday 5th March <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Edward	Geoffrey Bird RIP
	9.00am	St Andrew	Margaret Martindale RIP
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	Holy Cross (also live streamed)	Michel Nakhle RIP
	11.00am	St Joseph	For Frances & Lucy
Mon 6th March	9.30am	Holy Cross	Fraternity of St Charles Antonio Cicu FM
Tues 7th March	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Norah Hughes (Wellbeing) Atterbury Family Intentions
Wed 8th March	9.30am	Holy Cross	Collette Reynolds FM
	9.30am	OLQA	
	10.00am	St Edward	Baker & Hanrahan Families RIP Anniversary
Thurs 9th March	9.30am	Holy Cross	Lillian Rachael Gardiner FM
	12 Noon	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	Jordan Mattison RIP
Fri 10th March	10.00am	St Joseph	Elizabeth Gare (Wellbeing)
	10.00am	St Edward	Rachel Upham RIP
	10.30am	OLQA	
Saturday 11th March	9.30am	Holy Cross	Margaret Martindale RIP
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	The Harfield Family (Wellbeing)
	6.00pm	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	Peter Allan RIP
	6.30pm	St Edward	Patricia Charleton RIP
Sunday 12th March <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Edward	Marie Goodman RIP
	9.00am	St Andrew	Winnie Fung RIP Anniversary
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	Holy Cross (also live streamed)	Joseph & Najat Shaanine RIP
	11.00am	St Joseph	People of the Parish

HC - Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF
 SSW - St Swithun Wells, Allington Lane, Fair Oak SO50 7DB
 OLQA - Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Martin Street, Bishop's
 Waltham, SO32 1DN

St Ed - St Edward, 191-193, Winchester Rd, Chandlers Ford,
 SO53 2DU
 St A - St Andrew, Fleming Avenue, North, Baddesley SO52 9EP
 St J - St Joseph, Abbey House Drive, Romsey, SO51 8YB

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)
 Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: rcosa@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 8025 4806; E: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Paul Wilson
 Tel: 023 8061 6618; E: pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Andrew Lee
 Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: alee@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

Parish Secretary: Sarah Goodfellow
 Email: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Website Contact: 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)