



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

12th July 2020: **FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

## To Reclaim the Soil

When Jesus spoke, he used simple words and he also used images which were examples taken from daily life, in order to be easily understood by all. (...) And one example is that of today's Gospel passage: the parable of the sower.

The sower is Jesus. With this image, we can see that he presents himself as one who does not impose himself, but rather offers himself. He does not attract us by conquering us, but by donating himself: he casts seeds. With patience and generosity, he spreads his Word, which is not a cage or a trap, but a seed which can bear fruit. And how can it bear fruit? If we welcome it.

Therefore, the parable concerns us especially. In fact, it speaks more of the soil than of the sower. Jesus carries out, so to speak, a "spiritual X-ray" of our heart, which is the soil on which the seed of the Word falls. Our heart, like the soil, may be good and then the Word bears fruit — and a great deal — but it can also be hard and impermeable. This happens when we hear the Word but it bounces off of us, just as on a street: it does not enter. Between the good soil and the street; the asphalt — if we throw a seed on the cobblestones, nothing grows — there are however, two intermediate types of soil which, in different amounts, we can have within us. The first, Jesus says, is rocky. Let us try to imagine it: rocky ground is a terrain that "does not have much soil", so the seed sprouts but is unable to put down deep roots. This is how the superficial heart is: it welcomes the Lord, wants to pray, love and bear witness, but does not persevere; it becomes tired and never "takes off". It is a heart without depth, where the rocks of laziness prevail over the good soil, where love is fickle and fleeting. But whoever welcomes the Lord only when they want to does not bear fruit.

Then, there is the last ground, the thorny one, filled with briars which choke the good plants. What do these thorns represent? "The cares of the world and the delight in riches", as Jesus says explicitly. The thorns are the vices which come to blows with God, which choke his presence: above all these are the idols of worldly wealth, living avidly, for oneself, for possessions and for power. If we cultivate these thorns, we choke God's growth within us. Each of us can recognize his or her big or small thorns, the vices that inhabit the heart, those more or less deeply rooted briars that God does not like and that prevent us from having a clean heart. It is necessary to tear them out, otherwise the Word cannot bear fruit, the seed will not grow.

Dear brothers and sisters, Jesus invites us today to look inside ourselves: to give thanks for our good soil and to tend the soil that is not yet good. Let us ask ourselves if our heart is open to welcome the seed of the Word of God with faith. Let us ask ourselves if our rocks of laziness are still numerous and large; let us identify our thorns of vice and call them by name. Let us find the courage to reclaim the soil, to effect a nice conversion of our heart, bringing to the Lord in Confession and in prayer our rocks and our thorns. In doing this, Jesus, the Good Sower will be glad to carry out an additional task: purify our hearts by removing the rocks and the thorns which choke his Word.

Pope Francis

## GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is a message from the Archbishops in England about the resumption of Public Worship. If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact the Webmaster on [website.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:website.sswp@gmail.com)

# LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 12th July 2020:

Year A - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 3

PSALM RESPONSE: SOME SEED FELL INTO RICH SOIL AND PRODUCED ITS CROP.

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 12TH JULY:

1<sup>st</sup> reading: Isaiah 55: 10-11 Psalm: 64 2<sup>nd</sup> reading: Romans 8:18-23 Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 19TH JULY:

1<sup>st</sup> reading: Wisdom 12:13,16-19 Psalm: 85 2<sup>nd</sup> reading: Romans 8:26-27 Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43

## MESSAGES



### Guidelines For Public Mass in Our Parish

We have now begun to have public Masses across our Parish. Please read the following carefully to help you decide if coming back to Mass is safe for you. Please let us know if you have questions.

1) Even if everyone desires to come back to Mass, parishioners are currently not obliged to attend Sunday Mass, and ought not attend if the following apply:

- For example if they are sick, or experiencing cold or flu like symptoms
- They are experiencing symptoms of a serious illness, or if they are in the "vulnerable" category (the elderly, people with weakened immune systems, people with long term conditions such as cancer, diabetes, heart conditions etc.)

It is envisaged that the Sunday obligation will not be imposed until the latter phases of the lifting of restrictions.

2) Alcohol hand gel is provided at the church doors. Parishioners should sanitize their hands as they enter and leave the church.

3) Stewards will be at the Church entrance to assist parishioners when they enter, leave, and during Mass. They will make sure social distancing is respected.

4) Churches have been marked out with appropriate signage to make sure social distancing is respected.

5) We have a limited space available in our churches. When the maximum number is reached it will not be possible to enter the church.

6) We encourage parishioners to come 15 minutes before Mass starts to help the work of the stewards.

7) Parishioners who don't work during the week or are retired, are encouraged to attend Mass on week days rather than Sundays.

8) Congregational singing is not possible at Mass.

9) Parishioners should wear masks or face coverings during Mass.

10) The priest and deacons will not wear gloves or masks during the Mass. However, they will wear masks when distributing Holy Communion.

11) There will be no physical sign of peace. People may still turn to one another and say "Peace be with you."

12) The Eucharist will be distributed under one kind only; distribution of Holy Communion from the Chalice is suspended.

13) When giving Holy Communion in the hand, the priest will ensure that the host is placed in the hand of the recipient in such a way that there is not touching and that the maximum possible social distance is maintained.

14) Social distancing must be maintained in the communion lines.

15) A priest will be available after Mass to hear Confessions if requested, following appropriate social distancing.

16) We encourage parishioners to make their offering by Direct Debit or Standing Order. In any case a basket will be placed at church exits and parishioners may put their collection there.

17) For the time being we will carry on streaming Mass from Holy Cross on Thursday at 9.30am and on Sunday at 11.00am.

18) An outside Mass will be celebrated every Sunday at St Swithun Wells Primary School outside Field at 4.30pm. Bring your own seating. Mass will be suspended only in the case of very bad weather. It will be possible to park in the playground.

19) If a parishioner attending Mass does develop Covid, they or their family should make the parish aware.

### Booking System for Public Mass at St Joseph,

Romsey. Because of limited space it is necessary to have a booking system in place for public Masses.

**Thursday 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)).

**Sunday 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)).

## CONTINUED MESSAGES



### Volunteers

We need your help. Volunteers are needed to manage the opening of the churches, ushers to ensure and maintain social distancing, cleaners to ensure that we have a clean environment and counters to count, record and store the offertory money.

### Who can be a volunteer?

People who are in the High or Moderate Risk Groups, as defined by the NHS, at this stage cannot be volunteers. This includes those people who are 70 yrs. or more and those who have underlying health conditions. This is to ensure that these groups of people are protected during this time of transition. As the situation is changing rapidly, this can be reviewed and we are hopeful that we can be more inclusive in the near future.

If you want to help as a volunteer please contact the following people. We really do need you!

**St Edward the Confessor:** Deacon Paul Owen  
powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Holy Cross:** Elizabeth Nash  
nashp@aol.com

**St Andrew & St Joseph:** Deacon John Di Meo  
jdimeo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Our Lady Queen of Apostles:** Canon Alan  
frgriffiths@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Message from CAFOD** - Please could anyone in the Parish join with others from the Portsmouth Diocese to take the 10,000 steps Challenge to raise funds for the CAFOD Coronavirus Appeal. It is approximately 4 miles and you don't need to do it all in one go. **The closing date is July 19th.** You will need to get sponsors. For more details please contact Clare Lasker on 02380 252138 / clarelasker@btinternet.com.

### Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Jim Shine** and for his family. The funeral service (family only) will be on Monday 20th July.

### Timetable for public Masses and private prayer

#### **St Edward the Confessor:**

- **Wednesday 10.00am** (church will remain open until 12.00pm for private prayer)
- **Saturday 6.30pm** (the church will close after Mass)
- **Sunday 9.00am** (church will remain open until 11.00am for private prayer)

#### **Holy Cross:**

- **Thursday 9.30am** (church will remain open until 12.00pm for private prayer)
- **Sunday 11.00am** (church will remain open until 1.00pm for private prayer)

Both public Masses in Holy Cross (Thursday and Sunday) will also be streamed. To join please go to our parish website [www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](http://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

## MASS TIMES



#### **St Andrew:**

- **Tuesday 10.00am** (church will remain open until 12.00pm for private prayer)
- **Sunday 9.00am** (church will remain open until 11.00am for private prayer)

#### **St Joseph:**

- **Thursday 6.00pm** (the church will close after Mass)
- **Sunday 11.00am** (the church will close after Mass)

#### **Our Lady Queen of Apostles:**

- **Sunday 9.30am** (the church will close after Mass)

#### **St Swithun Wells Primary School Field:**

- **Sunday 4.30pm** (Bring your own seating. Mass will be suspended only in the case of very bad weather.)

## PARISH OFFICE & MASS INTENTIONS



### Main Parish Office

The Office is open **Thursday & Friday 9.30am-2.30pm**. Parish Office telephone number: **02380 273882**. If you need to speak to a member of staff please knock, step back and wait.

### Mass Intentions (Changes from 20th July)

For St Andrew's & St Joseph's please book these through Deacon John Di Meo.

For all other churches please send an email or call the Parish Office.

To make an offering:

(1) You can send cash or a cheque to the office made payable to **PRCDTR St Swithun Wells** (writing on the back the date your Mass was said and your Mass intention). Alternatively you could hand your offering to a priest, deacon or the office when it is open.

For those who are still isolating:

(2) You can make a bank transfer to the main parish account **PRCDTR St Swithun Wells** with sort code **30-93-04** and account number **01786599**. **Please indicate** that the transfer is for a Mass intention, the date it was celebrated and who/what the Mass was celebrated for.

### Please note:

On Mondays and Fridays, Mass will be private however our Priests will offer the Mass according to the requested intentions (up to a maximum of 2 intentions).

For Tues, Wed, Thurs, Saturdays a maximum of 2 intentions can be offered each day.

For Sundays only 1 Mass intention will be offered at each public Mass celebrated in our churches.

## MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 11th July	6.30pm	St Edward	Jim Shine (RIP) John Hooley (Thanksgiving)
Sun 12th July	9.00am	St Edward	James Kerr (RIP)
<i>Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary time</i>	9.00am	St Andrew	The work of Stella Maris, The Apostleship of the Sea
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	Holy Cross (Also Streamed)	
	4.30pm	SSW Primary School	
Mon 13th July		Private Mass	Intentions of the Layzell Family George Wysocki and Margaret O'Donnell (Special Int)
Tues 14th July	10.00am	St Andrew	Claire Lund Yates (Special Intention) Sister Margaret Morris (Well-being)
Wed 15th July <i>St Swithun</i>	10.00am	St Edward	Finnerty & Molloy Families FM Pat Wilson (Well-being)
Thurs 16th July	9.30am	Holy Cross (Also Streamed)	Mrs Anne Clayton-Smith FM
	6.00pm	St Joseph's	Dora Pond RIP
Fri 17th July <i>St Bonaventure</i>		Private Mass	Janet Vanderpump RIP (Birthday)
Sat 18th July	6.30pm	St Edward	Mrs Edward Christian FM Angela Speight FM
Sun 19th July <i>Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary time</i>	9.00am	St Edward	Bryan George Dolbear FM Hugh & Vera Peters RIP Jan Szczetnikowicz RIP Ron & Sheila Rhymer RIP
	9.00am	St Andrew	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	Holy Cross (Also Streamed)	
	11.00am	St Joseph	
	4.30pm	SSW Primary School	

### 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

**Canon Alan Griffiths (Assistant Priest)**  
Tel: 07760220346; E: frgriffiths@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: 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**