



## Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ 3rd MARCH 2024: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

### LENT IS A TIME OF PURIFICATION

This Sunday's Gospel tells us how Jesus overturned the tables of the money changers in the temple. Jesus did this when he found people in the temple selling cattle, sheep and pigeons and changing money. All these elements were actually necessary for the sacrificial and ritual system in place in the temple at that time. Offerings had to be made with a special coin provided by the money changers. But Jesus put an end to all this activity by saying, "Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market". The disciples remembered the words of Scripture, "Zeal for your house will devour me". Zeal is a special kind of attentive regard for the things that belong to God. Such zeal demands that what is holy be purified of what is not holy.

Now we can understand why we read this Gospel on this 3rd Sunday of Lent. The preparation for Easter requires purification. Lent is the time to overturn the tables of the money changers that are part of all our lives. Lent is the time to throw away the things that occupy the place of God. The real temple to be purified is our heart! We need to get rid of the things in our heart that are incompatible with God.

The Lord Jesus needs to do in us what He did in the temple: a little housecleaning. One of the best ways we can cooperate in this process is to go back to the basics of the Ten Commandments.

The first three commandments have to do with the question of basic spiritual orientation: who or what exactly is the object of your worship?

We need to hear the very first commandment, "I am the Lord your God; you shall have no other gods before me".

Secondly, you shall not disrespect God with your speech.

And third, you must worship God regularly. There is no place for the attitude of "I'm fine with God, I just don't have time to go to Mass". We should make our worship concrete, "Keep holy the Sabbath day".

And then, following on from this basic form of worship, there is a whole series of commandments dealing with our relationships with other people. "Honour your father and mother". What is the quality of your relationship with those closest to you?

"You shall not murder". What role does violence play in your life? What is the quality of your temper?

"You shall not commit adultery". Do you use other people for your gratification? Are you a victim of lust?

"You shall not steal".

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour". Do you steal someone's good name and reputation by gossiping? What is the quality of your speech? How much time do you spend blaming, accusing?

"You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife". Coveting or desiring what is not yours with jealousy, envy and resentment should be banished from our hearts.

Let us use the Ten Commandments for a deep clean of our spiritual life.

*Fr Raffaele*

### GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "Message for Lent" by Pope Francis - you can find this on our homepage. If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact [website.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:website.sswp@gmail.com)

For the next Newsletter, items should be received into the parish office by **10am on Wednesday 6th March**, please email your messages/notices to: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

If you wish to make a donation to our parish please go to: <https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/financesdonations>

# LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 3rd March 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 3

PSALM RESPONSE: YOU, LORD, HAVE THE MESSAGE OF ETERNAL LIFE.

1<sup>st</sup> reading Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 18 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 Gospel John 2:13-25

Sunday 10th March 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 4

PSALM RESPONSE: O LET MY TONGUE CLEAVE TO MY MOUTH IF I REMEMBER YOU NOT!

1<sup>st</sup> reading 2 Chronicles 36:14-16.19-23 Psalm 136 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Ephesians 2:4-10 Gospel John 3:14-21

## 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)

Please check the parish website for the calendar of meetings, times and venues. To register for these groups please go to our website:

<https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/parishlife>

Fellowship Group - St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. We are holding a Lenten Supper at 6.45pm every Wednesday during Lent followed by a Fellowship Lenten Study: 'God Has No Favourites' starting at 7.30pm. We will be following this ecumenical course exploring our relationships with God and each other. Week 3: 6th March - the theme is 'Neither Male nor Female'. For the Zoom link contact Peter at [peterbaggott@aol.com](mailto: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.

### Growing In Faith Together Group

Tuesdays 10.15am to approx. 11.45am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. During Lent we will be showing the film 'Jesus of Nazareth' with Robert Powell in six parts. All are welcome!

### The Little Flowers Baby & Toddler Group

Meet on Wednesdays from 10am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh;

The group is for 0-4 years and their families. More information is on the website or you can email: [littleflowers.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:littleflowers.sswp@gmail.com)

Afternoon Club - St. Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water, first Tuesday in the month at 2pm. Come and join us for tea, games and good fun.

60s Club - meets every fortnight on a Monday from 2pm-4pm at Holy Cross Resource Centre. Our next meeting is on Monday 4th March. All welcome!

*Please go to our website for details of more parish groups (Ark of Fellowship, Prayer Groups and Knitting Club)*

## MESSAGES



### Changes to Mass during Lent

The Friday Mass at OLOA will be celebrated at 10.30am (instead of 9.30am), followed by Stations of the Cross.

### 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);

Holy Cross: Fridays at 6.15pm in Malayalam (Kerala's official language)

St Joseph: Fridays at 9.30am (before Mass);

St Edward: Fridays at 9.30am (before Mass)

OLOA: Wednesdays at 6.30pm & Fridays after the 10.30am Mass.

The children of Stars of Abraham will lead the Stations of the Cross on Friday 8th March, 6.15pm in St Edward. All are welcome.

Lenten Talks at OLOA: After the Sunday 9.30am Mass, "Is Christianity a help or hindrance?"

Sunday 3rd March: Is Christianity a help or hindrance to Science? By Dr Alex Hamilton, PhD

Sunday 10th March: Is Christianity a help or hindrance to Enjoying your Life? By Fr Bruce Barnes

Sunday 17th March: Is Christianity a help or hindrance in Married Life? By Mrs Joan Ferrer, JP DL

Lent Ecumenical Study Group meets from 6.30pm-8pm in St Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water, Romsey, each Monday in Lent. All are welcome. Please bring a bible if you can.

Penitential Services - A number of priests will be available during these times:

Thursday 21st March, 7.30pm at OLOA

Friday 22nd March, 7.30pm at St Andrew

Saturday 23rd March, 11am at Holy Cross

### Lunches & Suppers being held across the Parish During Lent

St Swithun Wells, Fair Oak - at 6.45pm on Wednesdays, the Fellowship Group will be hosting Lenten Suppers of soup, bread and cheese in aid of CAFOD. There will be a Lenten Study at 7.30pm on Wednesday evenings (see Fellowship notice in Parish Groups for more info).

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.

## MESSAGES CONTINUED



Welcome to the children of

St Swithun Wells Primary School who are going to lead the Mass at Holy Cross on Sunday 3rd March.

A very Happy Birthday to Fr Luca who celebrates his birthday on Sunday 3rd March.

Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 3rd March, 1pm-4pm Pavillion on the Park, 1 Kingfisher Road, SO50 9LH  
The topic will be 'Relationships with Technology'. 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. Please can you bring your own cups/plates/cutlery. To book your place please go to our parish website and use the link you find on the "Next main parish events" section.  
Next Get2Gether date for your diary: 12th May

Upcoming Second Collection - Sunday 10th March Clergy Assistance Fund - You will be able to use our yellow gift aid envelopes for this collection.

### Message from Dcn Matteo

Dcn Matteo is looking for a cheap, but reliable car (also to be used for long journeys). If you are thinking of selling your car or you know someone who is, please email Dcn Matteo: [mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### Helpers needed for Children's Liturgy at Holy Cross

If you are interested in helping out with Children's Liturgy please either speak to or email Dcn Matteo. [mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Fr David Whitehead RIP - Please pray for Fr David Whitehead who died last Friday (23rd Feb), in Marie Louise House, in Romsey where he had been living for the last few years. He was 96. Once we have the details of his Requiem Mass we will include this information in our newsletter.

### St George Catholic College Alumni Reunion

**Sunday 28th April 2024 from 3pm-5pm**

Did you attend or work at St George Catholic College in the 1960s, 70s or 80s? To celebrate the school's recent outstanding Ofsted report, we are inviting past pupils and staff in the 60s, 70s or 80s to join us for a reunion afternoon tea and cakes and a tour of the school. Please spread the word and save the date! Email Jeanine Bonavia at [jbbonavia@stgcc.co.uk](mailto:jbbonavia@stgcc.co.uk) or call

### TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

**Tuesdays:** Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh  
**Wednesdays:** Fr Luca unavailable - 6th & 13th March, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross R/Centre,  
**Saturdays:** Fr Mario, 2.30pm-4.30pm, Romsey Parish Office (26A Abbey Water)

### CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

<b>Tuesday:</b>	6.30pm-7.30pm (after Mass)	St Edward
<b>Tuesday:</b>	9.30am-10.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew
<b>Saturday:</b>	10.00am-10.30am (after Mass)	Holy Cross
	10am or by appointment	OLQA
	1.30pm-2.30pm & 5.30pm-6pm	St Joseph
<b>Sunday:</b>	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Edward
	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew

023 8067 0104 to book a place by Friday, 26th April, so we know the numbers attending. All welcome.

An announcement by the Knights of St Columba (KSC) - On 25th February, Fr Bruce Barnes was formally installed as the Provincial Chaplain of the KSC Portsmouth & Clifton Province, at Our Lady Queen of Apostles church, by KSC Regional Director, Tony Quigley. The Knights look forward to Fr Bruce's enthusiastic guidance.

### Romsey Relay Marathon - Broadlands Estate

**19th May 2024** - Following our success from last year, we would like to run the relay marathon again this year. Last year, we organised two teams of 10 people and collectively ran a marathon under 4 hours, raising over £1,000 for our church youth groups, thanks to the generosity of those who supported us. Currently we have formed a team of 10, however if you would like to join us this year, then please do get in touch with me: [cklfung@btconnect.com](mailto:cklfung@btconnect.com). Details of the event can be found at: <https://www.romseymarathon.co.uk/>  
No training is required and no one needs to be an elite runner, it's just a bit of fun and get our church together to take part in a community event. Looking forward to hearing from you. Thanks, Carrie

A Food and Friends Club has been set up at Halterworth School in Romsey. The School are inviting you to their Food & Friends lunch where you can come to eat, play games with the pupils and meet others. Please feel free to bring anything you would like to share with the children, e.g. knitting, a crossword or a board game. There will be a free hot meal followed by dessert which will be confirmed when you book your place at the lunch. If you would like to attend please let the school know up to 2 weeks before hand. The next date is **Thursday 21st March, from 11.30am to 1.15pm**. Please phone the school on 01794 512028 or email: [schooloffice@halterworth.UWINAT.co.uk](mailto:schooloffice@halterworth.UWINAT.co.uk)  
See the poster on church noticeboards for more info.

Amendments to Abortion Rules - Two contrasting amendments to abortion rules will shortly be debated in Parliament. One proposes reducing the current time limit from 24 weeks to 22. Research indicates that a significant number of babies born at 22 or 23 weeks can now survive outside the womb, leaving a contradiction in our abortion law. The second amendment proposes decriminalising those women who self induce their own abortion beyond 24 weeks and up to full term. Please ACT by asking your MP to support the amendment to reduce the abortion time limit, and reject the proposal to decriminalise self-induced abortion. Information regarding the first amendment was in last week's newsletter from RightToLife with postcards helping you to write to your MP being left in church welcome areas, please take one if you haven't already done so.

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**Tues:** 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 2nd March	9.30am	Holy Cross	Fr Luca (Birthday Intentions)
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	People of the Parish
	6.00pm	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	In Thanksgiving
	6.30pm	St Edward	John Whitcher RIP Anniversary
Sunday 3rd March  <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Edward	Deceased Members of the McCormack & Leavy Families
	9.00am	St Andrew	Brian Walters RIP
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	Holy Cross (also livestreamed)	Kelly & Magee Families FM
	11.00am	St Joseph	Brendon McNamara RIP
Monday 4th March	9.30am	Holy Cross	Fraternity of St Charles
Tues 5th March	10.00am	St Andrew	
	6.00pm	St Edward	Anthraper Family (Special Intention)
Wed 6th March	9.30am	Holy Cross	Collette Reynolds FM
	9.30am	OLQA	
	10.00am	St Edward	Keith Small RIP
Thurs 7th March	9.30am	Holy Cross	Antonio Cicu RIP FM
	12 Noon	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	Dora Pond & Martin Pond RIP
Friday 8th March	10.00am	St Joseph	Sr Eileen Adams (Wellbeing)
	10.00am	St Edward	Mrs Edward Christian FM
	10.30am	<u>OLQA</u>	
Saturday 9th March	9.30am	Holy Cross	Lillian Rachael Gardiner FM
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	
	6.00pm	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	Beppie Marsh RIP
	6.30pm	St Edward	Baker Family RIP Anniversary
Sunday 10th March  <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Edward	Teresa Layzell (In Thanksgiving for being the mother of 11 children)
	9.00am	St Andrew	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	Holy Cross (also livestreamed)	People of the Parish
	11.00am	St Joseph	Elvira & Manuel Golez RIP

### 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 Mario Toma (Assistant Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: mtoma@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 Matteo Pagani

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Deacon Paul Wilson

Tel: 023 8061 6618; E: pwilson@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 Atfield rattfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk