



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

24th November 2019: **OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE**

The Kingship of Christ

On the morning of January 30th, 1649, Kingship in Britain came to an end. Absolute rule, the style of monarchy practised so disastrously by Charles I, fell, even as the royal head tumbled off the block outside the Banqueting House in Whitehall. Our country was changed for ever. We don't have kings like that any more.

The festival of Christ the King originated as a response to the same human claims for absolute power. It was instituted as a response to the rise of populist fascism in Europe between the two world wars of last century. For when we speak of the Kingship of Christ, we speak of a kingship which judges and radicalises all human claims to power, authority and influence.

If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself – the soldiers' mockery both hides and reveals the truth. Jesus says to Pilate: *My kingdom is not of this world*. That's not an excuse for removing faith from the public square into a privatised devotional bubble. Quite the reverse, Jesus' world reflects his own being as the Incarnate Son of God. Jesus is humanity, this world, transformed, human being taken up into transcendent being and divinised by it. It is both of this world and not of this world.

In Christ, humanity is transformed by being radicalised. Jesus takes his authority and exercises his rule, not by seizing power, but by surrendering it. *He emptied himself*, wrote Saint Paul, assuming *the status of a slave, and he was humbler yet, even to accepting death on a cross*. Jesus changes power into surrender, lordship into service, so that the world may have new life.

The crucifixion of the Son of Man is the lens through which human beings can see the truth about God and the reality of worship. In the words of the Christian hymn cited by St. Paul in Colossians, Christ is *the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. In him all things were created in heaven and on earth*. Christ says to John the visionary in the Apocalypse, *Look ! I am making the whole of creation new*.

Real transformation, real life, is never the result of enforcement, power-grabbing or revolution. As the penitent thief discovered on the cross with Jesus, it comes through loving union with Jesus the servant King. True life, eternal life, comes about through his memory of us, which is always the gaze of love. *Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Truly I tell you, this day you will be with me in paradise*.

Canon Alan

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is a video by Bishop Robert Barron entitled, "Priestly Celibacy". You can find the link on our homepage.

Newsletter items should be received into the Parish Office by **Wednesday 9:30am**

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday Cycle: Year C - Weekday Cycle: Year 1 - Psalter Week: Office Proper

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: HOW WORTHY IS THE LAMB WHO WAS SLAIN, TO RECEIVE POWER AND DIVINITY, AND WISDOM AND STRENGTH AND HONOUR. TO HIM BELONG GLORY AND POWER FOR EVER AND EVER.

PSALM RESPONSE: I REJOICED WHEN I HEARD THEM SAY: "LET US GO TO GOD'S HOUSE."

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, 1ST DECEMBER 2019 (SUNDAY CYCLE YEAR A):

1st reading: Isaiah 2:1-5 - Psalm: 121 - 2nd reading: Romans 13:11-14 - Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

PARISH GROUPS



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, everyone is assured of a warm welcome. Contact June or Paul Wilson on 02380 616618. Or email: pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

School of Community

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

Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

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. Preparation will be on Wednesday evenings fortnightly at **St Edward the Confessor Church, Chandlers Ford at 7.30pm**. Dates until Christmas: **27th Nov & 11th Dec**.

Journey in Faith with the Bible: Wednesday evenings fortnightly between 7.30pm and 9pm at **St Edward the Confessor Church, Chandlers Ford**. All Welcome. Dates until Christmas: **4th & 18th Dec**. Further details from Anne Owen on 02380 254806.

Fellowship Group - St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak, Wednesdays from 7.30pm-9pm

Luke's Gospel has a series of songs as part of his introduction to the story of Jesus. This Advent we will be exploring them in their actual context, leading up to the birth of Jesus.

27th November: Zechariah's Song, Benedictus;

4th December: Mary's Song, Magnificat;

11th December: The Angels' Song, Gloria in Excelsis Deo.

Tea & coffee will be served at the end.

Everybody welcome.

Fryern Prayer Group (St Edward's) - Mon 25th

Nov, from 2-3pm at the home of Sheila and Pauline O'Neill, 19 Carthage Close, SO53 2BL. All Welcome! *Theme: The Bible & God's Plan.*

TOZ (for young people from school year 10) meet twice a month on Sunday. **Next Meeting Date: 1st December, 7-9pm (with Dinner) in Holy Cross Resource Centre.** Contact: toz.sswp@gmail.com or phone 07846 438224 (Cath Szymanski).

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

For everyone in school years 3-6, we meet every other week: *Tuesday, 5.30-7.00pm in St Edwards Cloister; Saturday 10.30am-Noon in HC 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.

Grail Seekers (school years 7,8,9) - For everyone in school years 7, 8 and 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.

Oasis Women's Group – Tuesday 3rd December

Preparing for Christmas: Making cards and cookies to give to local people in need. Please bring a small gift to donate to Women in Prison - suggestion is notebooks, word search, crossword or adult colouring books.

7:30pm, St Edward's Cloister, finish at 9 pm.

All ladies warmly welcomed - See you there!

Future Dates: 14th Jan, 11th Feb, 10th Mar, 31st Mar

Afternoon Club - **St. Joseph's Parish Centre (26 Abbey Water)**, first Tuesday in the month. Come and join us for tea, delicious scones and cakes, games and good fun. No qualifications required and you could win a prize in the free raffle!

Next Meeting: 2pm on 3rd December 2019.

CHANGES TO MASS & PARISH OFFICE OPENING



OLQA - Please note there will be no Mass on **Thursday 28th November**.

The Parish Office will be closed on **Friday 29th November** - we apologise for any inconvenience.

OFFERINGS & SECOND COLLECTIONS



St Swithun Wells Parish Acknowledges with thanks

Last week's collections: £1,341.86;
SO/DD for October '19: £12,952.59

PARISH EVENTS



Blessing of Graves

In November each year we remember in a special way those who have died and gone before us. One of our traditions is the Blessing of Graves in the cemeteries within our Parish. Details for this year are:

Sunday 24th November

Romsey Cemetery (Botley Rd) - 2pm

Woodley - 2.30pm

Bishopstoke Cemetery - 2pm

Eastleigh (Brookwood) Cemetery - 3pm

Fair Oak Cemetery - 3pm

Ramalley Cemetery - 3pm

Tuesday 26th November

North Baddesley St John's Churchyard— after the 10am Mass at St Andrew's.

Parish Advent Retreat - Sunday 8th December, 2.30pm-5pm, St Edward's. There will be a talk by Fr Raffaele, some time for questions and personal prayer.

Parish Christmas Party - Sunday 15th December, 1.00pm-4.30pm. St Swithun Wells Catholic School, C/Ford. Tickets will be on sale 30th Nov/1st Dec and 7th/8th Dec after weekend Masses in all Churches. Adults: £2; Family (Parents & Children): £5. There will be lunch, arts & crafts for children, music and games - all parishioners invited!

Advent to Christmas Carol Service - St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak on Gaudate Sunday, 15th December at 5pm. All welcome!

St Joseph's & St Andrew's Christmas Mini Fayre & Draw: 30th Nov, 10am-12.30pm, St Andrew's Church. See Messages section for more details and help requested.

Good Companions Christmas Lunch

The next lunch will be at 12 noon for 12.30pm start on Wed 4th December 2019 at Keats Restaurant, Ampfield. All who live alone or are lonely are most welcome to join us for this Christmas special, with delicious food and pleasant company. Please contact Pauline on 023 80266617 / Susie on 023 80263436.

St Edward's CAFOD Annual Christmas Fayre - 14th/15th December. In preparation for this there will be a craft morning on Friday 13th Dec in the Cloisters after 10am Mass to make Festive table decorations. Please come along and share a morning of fun and friendship. The decorations will be sold along with other seasonal items after both Masses. Festive produce gratefully received. There will also be a raffle. All proceeds to our current project in Magdalena Medio in Colombia.

Come & See - 3 Days for Young People in School Years 7-9, Friday 14th February - Sunday 16th February 2020, St Joseph's Centre in Ashurst. Cost: £90 covering the 3 days. Please go to our Parish website: www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk for more information and an application form. Registrations will be taken on a first come first served basis.

MESSAGES



St Joseph's and St Andrew's Christmas Mini-Fayre and Draw - Cakes needed please!

The mini-fayre, at St Andrew's Church, on 30th November from 10am-12.30pm will include various stalls, the Christmas raffle and refreshments. Could we ask parishioners to get baking for the event please? If you can't bring your cakes and other donations to St Andrew's on the day, could you let Jean Prescott or Eddie Barrett (St Joseph's), or Mich Page or Eileen Smith (St Andrew's) know, so that we can arrange transport for you and/or your gifts.

The success of this event depends on everyone's participation; donors, cooks, helpers and organisers, and most important of all, parishioners coming along to join in the festive fun of Advent.

St Andrew's & Emmaus - You may remember that last year during Advent, we did what we called "A reverse Advent Calendar" by giving rather than receiving. We would like to do the same this year, by donating to the Emmaus Charity again. It is a place in Winchester which provides accommodation for the homeless. They will be visiting us on Tuesday 3rd December at 7pm in St Andrew's Hall to tell us a bit more about the charity, what they do and what their aims will be. Please do your best to attend this meeting as a good beginning to our Advent journey.

St Edward's Annual Collection of Christmas Gifts for Poitiers & Two Saints - 14th & 15th December

For Poitiers gifts suitable for children & families e.g. Christmas food, toiletries etc. For Two Saints gifts of men's and women's hats, gloves, scarves, toiletries etc. Please indicate on your parcel which charity you are supporting and write a message for Christmas (labels will be given out weekend of 30th Nov/1st Dec). All gifts will be brought up at the Offertory by the children and placed on the Sanctuary at 9am Mass on Sunday 15th December.

CAFOD Christmas Cards will be on sale at Our Lady Queen of Apostles on the following weekends: 23rd/24th Nov; 31st Nov/1st Dec.

SCHOOL NOTICES



St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School PTA Christmas Fayre - Fri 6th Dec, 6pm-8.30pm

There will be games for the children, Father Christmas, mulled wine, hot dogs and pasta dishes, please come and join us. Raffle tickets for the grand draw will be sold after weekend Masses at St Edward's & Holy Cross.

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 23rd *Vigil Mass	9.30am	HC	V. P. Pappachan RIP
	5.00pm*	SSW	Joe & Lydia Fonseca RIP
	6.00pm*	St J	Monica Carrasco RIP (Anniversary)
	6.00pm*	OLQA	
	6.30pm*	St Ed	Deceased Members of the Baker & Hanrahan Families RIP
Sun 24th Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	Martha Geoghegan (Special Int)
	9.00am	St A	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	St J	Sr Dorothy Baxter RIP
	11.00am	HC	Kathleen & Leslie Hammerton RIP
Mon 25th	10.00am	St Ed	Barney & Peggy Rice FM
Tues 26th	9.30am	HC	Charlie & Rita Kelly FM
	10.00am	St A	
	10.00am	OLQA	
Wed 27th	9.30am	HC	Amarant Ferreria RIP
	10.00am	St Ed	Seamus Geoghegan RIP
	11.00am	OLQA	<u>Funeral Mass: Hetty Gunston RIP</u>
	2.00pm	St J	<u>Funeral Mass: Sr Anselm Burke, Daughter of Wisdom, RIP</u>
Thurs 28th	9.30am	HC	Antonio Cicu FM
	10.00am	OLQA	<u>No Mass</u>
	6.00pm	St J	For the Pond Family
Fri 29th	10.00am	St Ed	Donald & Maura Gorman RIP
	10.00am	St J:AH	Mary Costigan RIP
	11.00am	OLQA	<u>Funeral Mass: Elizabeth Hardinge RIP</u>
Sat 30th St Andrew *Vigil Mass	9.30am	HC	Kenneth Sweet FM
	5.00pm*	SSW	Helen Sanders
	6.00pm*	St J	Mary Carlow RIP
	6.30pm*	St Ed	Ann Sandhu RIP (1st Anniversary)
Sun 1st Dec 1st Sunday of Advent	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	Enid Scappaticci RIP (4th Anniversary)
	9.00am	St A	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	St J	Herbert Howie RIP (Anniversary)
	11.00am	HC	In Memoriam FM

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
 Tues: HC - First Tuesday of the Month (10am-1pm)
 Thurs: St Ed - Holy Hour 7-8pm
 Thurs: St J - from 4-6pm, Rosary and Benediction at 5.30pm

ROSARY AND PRAYERS
 St Edward's 9.30am, Wednesday - The Holy Rosary
 St Joseph's Cancelled on Wed 27th November

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 in the Parish Office, Holy Cross, Eastleigh.
Weds: Fr Luca, 4.30pm-6.30pm, Parish Office, Holy Cross, Eastleigh.
Fridays: Fr Raffaele, 11.30am-12.30pm in the Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey.
Saturdays: Fr Marco, 10am-Midday, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey.

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: 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