



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ 8th MAY 2022: FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Importance of Being Mary

Virgin mother, daughter of thy son...

With these words Dante Alighieri begins his *Hymn to the Virgin*. We are at the end of his journey from Hell to Paradise through Purgatory, narrated in his most popular book *The Divine Comedy*. After having experienced the suffering of Hell, the purifying fire of Purgatory and the joy of the encounters with those who are in Paradise, Dante is now guided to the final vision of "the Love that moves the sun and the other stars". His companion is St Bernard of Clairvaux, who at the opening of canto 33, delivers this beautiful prayer to the Virgin Mary. The way walked by Dante already suggests to us why Mary (I like to call her by her name, being as she is so close to our daily life!) is so important for our faith: she is the last gate through which we need to pass if we want to see God.

Virgin mother, daughter of thy son. Mary is both virgin and mother, but mother and daughter of God. What seems a contradiction, actually in Mary makes sense.

In the Christian vocabulary, the word *virgin* doesn't mean merely someone who has no husband or wife, but something deeper. A virgin is someone who is completely devoted to God. "Virginity" is therefore an attitude of the heart, possible to everyone, and whose importance is reminded to the people of God by those who even physically make the choice to devote themselves to God alone. Mary is also mother. And she is mother, because she is virgin. Let me explain this apparent enigma. When you meet someone who is totally devoted to a cause, you become interested in that cause, at least you start asking questions about that cause. In a way, you are becoming son or daughter of that cause, through the person that embodies it. It is the same with Mary. Her heart centred in God, her life totally spent to cherish, nurture and treasure the presence of God, captures our attention and invites us to become sons and daughters of God as she is.

Dante describes Mary also as the *daughter of her son*. Just look at the Gospel to see how adequate are these words! Mary lets herself be guided by her son: she accepts his mysterious destiny, she follows him on the way of the cross, from a physical distance but with a mysterious closeness of hearts. She obeys her son and asks men and women to do the same. Like when she was at Cana of Galilee, to a wedding feast, and they had run out of wine. She asked her Son to perform a miracle, and then asks the guests to obey him.

What can we learn from Mary? That our life becomes fecund, that we generate life, only if we let ourselves be generated by God (Mary is both mother and daughter of God). A good father or a good mother is someone who recognizes first to be a daughter or a son of God. A good teacher is someone who sees themselves as a channel of grace.

I invite you during this month of May, dedicated to the Virgin Mother of God, to stop and think about the words of Dante, asking to become those words, to become like Mary, virgin, daughter and mother.

Fr Luca

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is, "Let Us Not Surrender To The Logic of Violence" by Pope Francis - 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 11th May**, please email your messages/notices to: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 8th May 2022: Year C - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 4

PSALM RESPONSE: WE ARE HIS PEOPLE, THE SHEEP OF HIS FLOCK.

READINGS: 1st reading Acts 13:14.43-52 Psalm 99 2nd reading Apocalypse 7:9.14b-17 Gospel John 10:27-30

Sunday 15th May 2022: Year C - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 1

READINGS: 1st reading Acts 14:21-27 Psalm 144 2nd reading Apocalypse 21:1-5a Gospel John 13:31-33a, 34-35

Youth Groups

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

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9)

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

For more details and how to join please go to the parish website 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!

Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

If you would like to be baptised, confirmed or received into the Catholic Church (or know more about the Catholic faith) please email Deacon Paul Owen: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fellowship Group - Wednesday 11th May

7.30pm at St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak

We are starting a new John Birch Bible Study entitled, "Firm Foundations - Looking at the beginning of the Christian Church". Week 1 - 'Commissioned'.

Everyone welcome. If you would like to join us on Zoom please contact peterbaggott@aol.com for the link.

Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) Group

No meeting on Tues 10th May, meetings resume on Tuesday 17th May at 10.15am to approx. 11.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. We will be having a closer look at our faith. All are welcome!

Knitting Club - Third Tuesday of the month, from 2pm-4pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. If you would like to join us for a knit and cup of tea please come along, all levels of knitting ability welcome!

PARISH GROUPS



The Little Flowers Baby & Toddler Group

Wednesdays at 10am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. The group is for 0-4 years and their families. More information is on the website or you can email: littleflowers.sswp@gmail.com

Afternoon Club - St Joseph's Parish Centre, 26 Abbey Water, Romsey. Our next games afternoon will be on Tuesday 7th June at 2pm when we will be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Bingo, prizes and a free raffle will be enjoyed; plus the obligatory scones and cakes! Please contact Elizabeth Gare on 01794 515265 if you are intending to come along, as soon as possible please, as space will be limited to 40, or for more information.

Ark of Fellowship - Group for learning disabilities or learning difficulties, their families and friends

Thursdays at 6.30pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. Interested in volunteering or know some young adults who would like to join the group? Please contact Fr Luca at: arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com

CaFE

We are starting our latest CaFE course on Tuesday 10th May, this one is The Gift, a Life in the Holy Spirit. This is an inspiring series aimed at people of all ages to help them encounter the Holy Spirit and empower them to share their faith.

Our meetings will be as usual at 2pm in the Parish Centre Romsey, repeated at 7.30pm in St. Andrew's N. Baddesley, on the second and fourth Tuesdays in each month, finishing on 26th July.

For more information please call/email Ann Heslop: 02380 734429 ann.heslop@virginmedia.com

MESSAGES



Second Collection This Weekend (7th/8th May)

Diocesan Clergy Training Fund - The Clergy Training Fund supports the ten seminarians currently in formation for the priesthood, for the duration of their six or seven-year journey to ordination. Each seminarian participates in a comprehensive programme of formation pastorally, intellectually, humanly and spiritually. These are the men who will baptise and catechise the coming generations, and care for us on our pilgrim way. An online giving page has also been set-up for this appeal (available until 14th May): <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/support-our-seminarians>

Upcoming Weddings - Please pray for Paul Bennett & Fiona Slugocki whose wedding takes place on Saturday 7th May at Holy Cross.

Upcoming Sacraments Our Children Will Be Making

This coming Tuesday & Saturday the children of our Parish will be making their **First Confession**. Let us pray for them on this important occasion in which they experience for the first time the mercy of God. The same children will make their **First Holy Communion on Sunday 19th June**. Please pray as well for our young people who are making their **Confirmations on Sunday 29th May in the Cathedral**.

MESSAGES CONTINUED



Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Paul Sadler and for his family. Paul's funeral service takes place on **Monday 9th May at Test Valley Crematorium.**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Christine Watson and for her family. Christine's Funeral Mass takes place at **Holy Cross Church on Tuesday 10th May at 12 Noon.**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jacqueline Lovesey and her family. Jacqueline's funeral service takes place on **Thursday 12th May at Test Valley Crematorium.**

Coffee and Conversation - In OLQA Church Hall following the 9.30am Mass on Wednesdays. Everybody most welcome!

Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 8th May, 1pm-4pm
Pavillion on the Park, 1 Kingfisher Road, SO50 9LH An event for all of the parish, especially families. We begin at 1pm, sharing a meal together. 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 click the link.

Day Trip for Secondary School Students

Saturday 14th May we invite all the young people in secondary school to a day trip to the New Forest. We'll meet at 9am in the car park at the back of Holy Cross Church and aim to return to the same venue around 4pm. Bring your packed lunch. For more information and to register (by the 10th May) please email fr Luca or fr Marco at comeandsee.sswp@gmail.com

CAFOD Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy Sale

Wednesday 18th May, 10.30am-1pm in St Edward's On sale will be home made cakes and produce, plants and new or nearly new items e.g. unwanted gifts. Any of these will be gratefully accepted. There will also be a raffle. For more information contact call Clare Lasker on 02380 252138.

Come and See Clubs & Camp - Registrations are open for our Summer Half Term Club, Summer Club and for our Summer Camp. For more information, cost and registration please click on the "Come and See" section on our website homepage.

Diocesan Job Vacancies

For all current vacancies please go to:
<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/current-vacancies>

Latest Vacancy: Called & Gifted Administrator
Part time: 5 hours per week; Salary: £12 per hour. Remote working from home with occasional attendance at meetings/training. Application closing date: 16th May. Go to current vacancies for a full job description.

Good Shepherd Sunday (8th May)

Let us pray especially for more vocations to the Sacred Priesthood, for all our Seminarians and those responsible for their formation and for those due to be ordained this year.

Synod

The Final Report of the Synod was presented at the Chrism Mass. You can read the diocesan submission here on the diocesan website:

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/synod>

Ukraine Appeal

For information about how you can help please go to:

<https://www.csan.org.uk/ukraine>

<https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news/Ukraine-crisis>

We are also supporting the Polish Social Club in Southampton who are collecting for Ukrainian Refugees. For the latest list of requirements please visit their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/PolskiKlubSouthampton>

A copy of this list can be found in each of our churches. If you would like to donate any of the required items please drop them off at Holy Cross Church in Eastleigh during office hours.

SCHOOL CONTACTS

St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School

School Office: 023 8026 6210

Email: adminoffice@st-swithunwells.hants.sch.uk

Website: <https://www.st-swithunwells.org.uk/>

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Tuesdays: | Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church, Eastleigh) |
| Wednesdays: | Fr Luca, 4.30pm-6.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church, Eastleigh) |
| Fridays: | Fr Raffaele, 10.30am-11.30am, Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey |
| Saturdays: | Fr Marco, 9.30am-12.30pm, Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey |

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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|-------------------|---|
| Tuesday: | St Edward's - after Mass (6.30pm-7.30pm) |
| Wednesday: | Holy Cross - after Mass (10.00am-11.00am) |
| Thursday: | St Joseph - before Mass (5.00pm-6.00pm) |

CONFESSION

(SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

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|------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Tuesday: | 6.30pm-7.30pm | St Edward |
| Tuesday: | 9.30am-10.00am | St Andrew |
| Saturday: | 10.00am-10.30am | Holy Cross |
| | 5.30pm-6.00pm | OLQA |
| | 5.30pm-6.00pm | St Joseph |
| Sunday: | 8.30am-9.00am | St Andrew |
| | 9.00am-9.30am | OLQA |

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

| DATE | TIME | CHURCH | MASS INTENTION |
|--|--|---|--|
| Saturday 7th May | 9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm | Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward | People of the Parish Aisling & Patrick Young (recently married) Pauline Wilson RIP |
| Sunday 8th May <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i> | 8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am | Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA (also live streamed) Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Joseph | <i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Kathleen Mary Boaden FM Jackie Higgins RIP Special Intention |
| Monday 9th May | 9.30am | Holy Cross (also live streamed) | Christine Watson RIP & Chloe Godding RIP |
| Tuesday 10th May | 10.00am <u>12 Noon</u> 6.00pm | St Andrew <u>Holy Cross (also live streamed)</u> St Edward | <u>Funeral Mass: Christine Watson RIP</u> Tim Farrelly RIP |
| Wed 11th May | 9.30am 9.30am 10.00am | Holy Cross (also live streamed) OLQA St Edward | Regina Turl (Special Intention) Ossie Carr RIP |
| Thursday 12th May | 9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm | Holy Cross (also live streamed) OLQA St Joseph | Marie Hanna Hayek RIP (49th Anniversary) For the Sick |
| Friday 13th May | 9.30am 10.00am 10.00am | OLQA St Joseph St Edward | Margaret Martindale RIP Thomas William Mason RIP FM |
| Saturday 14th May <i>Morning Mass: St Matthias</i> | 9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm | Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward | Sheila Starrs RIP FM People of the Parish Layzell Family Intentions |
| Sunday 15th May <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> | 8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am | Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA (also live streamed) Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Joseph | <i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Phyllis & Georg Roman RIP FM Doris Bonello RIP Anniversary Matthew Carlo Anthraper (Thanksgiving) Paddy & Phyllis Boyle RIP and their family |

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

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