



## Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ 18th FEBRUARY 2024: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

### Quadragesima

As the season of Lent has just begun, it seems only right to me to say a few words on the subject. It is not easy to write something new or special, because we all already know very well the meaning of Lent and more or less also the way of living it. However, for those who are beginning to experience Lent for the first time, either because they have just converted, or because they are rediscovering their faith, I would like to give some tips on the meaning of this period.

First of all, Lent in Latin is called '*quadragesima*' and derives from the term '*quaranta*', that means 40, because it refers to the 40 days during which Jesus remained in fasting and prayer before the beginning of his public life (see this Sunday's gospel). This period, both for Jesus and for Christians, is therefore intended to prepare for a great event. For Jesus it was his public life, and we can imagine how radically his life changed the moment he started preaching and performing miracles. For us, this great event is the celebration of Easter. Being the most important feast of the year, it is our duty to come to this feast prepared. It is as if we were to run a marathon: certainly to be able to complete it in a dignified manner, we need a period of good training before the race.

How does one "train" to prepare for Easter? Or in other words, how should the Lenten season be spent?

The Church, since the time of St Augustine, has always emphasised the need for three fundamental acts to adequately prepare us to celebrate the passion and resurrection of Jesus: fasting, prayer and charity. A brief explanation of them:

Fasting: recognising that even our basic needs - such as feeding ourselves - become secondary in the face of Jesus: He is more important in our lives than having a full belly.

Charity: we do not live in isolation from others, but in relationships. The most beautiful way of living in relationships is to help each other with their needs, and thus in supporting and helping those around us who are most in need.

Prayer: this is what gives strength and motivation to the previous two activities. For it is only through a close relationship with Jesus lived in prayer that you become capable of giving up what you would like, and doing good for others.

There are many ways of fasting, doing charity and praying: I leave it to you to find the form that best helps you to live this Lent in a holy way, only, when you are thinking about this, keep in mind what Fr. Luca wrote on the previous front page: that will help you to be really prepared to live the passion and resurrection of Jesus to the full.

*Fr Mario*

### 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 21st February**, 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 18th February 2024:** Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 1

**PSALM RESPONSE:** YOUR WAYS, LORD, ARE FAITHFULNESS AND LOVE FOR THOSE WHO KEEP YOUR COVENANT.

**1<sup>st</sup> reading** Genesis 9:8-15 **Psalms** 24 **2<sup>nd</sup> reading** 1 Peter: 3:18-22 **Gospel** Mark: 1:12-15

**Sunday 25th February 2024:** Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 2

**PSALM RESPONSE:** I WILL WALK IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING.

**1<sup>st</sup> reading** Genesis 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18 **Psalms** 115 **2<sup>nd</sup> reading** Romans: 8:31b-34 **Gospel** Mark: 9:2-10

## 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)

For Grail Seekers & Student Youth we usually meet on Friday evenings in the Holy Cross Resource Centre at 6.30pm. 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>

## 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!

**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

## PARISH GROUPS



each other. **Week 1: 21st February** - the theme is 'The Best Picture of God'. 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.

## Communion & Liberation Groups - restart this week

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!

**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!

**60s Club** - meets every fortnight on a Monday from 2pm-4pm at Holy Cross Resource Centre. Our next meeting is on **Monday 19th February**. All welcome!

## 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);

**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.

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

**Sunday 18th Feb:** Is Christianity a help or hindrance in Psychiatry? By Dr John Sharpley, CBE

**Sunday 25th Feb:** Is Christianity a help or hindrance in the Armed Forces? By Captain Anthony McKewan RN (Retired)

**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** will meet from 6.30pm -8pm in St Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water, Romsey, each **Monday in Lent starting on 19th Feb**. All are welcome. Please bring a bible if you can.

### Lent Parish Retreat

We will hold a Parish Retreat for Lent, led by Fr Raffaele on **Sunday 25th February, 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.

### Cultural Friday - 23rd February, 7pm at St Edward's

We are delighted to be welcoming Dr Giles Mercer of the English Catholic History Association who is coming to give a talk on, "Why was St Thomas More executed?"

Cheese and wine from 7pm, talk starts at 7.30pm.

### Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Sylvia Cooper and for her family. Sylvia's Funeral Mass takes place in OLOA on **Thursday 15th February at 12 Noon**.

## MESSAGES CONTINUED

### 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), 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.

### CAFOD Family Fast Day - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Give today online at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk) or fill out a Family Fast Day envelope and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families.

Second Collection for CAFOD (Sunday 25th February) - Please do not use our yellow gift aid envelopes for this collection, CAFOD have provided their own envelopes. These are available in our churches in preparation for the Family Fast Day on 23rd Feb, please take an envelope. You will then be able to hand in the CAFOD envelopes during the second collection on the 24th/25th February.

### Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 3rd March, 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 followed by some activities and a discussion, 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. 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 use the link you find on the "Next main parish events" section.

*Next Get2Gether date for your diary: 12th May*

### 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)

### 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

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

**Thursday 21st March, 7.30pm** at OLQA  
**Friday 22nd March, 7.30pm** at St Andrew  
**Saturday 23rd March, 11am** at Holy Cross

### World Day of Prayer Bible Study 'I Beg you, Bear with one Another in Love' - Friday 23rd Feb

Refreshments 10am, Bible Study 10.30am at St Martin in the Wood, Queens Road, Chandler's Ford, SO53 5AG.

### World Day of Prayer Services - Friday 1st March

This year's focus is: Christian Women of Palestine  
The World Day of Prayer Service for Chandler's Ford will take place in Velmore Chapel, Falkland Court, SO53 3GA at 10.30am. Please do join us.  
The World Day of Prayer Service for Romsey will take place in the Methodist Church at 2pm. All welcome.  
The World Day of Prayer Service for Bishop's Waltham will take place in OLQA at 2pm.

Parking at St Joseph's - If parishioners are driving to Mass, please remember that cars are not allowed to park on the church site. You can use the nearby on-street parking or one of the town centre car parks. These car parks are free-of-charge on Sundays and after 4pm on all other days. Thank you

Leo Brown RIP - Many parishioners at St Edward's will remember Leo who regularly attended Mass and was active in the parish before moving away to West End around 2010. Leo sadly passed away quite suddenly, leaving his wife Norah of 52 years and his son and daughter. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Leo and for his family. The Funeral Mass will be at St Brigid's Catholic Church, West End (date being finalised).

The Comprehensive Guide to Giving in the Parish has been recently updated. Please go to our website to see the latest version. From the homepage click on the green donate heart button and scroll to the bottom.

### What does it mean to be Human? Medical Ethics and Social Care Today - Saturday 16th March

10am-4.15pm, The Arc, Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8SB. Tickets cost £20.

See poster on church noticeboards for more info.

### St Peter's Catholic Primary School has a vacancy for a Deputy Headteacher in September 2024

- For more details on the role, including the application form, please visit the school website at: <https://www.stpetershants.co.uk/vacancies/>

### TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

<b>Tuesdays:</b>	Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh
<b>Wednesdays:</b>	Fr Luca, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh
<b>Saturdays:</b>	Fr Mario, 2.30pm-4.30pm, Romsey Parish Office (26A Abbey Water)

# MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 17th February	9.30am	Holy Cross	Children of Palestine Agnes Carter RIP  Sr Norbert (Wellbeing) Monica Hermolle RIP
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	
	6.00pm	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	
	6.30pm	St Edward	
Sunday 18th February  <i>First Sunday of Lent</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Mark Herbich RIP People of the Parish  Joya Elie Bassil RIP Winifred Harris RIP Anniversary
	9.00am	St Edward	
	9.00am	St Andrew	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	Holy Cross (also livestreamed)	
11.00am	St Joseph		
Mon 19th Feb	9.30am	Holy Cross	Fr Andrew McMahon RIP
Tues 20th Feb	10.00am	St Andrew	Alan Lock RIP
	6.00pm	St Edward	
Wed 21st Feb	9.30am	Holy Cross	Stephen Craston RIP
	9.30am	OLQA	
	10.00am	St Edward	
Thurs 22nd Feb <i>The Chair of St Peter</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross	Cheryl Robinson RIP  Bernie Hanley (Wellbeing)
	12 Noon	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	
Fri 23rd February	10.00am	St Joseph	Roy & Patsy Caine (Wellbeing)
	10.00am	St Edward	
	10.30am	OLQA	
Saturday 24th February	9.30am	Holy Cross	Raymond Harrison RIP Andrew Bates RIP Helena Ferenc RIP People of the Parish
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	
	6.00pm	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	
	6.30pm	St Edward	
Sunday 25th February  <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Mary McCormack RIP  Diane McDonnell (Wellbeing) Sean Richardson RIP
	9.00am	St Edward	
	9.00am	St Andrew	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	Holy Cross (also livestreamed)	
11.00am	St Joseph		

## 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

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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 Attfield rattfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk