



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

**5th JANUARY 2020: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

## The Light of Christ

The words of the Prophet Isaiah are also meant for us. They call us to rise and go forth, to leave behind all that keeps us self-enclosed, to go out from ourselves and to recognize the splendour of the light which illumines our lives: "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you" (60:1). That "light" is the glory of the Lord. The Church cannot deceive herself into thinking that she shines with her own light. Saint Ambrose expresses this nicely by presenting the moon as a metaphor for the Church: "The moon is in fact the Church... [she] shines not with her own light, but with the light of Christ" (*Hexaemeron*, IV, 8, 32). Christ is the true light shining in the darkness. To the extent that the Church remains anchored in him, to the extent that she lets herself be illumined by him, she is able to bring light into the lives of individuals and peoples. For this reason the Fathers of the Church saw in her the *mysterium lunae*.

We need this light from on high if we are to respond in a way worthy of the vocation we have received. To proclaim the Gospel of Christ is not simply one option among many, nor is it a profession. For the Church, to be missionary does not mean to proselytize: for the Church to be missionary means to give expression to her very nature, which is to receive God's light and then to reflect it. This is her service. There is no other way. Mission is her vocation; to shine Christ's light is her service.

The Magi mentioned in the Gospel of Matthew are a living witness to the fact that the seeds of truth are present everywhere, for they are the gift of the Creator, who calls all people to acknowledge him as good and faithful Father. The Magi represent the men and woman throughout the world who are welcomed into the house of God. Before Jesus, all divisions of race, language and culture disappear: in that Child, all humanity discovers its unity. The Church has the task of seeing and showing ever more clearly the desire for God which is present in the heart of every man and woman. This is the service of the Church, with the light that she reflects: to draw out the desire for God present in every heart. Like the Magi, countless people, in our own day, have a "restless heart" which continues to seek without finding sure answers – they too are looking for a star to show them the path to Bethlehem.

How many stars there are in the sky! And yet the Magi followed a new and different star, which for them shone all the more brightly. They had long peered into the great book of the heavens, seeking an answer to their questions – they had restless hearts –, and at long last the light appeared. That star changed them. It made them leave their daily concerns behind and set out immediately on a journey. They listened to a voice deep within, which led them to follow that light. It was the voice of the Holy Spirit, who works in all people. The star guided them, until they found the King of the Jews in a humble dwelling in Bethlehem.

All this has something to say to us today. We do well to repeat the question asked by the Magi: "Where is the child who has been born the King of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage" (*Mt 2:2*). We are impelled to seek the signs which God offers us, realizing that great effort is needed to interpret them and thus to understand his will. We are challenged to go to Bethlehem, to find the Child and his Mother. Let us follow the light which God offers us – that tiny light. The light which streams from the face of Christ, full of mercy and fidelity. And once we have found him, let us worship him with all our heart, and present him with our gifts: our freedom, our understanding and our love. It is here, in the simplicity of Bethlehem, that the life of the Church is summed up. For here is the wellspring of that light which draws to itself every individual in the world and guides the journey of the peoples along the path of peace.

*Pope Francis*

## GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "Admirabile Signum", Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis on the meaning and importance of the nativity scene - you can find the link on our homepage.

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

## LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



**Sunday 5th January 2020:**

Year A - Year 2 - Psalter Week: Office Proper

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** BEHOLD, THE LORD, THE MIGHTY ONE, HAS COME; AND KINGSHIP IS IN HIS GRASP, AND POWER AND DOMINION.

**PSALM RESPONSE:** ALL NATIONS SHALL FALL PROSTRATE BEFORE YOU, O LORD.

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, 12TH JANUARY 2020:**

**1<sup>st</sup> reading:** Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7 - **Psalm:** 28 - **2<sup>nd</sup> reading:** Acts 10:34-38 - **Gospel:** Matthew 3:13-17

## 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, we start with tea and biscuits, and everyone is assured of a warm welcome.

### Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

Preparation will be on Wednesday evenings fortnightly at St Edward the Confessor Church, Chandlers Ford at 7.30pm. Meetings will resume on Wednesday 8th January, 7.30pm-9pm at St Edward's Church, Chandlers Ford. 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.

### Journey in Faith with the Bible

Wednesday evenings fortnightly between 7.30pm and 9pm at St Edward's Church, Chandlers Ford. All Welcome.

Upcoming dates: 15th Jan, 29th Jan, 12th Feb. See poster on Church Noticeboards or contact Anne Owen on 02380 254806 for more information.

### Fellowship Group - Wednesday 8th January, 7.30pm, St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak.

A New Year Liturgy & planning meeting. All welcome! Queries to Peter Baggott or Dcn Bob Birtles.

### School of Community

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

### CaFE: The Year of the Bible!

CaFE invites you to join us exploring 12 Bible themes beginning:

Mon 27th January, 2.30pm in Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water);

Tues 28th January, 7.30pm in St Andrews Social Centre.

The DVD and accompanying book (£10) is available. Contact sheila.keefe20@gmail.com.

### TOZ (for young people from school year 10)

meet twice a month on Sunday. Next Meeting Date: 12th January, from 2pm to 4.30pm where we will be visiting Fryars House in Romsey. The mini bus will leave at 2pm from Holy Cross. 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.

Afternoon Club - St. Joseph's Parish Centre (26 Abbey Water), first Tuesday in the month. Come and join us for tea, delicious scones/cakes, games and good fun. Next Meeting: 2pm on 7th Jan.

### Knit for Peace - St Andrew's, Wed 8th Jan 2-4pm

Donations of mens clothes and shoes for Two Saints welcome. Please contact Anne Harcourt on 02380 734710 with any queries.

### Knit & Natter - St Edward's, Mon 10th Feb, 2-4pm

Refreshments available and everyone most welcome! Any queries please contact Maureen Stephenson on 02380 252104.

## OFFERINGS & SECOND COLLECTIONS



### St Swithun Wells Parish Acknowledges with thanks

Last week's collections: £TBC;  
SO/DD for December '19: £TBC

### Second Collection

Please note the next second collection will be on 18th/19th January for Portsmouth Cathedral.

## PARISH EVENTS



### Children's Mass & Family Get2Gether

There will be Children's Mass at Holy Cross and St Edward's on Sunday 5th January, however we apologise but there is no Family Get2Gether that day.

### Book Talk

Two new books will be introduced on Friday 17th January, 8pm at St Edward's. More details on the books will be included in next week's newsletter.

Come & See - 3 Days for Young People in School Years 7-9, Fri 14th - Sun 16th February 2020, St Joseph's Centre in Ashurst. Cost: £90 covering the 3 days. For more info & an application form go to [www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](http://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk). Registrations close on 19th January 2020.

### Parish Quiz

Beat the January blues by coming along with your brain matter and an essential sense of humour to a Parish Quiz being held at St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak on Friday 24th January at 7.30pm.

Bring and share some food. Enjoy a raffle.

Mingle with your fellow parishioners.

Tickets are £5 each which includes 2 strips of raffle tickets (available at each church from Jan 11th/12th). All proceeds in aid of CAFOD.

Maximum number is 60.

Contact Joanna on 07437 440299 or the Parish Office for more information.

Confirmation of our children will be on Sunday 24th May 2020, 3pm at Portsmouth Cathedral. Further details will be announced closer to the event.

## MESSAGES



### Portsmouth Diocesan Pilgrimage to

Lourdes July 2020. 15th to 19th July, flying by charter aircraft to Lourdes (Tarbes) from Bournemouth airport; the cost of the pilgrimage is £695 per person for a shared room. Staying at the hotel La Solitude where all meals are included. As last year, the pilgrimage will be supported by the 'Youth of the Diocese' those aged 14-35 who volunteer to support the pilgrimage by helping with music, the liturgy, companionship for our pilgrims, and physically supporting those in need by pushing wheelchairs etc. The cost for a youth pilgrim is £545 again for a room shared with probably 3 others. Please see posters on church noticeboards for more info. A video inviting people to join Bishop Philip on the pilgrimage can be found at <https://vimeo.com/367708674>.

### Invitation to Cultural Mass for Nigerians

Sunday 23rd February 2020, 3pm at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth

Bishop Philip and the Nigerian Catholic Priests, Religious and Laity in Portsmouth Diocese invite everyone to a Thanksgiving Eucharistic Liturgy. Refreshments will follow immediately after the Mass in the Cathedral Discovery Centre. Members of the Nigerian Community and their friends are all invited and encouraged to attend. This celebration will encourage the sharing of the community's identity, unity, diversity, rich cultural values and heritage. It will also serve as an inaugural meeting for Nigerian Catholics all through the Diocese to participate in. The Catholic TV of Nigeria will be covering the Mass. Traditional/cultural dress is highly encouraged for the occasion. If you are attending/wish to make further enquiries, please contact Fr Daniel Agber who can be contacted at [nigeriansinportsmouthdiocese@gmail.com](mailto:nigeriansinportsmouthdiocese@gmail.com) or on his mobile: 07424 426845.

Mother's Prayers will resume at St Edward's on Thursday 9th January, 1.45-2.30pm.

### Southampton Sunday Lunch Project (SLP) – Volunteers Needed.

The SLP charity offers the warmth and welcome of a hearty meal, in the company of others, to those in our local community, who find themselves struggling with homelessness, poverty, loneliness, social problems, or ill health. Every Sunday throughout the year, SLP serves a hot cooked dinner free of charge at two centres, St Denys, and Woolston. In order to sustain this much appreciated charity, we desperately seek more volunteers. Flexibility in the amount of commitment is possible, and no experience is necessary. Roles include welcoming, preparing and serving lunches, leading and organising volunteer teams, or helping with administration, and management of the charity.

If you would like to help, or simply learn more, please visit our website [www.southamptonssundaylunch.org.uk](http://www.southamptonssundaylunch.org.uk), or email us at [info@southamptonssundaylunch.org.uk](mailto:info@southamptonssundaylunch.org.uk) Please contact either Val Laurent (tel. 02380552190), or Martin Thorpe (tel. 02380900144).

### Alton Day of Renewal

25th January 2020, 11am - 4pm

Alton School, Anstey Lane, Alton, GU34 2NG

Please bring finger food to share at lunchtime.

A talk by Alice Hall, full time missionary with Sion Community, "The Almighty has done great things for me". How can we know God wants to do great things for us?

# MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 4th Jan	9.30am	HC	Emily Ray RIP
	5.00pm*	SSW	William & Esther Dwyer RIP
	6.00pm*	St J	Fr Louis Catterall RIP
	*Vigil Mass 6.00pm*	OLQA	
	6.30pm*	St Ed	Tony Armshaw RIP
Sun 5th Jan	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	Mrs Edward Christian FM
	9.00am	St A	Harry Roydon RIP (Anniversary)
	The Epiphany of the Lord 9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	St J	Penrose Family
	11.00am	HC	Deceased Members of the Sweeney Family RIP
Mon 6th	10.00am	St Ed	Albert James Boaden FM
Tues 7th	9.30am	HC	Gualtero Family FM
	10.00am	St A	
	10.00am	OLQA	<b>No Mass</b>
Wed 8th	9.30am	HC	Smyth Family FM
	10.00am	St Ed	Keith Small RIP
Thurs 9th	9.30am	HC	Phyllis Altman RIP (19th Anniversary)
	10.00am	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St J	
Fri 10th	10.00am	St Ed	Liam Aarnett RIP
	10.00am	St J:AH	Pauline Murphy (Intentions)
	10.00am	OLQA	
Sat 11th	9.30am	HC	Michael Lane FM
	5.00pm*	SSW	Sam & Sheila Sanders
	6.00pm*	St J	Special Intention
	*Vigil Mass 6.00pm*	OLQA	
	6.30pm*	St Ed	Carmen & Alejandro Macalino Jr RIP
Sun 12th Jan	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	
	9.00am	St A	Sheila & George Marshall RIP
	The Baptism of the Lord 9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	St J	Maureen Meyfarth RIP
	11.00am	HC	Christine Watson

<b>ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT</b>		
Tues: HC - First Tuesday of the Month (10am-1pm)		
Thurs: St Ed - Holy Hour 7-8pm (restarts 9th January)		
Thurs: St J - 4-6pm, Rosary & Benediction at 5.30pm		
<b>ROSARY AND PRAYERS</b>		
St Edward's	9.30am, Wednesday	- The Holy Rosary
St Joseph's	6.00pm, Wednesday	- Evening Prayer
<b>CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)</b>		
<b>Saturdays:</b>	10.00am	Holy Cross
	5.30pm	OLQA
	5.30pm	St Joseph's
<b>Sundays:</b>	8.30am	St Edward's
	8.30am	St Andrew's
<b>TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET</b>		
Tues: Fr Raffaele, 4.30pm-6.30pm, Parish Office, Holy Cross, Eastleigh. (restarts 7th Jan)		
Weds: Fr Luca, 4.30pm-6.30pm, Parish Office, Holy Cross, Eastleigh (restarts 8th Jan).		
Fridays: Fr Raffaele, 11.30am-12.30pm, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey (restarts 10th Jan).		
Saturdays: Fr Marco, 10am-Midday, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey (restarts 11th Jan).		

**Father Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)**  
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: rcosa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Father Luca Speciale (Assistant Priest)**  
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: lspeciale@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