



## Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ 10th APRIL 2022: PALM SUNDAY

### The Miracle We All Need: Mercy

For one month, the main story dominating the news is the war between Russia and Ukraine. Every day we see videos and pictures that hurt us deeply and raise questions: how is it possible for human beings to commit such atrocities? How can we end this war? Is it a utopia to dream about a world without violence?

It seems so incomprehensible how we, human beings, who know what is right or wrong, still do not do the good we want but the evil we don't want, to use the words of St Paul.

When I find myself confused or in search of consolation and meaning, I often turn to the Bible. Last Sunday, we heard the story of the adulterous woman, who disobeyed the law of Moses and cheated on her husband. The episode goes on with the crowd reclaiming justice. According to the law, she should have been stoned. At that point, Jesus says, "If there is one of you who have not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her."

Let's stop for a moment. Jesus is basically saying a very simple truth: no one is immune from sinning. Each one of us has, at least once in our life, done something wrong. Jesus' invitation to the crowd could be summed up in one line: before judging someone's behaviour, recognize your solidarity with them in sin. Justice becomes revenge if it doesn't spring from the awareness that no one is perfect, immune from sinning. Our western history teaches us that those who divide the world in two, bad people on one side and good people on the other, not only start from a false assumption, but they don't even build a better world.

The episode of the Gospel ends with Jesus saying to the woman, "I do not condemn you. Go and do not sin anymore." Jesus is not indifferent to sin (go and do not sin anymore), but he doesn't condemn people. He hates sins, not sinners. This gaze full of mercy is the miracle we need, if we want to build a world without war. Peace doesn't flow from revenge, but from mercy.

I came across an article of fr Luigi Giussani, founder of the catholic movement Communion and Liberation, written in 2003 in the middle of the war in Iraq. He said, "In mercy, the face of the American soldier is identical to that of the Iraqi soldier who finds himself looking into the barrel of the cannon that will shatter him to bits. They are the same; they are no longer one against the other. In mercy is achieved the vantage of love, which goes all the way to forgiveness."

Mercy is not the opposite of justice, but its foundation. It is not a sign of weakness, but of strength and courage. To forgive is almost impossible to us, but to implore God, who is mercy, the miracle to come within our heart and act in us and through us, is something we can easily do. It doesn't take a degree. Just two knees and a heart. Something we all have.

*Fr Luca*

### GEM OF THE WEEK

This week's GEM is Bishop Philip's Pastoral Letter, "A Massive Spiritual Campaign" - 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 **9.30am on Wednesday 13th April**, please email your messages/notices to: [stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

# LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 10th April 2022: Year C - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 2

PSALM RESPONSE: MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?

READINGS: 1<sup>st</sup> reading Isaiah 50:4-7 Psalm 21 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Philippians 2:6-11 Gospel Luke 22:14-23:56

Sunday 17th April 2022: Year C - Year 2 - Psalter Week: Office Proper

READINGS: 1<sup>st</sup> reading Acts of the Apostles 10:34a, 37-43 Psalm 117 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Colossians 3:1-4 Gospel John 20:1-9

## PARISH GROUPS



### 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](http://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

### Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community in Holy Cross meets every Wednesday, for more information please click the link on the homepage of our website. All are welcome!

School of Community in St Edward meets every Thursday at 8pm in St Edward's cloister. All are welcome!

### Fellowship Group - St Swithun Wells Church

There will be no Fellowship Group during Holy Week and Easter Week. Meetings will resume on 4th May.

### Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) Group

Tuesdays 10.15am to approx. 11.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. During Holy Week, Tuesday 12th April, we will be looking forward to the Triduum. 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!

### 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](mailto:littleflowers.sswp@gmail.com)

Afternoon Club - St Joseph's Parish Centre (26 Abbey Water), 2pm on the first Tuesday in the month. Come and join us for tea, games and good fun. For more information please phone Elizabeth Gare on 01794 515265. All welcome!

### 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, then please contact Fr Luca at: [arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com)

## MESSAGES



### Stations of the Cross

St Swithun Wells: Tues 12th April at 10am;

St Edward: Good Friday at 10am for children & families;

OLQA: Good Friday at 10am for children & families.

### Changes to Mass

During Holy Week:

There will be no Mass at St Andrew's on Tuesday 12th April due to the Chrism Mass in Portsmouth.

On Thursday 14th April there will be no morning Masses as it is Maundy Thursday.

The Easter Saturday Vigil Mass at OLQA will start at 8.30pm and not 8pm as previously advertised in the yellow Lent & Easter Sheet.

Please see the back page of the newsletter for details of all the Masses in our Parish during Holy Week.

During Easter Week (Mon 18th - Fri 22nd April):

St Edward - There will be no Masses, no Eucharistic Adoration and no Confession.

St Andrew - Mass as usual on Tuesday 19th April.

St Joseph - Liturgy of the Word on Thurs 21st & Friday 22nd April. Eucharistic Adoration on Thurs 21st April.

Holy Cross - Liturgy of the Word at Holy Cross on Mon 18th, Wed 20th (also Eucharistic Adoration) & Thurs 21st April.

OLQA Masses will continue as normal.

### Diocesan Chrism Mass

Tuesday 12th April at 11am

St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth

Bishop Philip would like to invite everyone to join him for this Diocesan Mass. If you cannot attend in person please watch online at:

[www.portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk/livemass/](http://www.portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk/livemass/)

### Upcoming Second Collections

Easter Flowers: 9th/10th April

A collection will be taken for the beautiful flower arrangements that will be in all of our churches at Easter.

### Good Friday Collection: 15th April

This is for the Custody of the Holy Land, in support of Christian communities in the land of Christ's birth, to whom successive Popes have desired Catholics around the world to remain closely united. The Good Friday collection is the main source of funds for the maintenance of Christian life around these Sacred Sites. You can also donate here:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/holy-land-collection>

## The Easter Sunday Collection

# MESSAGES CONTINUED



traditionally supports our parish priests, in recognition for all their dedication, guidance and care they give across our parish. For your convenience there are several ways of making these offerings:

- Loose cash or cheques in the collection basket. Please make cheques out to PRCDTR St Swithun Wells with Easter offering on the back.
- If you are a tax payer and wish to gift-aid your offering you can use the yellow envelopes provided in the reception area of each church. Please ensure all relevant info is included so we can reclaim the gift aid on your behalf.
- Bank Transfer to the main parish account (A/c Name: "PRCDTR St Swithun Wells", Sort Code:30-93-04, A/c: 01786599) using ref: Easter.
- Click the 'Clergy Easter Offering' donate button on our parish website. Start from the green 'donate' button near the top of the homepage.

**Singers needed at Holy Cross Church** for the Holy Week and Easter Liturgies. Please speak to Catherine to find out more including details of practice sessions.

**Churches Together in Eastleigh** - Good Friday 11am, Central Eastleigh next to the Railway Man statue. Actor, Stefan Smart, will be performing a live re-telling of the Easter story from the book of Mark. There will be a sort-of informal procession around the town centre to 2 other locations (2 mins walk). Bring a deckchair if you need a seat. If the weather is truly awful any decision made to move the event (to All Saints) will be communicated via the Hope Eastleigh Facebook page at 10am on the day. Event end time by 11.50ish.

**Churches Together in Romsey** invite you to The Cornmarket, Romsey at 12 Noon on Good Friday 15th April to start on the Easter journey together.

**Divine Mercy Sunday** - 24th April  
**Holy Cross Church 2.30pm-4.30pm**  
Starting at 2.50pm with procession of Divine Mercy Image. 3pm Prayers, Chaplet, Veneration of Divine Mercy Image and ending with Exposition and Benediction. Fr Raffaele will be available for Confessions. Refreshments in the Resource Centre afterwards. All are very welcome. Enquiries to Roz Monaghan on 0775 263 9593.

**Parish Office Closures & Double Newsletter**  
The Parish Office will be closed on Mon 11th April, Good Friday & Easter Monday 18th April. Sarah will be taking annual leave on Wednesday 20th - Friday 22nd inclusive therefore a double newsletter will be produced for 17th April.

**Parishioner Walking Against Hunger**  
Margaret Birtwistle continues to walk at least 5km daily for the 40 days of Lent. This is in aid of the CAFOD Walk-Against-Hunger appeal. Please encourage her to continue by giving a donation to:  
<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/walk-against-hunger3212>

### Thank you message from Linda

Dear All, firstly let me acknowledge your kindness and generosity in the wonderful farewell gifts from the parish on my retirement. It is really very much appreciated. I shall think of you when I am on a spending spree! I am overwhelmed by the number of vouchers, cards, flowers and ornaments. Secondly, thank you for being so supportive and helpful to me during my time in service to the parish. There have been many highs and lows as one would expect in life and I have been so buoyed up by the many kind folk who have supported or helped me directly. I was made to feel part of a large family with warmth and affection at all times. I hope I have been able to assist anyone who has had need of help from the office during these past years. Besides the increased workload, there have been some humorous times, maybe I shall write a book one day on Life in a Parish Office!

Finally, I would like to thank Sarah Goodfellow for her co-operation and support as she has been a wonderful colleague. As before, thank you again for your kindness, please accept this as my personal thanks to each of you. God Bless and see you around.

*Linda Roberts*

### 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: Mondays to Thursdays 9.30am-5.30pm & Fridays 9.30am-2.30pm, also on Saturdays and Sundays 9.30am to 12 Noon.

### CONFESSION DURING HOLY WEEK (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Tuesday: 6.30pm-7.30pm St Edward

A priest will be available to hear Confession on Good Friday after the Stations of the Cross in St Edward and after the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion in Holy Cross, St Edward and St Andrew.

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT DURING HOLY WEEK

Tuesday: St Edward's - after Mass (6.30pm-7.30pm)  
Wednesday: Holy Cross - after Mass (10.00am-11.00am)

## MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 9th April	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Tom Holder RIP Special Intention for Peace in Ukraine  Margaret Martindale RIP John & Marie Cable RIP
Sunday 10th April  <i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</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> Umberto Pugi RIP (4th Anniversary) The People of the Parish  Lydia & Joe Fonseca RIP Peter Penrose (Junior) RIP Anniversary
Monday 11th April	9.30am	Holy Cross (also live streamed)	Allan & Ursula Barltrop RIP Imelda Macalino RIP
Tuesday 12th April	<u>10.00am</u> 6.00pm	<u>St Andrew</u> St Edward	<u>No Mass</u> George, Gertrude & Mary Lawton RIP Anniversary
Wed 13th April	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross (also live streamed) OLQA St Edward	Margaret Martindale RIP  Peter Ashcroft RIP FM
Maundy Thursday 14th April	<u>7.00pm</u> <u>7.30pm</u> <u>7.30pm</u>	<u>St Andrew</u> <u>Holy Cross (also live streamed)</u> <u>OLQA (also live streamed)</u>	<u>Marion Lloyd (Wellbeing)</u>
Good Friday 15th April	<u>10.00am</u> <u>10.00am</u>  <u>3.00pm</u> <u>3.00pm</u> <u>3.00pm</u> <u>5.00pm</u>	<u>St Edward</u> <u>OLQA</u>  <u>St Edward</u> <u>St Andrew</u> <u>OLQA (also live streamed)</u> <u>Holy Cross (also live streamed)</u>	<u>Stations of the Cross for children and families</u> <u>Stations of the Cross for children and families</u>
Holy Saturday 16th April	<u>8.30pm</u> <u>8.30pm</u> <u>8.30pm</u>	<u>St Edward</u> <u>OLQA (also live streamed)</u> <u>St Joseph</u>	<u>The People of the Parish</u>  <u>John Gare RIP</u>
Sunday 17th April  <i>Easter Sunday Of the Resur- rection of the Lord</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> The Layzell Family (Special Intention)  Maguire & Richard Family FM For the Intentions of Rita Maridor

## CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

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