

Our Mission: LOVE GOD - LOVE OTHERS - MAKE DISCIPLES
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www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity No. 246871

Sunday Cycle: Year C
Weekday Cycle: Year 1
Psalter Week: 2

PALM SUNDAY

It is with increasing insistence that God is said to be dead today. The first time it was said, in Jean Paul, it was just a nightmarish dream: Jesus who is dead proclaims to the dead from the rooftops of the world that when he journeyed to the beyond he found nothing, no heaven, no merciful God, just infinite nothingness, the silence of the gaping void. It is still a horrible dream which is pushed to one side, wailing away in the waking hours, as a dream does, although the anguish it inflicts can never be cancelled for it was always lying in wait, sinister, in the depths of the soul.

A century later, in Nietzsche, it becomes a mortal seriousness which is expressed in a cry, shrill with terror: "God is dead! God will stay dead! And we have killed him!". Fifty years later, it is discussed with academic detachment and preparations are made for a "theology after the death of God", eyes search for ways to go on and men encourage each other to start preparing to take God's place. The terrible mystery of Holy Saturday, its abyss of silence, has thus acquired a crushing reality in these days of ours. Holy Saturday: the day God was buried; is not this the day we are living now, and formidably so?

The death of God in Jesus Christ is at the same time the expression of his radical solidarity with us. The most obscure mystery of the faith is at the same time the clearest sign of a hope without end. And what is more: only through the failure of Holy Friday, only through the silence of death of Holy Saturday, were the disciples able to be led to an understanding of all that Jesus truly was and all that his message truly meant. God had to die for them so that he could truly live in them. The image they had formed of God, within which they had tried to hold him down, had to be destroyed so that through the rubble of the ruined house they might see the sky, him himself who remains, always, the infinitely greater. We need the silence of God to experience again the abyss of his greatness and the chasm of our nothingness which would grow wider and wider without him.

There is a Gospel scene which in an extraordinary way anticipates the silence of Holy Saturday and which again, therefore, seems to be a profile of the moment in history we are living now. Christ is asleep on a boat which, buffeted by a storm, is about to sink. The prophet Elijah had once made fun of the priests of Baal who were futilely invoking their god to send down fire on their sacrifice. He urged them to cry out louder in case their god was asleep. But is it true that God does not sleep? Does not the prophet's scorn also fall upon the heads of the faithful of the God of Israel who are sailing with him in a boat about to sink? God sleeps while his very own are about to drown - is not this the experience of our lives? Don't the Church, the faith, resemble a small boat about to sink, struggling futilely against the waves and the wind, and all the time God is absent? The disciples cry out in dire desperation and they shake the Lord to wake him but he is surprised at this and rebukes them for their small faith. But are things any different for us? When the storm passes we will realize just how much this small faith of ours was charged with stupidity. And yet, O Lord, we cannot help shaking you, God, you who persist in keeping your silence, in sleeping, and we cannot help crying to you: Wake up, can't you see we are sinking? Stir yourself, don't let the darkness of Holy Saturday last for ever, let a ray of Easter fall, even on these times of ours, accompany us when we set out in our desperation towards Emmaus so that our hearts may be enflamed by the warmth of your nearness. You who, hidden, charted the paths of Israel only to become a man in the end with men - don't leave us in the dark, don't let your word be lost in these days of great squandering of words. Lord, grant us your help, because without you we will sink.

Joseph Ratzinger

Parish Office: Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF

Tel: 023 8027 3882. Email: stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Office hours: Monday-Wednesday 9.30am-5pm; Thursday & Friday 9.30-2.30pm Newsletter items should be received by Wednesday 12:00 noon

14th April 2019:

Entrance Antiphon:

Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel. Hosanna in the Highest.

Psalm Response: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

**Readings for next Sunday 21st April 2019
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**

Gospel: John 20:1-9

1st reading: Acts 10:34. 37-43

Psalm: 117

2nd reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Parish Groups

Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) Group

The GIFT Group will resume meetings on Tuesday 30th April with a talk from our Seminarian Dennis on "What is the Centre of my Life and of Our Life as a Church Community". **10.15-11.30am** (after Mass) in the Holy Cross Resource Centre.

Journey in Faith - St Edward's (Resumes on 1st May)

Please note there will be no JIF on Wed 24th April. We will restart after Easter on 1st May.

It is for anyone enquiring about the Catholic faith and for people intending to become a Catholic. The sessions run from 7.30pm to 9pm.

For further information please contact Deacon Paul Owen - tel: 02380 254806; email: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

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

There will be no meeting during Holy Week, 17th April or 24th April. **Meetings will recommence on 1st May.** Queries to Peter Baggott or Deacon Bob Birtles.

Youth Groups - Inspire and TOZ

Inspire (for children from school year 4 to 8) *will meet twice a month on Saturday from 2.30pm to 4.30pm in St Edward's cloister in Chandlers Ford.* Upcoming Dates: 27th April.

TOZ (for young people from school year 9) *will also meet twice a month on Sunday at the usual time 7pm-8.30pm in the Resource Centre in Eastleigh.* Upcoming Dates: 28th April.

Prayer Group (Fryern) - Monday 15th April, 2-3pm

Our next meeting will at the home of Sheila and Pauline O'Neill ,19 Carthage Close, Chandlers Ford, SO53 2BL. All are welcome.

Theme: The Way of The Cross.

60 Club - Will next meet on **Monday 29th April** at 2pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. Maureen (tel: 80692682).

Coffee Stop (Holy Cross Resource Centre)

There will be no Coffee Stop on 18th April, Maundy Thursday or 25th April. Coffee Stop will reopen on 2nd May. Please come along and support us after Mass on Thursdays in the Resource Centre.

Offerings & Collections

Second Collections

There will be a second collection this weekend (13th/14th April) for Easter flowers. Thank you in advance for your generous support in helping to make our churches beautiful with the floral arrangements. There will also be a second collection for Holy Places at all the Liturgies on Good Friday (19th April).

Easter Offerings 20th/21st April 2019

Traditionally, your Offering at Easter is for the personal use of the priests and in our diocese forms a major part of their annual income. Please be generous.

St Swithun Wells Parish Acknowledges with thanks

Last week's collections: £TBC
SO/DD for March'19: £12,774.09

Changes to Mass & Office Closure

There will be **no Mass** at:

St Andrew's on Tues 16th April

OLQA on Tues 16th, 23rd & 30th April; 2nd & 3rd May

St Edward's on Monday 22nd April

Holy Cross on Tues 23rd, Wed 24th & Thurs 25th April.

The **Parish Office will be closed** on Mon 15th & Tues 16th April and then from 22nd April for a week, the Office re-opens on Monday 29th April. There will be no Parish Newsletter produced for the weekend of 27th/28th April.

Parish Events

Stations of the Cross are being said during Holy Week at:

St Swithun Wells: Tuesdays at 10am; followed by tea/coffee & **OLQA:** Wednesdays at 7pm.

Stations of the Cross for Children, Good

Friday, 10am at St Edward's: We will follow the stations around the church so that the children may understand the journey that Jesus made on Good Friday. Please join us for a time of prayer and understanding.

St Joseph's, Romsey

Please note that the Wednesday before Maundy Thursday Confessions are at 12 Noon. No Adoration on Holy Thursday.

School Of Community - Starting Wed 1st May

We are starting a new group, School of Community, the weekly catechesis of the catholic movement Communion and Liberation, from Wednesday 1st May at 7.45pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. Meetings will take place weekly, same time same place.

Parish Events Continued

Cinema at Holy Cross - 14th April

The next film showing at Holy Cross Resource Centre will be **Gran Torino** (Cert. 15) on **Palm Sunday, 14th** April, at 7:00pm. This film's topic will help us to begin the Holy Week better.

Divine Mercy Sunday - Holy Cross, 28th April, starting at 2.45pm

Refreshments will be available afterwards in the Resource Centre. For more info please contact Roz on 07752 639593. Confessions will be available.

Messages

Special Message from Bishop Philip (extracted from E-News)

Over the weekend, I began the Pastoral Visitation of St. Swithun Wells parish, which comprises six communities across the middle of southern Hampshire (...). It's like a mini-diocese!

There are four priests, together with four deacons. The Daughters of Wisdom are based in Romsey and many of the sisters came to the Saturday evening Mass (...). St. Swithun Wells is a complex parish and this weekend I visited Romsey, Chandler's Ford and Holy Cross: I will return in the summer to visit Bishop's Waltham, North Baddesley and Fair Oak.

I was really impressed with the vitality of everything. I began on Saturday by attending the *Inspire Group* at Chandler's Ford, a large children's youth group, mainly Years 4 to 8, and then headed over for Confessions and Mass at Romsey. After Mass, back at Eastleigh, we had a light dinner and a meeting with 15 or so representatives from the parish. It was a really good discussion, sadly not long enough, in which we discussed the parish priorities for the next five years and various methods of evangelisation.

On Sunday morning, I said the 9 o'clock Mass in Chandler's Ford and the 11 o'clock at Holy Cross, both of which were packed. All the clergy then came together and we had lunch. In the afternoon, I met with about 20 teenagers from the Youth Group and they led the music and prayers afterwards at the Holy Hour. St. Swithun Wells is an excellent parish with many "can-do" Catholics.

Please pray for the clergy, for the parishioners and for the mission of the Church in that place. I look forward to the follow-up visit.

Christian Aid Week (Sun 12th - 18th May 2019)

As I'm still finding difficulty in getting about, Eric has kindly volunteered to help with the distribution of envelopes. So if you would like to help with the Christian Aid collection in central Eastleigh this year, by calling on households or making a personal donation, please contact Eric Hyom 023 8064 3547 or email erichyom@sky.com. Many thanks, John Elton.

Messages Continued

Funeral Notices

The Requiem Mass for Mary McCormack RIP will take place at St Edward's on Maundy Thursday 18th April at 10am. Family and friends welcome.

The Funeral Service for Elizabeth Beven RIP will take place at St Paul's Church, Fair Oak Road, Bishopstoke on Friday 26th April, at 1pm.

Our Children at Holy Cross

Children's liturgy will resume after the Easter break, on April 28th. Here are just a few helpful guidelines, reminders and safeguarding issues to help parents:

All children must be signed in at each session they attend. If you are unable to do this before Mass and still wish to come, please bring your child/children to register when we go to the Resource Centre.

The age group focus for Children's Liturgy sessions is from **4 years upwards and until making their First Holy Communion.**

Sessions are **usually** held every Sunday during term time except for the **1st Sunday of the month when it is Children's Mass.** **All children present at Mass** will be invited to come forward during the Homily.

We always need more help to support the children. If you feel this might/could be your gift or you would like to know a little more, please speak to one of our team, or just come and join us at a Sunday session for a taster.

The Children's Liturgy Team wish all our children and their families a very Happy and Holy Easter.

Cathedral Chrism Mass Mini Buses (16th April)

For those booked on the:

Holy Cross mini bus please meet outside the front of the Church at 9.00am.

St Edward's mini bus please meet outside the front of St Edward's church at 9.00am.

Please arrive before the time specified as the buses will be leaving on time. We cannot wait for late comers.

Other Events

Passover Meal - Wisdom Centre in Romsey

The Wisdom Centre is hosting a traditional Passover meal, on Holy Thursday 19th April, 11am-1pm. Tickets £10, please book by Friday 13th April, tel: 01794 830206.

Walk of Witness - Good Friday, 10am

From St Peter's Anglican church, Bishop's Waltham. All are invited to join in with local church communities in a walk through Bishop's Waltham, with readings and hymns enroute. All are welcome!

Contact: Angus Somerville on 07929 867472

Churches Together in Eastleigh - Good Friday Service.

This year the venue will be All Saints Church at 10.30am. Everybody welcome.

Mass Times for our Six Church Communities & Parish Contact Information

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 13th *Vigil Masses	9.30am	HC	Regina Turl (Special Intention)
	<u>11.00am</u>	<u>HC</u>	<u>Penitential Service</u>
	5.00pm*	SSW	Joe & Lydia Fonseca RIP
	6.00pm*	St J	Thanksgiving for returning to St Joseph's
	6.00pm* 6.30pm*	OLQA St Ed	Friends of Suffering Souls RIP
Sun 14th Palm Sunday	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	George, Gertrude & Mary Lawton (Anniversary)
	9.00am	St A	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am 11.00am	St J HC	Jesus Ocaya, Capistrana, Nestor, Flaviano RIP Andrew & Maria Baniak RIP
Mon 15th	10.00am	St Ed	Peter Ashcroft FM
Tues 16th	9.30am	HC	Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP
	<u>10.00am</u>	<u>St A</u>	<u>No Mass</u>
	<u>10.00am</u>	<u>OLQA</u>	<u>No Mass</u>
	<u>11.00am</u>	<u>St John's</u>	<u>Chrism Mass at Portsmouth Cathedral</u>
Wed 17th	9.30am	HC	Maguire & Richard Family FM
	10.00am	St Ed	Mary McCormack RIP
Maundy Thursday 18th	<u>10.00am</u>	<u>St Ed</u>	<u>Funeral Mass: Mary McCormack RIP</u>
	<u>7.00pm</u>	<u>St A</u>	
	<u>7.30pm</u>	<u>OLQA</u>	
	<u>7.30pm</u>	<u>HC</u>	
Good Friday 19th	<u>3.00pm</u>	<u>OLQA</u>	
	<u>3.00pm</u>	<u>St Ed</u>	
	<u>3.00pm</u>	<u>St A</u>	
	<u>5.00pm</u>	<u>HC</u>	
Easter-Saturday 20th	<u>9.00am</u>	<u>HC</u>	<u>Polish Liturgy (Blessing of the Food)</u>
	<u>8.00pm</u>	<u>OLQA</u>	
	<u>8.30pm</u>	<u>St J</u>	
	<u>9.00pm</u>	<u>St Ed</u>	
Easter Sunday 21st	9.00am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	Umberto Pugi RIP
	9.00am	St A	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	<u>10.30am</u> 11.00am	<u>St J</u> HC	<u>The Deceased Members of the Coughlans and Corrys Families</u> Henry Karnecki RIP

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday: HC - First Tuesday of the Month (10am-1pm)
Thursday: St ED **No Holy Hour (restarts on 2nd May)**
Thursday: St J **No Adoration on Maundy Thursday**

ROSARY AND PRAYERS

St Edward's 9.30am, Wednesday - The Holy Rosary
St Joseph's 6.00pm, Wednesday - Evening Prayer

CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Saturdays: 10.00am **Holy Cross (No Confessions)**
 (For 20th April) 12 noon **St Edward (No Confessions)**
 5.30pm **OLQA (No Confessions)**
 5.30pm **St Joseph (No Confessions)**
Sundays: 8.30am **St Andrew (No Confessions)**
 (For 21st April)

Clergy

Father Raffaele Cossa (Priest in Charge)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; Email: rcosa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Father Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; Email: lspeziale@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Wojciech Paszko (Assistant Priest)

Tel: 01794 522884; Email: wpaszko@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Canon Alan Griffiths (Assistant Priest)

Tel: 07760220346; Email: frgriffiths@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Bob Birtles

Tel: 023 8069 2416; Email: bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon John di Meo

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Deacon Paul Owen

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Deacon Paul Wilson

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Parish Office

Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh SO50 9DF

Tel: 02380 273882

Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday 9.30am-5pm;

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Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance

Admin: Linda Roberts

lroberts@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Sarah Goodfellow

stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website

Webmaster: 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

CATHOLIC 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.