

Our Mission: LOVE GOD - LOVE OTHERS - MAKE DISCIPLES
--



[www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](http://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)  
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity No. 246871

Sunday Cycle: Year A  
Weekday Cycle: Year 1  
Office Proper

## MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD

Within the Christmas Season we focus on the various individuals and groups who each play their part in God's plan. Our gaze at Christmas concentrates on Jesus in the manger and then widens to take in Mary and Joseph as members of his Holy Family. Shepherds come as local people to see what God has done for us, and later the kings arrive representing the whole of humankind.

This weekend we home in on Mary as the Mother of God. During the year there are other feasts celebrating Mary but this one marks her motherhood. However, this is not just about her as mother of Jesus. Remember that poignant encounter when Jesus was dying on the cross? Most of the disciples had slipped away but John remained. In love, Jesus entrusted Mary to John who in that moment represents the Church. And then Jesus gave the Church to the care and embrace of Mary. So her motherhood extends to us all. She cares for us, guides and helps shape us on our life's journey as one who has herself experienced the ups and downs, the extremes of joy and sorrow. She knows what we go through and is with us. All of this is summed up in the prayer we recite so often, the Hail Mary.

A New Year begins with all its hopes and opportunities. But let's be honest, January also brings with it concern for what may lie ahead. The month of January takes its name from the roman god, Janus, who is usually depicted with two faces – looking in opposite directions, forwards and backwards. As we stand on the threshold of a new year it does no harm to look back and see that, overall, 2016 contained many good things. Sure, it brought with it major challenges and upsets but in the bigger scheme God has indeed looked after us and brought us through. Therefore we can look forward with confidence: 'God-is-with-us'. His presence is made manifest directly, through the intercession of Mary and the Saints. His presence is also felt through the love and care of those around us. Those little gestures of kindness, those simple words of comfort and encouragement – these are not just people being nice to one another. These are concrete signs of God working in and through others, all of us, to assure us of his presence. This is why he came into the world.

### WELCOME - TO MONSIGNOR STEPHEN ALKER MBE KCHS

When you read this I shall be in New Zealand visiting my brother and his family. On the way back I'll be spending time catching up with friends in Malaysia, Thailand and Dubai. I am away for four weeks.

It is a great pleasure to welcome Father Stephen (or Father Steve – he's happy with either) who is covering in my absence. He will be living in the Presbytery at Holy Cross and, as well as the four Sunday Masses I normally celebrate, he is covering weekday Masses. Stephen is a priest of the Archdiocese of Liverpool and spent many years as a Chaplain in the Army, completing his service as Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain in the rank of Colonel, and as Vicar General. More recently he has been Parish Priest of a large international parish in Germany. I'm sure he will receive a warm welcome to St Swithun Wells Parish. Be nice to him!!

*Fr John*

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

Tel.: 023 8027 3882. Email: [stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

Office hours: Monday– Wednesday 9am-4.00pm Thursday & Friday 9.30-2.30 Newsletter items should be received by Wednesday 12:00 noon

**Entrance Antiphon:** Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth forever.

**Psalm Response:** O God, be gracious and bless us.

**Readings for next Sunday January 8th 2017  
The Epiphany of the Lord**

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

1st reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm:71

2nd reading: Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6

**Journey in Faith** (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is for anyone interested in finding out more about the Catholic Church or is interested in becoming a Catholic. **Will be resuming every Wednesday evening at St Edward the Confessor Church from 7.30 to 9.00 on January 11th 2017.** Contact Deacon Paul Owen Tel 02380 254806; email: [powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

**FELLOWSHIP GROUP** - Meetings will recommence in January, date to be confirmed. Queries to Peter Baggott 02380694060 or Deacon Bob Birtles

**Is God calling you to be a Deacon?**

Oscott Seminary have introduced a preparatory year for men discerning a call to the Permanent Diaconate.

This is to begin in January 2017 and consists of three overnight stays in January, March and May.

The aim of these sessions is to help candidates better understand the reality of a vocation to Holy Orders and to help discern whether this is what God is calling them to. There will be Parish based pastoral elements, spiritual formation and intellectual input given through teaching, seminars and discussions.

Wives of prospective candidates will also be supported during these days and are encouraged to attend.

Attendance at these days does not commit an individual to beginning the formation program, it is part of the overall selection process.

For further information please contact Fr Peter Hart [diaconate@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:diaconate@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) as soon as possible.

**The office** will re-open on Tuesday 3rd January 2017.

**CRIB OFFERINGS**

The Christian people of the Holy Land have been under increasing economic and political pressure in the past 75 years. During that time the Christian population has fallen steadily. **Friends of the Holy Land (FHL)** was established in 2009 to help and encourage Christians to flourish in the land of their birth, to ensure a secure presence where Christianity began. Your Offering at the Crib will help the various projects undertaken to support our Christian sisters and brothers in the Holy Land.

**Consultation Admissions Arrangements  
September 2018—St Anne's Catholic School**

As required by regulations the governing body of St Anne's Catholic School, Southampton, SO15 2WQ will be conducting a consultation on its proposed admissions arrangements for the school year 2018-2019. The consultation period runs for a minimum of 6 weeks from 16/12/2016 until 27/01/2017. Proposed changes are: \*All looked after girls or previously looked after girls are first priority; \*Girls will be considered to have a sibling connection if at the time of application they have a sibling who has previously been on roll for at least 1 year or a sibling on roll at the time of application; \*Naming of feeder Catholic primary schools and primary schools with a strong Christian foundation and \*Removal of the criteria for girls whose parents attended the school. Copies of the proposed arrangements can be obtained from the school office or downloaded from the school website [www.st-annes.uk.com](http://www.st-annes.uk.com) Comments on the arrangements should be sent to the clerk of the governing body by 27/01/2017 via Mrs Langford ([flangford@st-annes.uk.com](mailto:flangford@st-annes.uk.com)) The governing body will consider all comments received before determining its admission arrangements by 28/02/2017.

**CAFOD Portsmouth Supporters' Meeting  
Saturday 4 February 2017**

Join us at our next CAFOD Portsmouth Supporters' Meeting on Saturday 4 February 2017 from 10am-1.30pm at St Bede's Catholic Primary School, Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX. There will be a special talk on our livelihoods work in Zambia (our Lenten focus) by Mark Chamberlain and a chance to hear an update on all our exciting campaigns from Dan Hale. Please book a place in advance via 01252 329385 or [portsmouth@cafod.org.uk](mailto:portsmouth@cafod.org.uk) Thank you.

Best wishes **Lynda Mussell**

*Community Participation Coordinator - CAFOD*



### THANK YOU

As the priests in St Swithun Wells Parish, we thank you all for your kindness and generosity at Christmas. The cards and thoughtful words they contained, gifts and Offerings we received are truly appreciated. As we continue to celebrate the Christmas Season, we pray that the gift of peace may be with you - individually, in your home and with those you love.  
*Fathers John, Wojciech and Alan.*

### St Edwards Saturday Night Tea & Coffee

Tony & Trish Cassidy have hung up their aprons after 21 years of providing tea, coffee and biscuits at St Edwards after Saturday night mass and would like to thank all those parishioners who have supported their effort and in turn provided many hundreds of pounds to the parish funds (and free biscuits to the children). If the need arises in the warmer months ~ *they'll be back!*

### World Gifts at St Edwards.

Thanks to all who contributed. £172 was raised, enough to buy 2 greenhouses, 2x1kg of worms and 4 supplies of seeds. These gifts will contribute directly towards CAFOD's Livestock, Agriculture and Livelihoods Fund.

**Healing Day** with Little Way Healing Ministries: on Saturday 14 January, 10am – 4.30pm, at the Highfield House Hotel, Highfield Lane, SO17 1AQ.

Fr. Laurence Brassill OSA and Mrs. Pauline Edwards and team offer a day of healing. There will be a time of praise, worship, teaching and healing prayer. Do you suffer from fear, sickness, loneliness, abuse, rejection, depression or is "something" holding you back? Jesus said: "Lay your hands on the sick and they will recover". Come and see. Tea and coffee will be provided. Booking not required!

### CALLED AND GIFTED

Do you want to understand better what God wants to do with your life? Do you want to know how God is calling you to reach out to others and serve him? Do you want to grow in your personal relationship with Christ? These and other questions will be looked at during the Called and Gifted process which is coming back to the parish soon. Please consider attending the Called and Gifted Weekend Retreat on **4th and 5th March 2017** at St Edward's. This will give time away from your everyday life to reflect on what the Lord calls you to be and to do, and there is no cost! Further details to follow. For now, please save the dates!

**Youth Groups** running at Holy Cross Resource Centre Eastleigh Both groups run from 7.00pm 8.30pm.

**Inspire** School years 7, 8 and 9, Wednesdays once a month please contact Marianne 07771704600 for information. **Next Meetings** Jan 18th, Feb 15th Mar 15th, Apr 26th, May 24th, June 21st & July 12th 2017.

**TOZ (Time Out Zone)** School years 10,11 and Sixth Form College, Sundays once a month. Contact Cath 07846438224 for information.

**Next Meetings:** Jan 8th, Feb 12th, Mar 12th, April 2nd, May 14th, June 11th & July 9th 2017

**A date for your diary** Thank you to all those who have supported our recent social events at Our Lady Queen of Apostles. It was great to see so many enjoying each other's company and helping the Parish coffers. We are now planning our next event which we are hoping will be a speaker and meal with an Italian flavour. Please note the date which will be mid or late March. More specific details in the New Year. Joanna Somerville 01489 891540

**Christian Unity week Congregation exchanges in Chandlers Ford on 15th January** - over the last 7 years groups of parishioners from St Edward's have exchanged for a service with one of the local churches in Churches Together, and this year we have the opportunity to attend the New Community church. They meet at Barton Peverill college (the Rose Theatre) at 10.30 a.m and are very welcoming, also volunteers are needed at St Edward's to host our visitors, so can anyone interested please contact me beforehand (to keep track of numbers). Paul Carmody, tel 02380 615373 or email [carmodys16@btinternet.com](mailto:carmodys16@btinternet.com)

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS

Last week's collections TBC

£13,562.59 SO/SD for the month of November

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES:

St Swithun Wells Primary School 023 8026 6210

St George Catholic V.A. College 023 8032 2603

St Anne's Catholic School 023 8032 8200

Charlton House 023 8067 7575

St Mary's College 023

Happy  
New Year  
2017



# Mass Times for our Six Church Communities

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
<b>Sat 31st Dec Vigil Masses</b>	5.00pm	St Sw	Private Intention	<b>Thurs 5th</b>	9.30am	HC	FOSS Friends of Suffering Souls
	6.00pm	OLQA			10.00am	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St J	William & Georgette Longworth RIP		6.00pm	St J	
	6.30pm	St Ed	Danny Connolly RIP				
<b>Sun 1st Jan New Years Day</b>	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta	<b>Fri 6th</b>	10.00am	St Ed	Albert Boaden FM
	9.00am	St Ed	Eric & Roslyn Lasker & Family RIP		10.00am	St J (AH)	
	9.15am	St A	Harry Roydon RIP (Anniversary)				
	9.30am	OLQA					
	11.00am	St A	Robert Twigg RIP (Anniversary)				
	11.00am	HC	For the People of the Parish				
				<b>Sat 7th</b>	9.30am	HC	
<b>Mon 2nd</b>	10:00am	St Ed	FOSS Friends of Suffering Souls	<b>Sat 7th Vigil Masses</b>	5.00pm	St Sw	Mrs Edward Christian FM
					6.00pm	OLQA	
					6.00pm	St J	
					6.30pm	St Ed	
<b>Tues 3rd</b>	9.30am	HC	Special Intention	<b>Sun 8th</b>	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta
	10.00am	St A			9.00am	St Ed	Robert Harkness RIP
	10.00am	OLQA			9.15am	St A	
					9.30am	OLQA	
			11.00am		HC	Helen & Ian Baxter Special Intention	
			11.00am		St A	Tony & Kitty Kelly (Golden Wedding Anniversary)	
<b>Wed 4th</b>	9.30am	HC	Cathy Runciman & Family Special Intention				
	10.00am	St Ed	For Suffering Souls & FOSS members				

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**Tuesday** HC Adoration 1st Tuesday of the month 10.00 - 1.00pm  
**Thursday** - St E Holy Hour Will resume January 12th 2017  
**Thursday** - St J from 12.00 -6:00pm, Rosary and Benediction at 5:30pm, Holy Mass at 6:00pm  
**Thursday** - St A following Morning Prayer until 11.00am

**Rosary And Prayer**  
**St Edward** 9.30 am Wednesday The Holy Rosary  
**St Joseph** 6.00pm Wednesday Evening Prayer  
**St Andrew** 10.00am Thursday Evening Prayer

### CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

**Saturdays:** 10.00am Holy Cross  
 12.00 midday St Edward the Confessor Church  
 5.30pm Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church  
 5.30pm St. Joseph's Parish Centre.  
**Sundays:** 8.45am St. Andrew's Church.

**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, 53, Leigh Road, Eastleigh. SO50 9DF  
**St Sw** St. Swithun Wells, Allington Lane, Fair Oak, SO50 7DB  
**St A** **St. Andrew's**, Fleming Avenue, North, Baddesley SO52 9EP  
**St J** **St. Joseph's Oratory**, 26 Abbey Water, Romsey, SO51 8EJ

**Mgr John Nelson (Parish Priest)**  
 Tel: 023 8061 2430  
 jnelson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Fr Wojciech Paszko (Assistant Priest)**  
 Tel: 01794 512599  
 wpaszko@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Canon Alan Griffiths (Assistant Priest)**  
 Tel: 07760220346  
 frgriffiths@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Fr David Whitehead (Retired Priest)**  
 Tel: 02380 260824

**POLISH PRIEST : Fr Zbigniew Budyn**  
 Tel: 023 8178 6316

**Mgr Stephen Alker MBE**  
 Tel: 023 8061 2430  
 stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Deacon Bob Birtles** Tel: 023 8069 2416  
 bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Deacon John di Meo** Tel: 01794 515688  
 jdimeo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Deacon Paul Owen** Tel: 023 8025 4806  
 powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Deacon Paul Wilson** Tel: 07502 030408  
 pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance Admin:**  
**Linda Roberts** Tel: 023 8065 8339  
 lroberts@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Parish Office Kristina Blake**  
 Tel: 023 80 27 3882  
 stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk