

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 A
Weekday Cycle: Year 1
Psalter Week 4

4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Building the Kingdom of God

We can all think of times when, in the heat of the moment, we have said or done things which, on reflection, could have been done differently - and we say to ourselves, 'I could have handled that much better'. Reflecting on 2016 and events on the world stage, we are acutely aware of how different things might have been: the suffering and sadness confronting the peoples in the Middle East, the devastation of terrorist attacks, the vitriolic politics in the USA and the impact of our June referendum on Britain, Europe and the world.

It seems that there is an ever greater polarisation of views towards difference and grievance rather than negotiation and collaboration; uncompromising stances are taken from which some people are unwilling to shift. This impinges on all of us. Even when we would aspire to taking a reasonable and balanced view we are exposed to a prevailing climate of intolerance and belligerence; our discernment is coloured, not just by our knowledge and experience, our mood and emotions, but often by the confrontational attitudes which surround and confound us.

On the five Sundays remaining before Lent we hear that part of Matthew's Gospel known as 'The Sermon on the Mount'. Today we re-visit the Beatitudes (*beatitudo* = happiness or blessedness in Latin) so familiar to us and yet always so challenging. Jesus addresses his listeners - and that means us - with a worldview that is fundamentally at variance with the ways of the world we often experience. Rather than a series of "do's and do not's" Jesus frames the virtues and values which enable us to fulfil our Christ-centred mission: we are given a vision of the person who is blessed in the sight of God; we are offered a charter for life's journey towards the gate of heaven.

Gone is any ruthless and self-serving world ethic and in comes gentleness, humility, justice and care for the poor, the underprivileged, the bereaved and the persecuted. I wonder if you remember the hymn 'O Lord, all the world belongs to you' written in 1960? It has the lines: 'Like a servant you came and if we do the same, we'll be turning the world upside down'.

Living out the Beatitudes is a lifetime call to renewal. We are challenged to proclaim Jesus Christ to the world and this means taking an approach that is both counter-cultural and sometimes costly. As a child I remember being reminded, 'Count your blessings'. So caught up are we in the helter-skelter of modern life that we sometimes forget to do this. It is a salutary exercise; and it can help us to reassess our attitudes and values. It could lead us to a surprising venture: to start to share, in a new way, our many blessings. Using with gratitude our God-given gifts for the benefit of others, we can enrich and transform people's lives. We can make a difference.

Deacon John di Meo

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

Tel.: 023 8027 3882. Email: 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: Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

Psalm Response: How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven..

**Readings for next Sunday 5th February 2017
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

1st reading: Isaiah 58:7-10

Psalm:111

2nd reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

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. Wednesday February 1st 2017 from 7.30 to 9.00pm at St Edward Church. Theme this week is 'Social Teaching of the Church'. Contact Deacon Paul Owen Tel 02380 254806; email: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Fellowship Group St. Swithun Wells Church, Wednesday 1st February 2017 - Sharing a favourite Bible Story/ Verse. Everyone most welcome. Meetings start at 7.30pm with refreshments being served. Queries to Peter Baggott 02380 694060 or Deacon Bob Birtles.

Preparation for Baptism. If you wish to have your child baptised, please contact the Parish Office for an application form, and return the completed form to the office. Then we look forward to welcoming parents for an essential Preparation Session on January 29th 2017 at Holy Cross Resource Centre. The meeting begins at 4.30pm and ends at 6.00pm. It would be very helpful if you could arrive a little early and refreshments are available from 4.15pm.

St Swithun Wells Prayer Link. There is a new sheet, available in all our churches. If you would like more information about the Prayer Link please contact Marion Birtles marionbirtles@gmail.com 02380 692416

Funeral Service at Holy Cross

Thursday 2nd February 2017 a service is being held for Maria Payne RIP at 11.00am. All are welcome to attend.

'Into the Desert' Saturday 4th March 2017. A retreat day reflecting on the temptations of Jesus in the desert. This day will give you a wonderful opportunity to begin your Lenten journey well. The day will be led by Father Des and will begin at 9.30am for 10.00am and finish at 3.00pm including a lunch. Mass will also be said. It will take place at St Joseph's 8 Lyndhurst Road Ashurst SO40 7DU. A donation of £20.00 is requested. If you would like to attend please phone 02380 292337 and leave a message or email stjosephscentre@mail.com

Scripture Reading & Social Morning St Edwards Church Valley Park Area.

Friday, 3rd February, at 10am at the home of Susan Johnston, 9 Danebury Gardens, Chandlers Ford. SO53 4NQ

All are welcome.

PILGRIMAGE to KNOCK SHRINE Fully escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 13th March 2017. £599 per person sharing. Price includes flights with 15kg checked in bag, all taxes, luxury transfers, 5 nights' in newly refurbished Knock House Hotel with full Irish Breakfast each morning and 4 Course Dinner each evening. All entertainment, excursions and guided tours included. Wheelchair accessible rooms in the hotel. Limited single rooms at supplement of £50. Groups and Individual bookings welcome. Contact Patricia anytime on 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com. Knock Pilgrimages is a member of the Travel Trust Association and is fully protected by ATOL. Further Details on display at all churches

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! To book your place, contact Graham Alldred (SA/SJ), Deacon Paul Owen (SE), June Wilson (HC), Deacon Bob Birtles (SSW), or Joanna Richardson (OLQoA); or you can book online through the diocese at: <http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/> (find the Called and Gifted section halfway down the page, then click on "ONLINE FORM").

Mass with the Anointing of the Sick:

Monday 6th March 2017 beginning at 7.00pm. This is a simple but beautiful Mass celebrated by Father Des for those who are unwell or struggling in anyway. It will take place at St Joseph's, 8 Lyndhurst Rd Ashurst SO40 7DU.

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 8032 8200;

Charlton House 023 8067 7575 /

St Mary's College 023 8067 1267

Help Wanted –More Street Pastors

Why do we go to church? Are we simply trying to ensure our own salvation or are we expected to do something else: to make a difference maybe? Questions that I struggled with for far too long. Eventually, I left my comfort zone and became a Street Pastor; a decision that I have never regretted. We do not openly evangelise, but do so by our witness - our presence out on the streets on a Friday evening once a month: listening, caring and helping if possible. Because we are non-confrontational I have never felt threatened in any way, but we do need to be thoroughly trained. The training is time consuming, but it is an opportunity to meet new people and have rewarding new experiences. Training courses take place at weekends on either of the following dates: Spring Training: 3/4/5 and 17/18/19 March; and 31/01/02 Mar./April Autumn Training: 15/16/17 Sept, 29/30/01 Sept/Oct; and 15/16/17 Oct. If you feel that you might be up for this challenge please call Dave Cardinal on 023 80266985 (david.cardinal@btinternet.com), or Eric Hyom on 023 8064 3457 (erichyom@hotmail.com). Alternatively go to the street pastor website www.streetpastors.org.uk for further information.

The Meon Valley Food Bank is holding its 2nd A.G.M. on Friday 10th February at 7.30pm in Bishops Waltham Youth Hall. It's a wonderful opportunity to share with you what has been happening over the last year and our guest speaker this year is from Southampton City Mission, Chris Davis, MBE. Looking forward to see you there.

60 Club

Holy Cross Resource Centre
Monday 30th January 2017. Starting from 2.00pm until 4.00pm. All Welcome. More details from Maureen Westwood

Social evening at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Bishops Waltham Saturday 25th March 2017

We are very pleased that Professor Barbieri of the University of Padua, will be returning to give us another talk on the solar system. The title of his talk will be "Our Surprising Solar System". More details to come. This will be part of an Italian evening with a buffet, which Andrea and Marina Barbieri have very kindly offered to organise. All are welcome. Part of the money raised will be donated to a local charity. Further details contact Joanna Somerville 01489 891540

Poitiers Care send a big thank you for the generous donation of £40.00 - the proceeds from the recent Wednesday coffee morning.

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

SWAG Workshops for Age 11/16

Saturday Feb 11 from 3.00/4.30pm

Saturday March 4 from 3.00/4.30pm

Saturday March 25 from 3.00/4.30pm

AT HOLY CROSS RESOURCE CENTRE

Come along and enjoy some drama related GAMES!! Come to one or all three. Each will be different. Contact Joanna joannaaz@cwgsy.net / 07437 440299

GOOD COMPANIONS

Our next lunch for those who live alone or are lonely will be at 12.30pm on Tuesday 7 February 2017 at Keats Restaurant, Ampfield. Please ring Pauline Wilson on 023 80266617 to book a place by no later than Friday 3 February. New members are very welcome to join us and transport can be arranged if required.

Job Vacancies at St Swithun Wells Primary

School—Lunchtime Supervisory Assistants and Minibus Escort. See church notice boards for details

St Valentine's Day Lunch at the Hunters Inn, top of Winchester Hill, Romsey, 12.15pm pm Tuesday 14th February. Menus will be on the church notices boards. If you would like to go, please let Rosemary 01794 5224110, know your choice of meal before Monday 6th February as we have to preorder. Thank you. Details of menu are on display at all churches.

Parish Women's Group - Oasis

Film Night: Tuesday 7th February, 7:30pm – 9 pm at St Edwards Cloister.

We will be watching 'The Way' starring Martin Sheen. A trek from loss and grief to a life given greater meaning' Come along and join us... ALL LADIES WARMLY WELCOMED.

Meetings to continue this year: Mar 14, Apr 4, May 9, June 13 and July 11.

We meet to share friendship & faith; to network and encourage each other.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS

Last week's collections £1,406.00

SO/SD for the month of December £13,464.42

Mass Times for our Six Church Communities

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	
Sat 28th Jan Vigil Masses	5.00pm	St Sw	Mary, Sylvester & Paddy McMahon FM	Thurs 2nd	9.30am	HC	Francesco Papallo & Francesco Vallelonga RIP	
	6.00pm	OLQA			10.00am	OLQA		
	6.00pm	St J	For successful restoration for St Josephs Church		6.00pm	St J		
	6.30pm	St Ed	Mary Reynolds RIP Anniversary					
Sun 29th	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta	Fri 3rd	10.00am	St Ed	Mrs Edward Christian FM	
	9.00am	St Ed	Mrs Edward Christian FM		10.00am	St J (AH)		
	9.15am	St A	Calvin Nel RIP Anniversary					
	9:30am	OLQA						
	11.00am	St A						
	11.00am	HC	The Deceased Relatives of the Sweeney Family RIP					
			Sat 4th	9.30am	HC	Souls in Purgatory		
Mon 30th	10:00am	St Ed	For the Deceased Members of FOSS	Sat 4th Vigil Mases	5.00pm	St Sw	Steven Carter 60th birthday Thanksgiving	
					6.00pm	OLQA		
					6.00pm	St J		
					6.30pm	St Ed		Deceased Members of Wyman & Uphill Families FM
Tues 31st	9.30am	HC	Baptist Lobo RIP	Sun 5th	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta	
	10.00am	St A			9.00am	St Ed		Angela Adams FM
	10.00am	OLQA	NO MASS		9.15am	St A		
			9.30am		OLQA			
			11.00am		HC	William & Isabella Regan FM		
			11.00am		St A			
Wed 1st Feb	9.30am	HC	Dorothy Hefferman Special Intention					
	10.00am	St Ed	Marie, Paul & Family Special Intention					

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday	HC	Adoration 1st Tuesday of the month 10.00 - 1.00pm
Thursday	St E	Holy Hour 7:00pm to 8:00pm, closing with Benediction
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 191-193, Winchester Rd, Chandlers Ford, SO53 2DU
St. Edward's Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Martin Street, Bishops Waltham. SO32 1DN
 OLQA Holy Cross, 53, Leigh Road, Eastleigh. SO50 9DF
 HC St. Swithun Wells, Allington Lane, Fair Oak, SO50 7DB
 St Sw **St. Andrew's**, Fleming Avenue, North, Baddesley SO52 9EP
 St A **St. Joseph's Oratory**, 26 Abbey Water, Romsey, SO51 8EJ
 St J

Mgr John Nelson (Parish Priest)
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