

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 2

## SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

When Pope Benedict visited this country a few years ago he came at the invitation of the British Government. This was different from the visit of Pope John Paul who came to our land in the early 1980s on a Pastoral Visit at the invitation of the Bishops of England, Wales and Scotland. This distinction had at least two consequences. In the case of Pope Benedict many of the costs (security, travel, etc) were covered from public funds whereas for Pope John Paul the Catholic community footed the bills. Secondly, the events included on the visit were a little different. For example, Pope Benedict was invited to address both Houses of Parliament in Westminster Hall, one of the oldest buildings in the Palace of Westminster.

I was very fortunate to get a ticket for the Pope's address that evening. We had to arrive a couple of hours early due to the inevitable screening and security checks. But just sitting and waiting in that place was quite an experience. The history and the events associated with it are profound. For example, there in 1305 the trial of William Wallace took place; in 1509 it hosted the Coronation Banquet of Henry VIII and in 1606 Guy Fawkes and his co-conspirators were tried in the great Hall. Just a few feet away from my seat was a plaque laid in the floor which marks the spot where Thomas More stood at the end of his trial as he was condemned to death. Westminster Hall has seen momentous events linked to royalty, judgements and the making of laws, as well as great celebrations and many lyings-in-state.

For this reason, an invitation to someone to speak there with members of both Houses of Parliament assembled is a huge honour and event. It now seems very unlikely that President Trump will be invited to do so following the unprecedented outburst by the Speaker of the Commons. But underlying this is something we may not always reflect upon, but ought to treasure – symbolised by Westminster Hall. It concerns the separation of powers within a society. The legislature (those who make our laws); the judiciary (those who apply and interpret them); the administration (the civil service who ensure the wheels of government turn smoothly). In a mature democracy these three powers act as a check and balance on each other and protect us from arbitrary decisions. What we are seeing in the United States at present is a tussle between these different powers at the highest levels. Also, whereas our civil service tries to remain neutral and works with whichever political party is elected, in the US a new administration replaces many of those who have been doing the day to day work of government. It is a different system from the one we operate and live with.

In today's Gospel Jesus states very clearly that he hasn't come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. Instead he has come to fulfil them – in other words he intends to help his followers rediscover their proper and true meaning. Distortions had occurred and those needed to be addressed and corrected. These time-honoured laws and customs needed to be rediscovered by asking: what is the purpose behind them? Why were they given in the first place? When we are annoyed, or upset by what we perceive to be laws which cramp our lives it is always worth pausing and asking: what exactly lies behind this law – why is it there? It's a valid question in daily life, in society generally and within our religious and moral framework.

*Fr John*

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:** Be my protector, O God a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

**Psalm Response:** They are happy who follow God's law!

**Readings for next Sunday 19th February 2017  
7th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

1st reading: Leviticus 19:1-2 17-18

Psalm: 102

2nd reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

**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 15th 2017 from 7.30 to 9.00pm at St Edward Church. Theme this week is 'Universal Call to Holiness'. Contact Deacon Paul Owen Tel 02380 254806; email: [powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

**St Swithun Wells Prayer Link** Please collect a new sheet today. If you use the prayers it would be helpful to know then I can add you to the list and pass on prayer requests. Thanks, Marion. [marionbirtles@gmail.com](mailto:marionbirtles@gmail.com)

**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 March 5th 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.

**Gregorian Chant For Beginners:** Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2017. *Pope Benedict XVI often reminded church musicians of the primacy of Gregorian chant in the Mass, describing it 'as the supreme model of sacred music' He praised Gregorian chant as being 'of huge value to the great ecclesial heritage of universal language sacred music'.* This day is especially for those who lead or sing in our Church choirs but everyone is welcome. Friar Marianus from the Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate and Father Des will lead this day. The day will begin at 9.30am for 10.00 and finish at 3.00pm and will include lunch and Mass. It will take place at St Joseph's, 8 Lyndhurst Rd Ashurst, SO40 7DU. We ask for a donation of £20.00. If you would like to attend please phone 02380 292337 and leave a message or email [stjosephscentre@mail.com](mailto:stjosephscentre@mail.com)

**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

**Father David Whitehead** thanks all who by prayers and Mass, cards and gifts shared with him in the celebration of his Golden Jubilee.

**Wednesday 15th February** at 7.30 pm, there will be a talk from a member of "Fledge" at St. Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. This is the charity that helps homeless young people in Eastleigh and they will tell us about the work they do supporting young homeless people. Please come along and join us at Fellowship for an interesting and worthwhile evening. Refreshments will be served. Any queries please contact Peter Baggott and Deacon Bob Birtles.

**Chandlers Ford Ecumenical Lent Groups** start on 6th March with the theme of 'Lentwise : Spiritual essentials for real life', and will run for 5 weekly sessions. This is a good opportunity to prepare for Easter, and the sign up sheets are out in the cloister this weekend - for more information please contact me, Paul Carmody, tel: 02380 615373 or email: [carmodys16@btinternet.com](mailto:carmodys16@btinternet.com)

**'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](mailto:stjosephscentre@mail.com)

**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.

**Funeral Service** will be held on Tuesday 14th February at 10.30am for Teresa Rackett RIP at Holy Cross Church. All are welcome to attend.

**ADORE (Alton Day Of REnewal) – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2017 11.00-4.00**

You are warmly welcome to a mini-retreat day (or morning/afternoon) of spiritual refreshment and renewal, focussing on the *Charisms or gifts of the Holy Spirit*. Please note new venue: at Alton Convent, Anstey Lane, Alton GU34 2NG. We end about 4pm. There is no need to register in advance, and no charge (though a collection will be taken to cover costs).

For more information and directions, see poster on display at all churches or website:

[www.altonrenewal.com](http://www.altonrenewal.com) Or telephone Deacon John Foley on 07769 251747.

Next meeting at Alton Convent, Anstey Lane, Alton – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March. 11.00-4.00.

### New to the Parish?

A very warm welcome to our Parish we are delighted that you have joined us. Please feel free to make yourself known to one of the Welcomers or Priest at each Mass and hopefully join us for a cup of coffee after Mass. There are New to the Parish forms/cards in each of the foyers. Please feel free to complete one of the parish registration forms, giving us your contact details and leave the form with one of the Priests or Welcomers. Here at St Swithun Wells Parish, families are welcome at **ALL** Masses; however we have specific Children's Liturgies on Sundays. Please ask one of the Welcomers for details of the times at your Church.

**60 club** Do you know what colours you should wear? On Monday 13 February, from 2-4pm, Nicky Williams will be coming to demonstrate to us the art of colour analysis. Phone 023 80692682 Maureen Westwood

**KNIT & NATTER** at St Edwards on Monday 13th Feb 2-4pm All very welcome . Tea & Coffee provided. Any queries contact Maureen Stephenson on 02380 252104

**CAP (Christians Against Poverty)** - This charity has now been operating in Eastleigh for 2 months and is already doing great work helping people get out of debt. However we need more Befrienders to help our Debt Coach.

- Befrienders don't need to have any specialist finance skills - just a welcoming smile!
- Befrienders need to be available on occasional Monday or Wednesday daytimes
- Appointments normally take an hour or 2
- Expenses for travel can be reimbursed

Please join us for a Befrienders meeting planned for Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 1930hrs, to be held at the Wells Place Centre, Eastleigh. This meeting is for those already volunteering in this role, those who are shortly to start volunteering in this role and anyone interested in finding out more about this role.

If you, or somebody you know, would be interested in finding out more about this exciting role please will you get in touch with CAP Eastleigh? You can do this by emailing Anna Gibson at [cap.eastleigh@gmail.com](mailto:cap.eastleigh@gmail.com) or by calling her on 02381 781 349.

**The annual Women's World Day of Prayer** service for the Meon Valley is on Friday, 3rd March, 2 pm at, St Andrews Meonstoke, SO32 3PA. The service this year entitled 'Am I being Unfair to You' has been prepared by the Christian Women of the Philippines. There will also be a talk by Mrs Diana Davies on the Philippines. We welcome you all to this joyful gathering. There will be refreshments after the service. Please note that there is parking at the Meon Hall where there will be a minibus to transport those who need a lift. Looking forward to seeing you there.

**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 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](mailto:joannaaz@cwgsy.net) / 07437 440299

### **Royal South Hampshire Hospital Winchester**

If you are expecting to be admitted into the Hospital in the near future, please inform St Peters Parish Office so they can arrange for a member of the clergy to come and visit and/or bring Holy Communion. They can be contacted on 01962 852804.

**Wanted** February has started cold and wet and official figures published recently tell us that increasing numbers of people are now sleeping rough. Please consider searching through cupboards and attics for old blankets or sleeping bags you rarely use and dropping them off at the Night Shelter in Winchester. There are often blankets and sleeping bags on sale in the local secondhand/charity shops too, so if you have nothing of your own to give, please remember the homeless when you are browsing for bargains for yourself and your family. 'We are called to clothe the naked'. Thank You

### **Celtic Spirituality Day at The Wisdom Centre**

**Romsey** on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2017 from 10am until 4.00pm coffee/registration from 9.30am

A Day of Guided Stillness Inspired by the Celtic Saints. A one day contemplative workshop designed to introduce you to the spirituality of the Celtic Christians in the stillness of the Wisdom Centre. The day will be led by David Cole, the author of 'Celtic Prayers and Practices' and 'The Mystic Path of Meditation.' David endeavours to present contemplation from different perspectives for spiritual seekers using teachings based on the ancient 'Celtic' church, and the Christian contemplative and mystic tradition. To book email

[reception@wisdomhouseromsey.co.uk](mailto:reception@wisdomhouseromsey.co.uk) or phone 01794 830206. More information:[http://](http://www.wisdomhouseromsey.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/leaflet_Celtic_Contemplation-1.pdf)

[www.wisdomhouseromsey.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/leaflet\\_Celtic\\_Contemplation-1.pdf](http://www.wisdomhouseromsey.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/leaflet_Celtic_Contemplation-1.pdf)

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS

Last week's collections £1,523.04

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
<b>Sat 11th- Feb Vigil Masses</b>	5.00pm	St Sw	Audrey Culshaw RIP	<b>Thurs 16th</b>	9.00am	HC	Thomas Kelly RIP
	6.00pm	OLQA			10.00am	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St J			6.00pm	St J	
	6.30pm	St Ed					
<b>Sun 12th</b>	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta	<b>Fri 17th</b>	10.00am	St Ed	Capt John & Mary Simpson RIP
	9.00am	St Ed	Kathleen Ditte & Deceased Family FM		10.00am	St J (AH)	
	9.15am	St A	Jeanette Butcher RIP				
	9:30am	OLQA	Joseph M Joseph & Family Special Intention				
	11.00am	St A					
	11.00am	HC					
				<b>Sat 18th</b>	9.30am	HC	Arthur Mason FM
<b>Mon 13th</b>	10:00am	St Ed	Rob Ollier (seriously ill)	<b>Sat 18th Vigil Mases</b>	5.00pm	St Sw	Agnes Carter RIP
					6.00pm	OLQA	
					6.00pm	St J	
					6.30pm	St Ed	
<b>Tues 14th</b>	9.30am	HC	Amarant Ferreria & Rui Quadros RIP (moved from 10th Jan & 8th Feb)	<b>Sun 19th</b>	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta
	10.00am	St A			9.00am	St Ed	Brad Hawkins Sick
		OLQA			9.15am	St A	Francesco Papallo & Ancelo Errigo RIP
	10.00am	OLQA			9.30am	OLQA	
11.00am			HC				
11.00am	St A						
<b>Wed 15th</b>	9.30am	HC	Ann Sedgebeer RIP				
	10.00am	St Ed	Monica Wilson RIP				

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

<b>Tuesday</b>	HC	Adoration 1st Tuesday of the month 10.00 - 1.00pm
<b>Thursday</b>	St E	Holy Hour 7:00pm to 8:00pm, closing with Benediction
<b>Thursday</b>	St J	from 12.00 –6:00pm, Rosary and Benediction at 5:30pm, Holy Mass at 6:00pm
<b>Thursday</b>	St A	following Morning Prayer until 11.00am

### Rosary And Prayer

<b>St Edward</b>	9.30 am	Wednesday	The Holy Rosary
<b>St Joseph</b>	6.00pm	Wednesday	Evening Prayer
<b>St Andrew</b>	10.00am	Thursday	Evening Prayer

### CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

<b>Saturdays:</b>	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.
<b>Sundays:</b>	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

**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 Ad-  
 min: Linda Roberts** Tel: 023 8065 8339  
 lroberts@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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