

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 3

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A few weeks ago (it seems longer!) I was at the northernmost tip of New Zealand's South Island staying in a small town called Collingwood. From there it is possible to book an Eco-Tour on a four-wheel drive bus which takes you around Farewell Spit, a sand spit that curves out into the ocean for thirty-five kilometres. There is no road, hence the vehicle type, and it is a truly beautiful part of that country. At the start of the journey you pass a wonderful piece of coastline and the curve of Golden Bay. I mention this because a week ago Golden Bay was in the news as the place where hundreds of long finned Pilot Whales were stranded on the beach.

This isn't the first time whales have beached on that shoreline. Experts in marine life struggle to explain why this happens but it may be something to do with the shape of the land and depth of the sea. Navigation is easier for whales in deeper water. Our guide explained that an additional problem arises when some of the whales run aground and then send out distress signals, which attract other members of the pod and so more come to land. It was sad to watch pictures on the news of so many creatures dying on the shore. At the same time it was heartening to see lots of volunteers doing their utmost to keep the whales wet and calm, which included children singing to these beautiful mammals. Hundreds of them did not survive but every effort had been made to give them a chance. Nature can be brutal.

This mixture of the sad and good occurs frequently. Often, in the midst of adversity, the human spirit enables individuals to rise to the occasion. I remember reading, many years ago when the Herald of Free Enterprise ferry turned on its side near Zeebrugge, the story of one man who, inside the stricken ship, made himself into a human bridge so that others could climb across his shoulders and move towards the outside and rescue. He was an ordinary man in an extraordinary situation reacting to help others without time to stop and think. In the papers this week was the heart-rending story of a husband and wife who died of cancer within days of each other, leaving three children. In just a few days over £170,000 had been contributed to a fund to enable them to remain in full-time education. Most of that money came from people who have never met the family.

In our Sunday Gospel we continue to listen to Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount. His core message is that it is not enough for his followers to do the minimum – he expects more. So, if someone strikes you, don't just turn away and retreat, offer the other cheek too. If someone makes demands on your time, be generous and go the extra mile. Don't just love your friends and those you like, reach out to those who are difficult and a real pain. In other words, when things are challenging, use the chance to give witness and demonstrate that good will overcome bad, the positive will outweigh the negative.

In the last line of today's passage Jesus sets the bar as high as it can go when he says: "You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect." Rather than immediately decide we have no chance of achieving this, we need to consider practical ways of moving a little bit closer to the goal Jesus establishes for us.

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: O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.
Psalm Response: The Lord is compassion and love.

**Readings for next Sunday 26th February 2017
8th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Gospel: Matthew 6:24-34
1st reading: Isaiah 49:14-15
Psalm:61
2nd reading: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

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 22nd 2017 from 7.30 to 9.00pm at St Edward Church. Theme this week is 'Divine Providence'. Contact Deacon Paul Owen Tel 02380 254806; email: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

St Swithun Wells Prayer Link Please collect a new sheet. 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

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.

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").

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

Mass Times For Ash Wednesday 1st March 2017

Holy Cross	Eastleigh	10.00am
St Andrews	Nth Baddesley	10.00am
St Swithun Wells School		2.15pm
St Edwards	Chandler's Ford	7.00pm
St Josephs Oratory	Romsey	7.00pm
OLQA	Bishops Waltham	7.30pm

Thank you:

Father Wojciech would like to thank all parishioners for their prayers and support following the death of his mother, Alina. At a very difficult time for all her family, it was a comfort to know that so many people were keeping them in their prayers.

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: carmody16@btinternet.com

FELLOWSHIP GROUP - there will be **no** meeting on Wednesday 22nd February - Half Term or Wednesday 1st March - Ash Wednesday. Meetings will resume on Wednesday 8th March when we will start a Lenten Study Course. Details to follow. Any queries to Peter Baggott or Deacon Bob Birtles.

Significant Wedding Are you celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or Anniversary over 60 years? If so Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of Celebration. This will take place at St Bede's Church in Basingstoke on **Saturday 24th June 2017** at 11 am. If you would like to come, please visit the Diocesan website <http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/anniversaries/> and complete the on-line form, Or send an email to anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Please note this address is not monitored daily. Or contact Liz Murphy at St Bede's Parish office on 01256 465214 To help celebrate the occasion please could you provide a **COPY** of your Wedding photograph, you can upload it when you complete the form. Alternatively send via email to above email address or by post to the following address: St Bede's Parish Office Popley Way Basingstoke RG24 9DX Please mark envelope Significant Wedding Mass

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

From The Philippines On Friday the 3rd of March 2017 the above event will be held at the United Reformed Church, King's Road, Chandlers Ford at 1.45 pm. Together In Prayer. Service prepared by the women of the Philippines. Come and join us on this special day. All are welcome!

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS

Last week's collections £1,397.15

SO/SD for the month of January £14,361.59

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.

St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School. As you are aware from Bishop Philip's Pastoral Letter in October, Catholic Schools in the Diocese are in the process of converting to Academies. Parents and Parishioners are invited to a consultation meeting on Thursday 2nd March at 7pm at the School, where further information about the process and implications of conversion will be explained.

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 22nd February at 7.30pm, 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? email Anna Gibson at cap.eastleigh@gmail.com or by calling her on 02381 781 349.

Saturday 25th March, starting at 7.15pm at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church Bishops Waltham Following his very popular lecture more than four years ago, Professor Emeritus Barbieri of Padua University (formerly Professor of Astronomy) will be returning to talk to us about the solar system. The title of his talk is as follows: "Our Surprising Solar System". He will report on the leap in our understanding of the solar system, thanks to recent robotic missions to dwarf and giant planets to comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko, and also on the stunning evidence for a ninth giant planet. Tickets will be on sale from the end of February: £15 pp covering the lecture, an Italian-style buffet, and a glass of wine. A donation will be made to a local charity from funds raised. Concessions for families. All are welcome. Joanna Somerville. joannasomerville1@hotmail.com
Jane Crowe. janebcrowe@hotmail.com

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:** 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: 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 both. Each workshop will be different. Contact Joanna joannaaz@cwgsy.net /07437 440299

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

BENNY HILL – THE RISE AND FALL OF A HAMPSHIRE CLOWN

At the Friends After Bereavement Sunday Tea on Sunday 26th February, Brian Stansbridge will be giving a talk on the life of that son of Southampton & Eastleigh, **Benny Hill**, illustrated with photographs, recordings of some of his songs and clips of some of his sketches (carefully selected!). We will gather at 2.30pm for a 3.00 pm start in the Resource Centre, Holy Cross – tea and cakes provided. ALL ARE WELCOME, so if you would like to hear about Benny Hill's life or if you have any personal recollections, please do come along.

If you need transport, call Brian Stansbridge on 02380 470461 or 07703 546277

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.

Mass Times for our Six Church Communities

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 18th- Feb Vigil Masses	5.00pm	St Sw	Agnes Carter RIP	Thurs 23rd	9.30am	HC	Rachel Thorpe Birthday Blessings
	6.00pm	OLQA			10.00am	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St J	For the Successful Restoration for St Josephs Church		6.00pm	St J	
	6.30pm	St Ed	Father David Whitehead Special Intention				
Sun 19th	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta	Fri 24th	10.00am	St Ed	Lake & Hill Families Special Intention
	9.00am	St Ed	Brad Hawkins (Sick)		10.00am	St J (AH)	
	9.15am	St A					
	9:30am	OLQA					
	11.00am	St A					
	11.00am	HC	Francesco Papallo & Ancelo Errigo RIP				
				Sat 25th	9.30am	HC	
Mon 20th	10:00am	St Ed	Patrick Lake RIP	Sat 25th Vigil Mases	5.00pm	St Sw	Sarah Howie RIP (Anniversary) Baker Family RIP
					6.00pm	OLQA	
					6.00pm	St J	
					6.30pm	St Ed	
Tues 21st	9.30am	HC	Eron Carlo Special Intention	Sun 26th	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta Theresa Mawdsley Birthday Blessings Amarant Ferreira RIP
	10.00am	St A	NO MASS		9.00am	St Ed	
	10.00am	OLQA			9.15am	St A	
					9.30am	OLQA	
			11.00am		HC		
			11.00am		St A		
Wed 22nd	9.30am	HC	NO MASS				
	10.00am	St Ed	Laurie Evans RIP				

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 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

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 frgriffiths@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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