

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

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

On Wednesday we begin the Season of Lent with the blessing and distribution of ashes. When we enter the weeks of Lent most of us begin by deciding what we will try and do to make the most of this period of preparation: cutting back in some areas and perhaps adding to the good things we might do whether it be in practical ways or in our prayer lives.

Each year, on Ash Wednesday, the Gospel reading is the same and it comes from the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus talks about three ways in which his disciples are to improve: good deeds, prayer and fasting. He makes the point that none of these is to be done in order to gain praise from others but rather they should be done quietly, without show. By linking them Jesus demonstrates that they are interdependent, one does not stand apart from the others. To put it another way, we must embrace all three. This is not restricted to Lent but in a Season when we recognise our need of repentance they do make particular sense.

Most of us will admit that our prayer lives could improve. If we see prayer as the basis of our communication (speaking and listening) to God then few of us can claim to give sufficient time to this aspect of our relationship with God. **Praying** with others and individual private prayer are essential if that relationship is to grow, deepen and flourish. Without giving it time the relationship with God – like any relationship – is in danger of stagnating or, worse, becoming arid and fruitless. **Fasting** is not the same as dieting, although one side-effect could be the loss of a few pounds! Fasting is a route to recognising that (a) we take an awful lot for granted and (b) that we don't actually *need* many of the things that we consume and use. Sacrificing one or more of them does us no harm – in fact the opposite. **Giving** to others is an action borne of the call to look outwards to others instead of inwards at ourselves. Whether we give to people close to home or people we will never lay eyes upon it draws our gaze upwards and away from 'me' and also reinforces the sense of how fortunate I am in what I have available. As we fast we have resources to give and when we give we should pray for those we are sharing with. The three go hand in hand.

I would like to suggest that each of our six communities focus their giving this Lent on one or two particular projects, causes or charities. I know that parishioners at Our Lady Queen of Apostles are keen to continue support of Serenje and this Lent is a chance to do so. At Holy Cross and Fair Oak there may be a dual focus on CAFOD together with Fledge, a local charity helping young people who find themselves homeless to get a room of their own. At St Edward's, Romsey and North Baddesley we will identify suitable concerns which can be focused upon and supported. This is not something for which the whole parish has to have one approach, it can vary from church to church. Whatever is put aside by parishioners will be gathered at the end of Lent and sent off to the relevant charity. Please give this some thought, decide what fasting you might do over the coming weeks and pray for those we are supporting. There will be a complete list available next weekend.

This Season of Lent is a golden opportunity to home in on these key Christian activities: praying, fasting and giving. Let us grasp the opportunity.

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: The Lord became my protector. He brought me out of place of freedom; he saved me because he delighted in me.
Psalm Response: In God alone is my soul at rest.

Readings for next Sunday 5th March 2017
1st Sunday of Lent

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11
1st reading: Genesis 2:7-9;3:1-7
Psalm:50
2nd reading: Romans 5:12-19

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. There will be no meeting this Wednesday March 1st (Ash Wednesday). The following Wednesday, 8th March 2017 from 7.30 to 9.00pm at St Edward Church, theme will be 'Christ Our Hope & Glory'. 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 Andrew's	Nth Baddesley	10.00am
St Swithun Wells School		2.15pm
St Edward's	Chandler's Ford	7.00pm
St Joseph's Oratory	Romsey	7.00pm
OLQA	Bishops Waltham	7.30pm

Note there is **NO** 10am Mass at Chandlers Ford

ADDITIONAL MASSES DURING LENT

Every Friday during Lent there will be an additional Mass at 6.30am at Holy Cross followed by a light breakfast.

Mass at St Edward will be 7.00pm with the Stations of the Cross before Mass and supper after Mass. £4 per head. All proceeds will go to our new CONNECT 2 Project in Lima, Peru.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross are being said during Lent at the following churches:

9.30am Tuesdays at St Andrew's
10.00am Tuesdays at St Swithun Wells
7.00pm Wednesdays at Our Lady Queen of Apostles
9.00am Thursdays at Holy Cross
6.30 pm Fridays at St Edward the Confessor
7.00pm Fridays at St Joseph's Oratory.
ALL WELCOME

Holy Cross Readers

The readers' rota runs out in two weeks. If you are a current reader and wish to be included on the new rota, please see Elizabeth or Lynette after Mass or contact them during the week.
Elizabeth – 01962 712022, Lynette 02380 618542.

Lent Study Course - Returning Home : Christian Faith in Encounter with Other Faiths. A 5 week

course from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, commencing 8th March 7.30 pm at St Swithun Wells Church. This course explores how Christian Faith has been deepened and enriched by encounters with people of different religions. We will explore familiar Lenten Themes during the course but with a different approach. Everyone is welcome even if you can only come to one or two. Queries to Peter Baggott 02380694060 or Deacon Bob Birtles. **Note no meeting on Wednesday 1st March**

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

Mass with the Anointing of the Sick: Monday 6th March 2017 beginning at 7.00pm. It will take place at St Joseph's, 8 Lyndhurst Rd Ashurst SO40 7DU.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS

Last week's collections £1,439.42 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.

60 Club will be held on 27th February from 2.00pm – 4.00pm in the Resource Centre Eastleigh. Contact Maureen Westwood for further details

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.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Around the Parish Friday 3rd March 2017

The above event will be held at the United Reformed Church, King's Road, **Chandlers Ford** at 1.45 pm. Service prepared by the women of the Philippines.

A service is being held at St Andrew's Methodist Church, Blenheim Road, **Eastleigh**, at 2 30 pm.

The service in **Romsey**, will be at 1.30pm in the Abbey.

The service for the Meon Valley will start at 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. Please note that there is parking at the Meon Hall where there will be a minibus to transport those who need a lift.

All are very welcome to attend the above services and refreshments will be served afterwards.

Lenten Lunch Wednesday, 15th March 2017

In the Cloister of St Edward's Church
Served between 12:30pm and 1:30pm
Adults £4.00, Children free.

Proceeds in aid of Poitiers Care, which is a local Catholic Registered Charity that supports families in urgent need of food who live in and around the wider Southampton area. All are welcome.

Parish Lunch, Monday 20th March, 12.15pm at the Luzborough, Romsey. All welcome. Menus will be on church notice boards. Please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know your choice of meal by Sunday 12th March as we have to preorder. Thank you.

Youth Groups running at Holy Cross Resource Centre Eastleigh Both groups run from 7.00pm to 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

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

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

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 **Benny Hill**. Gather at 2.30pm for a 3.00 pm start in the Resource Centre, Holy Cross – tea and cakes provided. ALL ARE WELCOME, If you need transport, call Brian Stansbridge on 02380 470461 or 07703 546277

Urgently needed a room to let for a single lady of the parish for one month. Also needed is garage space to store about 50 cardboard boxes containing belongings. Any area considered, however, Eastleigh and Chandlers Ford would be most suitable. Contact Parish Office for more details.

The Knights of St Columba have recently donated £930 to Poitiers Care. This was the Knights share of money raised before Christmas when we supported Rotary collections in Southampton. Thanks to the many Knights and others who made this possible. *David Martin (for KSC)*

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.

Mass Times for our Six Church Communities

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 25th- Feb Vigil Masses	5.00pm	St Sw	Daisy & Declan Allen RIP	Thurs 2nd	9.30am	HC	Kelly & Magee Families FM
	6.00pm	OLQA			10.00am	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St J	Sarah Howie RIP (Anniversary)		6.00pm	St J	
	6.30pm	St Ed	Baker Family RIP				
Sun 26th	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta	Fri 3rd	6.30am	HC	Charles Egan RIP (Anniversary)
	9.00am	St Ed	Theresa Mawdsley Birthday Blessings		10.00am	St J (AH)	
	9.15am	St A			7.00pm	St Ed	
	9:30am	OLQA					
	11.00am	St A					
11.00am	HC	Amarant Ferreira RIP				Living & Deceased Members of the de Melo & Gove Families	
				Sat 4th	9.30am	HC	Bernard Forde RIP
Mon 27th	10:00am	St Ed	'In Thanksgiving'	Sat 4th Vigil Masses	5.00pm	St Sw	Inge Lucas RIP
					6.00pm	OLQA	Benedict Matthias & Iris Jones RIP (Anniversary)
					6.00pm	St J	
					6.30pm	St Ed	Mrs Edward Christian FM
Tues 28th	9.30am	HC	Florine Carlo Special Intention	Sun 5th	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta
	10.00am	St A	NO MASS		9.00am	St Ed	Peter Phillips RIP
	10.00am	OLQA	NO MASS		9.15am	St A	Patrick McNally RIP
	11.00am	St Ed	Funeral Mass for David Oag RIP		9.30am	OLQA	
	12 noon	St A	Funeral Mass for Patricia Collins RIP		11.00am	HC	Bridget Dee & Margaret Flynn RIP (Anniversary)
			11.00am	St A			
Wed 1st March Ash Wed	10.00am	HC	Antonietta & Rosario Marucci RIP				
	10.00am	St A					
	2.15pm	SSW Sch					
	7.00pm	St Ed	Colin Chalice RIP (Anniversary)				
	7.00pm	St J Oratory					
	7.30pm	OLQA					

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

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)
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POLISH PRIEST : Fr Zbigniew Budyn
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Rosary	St Edward	9.30 am	Wednesday	The Holy Rosary
And	St Joseph	6.00pm	Wednesday	Evening Prayer
Prayers	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.