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| 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

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Earlier this week the Queen launched the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games Baton Relay. She placed a personal message inside the baton which was carried from Buckingham Palace as it began the first leg of a 388-day journey visiting every Commonwealth country and reaching Australia in time for the start of the Games in April 2018. The Queen has cut back on long distance travel and won't be at the opening ceremony – so has sent a message to be read out.

The Commonwealth is a curious collection of countries, many of them quite small, with connections to each other through an historic link with Great Britain. In a world where it is sometimes hard for small nations to fight their corner, bonds such as this can help in various ways. Celebrating through sport what unites us has always worked well. Our Queen has nurtured the Commonwealth and clearly sees it as a force for good in a world with many troubles. There have been occasions when a country has been suspended from membership of the Commonwealth (for example Zimbabwe) when their rulers acted in a way contrary to the values it promulgates.

It does seem strange, in a world of fragmentation and divisions, when strengthening bonds between countries makes so much sense, that in this country we contemplate doing the opposite. This week the Scottish First Minister threw a firework into the arena with her announcement of a firm intention to hold another referendum about whether Scotland should break away from the United Kingdom. And this at the very moment when Theresa May is about to trigger negotiations for our exit from the European Union. It is difficult to think of many more factors which could be added into the equation to cause further uncertainty. Taking a step into the unknown always carries with it significant risks but those risks should be carefully weighed.

The Catholic model is one which tries to have the best of both worlds. Belonging to a large community – being in communion – opens up benefits from which we all gain. At the same time we never lose our individuality, what makes us unique. The aim is to draw on the benefits (and contribute, of course) to the degree that helps us on our personal journey towards God. In Lent we travel together with a sense of purpose, but we do so with a focus on our own individual situation.

The same can be said when it comes to balancing the strengths of being part of a diocese, and a parish. St Swithun Wells Parish includes communities centred on six places of worship and each has its own particular character. Those differences should be recognised and celebrated. At the same time there are ways in which we can all benefit from being part of something bigger than each church community. There is no reason why we cannot have our cake and eat it. The trick is to spot when we are better off harnessing our resources for the greater good and when we are well-placed to concentrate on what works for each separate community. This requires an openness to those possibilities and being willing to constantly ask the question: should we do this locally or should we combine to make it work better? The Catholic principle is that we belong to one another, as parts of a body, united to Christ. Splitting, dividing and separating moves us in the opposite direction.

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: When I prove my holiness among you, I will gather you from all the foreign lands; and I will pour clean water upon you and cleanse you from all your impurities, and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.

Psalm Response: O that today you would listen to his voice: 'Harden not your hearts.'

**Readings for next Sunday 26th March 2017
4th Sunday of Lent**

Gospel: John 9:1-41

1st reading: 1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

Psalm:22

2nd reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

There will be a 2nd Collection next weekend for the Clergy Assistance Fund.

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

St Swithun Wells Prayer Link.

Please collect a March Prayer Link Sheet from Church this weekend which gives Prayers for Lent. Contact Marion with Prayer Requests or to receive updates. marionbirtles@gmail.com 02380 692416

Filipino Mass will be said at St Andrew's Church on April 18th 2017 at 5.00pm. Contact Rosalini on 02381 783807 or 07795965438 for further details.

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 May 7th 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.

ADORE (Alton Day Of REnewal) – Saturday 25th March 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. 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, website:

www.altonrenewal.com

Or telephone Deacon John Foley on 07769 251747.

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

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.

Note this 7pm Mass REPLACES the 10am Mass

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.

LENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES

- Thursday 6th April 7.30pm: Our Lady Queen of Apostles – Bishop's Waltham
- Friday 7th April 7.30pm: St Andrew's – North Baddesley
- Saturday 8th April 11am: St Edward's – Chandler's Ford

HOLY WEEK – EASTER TRIDUUM - EASTER

Our Lady Queen of Apostles,

Bishop's Waltham:

Maundy Thursday (13th April) 7.30pm

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday (14th April) 3pm

Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday (15th April) 8pm

Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday (16th April) 9.30am

Easter Day Mass

Holy Cross and St Edward's,

Eastleigh & Chandler's Ford:

Maundy Thursday (13th April) Holy Cross 7.30pm

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday (14th April) Holy Cross 3pm

Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

Good Friday (14th April) St Edward's 5pm

Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday (15th April) St Edward's 8pm

Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday (16th April) St Edward's 9am

Easter Day Mass

Easter Sunday (16th April) Holy Cross 11am

Easter Day Mass

St Andrew's and St Joseph's,

North Baddesley & Romsey:

Maundy Thursday (13th April) St Andrew's 7pm

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday (14th April) St Andrew's 3pm

Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday (15th April) St Andrew's 8pm

Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday (16th April) St Andrew's 9am

Easter Day Mass

Easter Sunday (16th April) St Joseph's Church

10.30am – Easter Day Mass

Planned Giving Weekly Envelope Boxes

The last envelope in current boxes is dated 2nd April. So for Easter and the next 12 months, users of Planned Giving envelopes need a new box of envelopes. These will be available during March in our churches. Look out for your local organiser at weekend Masses during March and collect yours. If you want to stop or start using Planned Giving envelopes, please contact your organiser:

Pat Baggott, for Holy Cross, and St Swithun Wells
023 8069 4060

Hank Dawson, for Our Lady Queen of Apostles
01489 892884

Ian Fearon & Mike Greenslade, for St Edward's
023 80265248, 80262870

David Martin, for St Andrew's and St Joseph's
01794 511883

CAFOD Lenten Suppers will take place every Friday in Lent after 7pm Mass at St Edwards, £4 per head. All proceeds will go to our new CONNECT 2 Project in Lima, Peru.

Chandlers Ford Ecumenical Lent Groups started 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, - for more information please contact Paul Carmody, tel: 02380 615373 or email: carmody16@btinternet.com

Thank you very much to all at St Edward's who have generously supported the CONNECT2 for Puentecitos in El Salvador. Since November 2011 to December 2016 you have helped to raise a magnificent £32,771.00 for which CAFOD is truly grateful. We will now be supporting communities in Peru in decision making processes which affect their daily lives and in Lima with women's groups working with children in deprived areas. For more details please see the CAFOD notice board in the Cloisters.

FRIENDS AFTER BEREAVEMENT (SUNDAY TEA)

As Sunday 26th March is Mothers Day, there will be no Friends After Bereavement Sunday Tea, but we are trying to organise something for the following Sunday, 2nd April. Please look out for the announcement in next week's newsletter.

GOOD COMPANIONS

Our next lunch for those who live alone or are lonely will be at 12.30pm on Tuesday 4 April at Keats Restaurant at Ampfield. Please ring Pauline Wilson on 023 80266617 to book a place by no later than Friday 31 March. New members especially welcome and, if required, transport can be arranged.

Date for your Diary

Parish Quiz Night—Saturday May 6th 2017 at The Resource Centre Holy Cross Eastleigh. More details to follow.

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:** ,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:** April 2nd, May 14th, June 11th & July 9th

SWAG's **FINAL** Workshop will be on MARCH 25 at 3pm at HOLY CROSS Resource Centre and will include an airing of the DVD of *the Gift* PLUS a look at the script for SWAGs next performance. ALL interested youngsters aged 11/16 are invited!! Contact Joanna on 07437 440299 for more details or just turn up.

Help Wanted Could any DBS cleared people who might be able to assist with SWAG rehearsals just by being present, in April and May, please contact Joanna on 07437 440299 or joannapuzzle@gmail.com

Children's Liturgy Our Lady Queen of Apostles

Children's Liturgy has restarted as of Sunday 12th March Please encourage any young families to come and join in.

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.

"Our Surprising Solar System" Sat 25th March at Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Bishops Waltham. This is the last weekend for buying tickets for this very special event. The ticket includes the lecture by Professor Barbieri of Padua University, an Italian style buffet and a drink. £15 pp with concessions for families. A donation will be made to a local charity. All are welcome.

Divine Mercy Sunday

Divine Mercy Sunday will be taking place on 23rd April 2017 at 2:45pm at Holy Cross Church, Eastleigh. There will be refreshments in the resource centre afterwards. All are welcome. Full details will be in forthcoming newsletters.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS
Last week's collections £1,502.56
SO/SD for the month of February £13,290

Mass Times for our Six Church Communities

| DATE | TIME | CHURCH | MASS INTENTION | DATE | TIME | CHURCH | MASS INTENTION |
|---|----------------|--------------|---|--------------------------------------|---------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Sat 18th- March Vigil Masses | 5.00pm | St Sw | For successful restoration for St Joseph's Church | Thurs 23rd | 9.30am | HC | Phyllis Altman RIP (Anniversary) |
| | 6.00pm | OLQA | | | 10.00am | OLQA | |
| | 6.00pm | St J | | | 6.00pm | St J | |
| | 6.30pm | St Ed | | | | | |
| Sun 19th | 9.00am | HC | Polska Msza Święta | Fri 24th | 6.30am | HC | S Petrities (60th Anniversary) |
| | 9.00am | St Ed | Patricia Bradley FM | | 10.00am | St J (AH) | |
| | 9.15am | St A | In Thanksgiving for Ursula Clark | | 7.00pm | St Ed | |
| | 9.30am | OLQA | | | | | |
| | 11.00am | St A | | | | | |
| | 11.00am | HC | Charles Joseph Reynolds FM | | | | |
| | | | | Sat 25th | 9.30am | HC | Amarant Ferreira RIP |
| Mon 20th | 10:00am | St Ed | Ann Wood Birthday Blessings | Sat 25th Vigil Masses | 5.00pm | St Sw | Ron Rhymer RIP (Anniversary) |
| | | | | | 6.00pm | OLQA | |
| | | | | | 6.00pm | St J | |
| | | | | | 6.30pm | St Ed | |
| Tues 21st | 9.30am | HC | Francesco Papallo & Giuseppina Bava RIP | Sun 26th | 9.00am | HC | Polska Msza Święta |
| | 10.00am | St A | For family healing | | 9.00am | St Ed | Capt John & Mrs Mary Simpson RIP |
| | 10.00am | OLQA | | | 9.15am | St A | In thanksgiving for Mrs Lown |
| | 11.00am | St Ed | Funeral Mass for Iris Happle RIP | | 9.30am | OLQA | |
| | | | | | 11.00am | HC | Grace Moore FM |
| Wed 22nd | 9.30am | HC | Keith Clark RIP | | 11.00am | St A | |
| | 10.00am | St Ed | | | | | |

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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|-----------------|------|---|
| 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 |

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|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------|-----------|-----------------|
| Rosary And Prayers | 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 |
| | | NO CONFESSIONS at St Edwards |
| | 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

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

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