

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

PALM SUNDAY

Last week I attended the annual Chaplain General's Conference in Andover at Army HQ. This is an opportunity for Army Chaplains of different denominations, some full-time and others reservists, to get together. We had some stimulating talks which I found thought-provoking. In his talk, one of the speakers drew our attention to an interview which is available on the internet where Stephen Fry is interviewed on Irish TV by Gay Byrne. If you want to take a look it can be found by typing in Stephen Fry on God / The Meaning of Life on RTE One. Some of what Stephen Fry says is quite shocking because of the language he uses to challenge the idea of God's existence. More than that, he asks what kind of God would allow the sort of human suffering we see on a daily basis. The speaker at our conference pointed out that this interview has already been viewed more than seven million times and the arguments put forward appear to strike a chord with many people today. This is the world to which we are called to proclaim the Gospel, the Good News.

In the past couple of weeks we have seen the devastating effects of one man's desire to inflict harm on Westminster Bridge and in the grounds of Parliament. One of the victims was a policeman doing his job; another who died was walking to collect her two children from the local Catholic School. On Monday a bomb was detonated on the underground in St Petersburg causing death and injuries. Meanwhile, in Colombia hundreds died in a mudslide and in Syria whole families have been hit with chemical weapons. Awful things happen to people who have done no wrong. Why?

The Season of Lent closes with Holy Week. The Liturgy is not afraid of tragedy. It makes us live the hour of Jesus, that Hour at once dark and glorious for which he said he had come. We follow his every footstep, from the triumphant entry into Jerusalem acclaimed by the crowd of his followers, to the loneliness of Golgotha where he is abandoned by almost everyone, even those he himself had chosen and for whom he gives his life. Everything happens quickly and seems to collapse. Yet, even in what seems complete dereliction – 'Father, why have you deserted me?' – Jesus, with outstretched arms, attracts and gathers to himself mankind and the universe. All seems lost, all is about to begin.

There is anecdotal evidence to show that Christians who never venture inside the door of a church throughout the year, can feel drawn to come at Christmas and on Good Friday. The attraction of celebrating a baby's birth in Bethlehem is obvious. But that baby came with a purpose which brought him to the cross on Calvary. Both events are part of the same story, the story of one man. The questions which arise in our lives where at some time we all face difficulty, loss, even tragedy, do not find slick and easy answers in what we celebrate this week. But what we do see is the extent to which our God is prepared to go to be one with us in suffering – and then the triumph which comes in Resurrection. The Light of Christ *does* overcome the darkness, which is a fact of our lives. Our faith leads us to genuine hope based on what Jesus came to tell us.

Allow yourself time this week to reflect on the events we celebrate – and, if at all possible, come and join in the liturgies of Thursday, Friday and Saturday/Sunday.

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

Psalm Response: My God, my God why have you forsaken me?

**Readings for next Sunday 16th April 2017
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**

Gospel: John 20:1-9
1st reading: Acts 10:34. 37-43
Psalm: 117
2nd reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Easter Flowers There will be a second collection for Easter flowers in all our churches this weekend 8th /9th April. Thank you for your generous support in helping to make our churches beautiful with the floral arrangements.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be said at the following churches this week
10.00am Tuesday at St Swithun Wells
6.30pm Wednesday at Our Lady Queen of Apostles

Fellowship Group. - There will be no meeting during Holy Week on Wednesday 12th April, or during Easter Week, 19th April. The date when meetings resume is to be confirmed.

Journey in Faith (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) Journey in Faith will restart after Easter on Wednesday 26th April.

St Swithun Wells Prayer Link.

A Prayer Link Sheet for April is available in all our churches this weekend. Please use this in Holy Week, alongside the "Stations of the Cross with a Difference" and then throughout April. Marion.
marionbirtles@gmail.com 02380 692416

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.

On **Friday 28th April at 7.30pm** there will be a Re-dedication of St Joseph's Church in Romsey, celebrated with Evening Prayer of the Church. Ecumenical guests will be invited to join parishioners and refreshments will follow in Wisdom House.

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 Independent School 023 8067 1267

Good Friday Collections

It is customary (and mandated by the Holy See) that the collection taken at the Good Friday Liturgy of the Lord's Passion is for the care of the Holy Places. Please support this as this goes to the upkeep of the sites in the Holy Land, cared for by the Franciscan fathers.

Easter Offerings 15th/16th April 2017

Traditionally, your Offering at Easter is for the personal use of the priests and in our diocese forms a major part of their annual income. Please be generous

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

Good Friday Procession - The Way of the Cross

Friday April 14th 2017 at 10am The churches in Bishop's Waltham will come together for the procession of witness, starting at St. Peter's Church, The walk lasts about 45 minutes - all are very welcome to join us.

Childrens Stations of the Cross will be led on Good Friday at St Edward the Confessor at 10.00 am. All are welcome, whatever your age,

Public Lectures “Divine Renovation” by Fr. James Mallon A wonderful opportunity to hear Fr James Mallon from St Benedicts Halifax Nova Scotia talk about parish renewal and new evangelisation. Fr. James Mallon will share with us the many ways for bringing our parishes to life. Through humorous and colourful stories, Fr James challenges us to rethink our models of parish life, from membership-based communities to assemblies of disciples of Jesus who proclaim and share the good news with all peoples. The talk will run from 3.30 to 5.30 pm on Thursday 15th June at Old Windsor. Information and reserving of seats through the following website <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/father-james-mallons-workshop-tickets-32498111727> There is a booking fee and a small charge to help cover costs, which can be paid on-line.

Our Surprising Solar System

Thank you very very much to all those who supported this social event last Saturday by either donating or coming. We heard a most fascinating presentation by Prof. Barbieri and then enjoyed a wonderful buffet prepared by the Professor’s family and parishioners. We raised a good amount for our parish and will be making a donation to the local Home Start charity. Thank you to all. *Joanna Somerville*

LIFE Southampton Group just wanted to say a big thank you for your support with our recent cake sale held in aid of Life at St Edwards recently. We have raised a total of £202.41.

A Marriage Encounter Weekend is an opportunity to enrich your marriage. The weekend is focused on various aspects of relationship, including the Catholic Churches Vision for Marriage. Here is a tremendous opportunity to enrich your relationship away from the stresses of everyday life. The next weekend to be held in this area is at Park Place near Fareham from May 19th – 21st. For further details go to www.wvme.org.uk

Wisdom Centre and Daughters of Wisdom are running a day course Spring, New Shoots & Spiritual Growth on Saturday April 22nd 2017. Please contact Melanie on 01794830206 or email reception@wisdomhouseromsey.co.uk Full details are on display at all churches.

Dates for your Diary

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

Flower Festival—Friday 23rd - Sunday 25th June. Our Lady Queen of Apostles will be hosting a Flower Festival with arrangements by all 6 churches in St. Swithun Wells Parish, as part of the Bishops Waltham Blooming Arts Festival. Floral displays, art exhibits, refreshments. Come and support your Parish flower arrangers and have an interesting day out!

Contact: Pauline Watson 07917 407361 or paulinestmargaret@gmail.com

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: May 14th, June 11th & July 9th

St. Edward's Valley Park Pastoral Area.

A Scripture Reading and Social Afternoon will be held on Wednesday, 12 April, 2017 at 2pm, at the home of Pascale Li Voon Chong, Amberwood, Southdown Road, Shawford. SO21 2BX

COFFEE STOP There will be **no** Coffee Stop on Maundy Thursday 13th April. Coffee stop will resume on Thursday 20th April at 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Why not join us in the Resource Centre for coffee, tea, hot chocolate biscuits and toasted tea cakes in a friendly, pleasant environment. Meet friends both old and new.

KNITT & NATTER at St Edward’s Monday 10th April 2.00-4.00pm. Refreshments available any queries contact Maureen Stephenson on 02380 2542104.

60 CLUB on Monday 10th April in the Resource Centre from 2-4pm All Welcome!!

KNIT FOR PEACE Next meeting held on Wednesday 12th April at St Andrew’s. Donations of men’s clothes and shoes for 2 Saints always welcome. Contact Anne Harcourt on 02380 734710

Divine Mercy Day of Reflection Saturday 22nd April

In preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday, (23rd April) a day of reflection led by Father Des will be held at Saint Joseph’s, 8 Lyndhurst Road, Ashurst, Southampton, SO40 7DU on Saturday 22nd April 2016. Coffee and Tea will be available from 10.00am for a 10.30am start and the day will finish at 4.00pm. The cost of the day: £20.00 (lunch and the celebration of Holy Mass is included). If you would like to be present please contact Father Des either by email: fatherdes@icloud.com or phone 02380 292337 and leave a message.

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 £1,500.77
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 8th April Vigil Masses	5.00pm	St Sw	Iris Happle RIP Michael Proudlove RIP	Thurs 13th Maundy Thursday	7.00pm	St A	Mass of the Lord's Supper
	6.00pm	OLQA			7.30pm	HC	Mass of the Lord's Supper
	6.00pm	St J			7.30pm	OLQA	Mass of the Lord's Supper
	6.30pm	St Ed					
Sun 9th Palm Sunday	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta	Fri 14th Good Friday	3.00pm	HC	Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
	9.00am	St Ed	CAFOD Intentions		3.00pm	St A	Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
	9.15am	St A			3.00pm	OLQA	Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
	9.30am	OLQA			5.00pm	St Ed	Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
	11.00am	St A					
	11.00am	HC	Maximilan & Joanna Karnecki RIP				
				Sat 15th April	9.30am	HC	NO MASS
Mon 10th	10:00am	St Ed	Living & Deceased members of the Lake & Hill Families	Sat 15th Vigil Masses	5.00pm	St Sw	NO MASS
					8.00pm	OLQA	The Easter Vigil
					8.00pm	St A	The Easter Vigil
					8.00pm	St Ed	The Easter Vigil Peter Ashcroft FM
Tues 11th	9.30am	HC	NO MASS NO MASS St Johns Cathedral Portsmouth Chrism Mass	Sun 16th Easter Sunday	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta
	10.00am	St A			9.00am	St Ed	For the Intention of Richard Layzell
	10.00am	OLQA			9.00am	St A	
	11.00am				9.30am	OLQA	
					10.30am	St J	Thanksgiving for return to St Joseph's Church
Wed 12th	9.30am	HC	Friends of Suffering Souls		11.00am	HC	Henry Karnecki RIP (Anniversary)
	10.00am	St Ed					

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

Rosary And Prayers

St Edward 9.30 am Wednesday The Holy Rosary

St Joseph 6.00pm Wednesday Evening Prayer

CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Saturdays:
10.00am Holy Cross **No Confessions**
Midday St Edward the Confessor **No Confessions**
5.30pm Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church **No Confessions**
5.30pm St. Joseph's **No Confessions**

Sundays: 8.45am St. Andrew's Church. **No Confessions**

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** Church Abbey House Drive, Romsey SO51 8YB

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