

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
 Office Proper

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

In the past few weeks I've received through the door two Polling Cards, one for the election of a Councillor to Eastleigh Borough Council and the other for the election of Councillors to Hampshire County Council. Many of you will have received the same. To be honest all I've done so far is put them to one side, made a note of the date in my diary (Thursday 4 May) and glanced half-heartedly at the various Party Political Broadcasts which have started to appear on the television – usually at a time of day when I'm not all that alert or interested. Nearer the time I plan to give a bit more thought as to who I'd like to see running the local and county Councils.

Then this week, unexpectedly, Theresa May announced her intention to go ahead with a General Election – just two years after the last one. Of course, much has happened in those two years. When I was a young adult I can remember being encouraged never to treat an election as a single-issue decision. In other words, you shouldn't boil everything down to one agenda item or manifesto pledge. There are huge and life-affecting issues in our country right now. Our schools are facing massive financial pressures and the possible reduction in numbers of teachers as a result. No one can deny that our National Health Service is operating at full stretch due to the number of people making demands upon it. Care costs of the elderly and others requiring support at home or in nursing facilities has never been properly addressed and funding for this is a constant worry. Safety of citizens is a concern for the security services. And all of this before you look beyond our shores to what's happening around the world – a world to which our country belongs.

It would be nice to think that in the next seven weeks all these important matters will be carefully weighed and considered by the electorate as we decide how to use our vote in early June. But we already know the main reason for the General Election being held this year instead of in 2020. **BREXIT**. This dominates almost every decision now in our country causing uncertainty and instability. As a country we brought this on ourselves and now the Prime Minister believes that she needs a clear mandate when negotiating with the rest of Europe. In Downing Street on Tuesday Theresa May spelt it out clearly: she wants you and me to consider who is best-placed to fight for our interests in the discussions and meetings which will span the coming years. The other political parties will set out their stalls, and some will try to get us to take into account the other important areas of life which affect us. But, judging by the political and news coverage in the first twenty-four hours following the announcement, those issues are in real danger of being lost as arguments about the terms of our exit from the European Union dominate.

One lady was stopped in the street by a BBC Reporter on Tuesday and asked her reaction to the news of another General Election. Her reply probably echoed the thoughts of many: "Oh no, not another election." Experts will talk of 'voter fatigue' and over the coming seven weeks we'll all become sick of hearing from political leaders and their parties. But underneath this is serious business and what happens in June when we go to the polls will have implications and repercussions for generations to come. For the sake of all, we cannot afford to treat this lightly.

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: Receive the joy of your glory, giving thanks to God, who has called you into the heavenly kingdom, Alleluia.

Psalm Response: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

**Readings for next Sunday 30th April 2017
3rd Sunday of Easter**

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35
1st reading: Acts 2:14. 22-33
Psalm: 15
2nd reading: 1 Peter 1:17-21

Fellowship Group - There will be no meetings over the next 2 weeks. Meetings start again on Wednesday 10th May 7.30 p.m. Any queries please contact Peter Baggott 0238 694060 or Deacon Bob Birtles.

Journey in Faith (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) Journey in Faith will restart on Wednesday 26th April and will run weekly until the end of July. The subject next week will be *The Celebration of the Eucharist*.

St Swithun Wells Prayer Link.

The Prayer Link Sheet for April is available in all our churches this weekend. Marion.
marionbirtles@gmail.com 02380 692416

Mustard Seed & Portsmouth People

There are new issues of Mustard Seed and Portsmouth People available in all our churches. Please remember to take your copies.

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.

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.

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

THANK YOU. The priests of the parish wish to thank parishioners at all our churches for their cards, messages and gifts over Easter. The many signs of appreciation mean a lot to us: yours words of encouragement and your generosity in the Easter Offerings are never taken for granted and are humbling to us as clergy striving to serve the communities within St Swithun Wells Parish. As we continue to celebrate with joy the triumph of Christ over death in his resurrection let us continue to pray for each other. *Fr John*

LENTEN ALMS. This weekend we are gathering in the remaining monies that you set aside during Lent to help those less fortunate. If you still wish to contribute then please hand in whatever offering you make in an envelope clearly marked "Lenten Alms" and put this in the offertory collection. As soon as we have total amounts for the various charities we aim to support these will be published in the Newsletter.

Significant Wedding Anniversaries 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, email to anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk 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. Send via email to above email address or by post to St Bede's Parish Office Popley Way Basingstoke RG24 9DX Please mark envelope Significant Wedding Mass

Ministers of Communion Day

Please take a letter this weekend which gives details of the **Day of Prayer and Reflection at St Joseph's, Ashurst on Saturday 13 May.** The day will begin at 10.00am and finish by 3.30pm. It is hoped that as many as possible will attend. To help with planning please sign up on the sheet provided by Sunday 30th April.

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.wme.org.uk

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS
Last week's collections TBC
SO/SD for the month of March £13,791.09

Parishioners unable to get to Mass

If you are aware of any parishioner who cannot attend Mass because of age, infirmity etc then please contact the parish office and let them know. Similarly, if you have not seen a parishioner at Mass for a while then please let the parish office know.

ST EDWARD'S CHOIR

Choir rehearsals will now be held on a Friday evening at 7pm until 8.30pm at St Edwards Church. We sing at the 9am Mass every Sunday and rehearse usually every week. New adult members are very welcome. Please feel free to come along. For more information, please contact Joanna (joannapuzzle@gmail.com)

Thanks to all who supported the Friday evening Lenten Suppers at St Edwards. £891.20p was raised for our CAFOD Connect2 project in Peru.

Friends After Bereavement (FAB) Sunday Tea

As it is a Bank Holiday weekend, there will be no Friends After Bereavement Sunday Tea on Sunday 30th April.

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

Parish Picnic Sunday 9th July 2017 1.00pm -4.30pm Fryern Hill Recreation Ground Chandlers Ford

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. Please complete one of the new to the parish registration forms/Cards available in the church foyers, giving us your contact details and leave the form with one of the Priests or Welcomers. All 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.

Bishop's Waltham Charity Garden Fair In aid of St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital on Sunday 30th April 10pm - 4.00pm At Wintershill Hall, Durley SO32 2AL Entrance £5.00 (free parking) Children under 14 free Ask the expert: Andy McIndoe, 60+ specialist stalls, Children's corner, Homemade refreshments, Cuff Billett's, New Europa Jazz Band, Birds of Prey display, Hog Roast and award winning sausages. For more information see our website www.bishops-Waltham-garden-Fair.org

Bishop Waltham Mass Times

When Canon Alan is away at the end of April, a supply priest will come and say Mass at 9.30am on Sunday 30th April. However, the Saturday evening Mass at 6pm on Saturday 29th April is cancelled— just for this weekend.

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

Lourdes Youth Pilgrimage

This is for teenagers aged from 14 to 17 years running alongside the main diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage from 18th—25th August. More details from youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

60 CLUB

Next meeting will be held in the Resource Centre on Monday 24th April from 2 to 4pm . Contact Maureen Westwood for further details on 023 80 692682

Saying Goodbye

On the 13th May at 10.30am in Winchester Cathedral The Mariposa Trust is holding one of its Saying Goodbye services. The Mariposa Trust is one of the UK's leading charities, with its core objective being to support people who have lost babies. Anyone who has either personally lost a baby at any stage of pregnancy, at birth or in early years, or who has been affected by a family members or friends loss. Whether the loss was recent or 80 years ago, everyone is welcome to attend. We have also extended the services, and gladly welcome anyone who is grieving the fact that they haven't had children. This may be due to circumstance, infertility or for other reasons - but all are welcome. Babies and children are also invited to come with their family, as the Saying Goodbye service is truly a family event for all. Please see poster on display at all churches for further details.

Volunteers Wanted On Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st May, the Stop The Traffik Gift Box will be in the Corn Market Romsey. Volunteers required to be around the box for maybe 2-4 hours each on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st May. It is not very onerous, it doesn't require a detailed knowledge but each volunteer needs to attend a 1 1/2 hr training session which is both informative and fun. Training dates are as follows:- April 22nd 10-11.30am at Chandlers Ford Methodist Church April 27th 7.30-9pm at Romsey Abbey Rooms May 4th 8-9.30pm at Above Bar Church. Please Email Richard Peace richardhenry2007@yahoo.co.uk for further details & to inform if attending the training session.

Mass Times for our Six Church Communities

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 22nd April Vigil Masses	5.00pm	St Sw	Charles & Ivy Charleston RIP	Thurs 27th	9.30 am	HC	Kathleen Redington RIP
	6.00pm	OLQA			10.00am	OLQA	NO MASS
	6.00pm	St J	Father George Lyons RIP		11.00am	St A	Funeral Mass for Eileen Sweeney RIP
	6.30pm	St Ed	For the Intentions of Andy Gorman		6.00pm	St J	Captain Andrew Mackie RIP
Sun 23rd	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta	Fri 28th	10.00am	St Ed	Itti Avirah RIP
	9.00am	St Ed	Mrs Edward Christian FM		10.00am	St J	
	9.00am	St A					
	9:30am	OLQA					
	11.00am	St J	Deceased relatives of the Coughlan & Corry Families				
	11.00am	HC	Nora & Jan Korzeniowski RIP (Anniversary)				
				Sat 29th	9.30am	HC	
Mon 24th	10:00am	St Ed		Sat 29th Vigil Masses	5.00pm	St Sw	Muriel Beattie RIP
					6.00pm	St J	
					6.00pm	OLQA	NO MASS
					6.30pm	St Ed	Rosemary Oxby RIP
Tues 25th	9.30am	HC	Oswald Carr FM	Sun 30th	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta
	10.00am	St A			9.00am	St Ed	Pam & John Marchesi 50th Wedding Anniversary
	10.00am	OLQA	NO MASS		9.00am	St A	
			9.30am		OLQA		
			11.00am		St J		
			11.00am		HC	Maria & Harold Payne RIP	
Wed 26th	9.30am	HC	Amarant Ferreira RIP				
	10.00am	St Ed	Captain John & Mary Simpson 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 3pm - 6:00pm,
Rosary and Benediction at 5:30pm (before Mass at 6pm)

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
Midday St Edward's
5.30pm Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church **NO CONFESSIONS**
5.30pm St. Joseph's

Sundays: 8.30am 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 Church** Abbey House Drive, Romsey SO51 8YB

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Canon Alan Griffiths (Assistant Priest)
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Fr David Whitehead (Retired Priest)
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POLISH PRIEST : Fr Zbigniew Budyn
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