

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

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

The Vocation to cherish and value the sick and the elderly

The terrible events of Monday night in Manchester led to a suspension of election campaigning. At times like this things are put into perspective and the impact of a suicide bomb on children and young people attending a pop concert became the focus of people's attention. We should continue to pray for all those affected, the injured, relatives and friends and, of course, we pray for the souls of those who died.

Before Monday evening one topic was dominating the airwaves and interviews: care of the elderly and infirm. Whatever your political views might be, one thing is certain: this is an area which cannot be ignored and requires drastic action rather than doing what has happened for years when the problem has been largely ignored. Back in the days of old (and I mean many years ago) parents brought up their children, quite often a lot of them, and then when they themselves reached old age at least one of those children cared for them. Often – and probably unfairly – it would be a daughter who hadn't married and had never left the family home. Before 'social care' and the 'welfare state' families looked after their own. Times have changed, at least in this country, and now there is an expectation that 'the state' or society in general deal with the issue. In many countries this isn't the case – but it is here.

In the course of my work as a priest I visit many institutions where the elderly live. They vary in size and number of residents. Some are new, bright and airy whereas others occupy buildings which were never intended for this purpose and have been converted. I meet staff, from different parts of the world, who do an incredible job in often quite difficult circumstances. Some residents of these nursing and care homes have regular visits from family and friends. Others do not even though they may have children or grandchildren within easy reach. If they are able to converse they have fascinating stories to tell of long lives well lived.

How are we, you and I, called to respond to the elderly and infirm, whether related to us or not? Far from being a burden or a problem to be solved these are people who in many cases lived through a time in history when war and conflict was a reality. They lost friends and made sacrifices so that we could enjoy the freedoms and relative security we have today. Do you know someone, perhaps a relative or former neighbour who would value a visit and a chat? It isn't always a task for someone else – we are all called to this work of charity.

When he visited Great Britain in 1982, Pope John Paul II celebrated a deeply moving Anointing of the Sick in Southwark Cathedral. In his homily he said: "Do not neglect your sick and elderly. Do not turn away from the handicapped and the dying. Do not push them to the margins of society. For if you do, you will fail to understand that they represent an important truth. The sick, the elderly, the handicapped and the dying teach us that weakness is a creative part of human living, and that suffering can be embraced with no loss of dignity. Without the presence of these people in your midst you might be tempted to think of health, strength and power as the only important values to be pursued in life. But the wisdom of Christ and the power of Christ are to be seen in the weakness of those who share his sufferings."

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: Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

Psalm Response: God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

**Readings for next Sunday 4th June 2017
Pentecost Sunday**

Gospel: John 20:19-23

1st reading: Acts 2:1-11

Psalm: 103

2nd reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3-7. 12-13

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. Every Wednesday until the end of July from 7.30 to 9.00pm at St Edward the Confessor Church. Theme this week is 'The Holy Spirit' Contact Deacon Paul Owen Tel 02380 254806; email: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

There will be no meeting during Half Term week on Wednesday 31st May

St Swithun Wells Prayer Link.

A new Prayer Sheet is available in our churches this weekend. There are some thoughts and prayers for May, the month of Mary and also some Holy Spirit Prayers as we lead up to Pentecost. Prayer requests continue to come in, as do grateful thanks for the support our prayers give. Do feel free to contact me for further details.

Marion marionbirtles@gmail.com 02380 692416

Holy Hour at St Edward's.

There will be **NO** Holy Hour closing with Benediction on the following Thursdays June 1st and June 8th Will resume Thursday June 15th

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Next year, sometime after Easter 2018, Bishop Philip will celebrate Confirmation for young people who belong to St Swithun Wells Parish. For the last few years the Bishop has arranged a Confirmation once every two years for parishes and next year it is our turn. The plan is to form the group before the summer break so that the preparation will be up and running in good time for September. This means that young people wishing to enrol must do so in the next few weeks.

There are *Enrolment Forms* available in each of our churches. Anyone who will be in Year Eight next year (ie. starting in September) and above is eligible to apply. This means that if you are currently in Year Seven you can join the Programme for Confirmation. Please do this soon as we want to have plans well underway before the summer break. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Father John.

2nd Collection There will be a 2nd Collection this weekend after all Masses for World Communications

FLOWER FESTIVAL Next weekend (3rd/4th June) any contributions towards the cost of the Flower festival at Bishops Waltham will be very welcome

PENTECOST SUNDAY. At Holy Cross Church on Sunday 4th June we'll celebrate at the 11am Mass the diversity and richness of our community. Parishioners here come from many backgrounds and cultures and one of the great joys this brings is a chance to celebrate with one another our variety. There will be some slightly different elements to the 11am Mass that day and afterwards. Why not come to Mass in National Costume, or in the colours of your country's flag?

Sharing the Joy of the Gospel – Day of Prayer for the New Evangelisation

Sat 3rd June 10am-3pm at St. Edward's Church. The diocese will be hosting a day of prayer for the New Evangelisation beginning with Mass at 10am. Throughout the day there will be an opportunity to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. There will also be a prayer workshop either side of lunch (please bring your own), centred on the theme of "Using the gifts of the Holy Spirit". You are welcome to come for all or just some of the day. Even if you cannot join us, please take time that day to pray for the New Evangelisation in our diocese – it is essential that all our efforts are founded on a firm bedrock of prayer.

Thank You

Following the successful event 'Our Surprising Solar System' held at Our Lady Queen of Apostles in Bishops Waltham, the parish has received a thank you letter from the Home Start Meon Valley for £300 donated from the proceeds of the evening.

Job Vacancies at St Swithun Wells Primary School

Learning Support Assistant (16.7 hrs per week) and Early Years Assistant (19 hrs per week) Term time only. Full details on church notice boards. Closing Date: June 8th 2017

Thanks to all who supported the CAFOD Coffee Morning last week. £400 was raised for our Connect2 project in Peru.

A date for your diaries - The annual CAFOD barbecue will be held at St Edwards on Saturday July 15th. More details later.

POITIERS CARE

Thank you to all who so generously donate on a regular basis to Poitiers Care. This Catholic charity distributes food to families and children in much need who live locally. Please continue to help. Items of tea, coffee, sugar, tins of soup, meat, fish vegetables and fruit may be left in the boxes provided at St Andrew's St Joseph and St Edward's. Many Thanks.

WANTED!! Lego Cards which Sainsbury are currently distributing, are being collected by St Swithun Wells School. If any parishioners have them please bring into the Parish Office or Church and they will be passed on. Thank You!

Parish Lunch at The Vine, Ower, Wednesday 14th June at 12.30pm. Menus will be on the notice boards. All are welcome. Please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know your choice of meals before Monday 5th June as we have to preorder. Thank you.

Dates for your Diary

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.

GOOD COMPANIONS Our next lunch for those who live alone or are lonely will be at 12.30pm on Tuesday 6 June at Keats Restaurant, Ampfield. Please let Pauline Wilson know on 023 80266617 if you wish to join us. New members are always welcome and transport can be arranged if required.

Annual Plant Sale & Fete Saturday June 3rd 1pm –4pm Boaz Hill Farm, Sutton Scotney SO21 3NT Boaz is a multi-activity based local charity for adults with learning difficulties. Come and see what we do and have some fun while you are here! More information available on display on noticeboards at all churches.

A Curious Cafe event to be held at Romsey Methodist Church on Saturday June starting at 7 pm. The presenter is Professor Keith Fox, who is Associate Director of the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion based at St Edmunds College, Cambridge. He is also a Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Southampton. See posters on display at

Hope Eastleigh 2017

Two Events— June 2nd ‘Thy Kingdome Come’ Come and pray with the Church of Eastleigh during this national initiative. St Andrew’s Church Blenheim Rd Eastleigh SO50-5SD 7.30 (drinks-9.30pm) June 4th ‘Pentecost Sunday’ Come and be inspired by Roy Crowne, the Executive Director of HOPE, as we look forward to this year’s HOPE week. Eastleigh Baptist Church, Wells Place, Eastleigh SO50 –8.30pm

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:** June 21 & 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:** June 11th & July 9th.

CAFOD ----St Edwards.

Green Boxes will be emptied on the week ending June 3rd/4th. Please return your old box and pick up a new one. Thank You!

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.

DISCIPLE tickets are now available. A Half Term treat from our young people in **SWAG**. Please contact Joanna at joannapuzzle@gmail.com if you would like to come.

The Knights of Columba Annual BBQ The Knights of St Columba invite all parishioners to a BBQ at St Edwards Church 1pm Saturday 17th June. Cost £10. Proceeds go towards those needing assistance on Lourdes pilgrimage. Tickets on sale on the day, but names/numbers in advance please to David Martin: 2dmartin@gmail.com

The Knights of St Columba raise funds for charity by providing assistance at Gardener's Fayre at Stoneham on Sat/Sun 3/4 June. We need assistance for a few hours on the Sat morning and later on Sun afternoon, erecting and taking down tents. Anyone who can help (no experience needed) at either time, please contact Anthony Bradley 023 8026 6818. You will be helping the Knights to raise significant funds - last year over £1000, while having fun at the same time, and free entrance if you wish. Thank you, David Martin

Weddings in the Parish

Hannah Stansbridge will marry Mark Shepperd at Holy Cross Church on Saturday 3 June at 1pm. Parishioners are welcome to come to the service. Peter Smith and Rebecca Mole are getting married on the 17th June at 2.30pm at Holy Cross Church. They would like to extend an open invite to any parishioners who would like to witness their union.

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

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS
Last week's collections £1, 404.69
SO/SD for the month of April TBC

Mass Times for our Six Church Communities

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 27th- May Vigil Masses	5.00pm	St Sw	Marjorie Harris Special Intention	Thurs 1st June	9.30am	HC	Ena Mary Greenfield RIP
	6.00pm	OLQA			10.00am	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St J			6.00pm	St J	
	6.30pm	St Ed	Brigid Goodridge RIP				
Sun 28th	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta	Fri 2nd	10.00am	St Ed	Friends of Suffering Souls
	9.00am	St Ed	Maria Whitty RIP (Anniversary)		10.00am	St J (AH)	
	9.00am	St A	Anthony Hillier RIP (Anniversary)				
	9.30am	OLQA					
	11.00am	St J					
	11.00am	HC	Thanksgiving Golden Jubilee for Father Shaun Budden				
				Sat 3rd	9.30am	HC	Elizabeth Cosgrove RIP
Mon 29th	10.00am	St Ed	Marjorie Harris Special Intention	Sat 3rd Vigil Masses	5.00pm	St Sw	Patrick Slavin RIP
					6.00pm	St J	
					6.00pm	OLQA	
					6.30pm	St Ed	
Tues 30th	9.30am	HC	Marjorie Harris Special Intention	Sun 4th	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta
	10.00am	St A			9.00am	St Ed	Agnes & John Walker FM
	10.00am	OLQA			9.00am	St A	Sheila and George Marshall RIP (Anniversary)
					9.30am	OLQA	
			11.00am		St J		
			11.00am		HC	Bill Dee & Michael Flynn RIP (Anniversary)	
Wed 31st	9.30am	HC	Kathleen Bernadette Reynolds FM				
	10.00am	St Ed	Living & Deceased Members of de Melo Family				

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday HC Adoration 1st Tuesday of the month
10.00 - 1.00pm

Thursday - St E **NO Holy Hour** or **Benediction resumes June 15th**

Thursday - St J from Noon-6.00pm, Rosary and Benediction at 5.30pm (before Mass at 6pm)Thursday -

Friday St A Morning Prayer and Adoration 10.00am

Rosary St Edward 9.30 am Wednesday The Holy Rosary

And St Joseph 6.00pm Wednesday Evening Prayer

Prayers St Andrews 10.00am Friday Morning Prayer

CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Saturdays: 10.00am Holy Cross Church

Middy St Edward's

5.30pm Our Lady Queen of Apostles

5.30pm St. Joseph's Church

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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