

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

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Like most priests involved in pastoral ministry, I have a small blue book with the title: "Pastoral Care of the Sick". It contains all you need when bringing Holy Communion to people in hospital or at home, and the rites for celebrating the Anointing of the Sick and other prayers appropriate at the time of death. Mine has travelled with me to the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan and is one of the more well-used books I possess. In almost every circumstance, when praying with those who are not well or who have simply grown weak under the burden of years, there are passages from Scripture which can be shared. One that I find myself using most often is the passage we have in this weekend's Gospel from St Matthew. It has two parts and the second paragraph is this:

"Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light."

As so often with the words of Jesus, this can be approached from a variety of angles. For the person who is sick, struggling and maybe anxious these words are of reassurance and comfort. Do not be afraid, they say, you are not on your own – I am with you through it all. The image of a yoke, which joins two or more together, is one of encouragement that the burden is shared, the load is not borne alone. For family and friends it is hard to watch a loved one nearing the end of their journey on earth and it can be frustrating that there is little you can do. But just by being there, holding someone's hand, stroking their face, not only are others showing that they are present but they do actually provide a physical reminder that Jesus makes his presence felt through those who love us.

In my experience, one of the tensions often felt by family members is that on the one hand they do not want to let someone go as they near that point of moving on to the next stage of their journey to God, and at the same time feeling that now is the right time. There is absolutely nothing wrong with feeling that tension – it is human and natural and right. For the one who is approaching death, knowing that those around them are ready to let them go is an important and calming factor. It isn't 'defeat' and it certainly isn't 'giving up'. When the time comes, each of us is asked to relinquish our hold on this mortal life and move on towards the fullness of God's presence that we look forward to, and for which we hope.

Of course, the words of today's Gospel are not just addressed to the sick and the dying. We can all feel overburdened, pressed down, trapped and helpless for a whole number of reasons. Worst is when there really is nothing we can do about our situation and there appears to be no way forward. Then those words should touch us: you are not alone, I am with you. There is one further point that has struck me over the years when reading this passage. Jesus does not say I will help with **your** burden. Instead he talks about **his** burden. Maybe he means that whatever we bear, whatever difficulties and challenges we face they are but a share in the load he carries and which he allows us to bear in some way. Looking at it in this way does give it a rather different complexion.

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: Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the end of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.
Psalm Response: I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.

**Readings for next Sunday 16th July 2017
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23
1st reading: Isaiah 55:10-11
Psalm:64
2nd reading: Romans 8:18-23

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 7.30pm to 9.00pm at St Edward the Confessor Church. Theme this week is 'Sacred Scripture'
Contact Deacon Paul Owen Tel 02380 254806;
email: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Fellowship Group. Meetings will recommence after the Summer - date to be confirmed.
More details from Bob.
bbirtles@portsouthdiocese.co.uk 02380 692416

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.

PACT – Prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families
Pact, the Catholic charity for prisoners and their families is offering free training and support for parishioners interested in volunteering with them in prisons or in the local community. To find out more please contact parishaction@prisonadvice.org.uk or see their website www.prisonadvice.org.uk

This weekend July 8th/9th there will be a 2nd collection for the Apostleship of the Sea.

Parish Office Closed Wednesday 12th July. Due to staff training the parish office will be closed all day. Any items to be advertised in the newsletter please send in no later than Tuesday 11th July.

Funeral Notice

Hugh Cambridge (Carole Clarke's Father) died peacefully on 21st June. His funeral will be held at St. Peters Church, Winchester 12.15 Mass on 14th July. All welcome.

Prayer Link

The June Prayer Sheet is in use at the moment. Remember there are no meetings to attend to join in the Prayer Link. Feel free to contact me if you did not get the latest Prayer Sheet for use at home, in your own time. Also please let me know if you have a request for prayers - I only use names on the Request Sheet if specifically asked to do so, otherwise requests are anonymous - God knows the names!

Christian Aid - a belated thank you to all our volunteers at St Edward's who collected £810 in May, which is a good result given the significant changes for No Cold Calling Zones. Many thanks to all those who helped - Paul Carmody.

Mental Health Support Group

Meeting fortnightly (next one 17th July) 7.30pm
The Stables, St. Thomas' Church, Fair Oak
All welcome – come as you are.
A chance to be heard (not judged) and accepted.
For more information: Phone Bruce 07842 137 637
Or email: mentalhealthsg@gmail.com

Healing Evening with Little Way Healing Ministries: on Monday 24 July, 7pm – 9.30pm, at Highfield House Hotel, Highfield Lane, SO17 1AQ. Fr. Laurence Brassill OSA and Mrs. Pauline Edwards and team offer an evening of teaching and healing. Please invite relatives, friends and neighbours, no need to be a churchgoer or even a believer. Come for the whole evening or just pop in. Jesus said: 'Lay your hands on the sick and they will be healed'... **Come and see.**

CAFOD Portsmouth Harvest Briefing

Join us at a special Harvest Briefing on Saturday 23 September from 2.15pm to 4.15pm at St Stephen's Church Hall, Oliver's Battery Road, Winchester SO22 4JB to hear more about CAFOD's work in El Salvador, the focus of Harvest Fast Day. Please book a place in advance via 01252 329385 or portsmouth@cafod.org.uk Thank you.

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

ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC

Sunday 9th July 1.00 - 4.30pm
Fryern Recreation Ground Oakmount Rd Chandlers Ford (access via Fryern Close) SO53 2LE
Bring food, cold drinks (hot drinks provided) something to sit on, Parasol/Shade. Fun for all the family!
Please support this event - See Posters in your Church for further details

ANNUAL CAFOD BARBECUE

The barbecue will take place at St Edward's on Saturday July 15th at 12.30pm. Tickets £9 (to include first drink) will be on sale after the weekend Masses at St Edwards from this weekend. If you don't attend St Edward's church and would like tickets please contact Clare Lasker on 02380252138. All proceeds to our new Connect2 Project in Peru.

Parish Tea on Tuesday 25th July, 3pm in Poppies Tea Room at Choice Plants Garden Nursery on the Stockbridge Road, just outside Romsey. We need to let Poppies know numbers to ensure they have enough spaces and cakes reserved for us so, if you intend to come, please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know before Monday 17th July. If you would like a fruit scone please tell Rosemary as these will be made to order.

Christian Aid Week: May £396 was raised in the Holy Cross house to house collections this year. With grateful thanks for your time and generosity to the collectors and donators. *John Elton.*

Vacancy Foundation Governor(s) - St Swithun Wells Primary School

A vacancy for Foundation Governor on the governing body has arisen and expressions of interests are being sought from practising committed Catholics for this ministry. The term of office is 4 years from the date of appointment. Full details on display on your Church notice boards.

Catholic Chaplaincies: Catholic? Going to university this year?

Most of our Universities and Higher Education Institutions have a dedicated Catholic Chaplain based in the university or the local parish. The Catholic Chaplaincy is a place for you to explore your faith as a young adult, to meet other young people with similar interests from a great range of backgrounds, and to get involved in activities and social outreach. If you already have a strong faith, this is a chance to deepen it. If you are full of questions and doubts, this is a chance to share them and search for some honest answers about life and faith. Everyone is welcome. To find your local Chaplaincy, and for contact details of all the University Chaplains and Catholic Student Societies, visit the Catholics At University website at: www.catholicsatuniversity.org.uk

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 Meeting:** July 12th
TOZ (Time Out Zone) School years 10,11 and Sixth Form College, Sundays once a month. Contact Cath 07846438224 for information. **Next Meeting:** July 9th.

2017 Fanning the Flame Summer Camp The annual Fanning the Flame Summer Camp is an exciting week of faith, fun and fellowship here in Hampshire for young people aged 10-25. Come for a week full of good food, fun games, discovering more about your faith, horse riding, creative workshops, sports, lively worship, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and Adoration, and of course camping under amazing night sky. Booking Forms are now available on www.dominicansistersofstjoseph.org See poster for details at all Churches.

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

KNIT & NATTER Monday 10th July 2.00pm—4.00pm at St Edward's Chandler's Ford. Everyone welcome. Any queries Maureen Stephenson 02380 252104.

Oasis - Parish Women's Group: Tuesday 11 July
Party: Our final meeting before the summer break to celebrate what we have shared so far and plan for next year. Please bring along a small contribution of food/drink to share. If you have never come along before, it's a good evening to find out more about us and what we may do next year. ALL LADIES WARMLY WELCOMED. Meet as usual at 7:30pm, St Edward's Cloister, finish by 9pm.

KNIT FOR PEACE Wednesday 12th July from 2.00pm until 4.00pm at St Andrew's North Baddesley. Donations of men's clothes for 2 Saints gratefully received. *Anne Harcourt 02380 734710.*

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.

Hope 2017

Various activities in Eastleigh and Park throughout July. Please see poster on display on your church noticeboards

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS
Last week's collections :£1,314.51
SO/SD for the month of May £13,577.59

Mass Times for our Six Church Communities

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	
Sat 8th July Vigil Masses	5.00pm	St Sw	Exam Success	Thurs 13th	9.30am	HC	Iampietro Antonio & Carmella RIP Funeral Mass for Denis McQuail RIP	
	6.00pm	OLQA			10.00am	OLQA		
	6.00pm	St J	Ivor Stroud RIP (Anniversary)		10.00am	St A		
	6.30pm	St Ed	Bridget Baker RIP		11.00am	St Ed		
Sun 9th	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta	Fri 14th	10.00am	St Ed	James Haren RIP	
	9.00am	St Ed	Hugh Cambridge RIP		10.00am	St J (AH)		
	9.00am	St A	Thanksgiving for Birthdays					
	9.30am	OLQA						
	11.00am	St J	Elzbieta Jelonek RIP					
	11.00am	HC	Diane Lopez RIP					
				Sat 15th	9.30am	HC	Finnerty & Molloy Families FM	
Mon 10th	10.00am	St Ed	Exam Success	Sat 15th Vigil Masses	5.00pm	St Sw	Agnes Carter RIP	
					6.00pm	St J	Cecilia Harris RIP (Anniversary)	
					6.00pm	OLQA		
					6.30pm	St Ed	Mary Gaffney RIP	
Tues 11th	9.30am	HC	Exam Success	Sun 16th	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta	
	10.00am	St A	Jeanne Bell RIP		9.00am	St Ed		
	10.00am	OLQA			9.00am	St A	Gladys and Vincent Curmi RIP (Anniversary)	
Wed 12th	9.30am	HC	Ronald Kohn RIP		9.30am	OLQA		
	10.00am	St Ed	Mrs McManus FM (moved from 5th July)			11.00am	St J	
						11.00am	HC	Mrs Anne Clayton-Smith FM

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday HC Adoration 1st Tuesday of the month 10.00 - 1.00pm
Thursday -St E **NO HOLY HOUR until early Sept**
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 And Prayers
St Edward 9.30 am Wednesday The Holy Rosary
St Joseph 6.00pm Wednesday Evening Prayer
St Andrews 10.00am Friday Morning Prayer

CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Saturdays: 10.00am Holy Cross Church
12 noon 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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POLISH PRIEST : Fr Zbigniew Budyn
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