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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 4

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Kingdom of Heaven is like.....

Everybody loves a good story. Who is your favourite story-teller? Do you go for Jane Austen? Much in the news lately and soon to be on our £10 notes! Or are you a science fiction fan? The new Dr Who is to be a woman! Fans of Star Trek now ponder over how much “fiction” has become fact – the mobile phone for example? “Beam me up Scotty!” If that doesn’t make sense to you, ask a “Trekkie”!

What is the magic in “story” that persists throughout the centuries? I suggest that a good, memorable story is one where, despite what happens, good eventually triumphs over evil. One of my favourite authors is J. R. R. Tolkien – the good guys always win and the stories are literally fantastic.

In today’s Gospel Jesus uses story. So far things have not been going well for his mission! Matthew tells us that the Jewish authorities, the Pharisees, “conspired against him, how to destroy him” (Mat 12:14). His disciples appeared to be completely unable to understand and even his own family were beginning to believe that he was mad!

So Jesus tried a new tactic. He spoke to the crowds in “parables”. In fact, “he would never speak to them except in parables.” (Mat 13:34) What is a “parable”? Basically, a parable is a kind of metaphor, a story which illustrates, or mirrors, something in real life.

Jesus’ stories, in terms familiar to first century Jewish people, talk about the “Kingdom of Heaven”. How do you think he would describe the Kingdom now? Is the Kingdom of Heaven like winning the lottery – an answer to all your prayers? A challenge to use the money wisely, certainly, but not without its risks. I heard a startling statistic recently. Twenty-five percent of the UK’s assets are owned by one percent of the population! Do we live in a fair world?

It is said that money is the “root of all evil”. However, Jesus would not have been able to proclaim the Kingdom throughout all Israel without financial backing (mostly from influential women by the way!) What counts is whatever “is done for the least of these, my brethren”. One vital aspect of happiness is that everybody has enough money to live comfortably from day to day. Justice is paramount here.

Clearly, when the Kingdom is fulfilled, we will know what Heaven is, but for now, we have to read between the lines of Matthew’s Gospel for a clue. Once Jesus had explained the meaning of the parables to the disciples it is left to them (and that includes you and me) to explain the meaning to the many who did not understand. We are the eyes, ears, feet, voice and hands of Jesus now. We are called to be the “sowers of the seed” for today. We put our faith and trust in God, but He has entrusted us to build up His Kingdom here on Earth. Our urgent task is to discern what that means in the 21st century!

Deacon Bob Birtles

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: See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

Psalm Response: O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

**Readings for next Sunday 30 July 2017
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52
1st reading: 1 Kings 3;5. 7-12
Psalm: 118
2nd reading: Romans 8:28-30

Journey in Faith: The formal sessions on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm at St Edward the Confessor Church have now ended for the summer break. The group will continue to meet and Fr Wojciech has agreed to lead sessions on Lectio Divina (prayerful reading of scripture). All are welcome to attend.

Fellowship Group. Meetings will recommence after the Summer - date to be confirmed. More details from Bob Birtles bbirtles@portsouthdiocese.co.uk 02380 692416 or Peter Baggott 02380 694060

Parish Pastoral Area-Valley Park.

There will be a Scripture Reading and Social Morning at the home of Helen & Daverio Matteucci, 21 Velmore Road, Chandlers Ford, SO53 3HD, on Thursday, 27 July, 2017, at 10 am. All are welcome.

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.

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

St Swithun Wells Prayer Link

Please take a copy of the Prayer Sheet, "Summer 2017" to use at home and so join many others in prayer. I will continue to send Prayer Requests and updates throughout the summer. Please contact me if you would like to receive these emails or have a request for prayer. Marion.
marionbirtles@gmail.com (02380 692416)

Funeral Service

There will be a funeral service for Mary Reid RIP on Thursday 27th July at 11.00am at St Edward's Church Chandler's Ford. All are welcome to attend.

Young Catholic Adult Weekend @ Douai Abbey 20th -22nd Oct 2017 Are you 18-40, do you want to deepen your knowledge of the Catholic faith, learn its devotions and meet like minded people? Young Catholic Adults are organizing a weekend at Douai Abbey in Berkshire) with Lawrence Lew O.P., and Canon Poucin ICKSP. You'll be able to hear catechetical talks, learn how to sing Gregorian Chant, say the Rosary, socialize and have fun. Book soon as places are limited! All Masses are in the Old Rite. To book go to:-To Book:<https://v1.bookwhen.com/youngcatholicadults-douai2017>For updates go to:-<http://youngcatholicadults-latestnews.blogspot.co.uk/>. For more details go to:-<http://www.youngcatholicadults.co.uk/events.htm>. Prices start from £18.50. See Poster for details.

9th August 2017 – Retreat Day for the Deaf There will be a retreat day for the deaf on Wednesday 9th August 2017 at St John's Cathedral and Discovery Centre. This event will be fully sign-interpreted. The theme for the event is St Edith Stein. The day will begin at 10:45 and will include Mass at 12.15. If you are interested then please contact Fr Robin Ellwood on email, careofthedeaf@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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 S022 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.

Christian Aid: Jane Hough from St Swithun Wells would like to thank the many parishioners who sponsored her recent Solo Cycle Ride and helped raise the great sum of £4,160 so far!! MANY thanks!

St Swithun Wells Parish Annual Picnic 2017

Thank you to everyone who made the day such a great success. We had sunshine and shade and Fr Wojciech's apple cake. The purpose of this **Free** event is to bring our community together, family and friends and to get to know each. We enjoyed our lunch and each other's company. Look out for the date next year and put it in your diaries so as not to miss out. A special thanks goes to the Social Team for their help on the day. I could not do it without you. *Lorraine Clapham (Chair)*

GOOD COMPANIONS

The next lunch, for those who live alone or are lonely, will be at 12.30 pm on Tuesday 1st August 2017 at Keats Restaurant at Ampfield. New diners are always welcome and transport can be arranged if required. Please let Pauline Wilson know if you are coming on 023 80266617 by no later than Friday 28 July. We look forward to seeing you.

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

Hope 2017 Various activities in Eastleigh and the Park throughout July. Please see poster on display on your church noticeboards

A big thanks to all who supported the CAFOD BBQ. £684 was raised for the Connect2 Project supporting groups in Peru.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS
Last week's collections :£1,494.42
SO/SD for the month of June £13,398.09

Hospital Admittances

If you are expecting to be admitted into the Royal Hampshire Hospital Winchester in the near future, please inform St Peters Parish Office so they can arrange for a member of the clergy to come and visit and/or bring Holy Communion. They can be contacted on 01962 852804. Additionally if being admitted to Southampton General Hospital contact Father Michael Cronin on 02380 774273.

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.

Lily Willis & Family wish to convey their thanks to everyone who attended the funeral of Roy Willis on Friday 7th July and for the many cards and good wishes received. Your support at this time has been much appreciated.

CAFOD CAMPAIGN: POWER TO BE.

With one in six people living without electricity, children across the developing world are being deprived of the opportunity to realise their full potential. POWER TO BE cards are available to fill in this weekend in all our Churches asking the U.K. Representative at the World Bank to support the use of sustainable energy in the developing world, thus enabling children and young adults reach their God given potential. For more details see the current edition of the Portsmouth People.

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.

Live at Home -Weekly Coffee Morning at the Point every Monday between 11am and 2pm at The Point Eastleigh. See Poster at all Churches for further information. Also, Singing for Well Being at St Andrew's Church Blenheim Rd Eastleigh every Tuesday from 2.30 to 4.30—a new singing and social group for people 60 or older.

Mark your diaries!!: Sunday 10th September, Knights of St Columba parish family BBQ at St Edwards, 1pm. Fundraising for Lourdes pilgrims. Tickets on sale from 19th August in all churches. All under 12's free.

Mass Times for our Six Church Communities

| DATE | TIME | CHURCH | MASS INTENTION | DATE | TIME | CHURCH | MASS INTENTION |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---|--|------------------------------|---------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Sat 22nd July Vigil Masses | 5.00pm | St Sw | Rita Wismer RIP | Thurs 27th | 9.30am | HC | Amarant Ferreira RIP |
| | 6.00pm | OLQA | | | 10.00am | OLQA | |
| | 6.00pm | St J | Intentions of Muriel Matthias | | 6.00pm | St J | Dora Pond RIP |
| | 6.30pm | St Ed | Mongan & Turner Families FM | | | | |
| Sun 23rd | 9.00am | HC | Polska Msza Święta | Fri 28th | 10.00am | St Ed | Roger Wood Birthday Blessings |
| | 9.00am | St Ed | Jan Szczetnikowicz RIP | | 10.00am | St J (AH) | |
| | 9.00am | St A | Hugh & Vera Peters RIP (Anniversary) | | | | |
| | 9.30am | OLQA | | | | | |
| | 11.00am | St J | Anne Kelly RIP | | | | |
| | 11.00am | HC | Bill Dee & Michael Flynn RIP (Anniversary) | | | | |
| | | | | Sat 29th | 9.30am | HC | |
| Mon 24th | 10.00am | St Ed | William Gove (Birthday Intention) | Sat 29th Vigil Masses | 5.00pm | St Sw | James Haren RIP |
| | | | | | 6.00pm | St J | |
| | | | | | 6.00pm | OLQA | |
| | | | | | 6.30pm | St Ed | Robert Bucknell RIP (Anniversary) |
| Tues 25th | 9.30am | HC | NO MASS | Sun 30th | 9.00am | HC | Polska Msza Święta |
| | 10.00am | St A | | | 9.00am | St Ed | |
| | 10.00am | OLQA | | | 9.00am | St A | Arthur Heslop RIP (Anniversary) |
| | 10.00am | SJ | | | 9.30am | OLQA | |
| | | Funeral Mass for Dorothy Foreman RIP | 11.00am | | St J | Herbert Howie RIP (Anniversary) | |
| | | | 11.00am | | HC | Beatrice & George White Laura, David & Eduardo Fernandes FM | |
| Wed 26th | 9.30am | HC | NO MASS | | | | |
| | 10.00am | St Ed | Edward Fenwick FM | | | | |
| | 11.00am | HC | Funeral Mass for Hazel Wilson RIP | | | | |

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

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

Mgr John Nelson (Parish Priest)
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Fr Wojciech Paszko (Assistant Priest)
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Canon Alan Griffiths (Assistant Priest)
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Fr David Whitehead (Retired Priest)
Tel: 02380 260824

POLISH PRIEST : Fr Zbigniew Budyn
Tel: 023 8178 6316

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