

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

## TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Part of being a human being is the tendency to instinctively react to questions either positively or negatively. Putting it simply, some people will almost always think “yes” and others “no” when asked to do something. Both sets of people will then think about it and act accordingly. It is the age-old problem of the half-filled glass. Is it half full or half empty? Optimist or pessimist? We all know people like this, we can see the reaction in their faces or in what they say in response. We, of course, are not like this! Well, I’m sorry to tell you but we are, all of us! We often change our minds about things. Usually because we learn something which we didn’t know about before or our life changes. A well-known celebrity recently said: “Now I am who I really am and part of that is flawed!”

Which of the two sons in today’s gospel endear themselves mostly to you, the one who said “I will not go” and then “thought better of it”, or the one who said “Certainly, sir” but “did not go”? You can almost hear the devious smarmy tone in that “certainly, sir!” It is worth exploring why we use two thousand (or more) year old readings about a world very different to our own and largely concerned with farming. “What’s the relevance?” the critics say. If you think about it, if we were to use modern writings in the Liturgy of the Word would they still be relevant next year or the year after? Clearly, as I have said above, all things change! The message could easily be lost in frequent changes, so we grapple with the original. If we did not find scripture challenging, what would be the point of reading it at all? Sometimes, though, it does take some effort to understand the meaning and courage to live up to it.

Ezekiel, in the first reading, captures today’s message very well when he speaks of the upright man who does not renounce his sins and the sinner who does. The repentant sinner, Ezekiel says, will “certainly live, he shall not die.” Paul, in the letter to the Philippians, sets our target high. “In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.” Notice how Paul begins. Not with “if your life in Christ”, but “if our life in Christ means anything to you.” No one should be an island, we live as part of a caring community (or we should do!). Paul follows this with that most beautiful pen-picture of Jesus, which we know as the Philippians’ hymn. Read it again and again.

“His state was divine yet he did not cling to his equality with God.....”

St Paul tells the Philippians: “There must be no competition among you, no conceit!” No pressure then! God knows, we do not live in a peaceful, ideal world, but we can make our bit of it a place where Jesus would be happy.

**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:** All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

**Psalm Response:** Remember your mercy, Lord

**Readings for next Sunday October 8th 2017  
27th Sunday of the Year**

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43  
1st reading: Isaiah 5:1-7  
Psalm: 79  
2nd reading: Philipians 4:6-9

**Journey in Faith:** There will be no Journey in Faith on Wednesday evenings for the next few weeks. This will **restart on Wednesday 11th October** and will then run weekly

**St Swithun Wells Church Fellowship.**

St. Swithun Wells Church - Wednesday 4th October 7.30 pm. A talk and discussion on "Mary - Portrait of a Woman used by God". Everyone most welcome. Refreshments at end meeting. Queries to Peter Baggott 02380694060 or Deacon Bob Birtles.

**First Holy Communion Preparation 2017 - 2018**

For children in year 3 or above:  
Application forms are available in the Welcome areas of all our churches.  
Please complete and return to the **Parish Office by Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017.**  
(Parish Office Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF)  
There will be a meeting for all parents who have completed and returned application forms on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017 7.00pm at St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School,**  
Hillcrest Avenue, Chandlers Ford, SO53 2JP

**DAY OF REFLECTION FOR READERS**

Calling all who are Ministers of the Word/Readers at Mass across our parish: there will be a Day of Prayer and Reflection held at St Joseph's, Ashurst, on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November, 10.30am – 3.30pm.** Please put this date in your diary now and make every effort to attend. The day is important as part of our continuing ministry to the communities in which God's Word is proclaimed week by week. The day is for those who have been Readers for many years as well as those who have started more recently. It is designed to be an opportunity for each one of us to deepen our awareness of the Word of God for ourselves and for those who will hear us. Please reserve the date and come along. Lists will be available soon for you to sign up so that we have an idea of numbers.

**Saint George Catholic College Open Evening**

October 5th from 6pm. See poster for details

**CAFOD Harvest Fast Day**

Next Friday, 6th October is CAFOD Harvest Fast Day. Please take a CAFOD envelope home after Mass this weekend and return it with your donation next week.

**Oasis- Parish Women's Group :  
Meeting Tuesday 3 October**

**Poetry** – join us for an evening of interactive poetry; a chance to share and enjoy some favourite poems. That's as much as I know. Why not come along and find out more? Please bring a along a book or two that you have enjoyed, or found inspirational, of any kind: novel, spiritual, factual, that you are willing to **lend for a month.** Meet as usual at 7:30pm, St Edward's, finish by 9pm.

Future dates are: 7 Nov, 5 Dec, 26 Jan, 13 Feb  
13 Mar, 24 Apr, 15 May, 12 Jun, 10 Jul.

**ALL LADIES WARMLY WELCOMED.**

There will be an ongoing formation meeting for existing and new **Ministers of Communion** at St Joseph's and St Andrew's on the morning of **Saturday 21 October.** We start with a commissioning Mass at 10am and finish with a shared lunch at 12.30pm. Please make every effort to attend.

**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.

**St Swithun Wells Prayer Link**

Our Prayer Link is a year old this month! Let us ask God's blessing on everybody we have prayed for and on all who take part! Please take a copy of the new Prayer Sheet, "Autumn 2017" to use at home and so join many others in prayer. Marion.  
[marionbirtles@gmail.com](mailto: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 **November 5th 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.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS

Last week's collections :TBA SO/SD  
for the month of August £13208.59.

**GOOD COMPANIONS** - our next lunch is at 12.30pm on Tuesday 3 October 2017 at Keats Restaurant at Ampfield. All who live alone or are lonely are welcome to join us for good company and excellent food. Please contact Pauline Wilson on 023 80266617. We look forward to seeing you.

**Coffee Stop** - Do you come to Eastleigh on a Thursday morning? If so why not pop in to the Resource Centre for coffee/tea/hot chocolate and biscuits only 70p. Toasted Teacakes just 50p. Best value in Eastleigh. Pleasant surroundings and good company. No strangers here just friends you haven't met yet. Why not give us a try? We look forward to meeting you. Open 10 am - 12 noon.

**An Evening with Benny Hill**  
Thursday 12 October, 7.30 in the Resource Centre at Holy Cross church. The Social Committee are putting on an evening about the life of Benny Hill—a very emotive and entertaining evening. Light refreshments. All donations gratefully received. All welcome. Hope to see you on the 12th. Parish Social Committee.

**SWAG 3** begins rehearsing soon for a show just before Christmas so I am looking for Safely Recruited Adults to be present. Please could you contact me if you can help by sparing an hour or so of your time on a weekend. For more details, I can be reached on 07437 440299 or at [joannapuzzle@gmail.com](mailto:joannapuzzle@gmail.com)

**Facing Depression Together Awareness Day:** an opportunity to learn about depression and how to support those living with depression. The day will include a clinical, a personal and a pastoral perspective of depression, a dramatic perspective to challenge stigma and an introduction to the work of PeerTalk, a charity underpinned by the Methodist Church. This free event takes place on Sat 14 Oct, 10am – 3.30pm, at The Holiday Inn, Egerton Road, Guildford. Lunch is provided. Booking essential. More details at [www.peertalk.org.uk/index.php/events](http://www.peertalk.org.uk/index.php/events) or contact [admin@peertalk.org.uk](mailto:admin@peertalk.org.uk)

**Healing Day** with Little Way Healing Ministries: on Saturday 30 September, 10am – 4.30pm, at the Highfield House Hotel, Highfield Lane, SO17 1AQ. Fr. Laurence Brassill OSA and Mrs. Pauline Edwards and team offer a day of healing. There will be a time of praise, worship, teaching and healing prayer. Do you suffer from fear, ickness, loneliness, abuse, rejection, depression or is “something” holding you back? Jesus said: “Lay your hands on the sick and they will recover” Come and see.” Tea and coffee will be provided. Booking not required!

**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

**Rosary Club at St Swithun Wells School.**

Throughout October children will pray a decade of the Rosary during morning break. We are looking for rosaries which the children will use to reflect on the Mysteries of the Rosary. If any Parishioner has a spare rosary set which you are happy to donate to the school please drop them in at the School Office or hand them directly to one of our staff who you see at Mass.

**VACANCY FOR PARISH SECRETARY - EASTLEIGH**

The Catholic Parish of St Swithun Wells requires an office secretary/ administrator for the six churches in the parish, covering Eastleigh, Fair Oak, Chandler's Ford, Bishop's Waltham, Romsey and North Baddesley.

The position will be based in Eastleigh, and involve administrative support to the parish clergy; dealing with correspondence and emails to the parish office; weekly production of the parish newsletter and updating the parish database and web diary.

We require an enthusiastic and self-motivated person sympathetic to the ministry and mission of the Catholic Church. Good secretarial and communication skills (preferably with a secretarial qualification) are a must and a flexible and positive attitude is required. The role promises a varied and interesting workload with experience of secretarial work essential and knowledge of the Catholic faith desirable. Training and specialist assistance will be available for any areas where the successful applicant has insufficient experience.

The job is part-time (15 hours - three days a week – preferably Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 09.30 to 14.30) with a salary of £8,190 per annum (FTE £19,110). For more details and an application form please see the Diocesan website at [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or the parish website [www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](http://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk) or email or call the parish office ([stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) ; tel: 02380 273882).

Closing date for applications is 12 noon on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

Interviews will be held on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

We are having our **60 Club** meeting as usual on Monday 2 October from 2pm-4pm in the Resource Centre.

**Growing In Faith Group**

This is an open invitation to anyone who wants to deepen their faith through exploration of the Catholic Church. The new group will commence on 17th October at 10.15am at Holy Cross in the resource centre in Eastleigh finishing at 11.30am with tea and coffee. The agenda will be flexible covering different aspects of our faith. Deacon Paul Wilson will start our group with a presentation on the origins of the Bible.

# Mass Times for our Six Church Communities

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
<b>Sat 30th Sept Vigil Masses</b>	5.00pm	St Sw	Pat Freemantle FM	<b>Thurs 5th</b>	<u>9.30am</u>	HC	<u>NO MASS</u>
	6.00pm	OLQA			10.00am	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St J	Ger Murphy RIP		<u>11.30pm</u>	HC	<b>Irene Green RIP</b>
	6.30pm	St Ed			6.00pm	St J	Service of Word & Communion
<b>Sun 1st</b>	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta	<b>Fri 6th</b>	10.00am	St Ed	David Oag RIP
	9.00am	St Ed	Living & Deceased Members of the Murphy & Lucas Families		10.00am	St J (AH)	
	9.00am	St A	Charles Blishen (Birthday) & Luke & Felicity				
	9.30am	OLQA					
	11.00am	St J	Slevin Kelly & Fox Family deceased members RIP				
	11.00am	HC	Florence Bohan FM				
				<b>Sat 7th</b>	9.30am	HC	Robert Brockway FM
<b>Mon 2nd</b>	10.00am	St Ed	Jim Duffey RIPq w	<b>Sat 7th Vigil Masses</b>	5.00pm	St Sw	Maria Jacobs RIP
					6.00pm	St J	Thanksgiving
					6.00pm	OLQA	
					6.30pm	St Ed	Rita & George Hartley RIP
<b>Tues 3rd</b>	<u>9.30am</u>	HC	<u>NO MASS</u>	<b>Sun 8th</b>	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta
	<u>10.00am</u>	St A	<u>NO MASS</u>		9.00am	St Ed	Kathleen O'Connell RIP
	10.00am	OLQA			9.00am	St A	Jeanette & John Cockshoot RIP
	<u>1.00pm</u>	HC	<b>Funeral Mass for Marie Lewis RIP</b>		9.30am	OLQA	
			11.00am		St J		
			11.00am		HC	Frederick Bishop FM	
<b>Wed 4th</b>	9.30am	HC	Melanie Plummer RIP				
	<u>10.00am</u>	St Ed	<u>NO MASS</u>				
	<u>11.00am</u>	St Ed	<b>Funeral Mass for Ann M Wood RIP</b>				

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**Tuesday** HC Adoration 1st Tuesday of the month 10.00-1.00pm  
**Thursday**—St ED **NO HOLY Hour Until 12th OCT**  
**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  
12 noon St Edward the Confessor  
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)**  
Tel: 023 8061 2430  
jnelson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Fr Wojciech Paszko (Assistant Priest)**  
Tel: 01794 512599  
wpaszko@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Canon Alan Griffiths (Assistant Priest)**  
Tel: 07760220346  
frgriffiths@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**POLISH PRIEST : Fr Zbigniew Budyn**  
Tel: 023 8178 6316

**Deacon Bob Birtles** Tel: 023 8069 2416  
bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Deacon John di Meo** Tel: 01794 515688  
jdimeo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Deacon Paul Owen** Tel: 023 80254806  
powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Deacon Paul Wilson** Tel: 02380 616618  
pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance**  
**Admin: Linda Roberts** Tel: 023 8065 8339  
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**Parish Office Kristina Blake**  
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