

Our Mission: LOVE GOD - LOVE OTHERS - MAKE DISCIPLES



www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity No. 246871

Sunday Cycle: Year A
Weekday Cycle: Year 1
Psalter Week 4

TWENTY EIGHTH-SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Last Sunday evening I returned from two weeks annual training commitment to the Army Reserve. This year we were in Germany requiring ferry crossings to and from Hull which is, as we were reminded, the current *City of Culture*. You probably know that since the Second World War large numbers of British troops have been based in Germany, spread across many bases all over the country. The basis for this was the Cold War scenario in which Soviet soldiers could march into parts of Europe. With the dismantling of the USSR and collapse of communist states those days are past – thankfully. However, it is worth noting that we currently have a contingent of British troops in Estonia making the point to Russia that we stand shoulder to shoulder with the Baltic States.

Many British soldiers and their families spent time posted in Germany and, on the whole, had an enjoyable time with a number of perks. We were based in Sennelager where there are large exercise ranges and we still have a presence. In days gone by there were tens of thousands of troops in Germany; there are now something less than 3000 and they will be back in the UK by 2019. Times have changed and continue to change. The big operations like Iraq and Afghanistan may not be repeated but there is great instability in the world today and our armed forces now train to be able to respond rapidly and in a very mobile way – including hospitals which can be put and taken down quickly where required.

Whilst I was in Germany the result of their General Election came through. A few days later a Public Holiday to mark the reunification of East and West Germany meant that no shops were open and the streets were very quiet. [We were also there for *Octoberfest* a different experience centred on beer!] It struck me how much has changed just in my lifetime, and how much is likely to change in the next few years. BREXIT negotiations rumble on, tensions between the United States and Iran are again surfacing and the problem with North Korea fades in and out of the news but doesn't go away. We live in uncertain times but these can also bring new opportunities and openings if we approach them in a positive way.

In the midst of shifting sands we have the enormous benefit of a solid rock to which we can reach out, or rather upon which we build our lives. Faith enables us to have hope. Remember the opening lines of the hymn: 'All my hope on God is founded; he doth still my trust renew.' These are not just words, they express what we believe and it does no harm to revisit the thoughts captured by them. In our personal and family lives we know how things can suddenly, out of the blue, knock us for six and we find ourselves on the back foot. It is in times like those when we dig deeper and depend on the faith that tells us 'God is with us.'

In today's second reading (often skated over when reflecting on the Word of God), St Paul says: "I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too." He then goes on to say that "There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength." So whether it be difficulties within relationships, worries about children and the path they choose, or bigger issues about which we can feel quite helpless, our bedrock is faith in God. That faith gives us true hope – which prevents us from slipping into despair.

Fr John

Parish Office: Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF

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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: If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.

Psalm Response: In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

**Readings for next Sunday October 22nd 2017
29th Sunday of the Year**

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

1st reading: Isaiah 45:1. 4-6

Psalm: 95

2nd reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

Journey in Faith Journey in Faith is for anyone who wishes to enquire about the Catholic faith and for people intending to become a Catholic. If you know anyone interested then please bring them along. The sessions run every Wednesday from 7.30pm to 9pm at St Edward the Confessor Church, Chandlers Ford. For further information please contact Deacon Paul Owen (tel: 02380 254806; email: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

Fellowship Group - Wednesday 18th October. We will be looking at the Papacy of Pope Francis - What issues has he tackled? What successes has he had? What opposition has he faced? Meetings start at 7.30 pm in St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. Everyone welcome. Queries to Peter Baggott 02380694060 or Deacon Bob Birtles.

First Holy Communion Meeting For Parents Only
There will be a meeting for all parents who have completed and returned application forms on **Tuesday 17th October 2017 7.00pm** at **St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School**, Hillcrest Avenue Chandlers Ford, SO53 2JP

Attendance at this meeting is necessary if you wish your child to participate in the First Holy Communion Preparation.

Please note this meeting is for **parents only** and not for children.

Growing In Faith Group

This is an open invitation to anyone who wants to deepen and explore their faith. The new group will commence on 17th October at 10.15am at Holy Cross Eastleigh, in the Resource Centre, 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 structure of the Bible. If you would like more information please contact Paul or June Wilson on 02380 616618.

St Swithun Wells Primary School

Thursday, 9th November **Open Morning** from 9.30am until 11am for tours of the school. Also, on Thursday, 9th November **Information Evening** at 7pm. There will be an informal talk from the headteacher and details of how to apply for a place for Sept 2018.

There will be a **second collection** next week for **Foreign Missions**. Envelopes will be given out this week.

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.

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 4th November, 10.30am – 3.30pm**. Please put this date in your diary 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. **Readers please note:** 'Sign-up forms are now available for the Day of Prayer and Reflection to be held at St Joseph's, Ashurst, on **Saturday 4th November 10.30am - 3.30pm**.

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.

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.

Prayer Group Monday 16th Oct 2-3pm at the home of Pauline & Shelia O'Neill 19, Carthage Close Chandler's Ford SO53 2BL. All 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 80328200; 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.

SWAG invites you to come along to HC Resource Centre on **OCTOBER 28** at 3pm to see the Premier of 'Disciple', to see what SWAG does and whether it might be for you. Year 6 and above welcome. Please call Joanna for more information or just turn up. (07437 440299)

On Sunday 5th November we are holding our Annual Informal Service at Bishop's Waltham House, Free Street, Bishop's Waltham. This consists of hymns, prayers and readings. The service starts at 5.45pm and lasts for approximately half an hour. Please bring a couple of hymn books with you; for more information or if you would like to read something please contact Angela Fairweather 01489 895968 or Joan Ferrer 01489 892430.

CAFOD Christmas cards will be on sale at all masses at St Edward's this weekend, and the following weekend, Oct 21st & 22nd. A good selection of reasonably priced cards. Please support.

Baby Loss Awareness Week is 9th-15th October, with Sunday 15th being nationally recognised as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day. A quiet space devoted to those babies who did not make it to birth can be found in St Peter's, Winchester. Please visit anytime until 15th October evening.

An Autumn Retreat led by Father Serafino for Saturday 21st October at St Joseph's Centre (House of Prayer - Retreats) de Montfort Missionaries Lyndhurst Road ASHURST SO40 7DU. 9.00 am start with Holy Mass at 9.30 am. Lunch is provided or you can bring your own. There will be two conferences given by Father Serafino and time for prayer, personal meditation and reflection. The Ministry of Reconciliation will be available. The cost is £20 to cover lunch and refreshments. A donation is suggested if you are bringing your own lunch. The day will finish at 5.30 pm. All are welcome. To register, ring the Gosport Parish office on 02392 580119 and leave your name and contact details with the administrator, Jacob Campbell or speak to Eleanor deMelo.

Vacancy for a Learning Support Assistant St Swithun Wells Primary School. 27.5 hours per week (8.45-12.15 and 1.15-3.25pm daily), term time only. Temporary until the end of the Summer term. For more details and an application form contact the school office on 02380 266210

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:** Nov 15th, Dec 13th, Jan 17th, Feb 21st, Mar 21st, Apr 18th, May 16th, Jun 13th **TOZ (Time Out Zone)** School years 10,11 and Sixth Form College, Sundays once a month. Contact Cath 07846438224 for information. **Next Meetings:** Oct 15th, Nov 26th Dec 17th

Margaret French would like to thank everyone who came to, or donated in any way, to her Macmillan coffee morning. She wanted it to be the best ever, and it was. An amazing £605.33 was raised for this very worthy cause. On behalf of cancer sufferers, Margaret thanks you all very much.

The Knights of St Columba will be selling Christmas cards at all Masses in the parish next weekend, Oct 21st and 22nd, and the following weekend, Oct 28th and 29th. The cards were created by pupils at St Swithun Wells school and are sold to raise funds for the school and the Knights of St Columba.

Spiritual Revival Ministry will be holding a Service on Friday October 20th 5.30– 9.00pm at Holy Cross Church and on Saturday October 21st 11.00am – 5.00pm in the Resource Centre. Includes Holy Eucharist, Confession, Anointed Praise & Worship, Healing through deliverance. Contact Siby Thomas 07872315685 for more details.

St Edward's Prayer Group - Valley Park. There will be a Rosary said at the home of Pascale Li Voon Chong, Amberwood, Southdown Road, Shawford, SO21 2BX, on **Wednesday, 25 October, 2017 at 2pm** Everyone is most welcome.

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 Prayer Sheet, "Autumn 2017" to use at home and so join many others in prayer. Marion.
marionbirtles@gmail.com (02380 692416)

HOLY CROSS SHOP
We have now got all our Christmas items on display, including cards and Advent calendars. Please come and take a look after 11.00am Sunday Mass up until Christmas. **Pat & Angela**

The King's School in Allington Lane, Fair Oak is hosting a Christmas Craft Fayre on Saturday 18th November from 11am – 3pm. All welcome with free admission and free parking! See poster for details

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS
Last week's collections :£1,298.83
SO/SD for the month of Sept £13208.59.

Mass Times for our Six Church Communities

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 14th Oct Vigil Masses	5.00pm	St Sw	Martin Russell RIP	Thurs 19th	9.30am	HC	Peter Sekelick RIP
	6.00pm	OLQA			10.00am	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St J	Fr Peter Tierney's Intentions		6.00pm	St J	Thanksgiving—Joseph Anthraper
	6.30pm	St Ed	Don Jose Henao RIP				
Sun 15th	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta	Fri 20th	10.00am	St Ed	Ann Wood RIP
	9.00am	St Ed	Ian Warwick RIP (Anniversary)		10.00am	St J (AH)	
	9.00am	St A					
	9.30am	OLQA					
	11.00am	St J					
	11.00am	HC	Hugh Cambridge RIP				
				Sat 21st	9.30am	HC	Friends of Suffering Souls
Mon 16th	10.00am	St Ed	Eleanor deMelo (Birthday)	Sat 21st Vigil Masses	5.00pm	St Sw	Jackie Callow RIP (Anniversary)
					6.00pm	St J	
					6.00pm	OLQA	
					6.30pm	St Ed	John Hefferman RIP
Tues 17th	9.30am	HC	Francesco & Vincenza Papallo RIP	Sun 22nd	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta
	10.00am	St A			9.00am	St Ed	Veronika Davis (Wellbeing)
	10.00am	OLQA	NO MASS		9.00am	St A	
Wed 18th	9.30am	HC	Michael Lane FM		9.30am	OLQA	
	10.00am	St Ed	Timothy Topping RIP		11.00am	St J	
					11.00am	HC	Friends of Suffering Souls

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday HC Adoration 1st Tuesday of the month 10.00-1.00pm
Thursday—St ED 7.00-8.00pm
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

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