

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 1

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

A few weeks ago I received news of the sudden death of a person I've known for more than thirty years. There was no warning or illness: apparently healthy one minute, he was dead the next. A post mortem answered some of the physical questions but his family and friends are left with many others.

Such an incident powerfully reminds us to live with the reality of death, "for we are most certainly to follow him". Yet, understandably, most of us also cling to life. The vast majority of us expect to wake in the morning and we plan not just for next week but also for next year. We take out mortgages stretching into the future, and we fully expect to draw the pension. This is natural and human, even sensible and provident, but have we lost something of the certainty of dying and the willingness to prepare for it? Have we consigned the Christian ideal of a 'Happy Death' to the piety of a bygone age? And are we so consumed by this present life that we risk ignoring those whose hold on this life is becoming more tenuous as old age creeps on?

Every so often news breaks about the conditions in which the elderly exist and I can't help but conclude that we are failing as a society in our duty to a number of the old, especially those who have lost the use of some of their faculties. They are among the most defenceless in our society, without voice to protest or strength to alter the situation in which they can be left alone for most of the day; their only human contact when someone feeds them, their isolation bringing its own problems and making worse those already there. When these situations are highlighted accusations of scaremongering are thrown about – but there are serious issues at stake.

The right to die with dignity should be at the heart of any civilised society. To provide the right environment where, perhaps for the first time, a person can experience the peace to come to terms with passing from this life should be a priority, not simply for politicians and Church Leaders, but for all of us. It is becoming ever more urgent that proper provision is made and the rights of the old are acknowledged. We do have the example of the Hospice movement caring as it does, openly and publicly, for the terminally ill. It is a constant reminder of the honesty and integrity necessary to allow people to die with dignity. In Hospices real help is given to both the person dying and those to be bereaved so that they can come to terms with the reality of death which, for those with faith, is not an end but a change.

Just as the seasons change, we too come towards the end of another liturgical year. The passages from Matthew's Gospel do not allow us to ignore the fact of death and they challenge us to care for human life in all its circumstances. We cannot turn a blind eye and we cannot risk being confronted by Christ who might say to us (in the style of Matthew 25 which is next Sunday's Gospel): "I was elderly and helpless and you profited from me. I was confused and challenging and you hid me away. I was old and incapable and you didn't want to know."

The provision of the right physical and spiritual conditions to allow people to die with dignity, at a time determined by the Lord, is an absolute necessity and the Christian Church should be at the forefront of those demanding that these provisions are available to all. Right now, in our wealthy and sophisticated country, they are not.

Father 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: The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

Psalm Response: O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

**Readings for next Sunday November 26th 2017
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

1st reading: Ezekiel 34:11-12. 15-17

Psalm: 22

2nd reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 20-26. 28

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 of 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 - Religion and the First World War

This will take place on **Wednesday 22nd November**, 7.30pm at St. Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak.

100 years on from the First World War we will be exploring what role religion, and particularly Christianity, played in the war and what effect the war had on Christianity and other religions. For more details please contact Peter Baggott (02380 694060) or Deacon Bob Birtles.

Prayer Link - The sheet for November is in use. More sheets have been made available where necessary. Do please let me know if you need more copies at your church or want an email copy. Thank you for your prayer—our link is growing! Marion Birtles (02380 692416) (marionbirtles@gmail.com).

Growing in Faith Together

Everyone welcome!

Over the next five weeks we will continue our topic on Prayer; listening to various speakers on DVD and participating in Lectio Divina. We continue to meet at Holy Cross Resource Centre (10.15-11.30am) on a Tuesday.

We will have a break from the 19th December for Christmas, recommencing on the 9th January 2018 with a new topic on the Holy Spirit.

Feast of St. Francis Xavies - Patron Saint of Goa, India

We will be having a celebration on 3rd December at St. Andrew's Church after the 9am mass on Sunday. All are welcome. Please bring finger food to share.

ADORE (Alton Day Of Renewal)

Saturday 25th November 11.00am-4.00pm.

You are warmly welcome to a mini-retreat day (or morning/afternoon) of spiritual refreshment and renewal, focussing on the Charisms or gifts of the Holy Spirit. At Alton School, Anstey Lane, Alton GU34 2NG.

There is no need to register in advance, and no charge (though a collection will be taken to cover costs). For more information and directions, see poster or website: www.altonrenewal.com

Or telephone Deacon John Foley on 07769 251747.

There is no December meeting – the next will be on 27th January, when our guest speaker will be Charles Whitehead talking about the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Please see details on poster on Church noticeboards.

Reading Scripture as Prayer

On Tuesday 5th December Fr. Alan will be giving a presentation on LECTIO DIVINA, the prayerful reading of sacred Scripture. The aim of the evening is to provide some tools for people who wish to engage with the Scriptures at a deeper level. The talk will be held in the Church Hall at OLQA Bishops Waltham starting at 7.30pm finishing by 8.30pm. All very welcome.

Mass with the Anointing of the Sick

Thursday 14th December at 7.00pm.

If you feel you would benefit from this simple but profound encounter with Christ then you are welcome to Saint Joseph's, 8 Lyndhurst Road, Ashurst, Southampton, SO40 7DU.

St. Edward's Prayer Group - Fryern

The next prayer group is on **Monday 20th November**, between 2-3pm, at the home of Sheila and Pauline O'Neill (19 Carthage Close, Chandlers Ford). All Welcome.

St. Edward's Prayer Group - Valley Park

Thursday 23rd November at 10am.

There will be a Scripture Reading and Social Morning at the home of Joan Lake (Flexford Cottage, Flexford Road, North Baddesley, SO52 9DF). Everyone is most welcome.

Unto us a child is born!

Saturday 16th December at 10.30am.

A day of reflection in preparation for Christmas will take place at Saint Joseph's, 8 Lyndhurst Road, Ashurst, Southampton, SO40 7DU. The day will begin at 10.30am and close after Mass at 3.30pm. Please bring a packed lunch. A suggested donation of £20.00 would be gratefully received.

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

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS

Last week's collections: £1,101.29

SO/SD for the month of Oct £14,160.59.

St. Edward's - Christmas Gifts for 2 Saints & Pointiers.

Gift tags will be distributed at St. Edward's after both Masses, week ending **November 25th & 26th** for these two charities. Labelled gifts can be brought to Mass on the following two weekends:

December 2nd-3rd & December 9th-10th

Items to include men's hats, socks, gloves scarves, toiletries, sweets, chocolates, biscuits etc.

Please indicate which charity you are supporting.

Holy Cross Altar Linen - HELP NEEDED

We have recently lost several members of the team who launder the altar linen, due to ill health, and are in need of more help!

This is not an onerous task, it involves washing and ironing the linen used on the altar: (approximately 20/25 pieces, about the size of a man's handkerchief) once every six to eight weeks, less often depending on numbers of volunteers.

Instructions will be provided by James McElhinney or myself.

Please give this some thought and prayers, and contact me if you are able to help.

Shirley Griffin - 02380 616901.

Dramatic Recitation of St Mark's Gospel

At 7.00 pm on Tues 21 Nov in Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Bishop's Waltham the Rev Gerald Osborne (a non-stipendiary Anglican priest from Wiltshire) will be giving a dramatic recitation of the Gospel of St Mark. All are welcome - previous attendees have found it both moving and spiritually uplifting.

Good Companions Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 5th December 2017, 12.30pm.

Our festive lunch will be at Keats Restaurant, Ampfield. We welcome all who live alone, or are lonely, to come and join us for delicious food and pleasant company. Please ring Pauline Wilson on 023 80266617 to let me know if you are coming no later than *Friday 1st December*. We look forward to hearing from you.

Parish Christmas lunch at the Bear & Ragged Staff
(on the Stockbridge Rd a few miles out of Romsey).
Wednesday 6th December 2017, 12.30pm

Sorry about the short notice but if you would like to attend Rosemary (tel: 01794 522411) must know your meal choice by midday on Monday 21st November as we have to pre-order. Menus are on the notice boards. Thank you.

SWAG'S next performance is on December 22nd at 7.30pm

For more details please look at the Facebook Page "SWAG", The Parish Website, email Joannaaz@cwgsy/net/phone Joanna on 07437 440299 or see Joanna after the 9am Mass at St Edwards.

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: Nov 26th Dec 17th.

St. Edward's - CAFOD & Fairtrade

Christmas related goods will be on sale after both masses on the **9th & 10th December**, including cakes, biscuits, sweets, preserves, gifts and candle decorations. Donations will be gratefully received. There will also be a raffle. All proceeds to Connect2 project in Peru. For more information call Clare Lasker on 02380 252138.

Christmas Appeal for the Men of Elderfield 2017

Once again we are making up Christmas gift parcels for the men of Elderfield, some of whom have never experienced a 'family' Christmas. They look forward to their gifts and greetings from our community. We hope that you will continue to support us generously this year. Monetary donations are preferable, enabling us to plan our selection of gifts. Enquiries/donations please to Moira Moriarty on 023 8026 5541.

Wanted!!

Good used toys, books, baby clothes, small baby equipment, LEGO/kits, games (0-13yrs), ladies/mens gift sets.

This is for the Inner City of London Parish for families in dire need, (it had been set-up by the late Father George Lyons). Urgently needed by 8th December. For further details please contact Heather New on 02380 265616.

2 Saints (St Dismas Night Shelter)

The plight of the homeless has become a lot more visible on our streets in recent months. The night shelters provide a much needed service and are always grateful for our help. Please leave any donations of men's clothing new or used also socks and shoes in bags clearly marked for 2 Saints at any of the following Churches—St Swithun Wells, Holy Cross, St Edward's and St Andrew's.

Coffee Stop - Holy Cross Resource Centre

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. 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.

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**

Mass Times for our Six Church Communities

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 18th Nov Vigil Masses	5.00pm	St Sw	Marie Lewis RIP	Thurs 23rd	9.30am	HC	Amarant Ferreria RIP
	6.00pm	OLQA			10.00am	OLQA	Funeral Service Deborah Mary Brosnan RIP
	6.00pm	St J			12.30pm	OLQA	
	6.30pm	St Ed	Constance Brixey FM		6.00pm	St J	
Sun 19th	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta	Fri 24th	10.00am	St Ed	James Anthony Thorpe (Birthday)
	9.00am	St Ed	Ann Wood RIP		10.00am	St J (AH)	
	9.00am	St A	Denis Keef anniversary RIP				
	9.30am	OLQA					
	11.00am	St J					
	11.00am	HC	James (Jimmy) Dunne RIP				
				Sat 25th	9.30am	HC	Sharon Elizabeth O'Reilly (Special Intention)
Mon 20th	10.00am	St Ed	Souls in Purgatory	Sat 25th Vigil Masses	5.00pm	St Sw	Lydia & Joe Fonseca RIP
					6.00pm	St J	
					6.00pm	OLQA	
					6.30pm	St Ed	
Tues 21st	9.30am	HC	Ittiyavirah RIP	Sun 26th	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta
	10.00am	St A	Edward Rayment anniversary RIP		9.00am	St Ed	Barney Rice FM
	10.00am	OLQA			9.00am	St A	
Wed 22nd	9.30am	HC	Michelle Rook (Special Intention)		9.30am	OLQA	
	10.00am	St Ed	Patrick Burke FM		11.00am	St J	
							11.00 am

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 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 the Confessor
 5.30pm Our Lady Queen of Apostles
 5.30pm St. Joseph's Church
Sundays: 8.30am St. Andrew's Church.

St Ed 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

Parish Office Sarah Goodfellow

Tel: 023 80 27 3882
 stswwparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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
 lroberts@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk