

Our Mission: LOVE GOD - LOVE OTHERS - MAKE DISCIPLES



[www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](http://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)  
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity No. 246871

Sunday Cycle: Year B  
Weekday Cycle: Year 2  
Psalter Week 1

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

In my Homily last weekend I talked about the basis on which the judgement would be made [remember the sheep separated from the goats] and how it all came down to the good we have done – or the opportunities we failed to grasp. I emphasised that one of the reasons we come to Mass is to deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ who comes to us in Word and Sacrament. If we don't get to know him better then how, I asked, could we be sure to recognise him in the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick and the prisoner?

This led me to reflect further on the centrality of the Eucharistic celebration in our lives and how we approach the Mass. I have to confess that I don't always read the Catholic newspapers but I did notice an article in *The Catholic Times* reporting what Pope Francis said recently in one of his talks at the General Audience in Rome. Here's a flavour of the Pope's views:

“Mass is the highest form of prayer and not an appropriate moment for small talk. At church, Catholics should spend their time in silence before Mass, preparing ‘to meet with Jesus’”. “Silence is so important”, he said, “silence prepares us and accompanies us.”

In his talk the Pope went on to reflect that the Eucharist as a form of prayer is “the highest, the most sublime and, at the same time, the most concrete” way of encountering God's love. “This is the greatest grace: to experience that the Eucharist is the privileged moment to be with Jesus and, through him, with God and our brothers and sisters”, he said.

Pope Francis continued by saying that Christians must allow themselves to be “surprised by the living encounter with the Lord” and not simply “talk to God like a parrot” repeating the words of prayers without thinking: “the encounter with God is a living encounter.” He also said that the Mass is a gift and a consolation where we discover that God's greatest surprise is that he “loves us even in our weakness – the Lord encounters our frailty.”

Reading these thoughts left me thinking about the way that we prepare ourselves for the celebration of Mass, both before arriving at church and then once we are there. If I'm invited to join a family to share a meal in their home I make sure I'm on time, I bring a small gift, I make myself look presentable. Have we become just a bit too casual in the way we approach the celebration of the Eucharist? Do we take time to collect our thoughts and ready ourselves for the ‘living encounter’ described by Pope Francis? Or do we rush in at the very last minute (or ten after the start), breathless and preoccupied?

This weekend we begin the Season of Advent, essentially a time of preparation. It only lasts three weeks this year so time is short. No doubt many of us will make careful efforts to prepare for the Christmas festivities and family gatherings - nothing wrong with that. But in the midst of all the practical things that need to be done, how will we prepare ourselves to welcome Christ, born for us?

*Father John*

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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:** To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

**Psalm Response:** God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

**Readings for next Sunday December 10th 2017  
2nd Sunday of Advent**

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

1st reading: Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

Psalm: 84

2nd reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

**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](mailto:powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Fellowship Group -**

**At that Time** – An Advent Bible Study based on the lectionary readings for Year B. Advent offers the opportunity to share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah, and to also wait in expectation for his Second Coming in glory.

**Week 2 – A Message.**

Meetings start at 7.30 pm in St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. Everyone welcome.

Queries to Peter Baggott 02380694060 or Bob Birtles.

**Mustard Seed** A new edition of "Mustard Seed" is available this weekend in all our churches - Bob.

([bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk))

**Prayer Link.** Please continue to use the current (Nov) sheet. Watch out for a new sheet for Advent/Christmas soon. Marion. ([marionbirtles@gmail.com](mailto:marionbirtles@gmail.com))

**Growing in Faith Together**

Over the next five weeks we will continue our topic on Prayer; listening to various speakers on DVD and participating in Lectio Divina. We 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.

**Tuesdays at St. Andrew's in Advent**

Starting with the three Tuesdays in Advent you are invited to Eucharistic Adoration at St. Andrew's from 9.15am concluding with Benediction by 10am. As well as an opportunity for silent prayer before the Lord we will pray together Morning Prayer from the Divine Office at 9.30am. On Tuesday 12th & 19th December, Mass at 10am will follow as usual. All welcome.

**A Message from Bishop Philip Egan:  
Act in Support of Catholic Education**

Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them?

Then we need you to make your voice heard.

The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents new Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend.

The Prime Minister has acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and had promised previously to abandon it. Now the Government may decide to keep this policy in place instead of removing it. We need you to tell the Government not to discriminate against Catholics and to remove the admissions cap on new faith-based schools.

Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

**Confraternity of the Rosary**

On **Friday 8th December—Solemnity of the**

**Immaculate Conception** is taking place at St. John's Cathedral, Portsmouth beginning with Mass at 12.15pm (celebrated by Bishop Philip Egan).

**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.

**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.

**Our Lady Queen of Apostles - Vigil Mass**

On **Saturday Dec 23rd** there will be no Vigil of Sunday Mass at Our Lady Queen of Apostles. This is because of the many Masses celebrated over Christmas.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS

Last week's collections: £1,490.48

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

### **Our Lady Queen of Apostles - CAFOD Christmas Cards**

These will be on sale for the next three Sundays. Advent Calendars are also available.

### **St. Edward's - Advent Liturgy Sunday 10th December, 2-4pm.**

St Edward's Liturgy Team would like to invite you to our Advent Liturgy—a free family event for our parish to prepare for Christmas. There will be craft activities, prayer, music, drinks and cakes (please bring a plate of cakes to share if possible).

### **St. Edward's - Christmas Gifts for 2 Saints & Poitiers.**

Following the distribution of gift tags, please bring labelled gifts to Mass on the following two weekends: *2nd-3rd & 9th-10th December.*

Items to include men's hats, socks, gloves scarves, toiletries, sweets, chocolates, biscuits etc. Please indicate which charity you are supporting.

### **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.

### **St. Edward's Church Shop**

Advent and Christmas stock now available. Open before and after all weekend Masses. Volunteer led & non profit. Please come in and browse.

### **Holy Cross - CAFOD**

The following events are to be held at Holy Cross this Christmas to support CAFOD:

**10th-17th December** - Christmas Hamper Raffle.

**10th December** - Christmas table decorations for sale (in the Resource Centre).

Instead of sending Christmas cards to fellow parishioners, why not donate the money to CAFOD to provide lifesaving emergency aid items, then place one Christmas card to all parishioners on the church notice board? The collection box will be in the welcoming area on Sundays; during the week please give your donation into the office. Please save used stamps off of envelopes for CAFOD and give them to June Wilson. Thank you!

### **Holy Cross - Coffee Stop Christmas Special Thursday 14th December, 10-12noon**

in the Resource Centre. Come and join us for an enjoyable pre-Christmas morning with friends. Coffee/Tea and mince pie for only £1 and there will be a raffle. We look forward to seeing you there.

### **Holy Cross Shop**

Christmas items on display, including cards and Advent calendars. Take a look after 11.00am Sunday Mass up until Christmas. **Pat & Angela**

### **St. Swithun Wells - Advent to Christmas Carols & Readings - Sun 17th Dec at 3.30pm.**

Mulled wine and mince pies - everyone very welcome.

### **St. Swithun Wells - Christmas Card CAFOD Collection**

From **2nd December** we shall be encouraging everyone to send one Christmas card to all your church friends, and place it on our special noticeboard in St. Swithun Wells Church. You can donate what you would have spent on cards and postage to CAFOD World Gifts, by placing your contribution in the CAFOD collecting box by the notice board where the cards are. Last year we raised nearly £200!

### **St. Joseph's & St. Andrew's Christmas Draw**

This will take place at Marie Louise Nursing Home, Romsey on **Tuesday 5th December**. Tea & cakes will be available between 2.30-4pm. The Draw will be held at 3.15pm. Please make sure that all ticket counterfoils, money and any unsold tickets are returned to either church by Monday 4th December.

### **Oasis - Parish Women's Group Meeting Tuesday 5th December**

**Advent** - this month we will be thinking about our Advent traditions, including some Christmas craft, featuring a lesson in Candle Decoration. A chance to relax together and perhaps, try something new.

Meet as usual at 7:30pm, St Edward's, finish by 9pm. If possible, please bring a small donation (suggested £2) towards cost of materials.

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

**Youth Groups** running at Holy Cross Resource Centre. 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:** 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 more information.

**Next Meeting:** Dec 17th.

### **SWAG Performance: "Join the Angels"**

#### **Friday December 22nd at 7.30pm**

Posters are up! Please come and see SWAG's version of the Nativity of Our Lord. It is rumoured to be the best you will see this Christmas! ([Joannaaz@cwgsy.net](mailto:Joannaaz@cwgsy.net), 07437 440299, Parish Website, Facebook).

### **Ecumenical Lent Study Groups 2018**

As Easter is in early April, the courses must start in February, and so we are looking to sign up hosts/leaders during December! The course is entitled "On the Third Day" and there is an audio CD, notes and transcripts for the leader. All participants are encouraged to buy the course booklet. If you would like to host/lead a group, please add your name to the sign-up sheet **before 19 December**. Thank you. Paul Carmody 07837 308558.

# Mass Times for our Six Church Communities

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
<b>Sat 2nd Dec</b> <b>Vigil Masses</b>	5.00pm	St Sw	Jadwiga & Jozef Michalak RIP	<b>Thurs 7th</b>	9.30am	HC	Marie Lewis RIP
	6.00pm	OLQA			10.00am	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St J			6.00pm	St J	Dora Pond RIP and family
	6.30pm	St Ed	Rosemary Oxby RIP				
<b>Sun 3rd Dec</b> <b>(First Sunday of Advent)</b>	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta	<b>Fri 8th</b>	10.00am	St Ed	Mrs Edward Christian FM
	9.00am	St Ed	Enid Scappaticci RIP (anniversary)		10.00am	St J (AH)	
	9.00am	St A					
	9.30am	OLQA					
	11.00am	St J					
	11.00am	HC	Deceased Members of the Queen Family FM				
				<b>Sat 9th Dec</b>	9.30am	HC	Maria Vallelonga RIP
<b>Mon 4th</b>	10.00am	St Ed	Mary Uphill FM	<b>Sat 9th Dec</b> <b>Vigil Masses</b>	5.00pm	St Sw	Andrew Bates RIP
					6.00pm	St J	
					6.00pm	OLQA	
					6.30pm	St Ed	Keith Small (Sick)
<b>Tues 5th</b>	9.30am	HC	Ittiyavirah RIP	<b>Sun 10th Dec</b> <b>(Second Sunday Of Advent)</b>	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta
	10.00am	St A	<b>NO MASS</b>		9.00am	St Ed	Mrs Edward Christian FM
	12noon	St J	<b>Funeral Mass Sister Shelagh Doherty RIP</b>		9.00am	St A	
	10.00am	OLQA	<b>NO MASS</b>		9.30am	OLQA	
<b>Wed 6th</b>	9.30am	HC	Danny Connolly RIP		11.00am	St J	Herbert Howie RIP
	10.00am	St Ed	Ann Wood RIP		11.00 am	HC	Luis Castro FM

### 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 -

**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

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