

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 B  
Weekday Cycle: Year 2  
Psalter Week: 1

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

There's an old story of identical twins. One was a hope-filled optimist. "Everything is coming up roses" he would say. The other twin was a sad and hopeless pessimist. He thought that Murphy, as in Murphy's Law, was an optimist. The worried parents of the boys brought them to the local psychologist.

The psychologist suggested to the parents a plan to balance the twins' personalities. "On their next birthday, put them in separate rooms to open their gifts. Give the pessimist the best toys you can afford, and give the optimist a big pile of manure." The parents followed these instructions and carefully observed the results.

When they peaked in on the pessimist, they heard him audibly complaining: "I don't like the style of this computer .... I bet this calculator will break ..... I don't like this game ..... I know someone who has a bigger toy car than this."

Tiptoeing across the corridor, the parents looked in and saw their little optimist gleefully throwing the manure up in the air. He was chuckling and saying: "You can't fool me! Where there's this much manure, there has to be a pony!"

In the whole of the Old Testament Job is probably the most miserable person we come across. Just listen to phrases from today's first reading: "Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service? [.....] Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?' Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!' [.....] Remember that my life is but a breath, and that my eyes will never again see joy." If you were hoping for some uplifting words, something joyful, this isn't the passage you need. But, let's be honest, there are very few of us who do not go through periods of feeling down and fed up, wondering what's the point. Work and family pressures can create a sense of being on a treadmill and we can struggle to keep up.

Much is being said and written these days about the challenges of mental health. There is no doubt that significant numbers of people – of all ages – suffer from acute conditions which prevent them living life as they would wish. The support and help they need is not always available when required and this can aggravate the situation. Surveys prove that many of those living rough on our streets have mental health problems. The knock-on effects are dispiriting and sad. Professional help can be slow to materialise and this indicates a system under incredible strain.

But what today's first reading pinpoints is not necessarily something as deep-rooted as these serious mental health issues. For various reasons (some of them quite valid and understandable) Job had spiralled into deep melancholy. He'd begun to convince himself that everything that happened was bad, and that everything bad was aimed at him. He believed himself to be a victim – an innocent victim – and he was fed up to the point of being unable to see anything positive.

Rather than being overly optimistic, or irrationally pessimistic, perhaps we should aim to be *realistic*. We need to seek a right balance. Sure, for each of us there are trials and difficulties. But there are also many good things, sometimes simple, which we often take for granted. On which do we concentrate?

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:** O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

**Psalm Response:** Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

**Readings for next Sunday 11th February 2018  
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

1st reading: Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46

Psalm: 31

2nd reading: 1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1

**Journey in Faith**

Journey in Faith is for anyone enquiring 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)

**Candlelight Prayer**

Hosted by the Fellowship Group on **Wed 7th February, 7.30pm** at St Swithun Wells Church. Join us for prayer, hymns, quiet reflection, and readings.

Refreshments are served at the end of the evening.

Everyone in the Parish is most welcome. Contact Marion and Bob Birtles with any queries.

**Prayer Link** - Prayer Sheet (Winter 2018) is still in use. Please contact me if you have any requests, queries or comments. **Marion** (02380 692416) [marionbirtles@gmail.com](mailto:marionbirtles@gmail.com)

**Growing in Faith Together**

Meet at Holy Cross Resource Centre (10.15-11.30am) on a Tuesday. Our topic is the Holy Spirit.

All are very welcome.

**Friday Masses During Lent (Holy Cross & St Edward's)**

**Holy Cross:** Every Friday during Lent there will be an additional Mass at 9.30am.

**St Edward's:** Mass will be at 7.00pm with the Stations of the Cross before Mass and supper after Mass. **Note this 7pm Mass REPLACES the Friday 10am Mass.**

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

Pope Francis has requested that Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament should take place for 24hrs during Lent in all Parishes throughout the world. In response to this, Eucharistic Adoration will take place at St Joseph's church for the whole Parish of St Swithun Wells on **Friday 9th March at 6pm** to include Stations of the Cross. The Blessed Sacrament will remain exposed until Saturday 10th March concluding Rosary and Benediction from 5.20pm prior to Saturday Vigil Mass at 6pm.

**Ecumenical Lent Groups**

Today (**4th Feb**) is the last opportunity to sign up for these study groups. We will be following a course entitled "On the Third Day", focusing on the resurrection. Come and join in the discussion with your fellow Christians! Sign-up sheets are in the Cloister at St Edward's.

**Stations Of the Cross**

Are being said during Lent at the following Churches:

**St Andrew's:** Tuesdays at 9.30am; (please note there will be no Adoration with Morning Prayer during Lent due to Stations of the Cross);

**St Swithun Wells:** Tuesdays at 10.30am;

**OLQA:** Wednesdays at 7.00pm (*except Ash Wednesday when Mass with Ashing is at 7.30pm*);

**Holy Cross:** Thursdays at 9.00am;

**St Edward's:** Fridays at 6.30pm;(excluding Good Friday);

**St Joseph's:** Fridays at 7.00pm (including Good Friday), **except 23rd March** which is the evening of the Penitential Service at St Andrew's.

**Lent Penitential Services**

**Thurs 22nd March, 7.30pm** - Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Bishop's Waltham;

**Fri 23rd March, 7.30pm** - St Andrew's, North Baddesley;

**Sat 24th March, 11am** - St Edward's, Chandler's Ford.

**Lent 2018 at St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak**

**Stations of the Cross** every Tuesday at 10.30am followed by tea/coffee.

**Lenten Suppers** - Homemade Soup and Cheese at 7pm on Wednesday evenings, proceeds to Lenten Alms supporting CAFOD and Fledge.

**Bible Studies** - Following the Lenten Suppers, there will be a series of Bible Studies, starting at 7.45pm called "Followers of Jesus" looking at New Testament characters who encounter Jesus at a point in their lives and the effect that has on them. They are all disciples and have something to teach us during this season of Lent. The first study on **21st February** looks at Nicodemus. Everyone is most welcome to come along. Queries to Peter Baggott or Deacon Bob Birtles.

**St George Catholic College—Eucharistic Adoration & Prayer, Thursday 8th Feb, 11am-2pm**

Parishioners are welcome to join us in the college chapel for a short time to pray for all those affected by, and those who work to combat against human trafficking and modern day slavery. Please sign in at reception before coming to the chapel.

**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. We then look forward to welcoming parents for an **Essential Preparation Session** on **Sunday 25th March 2018 (4.30-6pm)** at Holy Cross Resource Centre. It would be very helpful if you could arrive a little early - refreshments are available from 4.15pm.

**Mass Time Change For Holy Cross - Thurs 8th Feb**  
Mass starts **at 9.00am** and not 9.30am.

**Parish Day of Reflection Before Holy Week**  
**St Joseph's Centre, Ashurst, Saturday 17th March**  
An opportunity to prepare for Holy Week and Easter by looking at the meaning and significance of the liturgy in the Sacred Triduum. Everyone welcome.  
Sign-up sheets will be available next weekend.

**Social Justice Assembly - Sat 3rd Mar, 10am-3pm**  
St Bede's Church, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX  
During Lent this year the Justice Peace and Social Responsibility team and Caritas invite people to gather for a Social Justice Assembly – we have two speakers from Columban Missionaries and the Fairtrade Foundation who will highlight practical action we can choose as Christians to care for all God's Creation. Please come, book via Eventbrite or contact Maureen [jpsr@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:jpsr@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)  
Contact **Deacon Paul Wilson** about sharing a lift, Tel: 02380 616618 - [pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Holy Cross Car Parking - Gate Update**  
Please be advised work on the gate to the Holy Cross car park is being carried out week commencing **5th Feb** and we have been told the work will take about a week to complete. Please make alternative parking arrangements if possible as we must keep 22 spaces available for the local paying businesses. Access to the car park other than for Mass times and Parish business is being reviewed.

**Holy Cross Resource Centre Update**  
Repairs to the floors in the toilet area are being undertaken on **Monday 12th & Tuesday 13th February**. The hall can be used but not the toilets. Thank you.

**Coffee Stop Cancelled for 1 Week (Thurs 8th Feb)**  
Cancelled due to the work being carried out to the gates in the car park. Reopens on Thurs 15th February at 10 a.m. Look forward to seeing you all then.

**60 Club (at Holy Cross Resource Centre)**  
The next meeting is on **Monday 12th February**. For more information please phone 02380 692682.

**Holy Cross - Soup Kitchen, 12-2pm**  
There will be a soup kitchen every Saturday during Lent, starting on the **17th February**, until the 24th March (excluding Holy Saturday).  
A group of young people are supporting this, but we need more! As well as more young people we also require adult volunteers in order to support them. Please contact Elizabeth Nash (T: 01962 712022; E: [nashp@aol.com](mailto:nashp@aol.com)) or Cath Szymanski (T: 07846 438224; E: [Cathszymanski@gmail.com](mailto:Cathszymanski@gmail.com)) if you would like to be involved.

**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.

**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:** Feb 21st, Mar 21st, Apr 18th, May 16th, Jun 13th, July 8th.  
**TOZ (Time Out Zone)** School years 10, 11 and Sixth Form College, Sundays once a month. Contact Cath 07846438224 for more information.  
**Next Meetings:** Feb 25th, March 18th, April 29th, May 20th, June 17th, July 8th.

**SWAG - St Swithun Wells Acting Group**  
Please contact me on 07437 440299 or [joannaaz@cwqsy.net](mailto:joannaaz@cwqsy.net), or find the Facebook page "S.W.A.G." if you would like to be part of the **next show at the end of the May Half Term Week**. Rehearsals will begin weekend of April 14th. **Joanna**.

**Tiny Footprints Babies and Toddlers Group**  
Not running at present however a note will go in the Newsletter advising when the Group will restart.

**Oasis - Parish Women's Group Meeting**  
**Tuesday 13th February, St Edward's Cloister**  
**Film Night: 'God is Not Dead'**. A University Professor states that God is dead. A student sets out to prove the Professor wrong. Come along for a thought provoking watch; in great company. Running time 114 mins. Meet a little earlier at 7pm (film starts at 7.15pm) finish just after 9pm.  
Future dates are: 13 Mar, 24 Apr, 15 May, 12 Jun, 10 Jul. All ladies warmly welcome.

**St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School: Vacancy**  
There is a vacancy for a class teacher to start in Sept 2018. Please see the School's website for more info. [www.st-swithunwells.hants.sch.uk/community](http://www.st-swithunwells.hants.sch.uk/community)

**Marjorie Harris RIP (Linda Roberts' Mother)**  
Please pray for Marjorie Harris who sadly passed away on 31st January. The funeral service will be at Wessex Vale Crematorium on 15th February at 11.30am.

**Good Companions Lunch, Tues 6th Feb at 12.30pm**  
Keats Restaurant in Ampfield. Please notify Pauline Wilson on 023 80266617 if you would like to join us.

**Games Afternoon - Thursday 1st March, 2-4pm**  
We are inviting the URC community to join us for a games afternoon in the URC Hall, Romsey. This will involve a Beetle Drive and Call My Bluff. Tickets 50p per person, to include tea and biscuits. We need to know numbers so if you would like to come, please contact Rosemary on 01794 522411.

**Equipment for Sale**  
Surplus to requirements at Romsey Parish Centre: Panasonic microwave oven & Bellini electric toaster (both PAT tested), plus a black leather and chrome office chair. If interested in purchasing any of these items, please ring Eileen on 07831 343007.

# Mass Times for our Six Church Communities

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
<b>Sat 3rd Feb Vigil Masses</b>	5.00pm	St Sw	Friends of Suffering Souls RIP	<b>Thurs 8th</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	HC	<b>Rev Fr Stephen Walsh (Special Intention)</b>
	6.00pm	St J	Peter Clark RIP		10.00am	OLQA	
	6.00pm	OLQA			6.00pm	St J	Anne Bird (100th Birthday)
	6.30pm	St Ed	Mrs Edward Christian FM				
<b>Sun 4th (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time)</b>	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta	<b>Fri 9th</b>	10.00am	St Ed	Bishop Francis Walmsley RIP
	9.00am	St Ed	Deceased Members of the Wyman & Uphill Families FM		10.00am	St J (AH)	
	9.00am	St A	Calvin Nel RIP Anniversary				
	9.30am	OLQA					
	11.00am	St J					
	11.00am	HC	Antonio Martone RIP				
<b>Mon 5th</b>	10.00am	St Ed	Angela Frances Adams FM	<b>Sat 10th</b>	9.30am	HC	Tony Williams & Terry Blake (Special Intention Wellbeing)
				<b>Sat 10th Vigil Masses</b>	5.00pm	St Sw	Friends of Suffering Souls RIP
6.00pm	St J						
6.00pm	OLQA						
6.30pm	St Ed	Mrs Hewitt RIP					
<b>Tues 6th</b>	9.30am	HC	William & Isabella Regan FM	<b>Sun 11th (Sixth Sunday in Ordinary time)</b>	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta
	10.00am	St A			9.00am	St Ed	James Walsh RIP
	10.00am	OLQA			9.00am	St A	Jeanette Butcher RIP
			9.30am		OLQA		
			11.00am		St J		
			11.00am		HC	Alan Baxter RIP	
<b>Wed 7th</b>	9.30am	HC	Albert & Violet Harrington FM				
	10.00am	St Ed	Charles Egan RIP				

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**Tuesday** HC Adoration 1st Tuesday of the month 10.00-1.00pm  
**Tuesday...** St A Adoration 9.15-10am with Morning Prayer  
**Thursday** St Ed 7-8pm  
**Thursday** St J from Noon-6pm, 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

### 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

**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 80 27 3882  
 lroberts@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk