

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: 2

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

On Wednesday we begin the Season of Lent. Across the country there will probably be many more people marking the 14<sup>th</sup> February as Valentine's Day than receiving ashes - but it ought to be possible to do both. As we once again enter a time of reflection, self-denial and preparation for the events of Holy Week, we need to give some thought to how we will make the most of these weeks. What do we usually do? Could we try something new in terms of times of prayer or coming to join in a Mass or Stations of the Cross during the week? Setting aside a little more time for prayer and stillness? It's all about exercising 'spiritual muscles' that perhaps we don't use often enough – making sure they work and toning them.

I'm sure you noticed that last Tuesday a number of events were held to mark a most significant anniversary: one hundred years since *some* women in this country were given the opportunity to vote. I don't think I had realised that when the change came it only affected women over thirty who owned property. It's incredible to think that this was only one hundred years ago. We might pause and wonder how far things have moved forward in the years since. With revelations about what's happened to young female actors, the row centred on the BBC about disparity of pay and the start of a long legal battle which could potentially cost Tesco up to £4 billion in back-pay, it appears there is still a lot more to be done. Whilst often couched in terms of gender inequality, what this really boils down to is the need to value and recognise the dignity of each human being.

Steps have been taken in the right direction. The introduction of Maternity Leave to enable those who choose to start a family to have some time before returning to the workplace, the fact that there are now many more women sitting as MPs are just a couple of examples. One of those little news items which caught my attention was a dispute over whether Westminster Council will erect a statue of Margaret Thatcher. Whatever the opinions of her policies and politics, it seems strange not to have such a statue of Britain's first female Prime Minister in that central part of London. Today Theresa May is only the second woman to hold this high office.

But let's return to the principle of equality, the equality of every human life, young and old, in every country of the world. Something we do in Lent is to focus on the three challenges Jesus sets before us in the Gospel on Ash Wednesday: prayer, fasting and giving to others. When baptised, we are anointed with the Oil of Chrism: just as Christ was anointed priest, prophet and king so we are called to share in that ministry. Perhaps we could pair up these two lists. Prayer is an exercise of our priestly calling: to bring before God those who need his help. Fasting is prophetic because it calls into question the amount we consume in all its forms. By making even small sacrifices from what we take for granted we are giving a witness. Giving to others is an exercise of our kingly calling because, as Jesus demonstrates, his concept of kingship is centred on service of others. So, as we strive to live out this call in a particular way in Lent we are in fact living our baptismal calling by reaching out to all our sisters and brothers and valuing their human dignity.

Whatever you do this Lent, choose to do something. Don't allow the opportunity to slip by. After all, this life is our preparation for heaven.

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:** Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

**Psalm Response:** You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

**Readings for next Sunday 18th February 2018  
1st Sunday of Lent**

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

1st reading: Genesis 9:8-15

Psalm: 24

2nd reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

**Journey in Faith, St Edward's every Wednesday**

Is for anyone enquiring about the Catholic faith and for people intending to become a Catholic. The sessions run from 7.30pm to 9pm. For further information please contact: Deacon Paul Owen (tel: 02380 254806) email: [powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Fellowship Group**

There will be no meeting this week (14th February) as it is Ash Wednesday.

Queries to Peter Baggott 02380 694060 or Deacon Bob Birtles.

**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 Edwards**

**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 **Fri 9th March at 6pm** to include Stations of the Cross. The Blessed Sacrament will remain exposed until Sat 10th March concluding with Rosary and Benediction from 5.20pm prior to Saturday Vigil Mass at 6pm.

**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 are available this weekend in all our churches.

**Mass Time Changes - Ash Wednesday, 14th Feb**

Holy Cross Mass starts **at 10.00am** and not 9.30am. St Edward's Mass will be **at 7pm**, not 10am. For additional Masses at OLQA, St Joseph & St. Andrew please see back of Newsletter.

**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 Ashes 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 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.

**Women's World Day of Prayer - Friday 2nd March**

The service, compiled by the Christian women of Suriname, is entitled "All God's Creation is Very Good" and has a theme of respect for our environment. The offering of this service world-wide begins in Tonga and within 24hrs prayers will have been said in 60 languages/over 1000 dialects around the world. Please come along, everyone is welcome!

Services will be held at the following churches:

**1.45pm - St Martin in the Wood Church, Chandlers Ford.** We invite you to join us after the service for refreshments.

**2pm - Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Bishops Waltham, SO32 1DN.** Afternoon tea will be served in the Church hall after the service.

**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.

### **CAFOD Lenten Fast Day, 23rd February 2018**

Envelopes will be attached to next weekend's Newsletters (given out before Mass on 17th/18th Feb).

### **Social Justice Assembly - Sat 3rd Mar, 10am-3pm**

St Bede's Church, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX  
Speakers from Columban Missionaries and the Fairtrade Foundation 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 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.

### **60 Club (at Holy Cross Resource Centre)**

The next meeting is on **Monday 12th February, 2pm**. For more information please phone 02380 692682.

### **Coffee Stop (at Holy Cross Resource Centre)**

Resumes Thursday 15th February at 10am. Look forward to seeing you all then.

### **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.

### **St Edward's - Bible Study Day**

Please see the notice board in the Cloister for full details.

### **St Edward's - CAFOD Lenten Suppers**

**Every Friday after 7pm Mass**. Homemade soup bread and cheese, £5, also homemade produce on sale. All proceeds to CAFOD.

### **St Edward's - Knit and Natter Mon 12th Feb, 2-4pm**

Refreshments provided, any queries please contact Maureen Stephenson on 02380 252104.

### **St Andrew's - Knit for Peace Wed 21st Feb, 2-4pm**

For this month only the Knit for Peace meeting will be on the third Wednesday of the month (**21st Feb**). Donations of mens clothes and shoes always welcome for 2Saints. Thank you, Anne Harcourt 02380 734710.

#### **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**.

### **Oasis - Parish Women's Group Meeting**

**Tuesday 13th February, St Edward's Cloister**

**Film Night: 'God is Not Dead' (114mins)**. 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. Meet a little earlier at 7pm (film starts at 7.15pm) finish just after 9pm.

Future dates: 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.

### **Lenten Lunch in Romsey, Fri 23rd Feb, 12-1.30pm**

The Catholic community in Romsey is hosting one of a series of Lenten lunches in the Abbey Rooms (rear of Romsey Abbey). Come along to enjoy a bowl of home-made soup, bread and cheese. All profits go to Christian Aid's work throughout developing countries. Your support would be appreciated.

### **ARK Eastleigh - Appointment**

**Julie Sisley has been appointed as the Senior Team Leader at ARK Eastleigh**. Please pray for her as she settles into her new role. Her email address is [ark1@arkeastleigh.co.uk](mailto:ark1@arkeastleigh.co.uk).

### **Games Afternoon - Thursday 1st March, 2-4pm**

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.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS

Last week's collections: FTBC; SO/SD for the month of Jan: £14,156.09

# Mass Times for our Six Church Communities

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION		
<b>Sat 10th Feb Vigil Masses</b>	5.00pm	St Sw	Friends of Suffering Souls RIP  Mrs Hewitt RIP	<b>Thurs 15th</b>	9.30am	HC	Helen & Iain Baxter (Special Intention)  <b>No Mass</b>		
	6.00pm	St J			10.00am	OLQA			
	6.00pm	OLQA			6.00pm	St J			
	6.30pm	St Ed							
<b>Sun 11th (Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time)</b>	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta James Walsh RIP  Jeanette Butcher RIP  Alan Baxter RIP	<b>Fri 16th</b>	9.30am	HC	Mr William Hannah RIP     <b>Pauline Parsons (Intentions)</b>		
	9.00am	St Ed			10.00am	St J (AH)			
	9.00am	St A			7.00pm	St Ed			
	9.30am	OLQA							
	11.00am	St J							
	11.00am	HC							
<b>Mon 12th</b>	10.00am	St Ed	Kathleen Ditte & Deceased Family FM  <b>Funeral Service for Joseph Kijanski RIP</b>	<b>Sat 17th</b>	9.30am	HC	Burns Family RIP     Edward Dillman RIP Eugene Garigan RIP  Jean Heffernan RIP		
	11.00am	St Ed			5.00pm	St Sw			
								6.00pm	St J
				6.30pm	St Ed				
<b>Tues 13th</b>	9.30am	HC	Emmanuel Altman RIP (20th Anniversary)  <b>Funeral Service for Pamela Berry RIP</b>	<b>Sun 18th (First Sunday of Lent)</b>	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta Alfie Evans (Healing)    Mrs S Chambers RIP		
	10.00am	St A			9.00am	St Ed			
	10.00am	OLQA			9.00am	St A			
	11.30am	HC			9.30am	OLQA			
					11.00am	St J			
			11.00am	HC					
<b>Wed 14th Ash Wednesday</b>	10.00am	HC	Patrick Lake RIP  <b>Funeral Mass for Roger Tonks RIP</b>  <b>Peter Robert Dornan RIP</b>						
	10.00am	St A							
	1.00pm	HC							
	7.00pm	St J							
	7.00pm	St Ed							
	7.30pm	OLQA							

### 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)

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