

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 LENT

This year the 5th Sunday of Lent falls on the 18th March and is sandwiched between two big Saint days, so this year we have:

Saturday 17th March ST PATRICK, Bishop, feast.

Sunday 18th March FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT,

which is also our Diocesan day of Prayer for the Community at St Joseph, Romsey.

Monday 19th March ST JOSEPH, Solemnity.

I used to think it was sad that the feast of St Patrick and the Solemnity of St Joseph both fall in Lent, from St Joseph's point of view I felt the fact that he also had the **Feast of "St. Joseph the Worker"**, to be celebrated on 1st May, helped offset the Lent effect.

If we look at Patrick's history we see that much of what is known about Saint Patrick comes from a document known as the **Declaration**, which was allegedly written by Patrick himself. Patrick was a 5th-century British Christian missionary who became a bishop in Ireland. It is believed that he was born in Britain in the fourth century, into a wealthy family. His father was a deacon and his grandfather was a priest in the Christian church. According to the **Declaration**, at the age of sixteen, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken as a slave to Gaelic Ireland. It says that he spent six years there working as a shepherd and that during this time he "found God". It is recorded that he prayed many times a day. The **Declaration** says that God told Patrick to flee to the coast, where a ship would be waiting to take him home. There is talk of dissention by the pagan crew, but after Patrick prayed he was eventually taken on board and sailed back to Britain.

According to tradition, Patrick returned to Ireland to convert the pagan Irish to Christianity. The **Declaration** says that he spent many years evangelising in the northern half of Ireland and converted "thousands". Patrick's efforts against the druids were eventually turned into an allegory in which he drove "snakes" out of Ireland (it is said Ireland never had any snakes). Tradition holds that he died on 17th March and was buried at Downpatrick. Over the following centuries, many legends grew up around Patrick and he became Ireland's foremost saint.

St Patrick's Day is celebrated all around the world, but over the last 50 years I start to wonder what St Patrick would think of the celebrations. They certainly have taken on a more secular dimension. I am thinking of the ticker tape parades in America, the London Eye being coloured green, and even the Guinness in some of the larger cities i.e. Nottingham have a green dye added for St Patrick's day so that the head on the pint is green not cream or white. There also seems to be a big increase in Leprechauns around the pubs!

Now I enjoy a good celebration and I don't doubt that St Patrick and his family celebrated his return from slavery. However we must remember that the great work of St Patrick began when he went back to Ireland, so as to convert the Pagans of the time. Surely if we are to celebrate his life, we must follow his example. St Patrick followed the example of Jesus, and as Lent draws towards a close, maybe we can redouble our efforts, just like Patrick.

Deacon Paul Wilson

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–4pm; Thursday & Friday 9.30–2.30pm Newsletter items should be received by Wednesday 12:00 noon

Entrance Antiphon: Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

Psalm Response: A pure heart create for me, O God.

**Readings for next Sunday 25th March 2018
Palm Sunday**

Gospel: Mark 14:1 - 15:47

1st reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Psalm: 21

2nd reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Bishop's Waltham Churches Good Friday Walk of Witness, 30th March 2018

Please join members of OLQA, the United Free Church and St. Peter's as we follow a cross, stopping at twelve places around the town for a short reading, hymn and prayers about Jesus' path to the resurrection. This allows participants to think and pray together about Jesus' suffering and death, and remind others of the importance of Good Friday.

Hot cross buns, wrapped in napkins printed with the Good Friday Story, are given out as we walk.

The Walk starts at St Peter's at **10am** and finishes at the United Free Church, Basingwell Street, at about 11am (followed by coffee and hot cross buns for the walkers!). Email: angussomerville@hotmail.com

Car Park – Holy Cross, Eastleigh

If you have visited Holy Cross recently you will have seen that the new barrier has been installed – but is not yet in operation. There are a few technical matters to be finalised and then the barrier will be working. As previously explained, the old fobs (of which we estimate there are more than 200 in circulation!) will no longer function. The aim of the new system is to ensure that parishioners attending Mass and visiting the Parish Office can actually park here. Therefore, the barrier will be raised for an appropriate period of time before Mass.

Growing in Faith Together

Tues, 10.15-11.30am, Holy Cross Resource Centre

We have now completed our topic on the Holy Spirit. Over the next few weeks during Lent we will be undertaking a series of Lectio Divina. The last session will be on **Tues 20th March**. We will then break for Easter and restart on 10th April, where the new topic will be decided by the group. All are very welcome.

Second Collection on Good Friday - Holy Places

Please note there will be a second collection at all the Liturgies on **Good Friday** for the Holy Places.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS

Last week's collections: £1,431.59; SO/SD for February 2018: £13,087.09

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.

Planned Giving Weekly Envelope Boxes

The new boxes of envelopes which begin on the 8th April will be available in the welcoming areas of the churches from this weekend until Easter. Please collect the box with your name on it. If anyone would like to contribute by envelope planned giving please see your gift-aid coordinator :

St Joseph and St Andrew - David Martin.

St Edward - Ian Fearon and Mike Greenslade.

Holy Cross and St Swithun Wells - Pat Baggott.

OLQA - Hank Dawson

Lent Penitential Services with Confession

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.

Churches Together in Eastleigh on Good Friday 30th March, Holy Cross Church at 11am

Our Parish is hosting a service on Good Friday morning, "From Grief to Glory". A service of readings, meditations, hymns and prayers based on "The Way of the Cross". Everybody welcome to come along. For more information please contact Deacon Bob and Marion Birtles (bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

St Edward's Prayer Group - Fryern (Mon 19th Mar)

2-3pm at the home of Sheila and Pauline O'Neill.

19 Carthage Close. Chandlers Ford. All welcome.

Lent 2018 at St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak

Stations of the Cross - Tuesdays at 9.30am;

followed by tea/coffee.

Lenten Suppers - every Wednesday at 7pm.

Homemade soup, bread and cheese, proceeds to Lenten Alms supporting CAFOD and Fledge.

Bible Studies - A series of Lenten Bible Studies will follow the suppers at 7.45pm, entitled "Followers of Jesus". Study 5 on **21st March** is "Mary Magdalene". Everyone is most welcome to come along. Queries to Peter Baggott (02380 694060) or Deacon Bob Birtles.

Lent 2018 at St Edward's, Chandlers Ford

CAFOD Lenten Suppers - every Friday after 7pm

Mass. Homemade soup, bread and cheese £5, also homemade produce on sale. All proceeds to CAFOD.

CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day

Many thanks for your support of the CAFOD Lent family fast day. You can still contribute to the Lent appeal online at cafod.org.uk or by calling 0300 100 0089.

Remember, all donations received for the appeal until the 12th May will be doubled by the UK Government.

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 - the last one will be on **21st March**. We will then break for Easter and restart on **11th April**. For further information please contact:

Deacon Paul Owen (tel: 02380 254806) E:

powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Would you like to train to be a Primary School Teacher? Do you have a degree?

You can train locally with the Primary Catholic Partnership either for a PGCE or through School Direct. Why not come along and find out more? We will be holding a short open event at Springhill Catholic Primary, Milton Road Southampton SO15 2HW on **Tuesday 30th March at 2.30pm**. As well as hearing about routes into teaching, there will be an opportunity to meet the PCP Director, current trainees, and teachers who have completed the course and are working in the Southampton area. If you would like to attend, please contact the school office on 023 8033 3954 or office@springhillcatholic.net.

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: March 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: March 18th**, April 29th, May 20th, June 17th, July 8th.

SWAG - St Swithun Wells Acting Group

Please contact me on 07437 440299 or joannaaz@cwgsy.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**.

Fanning the Flame Catholic Mission: Summer Camp 20th-24th August 2018 - for ages 10-25 years.

Come and join us in the New Forest, Hampshire! Wherever you are in your Catholic faith, come and be refreshed and renewed in God's love for you! For more information and booking forms please see www.FanningTheFlame.co.uk.

'Come and Sing' at OLQA on Sat 14th April, 7.30pm

Bring and share a meal together, learn some simple Easter songs and finish by performing them together in simple harmony. After arriving at 7.30pm, the outline programme will be conversation & nibbles; main course (s); learn/practice the songs; dessert; "performance" (with readings); applause!! Should finish by 10pm at the latest. Come along, whether you can sing or just prefer to be the audience, and enjoy a thoroughly convivial occasion. All are very welcome. Tickets £5 each (includes a drink). For more info please contact Angus Somerville (angussomerville@hotmail.com or Steve Judd (steve68@fastmail.co.uk)

Adoremus - National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress (5th May) - doors open 9.30am

New Theatre Royal, Portsmouth. Free event open to all, however booking is essential via congress@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Starts 10.30am and finishes with Mass by 5pm.

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.

Bishops Waltham Churches - Lenten Lunch

Wed 21st March, 12.00 - 2pm at the United Free Church, Basingwell Street, Bishops Waltham. The charities this year are Bishops Waltham Gateway Club and Prison Fellowship. If there is anyone who would be prepared to make some soup for the lunch, help set-up/clear away please could they contact me on 01489 890149 or email me (jenny@just-jenny.net). **Jenny**

Alton Day of Renewal - 24th March, 11am-4pm

Alton School, Anstey Lane, Alton, GU34 2NG. "Living Kingdom Values" - How our everyday lives can be opportunities for witness. Speaker: Gemma Wildsmith. See poster on noticeboards for more info.

Divine Mercy Day of Reflection, Sat 7th April

10.30am-4pm at Saint Joseph's Centre, 8 Lyndhurst Rd, Ashurst, Southampton, SO40 7DU. Father Des will lead a Reflection Day focusing on the Divine Mercy of God in preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday; this will include the celebration of the Mass and a homemade soup lunch. The cost of the day is £20 per person. If you would like to attend then simply email: fatherdes@icloud.com or leave a message on the centre's answering machine: 02380 292337.

Divine Mercy Sunday - Holy Cross, 8th April, starting at 2.45pm.

Refreshments will be available afterwards in the Resource Centre. For more information please contact Roz on 07752 639593.

Prayer Link - Please contact me if you have any requests, queries or comments. **Marion** (02380 692416) marionbirtles@gmail.com

Rosary on the Coast for Faith, Life & Peace in the British Isles - Sunday 29th April at 3pm

The "Rosary on the Coast" campaign is lay initiative to invite the faithful of all the nations of the British Isles, with the support of the clergy, to gather at various sites along the coast and pray the Holy Rosary at 3pm on Sunday 29th April for faith, life and peace in the British Isles.

The rectors of our two national Marian shrines – Walsingham and Our Lady of the Taper, in England and Wales respectively – have given "Rosary on the Coast" their full backing and encouragement. Please put the date in your diary, and visit www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk for more information, including details of the designated gathering points along the coast.

Mass Times for our Six Church Communities

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 17th March Vigil Masses	5.00pm	St Sw	Andrew Bates RIP	Thurs 22nd	9.30am	HC	Cathy Runciman & Family (Special Intention)
	6.00pm	St J	Benedict Harris RIP		10.00am	OLQA	
	6.00pm	OLQA			6.00pm	St J	
	6.30pm	St Ed	Patricia Bradley FM		7.30pm	OLQA	Lent Penitential Service
Sun 18th (Fifth Sunday of Lent)	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta	Fri 23rd	9.30am	HC	Canon John Doran FM
	9.00am	St Ed	Mary Uphill FM		10.00am	St J (AH)	
	9.00am	St A			7.00pm	St Ed	Rita Small (Intentions in mourning) & Keith Small RIP
	9.30am	OLQA					
	11.00am	St J	Teresa Kennedy RIP				
	11.00am	HC	Allan Baxter & Peter Byrne RIP		7.30pm	St A	Lent Penitential Service (therefore no Stations of the Cross at St Joseph's)
Mon 19th	10.00am	St Ed	Ann Wood RIP (Birthday)	Sat 24th	9.30am	HC	Gail Toulon (Special Intention)
					11am	HC	Lent Penitential Service
Tues 20th	9.30am	HC	Charles Joseph Reynolds FM	Sun 25th (Palm Sunday)	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta
	10.00am	St A	For the Protection of Unborn Children		9.00am	St Ed	Oliver Shamkhani (Special Intention)
	10.00am	OLQA			9.00am	St A	David & Eileen Smith (Golden Wedding Anniversary)
	11.30am	HC	Funeral Service: Hugh Brown RIP		9.30am	OLQA	
					11.00am	St J	All Souls
Wed 21st	9.30am	HC	Phyllis Altman RIP (17th Anniversary)	11.00am	HC	Bridget Dee & Margaret Flynn (RIP Anniversary)	
	10.00am	St Ed	Sheila Mundy RIP				

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday HC Adoration 1st Tuesday of the month 10.00-1.00pm
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: 11am Penitential Service at St Edward's
 5.30pm Our Lady Queen of Apostles
 5.30pm St. Joseph's Church
Sundays: 8.30am St. Andrew's Church.

St Ed OLQA Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Martin Street, Bishops Waltham. SO32 1DN
St Edward's, 191-193, Winchester Rd, Chandlers Ford, SO53 2DU
 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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