

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: Office Proper

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

If you watch episodes of 'Judge Judy' from American TV, you notice that she quite often states when listening to testimony: "don't tell me what so-and-so said, that's hearsay." In other words, she isn't interested when a person says 'this is what someone told me'. The probative value of this kind of evidence is not usually high and can be easily dismissed. However, this is not always the case and a lot will depend on the character of the person speaking: is she or he believable, can their word be trusted? And then, of course, if a number of people report the same facts then added together their testimony certainly carries weight.

In this weekend's Gospel, Thomas finds it hard to get his head around what he is being told by the others – that Jesus really has risen from the dead. Perhaps he's also just a little peeved that Jesus turned up whilst he was out of the room, perhaps buying supplies. Whatever the reason for his absence, he refuses to believe unless he can see the evidence with his own eyes. Jesus returns and this time encourages Thomas to touch and feel, to doubt no longer but believe. We can empathise with Thomas: it is always easier to accept something which we have actually seen. At the end of this encounter, Jesus adds the line directed to you and me, living as we do so many years after these events unfolded: "Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe."

The proofs of the resurrection of Jesus are not scientific, they hinge upon faith - but not blind or unsupported faith. What we have are eye-witness accounts of these post-resurrection appearances. On Easter night we listened as St John reported what he saw in the empty tomb: the absence of Jesus' body; the folded linen cloths; another cloth which had been over his head rolled up on its own. John tells us unequivocally that he himself: "saw and he believed." Over the coming days we are presented with Gospel accounts of Jesus appearing to different people, sometimes on their own (Mary of Magdala), sometimes a pair (on the road to Emmaus) more often in a small group. There develops a growing acceptance of the fact that what Jesus had said would happen has indeed come to pass.

In a world obsessed with personal opinion, in societies prone to doubt just about everything we're told by politicians, advertisers and now even news-gathering organisations (fake news?) it isn't always easy to accept the word of another as honest and true. But this is what we are called to do as people of faith. We have the benefit of these accounts from those who were there at the time to feed and nourish our belief. At the very end of his Gospel, St John appends these words: "This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose the world itself could not contain the books that would be written." (John 21:24-25). Perhaps a little hyperbole there but the point is clear. John is writing in order to convey the essential facts about Jesus and his message and that he overcame death by his rising to new life. John writes so that, all these years later, your faith and my faith can be strengthened and deepened.

As Christians today, celebrating our faith in the resurrection, we are very fortunate to have the personal testimonies of those who were there – testimonies we can trust.

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

Entrance Antiphon: Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

Psalm Response: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. Or, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Readings for next Sunday 15th April 2018
Third Sunday Of Easter**

Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

1st reading: Acts 3:13-15. 17-19

Psalm: 4

2nd reading: 1 John 2:1-5

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.

Requiem Mass for John Walsh on Tuesday 17th April at St Joseph's, 12.30pm
Please note the change of date from what was verbally announced.

Growing in Faith Together - Restarts 10th April
Tuesdays, 10.15-11.30am, Holy Cross Resource Centre. The new topic will be decided by the group. All are very welcome.

Journey in Faith, St Edward's - Restarts 11th April
Is for anyone enquiring about the Catholic faith and for people intending to become a Catholic. The sessions run every Wednesday from 7.30pm to 9pm. For further information please contact: Deacon Paul Owen (tel: 02380 254806) E: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Holy Hour - Restarts Thursday 12th April
Holy Hour at St Edward's (Thursdays from 7-8pm) will restart on 12th April.

Fellowship Group Meetings - Restarts 25th April
Wednesdays, 7.30pm, St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. Queries to Peter Baggott (02380 694060) or Deacon Bob Birtles.

Rosary on the Coast for Faith, Life & Peace in the British Isles - Sunday 29th April at 3pm
The "Rosary on the Coast" campaign (<https://www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk>) invites the faithful, 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. In the Parish of St Swithun Wells we will be gathering at the beautiful and peaceful setting of **Royal Victoria Country Park** overlooking Southampton Water. We are considering running a minibus from either Holy Cross or St Edward's. If you would like to take advantage of this, please email me at chasnbex@hotmail.co.uk, or phone me on 02380 694482. **Charles Forrest**

St Edward's Choir

Is looking for new singers...no experience necessary. Is singing part of your ministry in our community? Are you aged 18 or over? Do you enjoy singing? Come along with an open mind, a willing heart and a smile!! We rehearse on **Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm**. Contact Joanna on 07437 440299 or email on joannapuzzle@gmail.com or just find me after the 9am Mass on a Sunday.

'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)

SWAG - St Swithun Wells Acting Group

Please contact me on 07437 440299 or joannaaz@cwqsy.net, or find the Facebook page "S.W.A.G." if you would like to be part of the next show on 1st June. **Rehearsals will begin 15th April, 4pm at St Edward's. Joanna.**

New to the Parish?

A very warm welcome to our Parish; we are delighted that you have joined us. Please feel free to make yourself known to one of the Welcomers or Priest at each Mass and join us for a cup of coffee after Mass. Please complete one of the new to the parish registration forms available in the church foyers, giving us your contact details and leave the form with one of the Priests or Welcomers. All families are welcome at **ALL** Masses; however we have specific Children's Liturgies on Sundays. Please ask one of the Welcomers for details of the times at your Church.

Changes to Mass: 10th-12th April

On Tuesday 10th at Holy Cross & Thursday 12th at St. Joseph's there will be a Service of Word & Communion **instead of Mass**.

Please note there will also be **No Mass** at:
St. Andrew's on Tuesday 10th;
Holy Cross on Wednesday 11th;
OLQA on Thursday 12th April.

Prayer Link - The new Prayer Link entitled "Spring 2018" is now available in all of our churches. **Marion** (02380 692416) marionbirtles@gmail.com

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: £TBC; SO/SD for March 2018: TBC

60 Club - Our usual fortnightly meeting will take place this **Monday (9th April) at 2pm** in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. For more information please phone Maureen on 02380 692682.

Knit & Natter at St Edward's

Monday 9th April, 2-4pm

All very welcome. Refreshments available. Please contact Maureen Stephenson on 02380 252104 with any queries.

Knit For Peace at St Andrew's

Wednesday 11th April, 2-4pm

Donations of mens clothes and shoes for 2 Saints welcome. Please contact Anne Harcourt on 02380 734710 with any queries.

Coffee Stop - Holy Cross Resource Centre
Re-opens Thursday 12th April

Tea/coffee/hot chocolate and biscuits only 70p; hot buttered tea cakes only 50p! Please come along and support us and meet old and new friends.

Message from Jackie Higgins

Jackie would like to convey her sincere thanks to all for their prayers during her hospital stay, and for the many cards and flowers.

She felt very loved and supported by the Parish. Jackie is home now and recuperating.

Youth Groups at Holy Cross Resource Centre

Both groups run from 7.00pm to 8.30pm.

Inspire (School yrs 7, 8 and 9)

Wednesdays once a month please contact Marianne 07771704600 for more information.

Next Meetings: Apr 18th, May 16th, Jun 13th, July 8th.

TOZ (Time Out Zone) (School yrs 10, 11 & Sixth Form College)

Sundays once a month please contact Cath on 07846 438224 for more info. **Next Meetings: April 29th, May 20th, June 17th, July 8th.**

Hospital Admittances

If you are expecting to be admitted into the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester, in the near future, please inform St Peters Parish Office (Tel: 01962 852804) so they can arrange for a member of the clergy to come and visit and/or bring Holy Communion.

Additionally, if you are being admitted to Southampton General Hospital please contact Father Michael Cronin on 02380 774273.

Cheque Payments to the Parish

For any payments to the parish using a cheque please ensure the following details are used or the bank may refuse to accept the cheques:

Payee - **PRCDTR St Swithun Wells.**

A Workshop for singing the Mass - Lift up your hearts!

Date: Saturday 12th May 10.30am-7.30pm

Venue: Holy Family, Redbridge Hill, Southampton SO16 4PL

Adam Bartlett, Editor of Illuminare Publications and accomplished musician, choir director, and composer, will be leading a workshop exploring the riches of the Catholic tradition of liturgical music. The workshop will provide formation on the role of music in the Church's life and mission, the role of music in the liturgy, and some practical sessions introducing liturgical chant (mainly in English) for use in parishes. The day concludes with a Sung Mass with the opportunity to sing in the choir directed by Adam. No previous knowledge of liturgical chant is required. The purpose of the day is to understand why the Church places such importance in this form of liturgical music, and to learn how this ancient tradition can enhance the worship of a normal parish today.

Details from the Holy Family Parish office, email: hfoffice@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or t:02380 778203.

ADORE (Alton Day Of REnewal) – Sat 21st April

Alton School, Anstey Lane, Alton GU34 2NG

You are warmly welcome to a mini-retreat day (or morning/afternoon) of spiritual refreshment and renewal, focussing on Renewal and Mission.

11am - Rosary;

11.30am - Mass;

12.15 - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament;

1pm - Shared lunch;

2pm - Praise & Worship;

2.30pm Talk "Setting the Downtrodden Free" by Peter Hobbs;

3.30pm - Prayer for healing. We end about 4pm.

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 Alastair Emblem on 01252 714809.

Parish Office Closures during April

The Office will be closed on **Friday 13th April.**

Parenting workshop – 'Supporting your child in Revision & Exam preparation'

Monday 23rd April, 7.15pm – 8.45pm in King's school hall.

The session explains how the brain learns best and how to ensure the build up to exams is supportive and, calm and peaceful. The workshop is £5 to attend and it is open to The King's school parents but also to the wider community. To book your space please follow the link: <https://kingsrevision.eventbrite.co.uk>.

Parishioners unable to get to Mass

If you are aware of any parishioner who cannot attend Mass because of age, infirmity etc then please contact the Parish Office and let us know. Similarly, if you have not seen a parishioner at Mass for a while then please let the Parish Office know.

Mass Times for our Six Church Communities

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 7th April Vigil Masses	5.00pm	St Sw	Jim Russell RIP	Thurs 12th	9.30am	HC	Andy Breen RIP
	6.00pm	St J	All Souls		10.00am	OLQA	No Mass
	6.00pm	OLQA			6.00pm	St J	Service of Word & Communion
	6.30pm	St Ed	Frank Odgen RIP				
Sun 8th April Second Sunday of Easter	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta	Fri 13th	10.00am	St Ed	Charles Egan RIP
	9.00am	St Ed	Bogdan Jakubaszek RIP (50th Anniversary)		10.00am	St J (AH)	
	9.00am	St A	Hesla Rayment RIP Anniversary				
	9.30am	OLQA					
	11.00am	St J	Private Intention				
11.00am	HC	Andrew Baniak & Genowefa Grochola RIP					
Mon 9th	10.00am	St Ed	Colin Challis RIP	Sat 14th	9.30am	HC	Amarant Ferreria RIP
				Sat 14th Vigil Masses	5.00pm	St Sw	Agnes Carter and all the Sullivan Family RIP
					6.00pm	St J	All Souls
	6.00pm	OLQA		6.30pm	St Ed	Joe Conlon (Sick)	
Tues 10th	9.30am	HC	Service of Word & Communion	Sun 15th April Third Sunday Of Easter	9.00am	HC	Polska Msza Święta
	10.00am	St A	No Mass		9.00am	St Ed	Peter Ashcroft FM
	10.00am	OLQA			9.00am	St A	Winnie Fung RIP
					9.30am	OLQA	
					11.00am	St J	Colette's family intentions
					11.00am	HC	Thomas Leah RIP Anniversary
Wed 11th	9.30am	HC	No Mass	Mon 16th April	10.00am	St Ed	All the Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP
	10.00am	St Ed	Mary Hollingworth (Get Well)				

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday HC Adoration 1st Tuesday of the month 10.00 1.00pm
Tuesday St A **Adoration cancelled this week**
Thursday St Ed **Restarts 12th April, 7-8pm**
Thursday St J from Noon-6pm, Rosary and Benediction At 5.30pm (before Mass at 6pm) Thursday

Rosary And Prayers

St Edward 9.30am 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's
5.30pm OLQA
5.30pm St Joseph
Sundays: 8.30am St Andrew

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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Fr Wojciech Paszko (Assistant Priest)

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Canon Alan Griffiths (Assistant Priest)

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POLISH PRIEST : Fr Zbigniew Budyn

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