



## *Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ* 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2025: EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### LENT

It has been two months since we celebrated Christmas, and now the Church wants us to begin a new season, to remind us that we cannot stop at Christmas Day. Christmas is just the beginning of a journey. The liturgical year does not end at Christmas, it continues through Lent to Easter.

We have to imagine that after Christmas the baby Jesus grew, he left the manger and became a teenager and then an adult, and now, at thirty years old, full of energy and in his full maturity, he comes to us and challenges us, asking, "Who do you think I am?", "Follow me!", "Change your life!"

This is the beginning of Lent: Jesus asks us to make a choice.

While Christmas is the time of worship and adoration, Lent is the time when we are asked to say "yes" or "no" to Jesus. While Christmas is the time when Jesus is in front of us, Lent is the time when he wants to enter into us.

In Lent we are encouraged not only to see him, but also to choose him, to follow him, to have an adult relationship with him. Jesus is saying to us, "Follow me, be with me, listen to me, choose me, be like me!" This is also the meaning of the words that the priest says when he distributes ashes on Ash Wednesday, "Convert and believe in the Gospel", namely "change your goals, change your direction (this is the meaning of the word convert) and say yes to Jesus".

Lent offers us three pillars, three ways to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ, to become more like him: fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

1. Fasting, that is, giving up something we like in order to understand what is really essential, what we really need in our life to survive, which is the Lord.
2. Prayer, which teaches us to acknowledge our need for the Lord and His mercy.
3. Almsgiving, to rediscover the joy of God's plan for creation and for each one of us, which is to love Him, to love our brothers and sisters, and the whole world, and to find in this love our true happiness.

This is the step that the coming weeks ask us to take: from the warmth of Christmas to the responsibility of Lent.

Pope Francis in his message for Lent 2025 challenges us when he says, "The Jubilee motto, "Pilgrims of Hope", evokes the lengthy journey of the people of Israel to the Promised Land, as recounted in the Book of Exodus. This arduous path from slavery to freedom was willed and guided by the Lord, who loves his people and remains ever faithful to them. It is hard to think of the biblical exodus without also thinking of those of our brothers and sisters who in our own day are fleeing situations of misery and violence in search of a better life for themselves and their loved ones. A first call to conversion thus comes from the realization that all of us are pilgrims in this life; each of us is invited to stop and ask how our lives reflect this fact. Am I really on a journey, or am I standing still, not moving, either immobilized by fear and hopelessness or reluctant to move out of my comfort zone? Am I seeking ways to leave behind the occasions of sin and situations that degrade my dignity?"

*Fr Raffaele*

### GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "Message for Lent 2025" by Pope Francis. If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact [website.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:website.sswp@gmail.com)

For the next Newsletter, items should be received into the parish office by **10am on Wednesday 5th March 2025**, please email your messages/notices to: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

If you wish to make a donation to our parish please go to: <https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/financesdonations>

## LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 2nd March 2025: Year C - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 4

PSALM RESPONSE: IT IS GOOD TO GIVE THANKS TO YOU, O LORD.

1<sup>st</sup> reading Sirach 27:4-7 Psalm 92 (91) 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 1 Corinthians 15:54-58 Gospel Luke 6:39-45

Sunday 9th March 2025: Year C - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 1

PSALM RESPONSE: BE WITH ME, O LORD, IN MY DISTRESS.

1<sup>st</sup> reading Deuteronomy 26:4-10 Psalm 91 (90) 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Romans 10:8-13 Gospel Luke 4:1-13

## PARISH GROUPS



### Learn to Pray with the Weekly Scripture Readings

Wednesdays at 11am in St Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water, Romsey;

Thursdays at 10am in St Edward the Confessor Church, Chandler's Ford.

Please come along if you would like to grow in your life of prayer by praying with the following Sunday's Mass readings. All are welcome.

Growing In Faith Together Group (GIFT) - every Tuesday at 10.15am for coffee followed, this week, by a talk on pilgrimages starting at 10.30am in the Holy

Cross Resource Centre. All are welcome!

Fellowship Group - St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. There will be no meeting on 5th March as it's Ash Wednesday. During Lent, starting on Wednesday 12th March at 7.30pm, we will begin a 5 week Lenten Course entitled "Calling a Wounded Earth Home". Week 1 is entitled 'Love'. Please come and join us, everyone is welcome. Refreshments served at the end. For more information or to join at home via Zoom, contact Peter Baggott by email on [Peterbaggott@aol.com](mailto:Peterbaggott@aol.com) or by phone on 02380 694060.

## MESSAGES



### Bishop Philip's Pastoral Letter: 'Belonging'

Please read the latest pastoral letter from Bishop Philip, it is available in all of our churches from this weekend.

Prayers for Pope Francis - please offer your prayers for the Holy Father. Let us offer a Decade of the Rosary for his intentions, for a restoration of his health, strength and wellbeing.

On Sunday 2nd March, we welcome the children from St Swithun Wells Primary School will help at the liturgy in St Edward's & Holy Cross in the morning.

### Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 2nd March, 1pm-4pm Pavillion on the Park, 1 Kingfisher Road, SO50 9LH

An event for all of the parish, especially families.

We begin at 1pm, sharing a meal together followed by some activities and a discussion, the topic is 'Rest and the Day of the Lord'. No cost, however we kindly ask you to give a donation to cover the hire of the Pavillion. Please bring some food, beverages or cakes to share with others. Please can you bring your own cups/plates/cutlery. To book your place please go to our parish website and use the link you find on the "Next main parish events" section. Next *Get2Gether*: 6th April

### Cultural Friday - 7th March from 7pm in St Edward's

We will listen to a talk entitled, "The Enigma of Sexuality - Sex, gender and sexual orientation: What is it all about?" by Fr Alberto Frigerio, Assistant Professor of Ethics of Life at the Higher Institute of Religious Sciences in Milan. He graduated in Medicine and Surgery and obtained a Masters in Integrative Neuroscience at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Cheese, wine and nibbles from 7pm, suggested donation of £1, the talk starts at 7.30pm.

### Happy Monday Club - Hello and a Happy New Year!

We have a birthday and a jury service summons in February so our first event of the year will be on

Monday 10th March at 2pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre in Eastleigh. We will be showing a film, "Shamrock Spitfire". The film is a true story based on the life of Brendan "Paddy" Finucane, a fighter pilot who became the youngest Wing Commander in the history of the Royal Air Force, at the age of 21. Suggested donation of £2 to include refreshments. If you need to know anything please contact Karen or Peter on 07809596831 or [jakeman1966@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jakeman1966@hotmail.co.uk) and we hope to see you there.

### Rules for Ash Wednesday & Lent

On Ash Wednesday (5th March) Roman Catholics must fast and abstain from meat. Fasting means reducing considerably the amount of food we eat (e.g. having just one meal) and abstinence means abstaining from eating meat. The law of fasting applies to anyone aged 18-60. The law of abstinence applies to those who are over 14. Roman Catholics must also abstain from eating meat on all Fridays during Lent.

Lenten Lunches in aid of CAFOD will be commencing this week on Friday 7th March and every Friday in Lent at St Edward's, from 12 Noon until 1.30pm. All donations will go to CAFOD'S funds helping all who are in need due to famine, climate change, wars and disasters. Your support will be greatly appreciated. There will also be a Lenten lunch in St Joseph's on Friday 28th March at Midday in support of CAFOD.

Lent Parish Retreat - We will hold a Parish Retreat for Lent, led by Fr Raffaele on Saturday 15th March, 2.30pm-4.30pm at St Edward. Open to everyone. There will be a talk about Lent, some time for private prayer in the church and a time for questions and sharing of thoughts.

Romsey Lent Ecumenical Study Group will meet in St Joseph's meeting room, 26A Abbey Water, each Tuesday during Lent at 6.30pm, starting on 11th March. All are welcome.

## MESSAGES CONTINUED

### Stations of the Cross During Lent

**St Andrew:** Tuesdays at 9.30am (before Mass);  
**St Swithun Wells:** Tuesdays at 10am with tea & coffee available afterwards;  
**Holy Cross:** Thursdays at 9am (before Mass);  
**St Joseph:** Fridays at 9.30am (before Mass);  
**St Edward:** Fridays at 9.30am (before Mass);  
**OLQA:** Fridays at 11.30am (before Mass).

### Weekday Masses & Eucharistic Adoration

One of the pillars of Lent is prayer. A simple way to do this is to attend Mass on weekdays or to participate in one of our Eucharistic Adorations. On Tuesdays in St Edward for example, there is Mass at 6pm with Eucharistic Adoration afterwards. On Wednesdays there is Mass in Holy Cross at 9.30am followed by Eucharistic Adoration. At St Joseph there is Mass every Thursday at 6pm and Eucharistic Adoration one hour before from 5pm-6pm. At OLQA there is Eucharistic Adoration (after Mass) at 12.30pm every Thursday.

### Walk With Me Lent Booklets & Children's Lent

**Calendars** - From this weekend the Lent booklets will be available in our churches. The Calendar is free to children, however a suggested donation of £1 each for the 'Walk With Me' booklets would be most welcome.

**Penitential Services** - A number of priests will be available during these times:

**Thursday 3rd April, 7.30pm at OLQA**  
**Friday 4th April, 7.30pm at St Andrew**  
**Saturday 5th April, 10am at Holy Cross**

### World Day of Prayer Services Across the Parish

**Friday 7th March**

The service has been prepared by the ladies of the Cook Islands.

Theme : I made you wonderful (from Psalm 139)  
Be part of a huge wave of prayer going around the world throughout the 24 hours of that day.

**Chandler's Ford** - Chandler's Ford Methodist Church at 10.30am, coffee served after the service. All are welcome to attend.

**Romsey** - 2pm at the Elim Church, Middlebridge St., Romsey. All very welcome.

**Shedfield** - 2pm at St John the Baptist Church, Church Road, Shedfield SO32 2HY. Compulsory Afternoon Tea and Chatter in the Church Rooms afterwards. We will look forward to seeing you on the day!

### St Patrick's Day Musical Evening - Save the date!

**Saturday 22nd March at OLQA.** All are welcome. Tickets £7 each. Start at 7.15pm. More details to follow. *Marie Kemp on 07760 809640*

### Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Barry Morland and for his family. Barry's Funeral Mass will take place on **Friday 14th March at 1pm in Holy Cross Church.**

### The Parish of St Swithun Wells require a Part-Time Communications & Events Coordinator

The position will be based in Eastleigh and involves maintaining the parish website/promoting parish events using social media platforms/organise and plan parish events in accordance with Diocesan policies, including Health & Safety, GDPR & Safeguarding, and comply

with copyright law. The role promises a varied and interesting workload. The job is part-time (15 hours per week) on an initial fixed term contract of 18 months. Salary offered for the role is £9,377.12 per annum based on 15 hours per week.

For more details and how to apply, please see the parish website [www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](http://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk) or contact the Parish Office at:

[accounts@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:accounts@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk) or tel - 02380 273882.

**The closing date for applications is 12 Noon on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March.**

Interviews to be held on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March.**

The intention is that the successful applicant will start as soon as possible following receipt of satisfactory references and confirmation of right to work in the UK.

### Message of thanks from Poitiers Care

We have today received a generous cheque from KSC Eastleigh. With the £250 we will be able to buy a wonderful amount of food for our poor families. Currently we are buying from two local charities where the cost of basic foods is approximately half that which we would pay if we were buying from a supermarket. This has been a Godsend to us, especially as the numbers, which were fairly constant at around 75 families, have started rising again. So you will see that this donation could not have been more timely for us. Please accept our heartfelt thanks to all who were involved in this Act of Charity.

### At a Glance - List of Upcoming Parish Events

<b>2nd Mar:</b>	Parish Get2Gether
<b>7th Mar:</b>	CAFOD Lenten Lunch at St Edward
<b>7th Mar:</b>	Cultural Friday
<b>7th Mar:</b>	World Day of Prayer Services
<b>10th Mar:</b>	Happy Monday Club Event
<b>14th Mar:</b>	CAFOD Lenten Lunch at St Edward
<b>15th Mar:</b>	Lent Parish Retreat
<b>21st Mar:</b>	CAFOD Lenten Lunch at St Edward
<b>22nd Mar:</b>	St Patrick's Day Musical Evening
<b>28th Mar:</b>	CAFOD Lenten Lunch at St Edward
<b>28th Mar:</b>	CAFOD Lenten Lunch at St Joseph

### CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

<b>Tuesday:</b>	9.30am-10.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew
<b>Tuesday:</b>	6.30pm-7.30pm (after Mass)	St Edward
<b>Saturday:</b>	10.00am-10.30am (after Mass)	Holy Cross
	5.30pm-6.00pm	OLQA
	5.30pm-6.00pm	St Joseph
<b>Sunday:</b>	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Edward
	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew

### TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

<b>Tuesdays:</b>	Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh;
<b>Wednesdays:</b>	Fr Luca by appointment, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh;
<b>Fridays:</b>	Fr Mario, 10am-12 Noon, OLQA, Bishop's Waltham;
<b>Fridays:</b>	Fr Pietro, 11am-12.45pm, 26A Abbey Water, Romsey.
<b>Fridays:</b>	Fr Matteo, 11am-12.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh

## MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 1st March <i>Morning Mass: St David</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOA St Joseph St Edward	Special Intention People of the Parish  John Whitcher RIP
Sunday 2nd March <i>Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 5.30pm	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLOA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>  Angela Pantanella RIP Anniversary Robin Mooney (Wellbeing) Edward Kosniowski RIP Peggy Bazen RIP
Monday 3rd Mar	9.30am	Holy Cross	Kelly & Magee Families FM
Tuesday 4th Mar	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Mrs Edward Christian FM
Wed 5th March <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	<del>9.30am</del> 10.00am 2.00pm 7.00pm 7.00pm 7.00pm	<del>Holy Cross</del> St Joseph SSW Primary School St Edward St Andrew OLOA	Denise Baird (Special Intention)
Thursday 6th Mar	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLOA St Joseph	Antonio Cicu RIP FM  Sr Jean Butler (Jubilee 60 years)
Friday 7th March	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLOA	Frances Haughian (Wellbeing)
Saturday 8th Mar <i>Morning Mass:</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOA St Joseph St Edward	Collette Reynolds FM  Sr Clare (Wellbeing) Keith Small RIP
Sunday 9th March <i>First Sunday of Lent</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 5.30pm	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLOA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>  People of the Parish  Ashton Saunders RIP Alfredo Xavier RIP Victor Polastro RIP

## CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)

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Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)

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Fr Matteo Pagani (Assistant Priest)

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Fr Pietro Paiusco (Assistant Priest)

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Deacon Paul Wilson

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**Parish Office** Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF Tel: 02380 273882  
Opening Times: Mon-Thurs 9.30am-5.30pm;  
Fri 9.30am-2.30pm (see newsletter for changes).

**Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance Admin:** Fiona Mooney  
Email: [accounts@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:accounts@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

**Parish Secretary:** Sarah Goodfellow

Email: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

**Website Contact:** [website.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:website.sswp@gmail.com)

**Safeguarding:** Please see Safeguarding posters in each of our churches for details of the Parish Safeguarding Reps. Diocesan Safeguarding: Ruth Attfield [rattfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:rattfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)