

Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ **14th MARCH 2021: FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

The Mother Church

This Sunday, the fourth of Lent, is traditionally known as Laetare Sunday ('Rejoicing Sunday'). It is also known, especially here in our country, as "Mothering Sunday". Actually the two celebrations are not one beside the other, but they are strictly connected, both historically and in their meanings.

Since the first millennium the Church felt the need to encourage all the believers who were committed during this time of Lent to a life-style of penance and sacrifice. The Church felt the need for the believers to stop for a day and "rejoice", thinking about the purpose of their renounces. Imagine if you were in the middle of the desert, walking a long path towards your destination and suddenly an oasis appears in front of your very eyes, where you can find water and rest under the shadow of the palm trees. Maybe you were struggling, asking yourself, "why did I start this journey?". The oasis of Laetare Sunday represents an opportunity to remind yourself that despite all of the struggles, the journey is worthwhile because it is in view of the definitive joy of the Resurrection.

This is a message that goes beyond Lent itself: every time we find ourselves trapped in the middle of a difficult situation God gives us an oasis where we can find solace and comfort. It is the embrace of our mother Church. And here we come to Mothering Sunday. Centuries ago, during the Middle Ages, it was expected that people return to their home or 'mother' church once a year. So each year in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit their 'mother' church - the main church or cathedral of the area. Inevitably the return to the 'mother' church became an occasion for family reunions when children who were working away returned home. (It was quite common in those days for children to leave home for work once they were ten years old). And most historians think that it was the return to the 'mother' church which led to the tradition of children, particularly those working as domestic servants, or as apprentices, being given the day off to visit their mother and family. As they walked along the country lanes, children would pick wild flowers or violets to take to church or give to their mother as a small gift.

What can we learn from all of this? In a nutshell, God never abandons us, He reaches out to us through the Body of Christ, the Church. Some concrete examples of this mothering presence of the church in our daily life are the sacraments (above all reconciliation and Holy communion) and also all the groups of the parish. Sacraments and parish groups are literally the two arms with which the mother church wants to embrace us, giving us strength and solace throughout our journey.

Fr Luca

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is the **Best Images of Pope Francis in Iraq** you can find this on our homepage.
If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact website.sswp@gmail.com

Newsletter items should be received into the Parish Office by Wednesday 9:30am

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 14th March 2021: Year B - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 4

PSALM RESPONSE: O LET MY TONGUE CLEAVE TO MY MOUTH IF I REMEMBER YOU NOT!

READINGS:

1st reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23 **Psalm:**136 **2nd reading:** Ephesians 2:4-10 **Gospel:** John 3:14-21

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 21ST MARCH:

1st reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34 **Psalm:** 50 **2nd reading:** Hebrews 5:7-9 **Gospel:** John 12:20-33

PARISH GROUPS



Stars of Abraham (school years 3, 4, 5 & 6)

All the meetings of the group will be on Zoom on **Saturday at 11.00am**. To join and for more info please click the Stars of Abraham Icon on our homepage.

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9) All the meetings of the group will be on Zoom on **Saturday at 2.00pm**. To join and for more info please click the Grail Seekers Icon on our homepage.

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form) All the meetings of the group will be on Zoom on **Friday at 8.00pm**. To join and for more info please click the Student Youth Icon on our homepage.

Communion & Liberation Groups

Every Wednesday with fr Luca through Zoom.

Every Thursday at 8pm with fr Raffaele through Zoom.

For more information please click the links on the homepage of our website.

Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

If you would like to be baptised, confirmed or received into the Catholic Church (or know more about the Catholic faith) please email Deacon Paul Owen:

powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or alternatively please speak to a priest.

Fellowship Group Lenten Suppers & Bible Study Course Wednesday evenings

Lenten Suppers - 7.00-7.30pm via Zoom

Join us with soup, bread, cheese and a chat. Raising funds for CAFOD and Fledge Eastleigh.

Bible Study - 7.30-9.00pm via Zoom

"Rebuilding the Ruins" looking at our world through the eyes of the Old Testament Prophets.

Week 4 - Creation Ruins.

If you would like to join us please contact Bob and Marion Birtles for the Zoom link:

bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

OASIS (ladies' group) via Zoom

Tues 16th March at 8pm

Preparing for Easter - A time to reflect on our Lenten Journey and look ahead to Holy Week. If you are new to Oasis you are most welcome – please email Jessie to request the Zoom link: jessie.woolgar@gmail.com

MESSAGES



Stations of the Cross During Lent

Holy Cross - Fridays at 6pm, this may be attended in person in the church, it will also be live streamed. Please go to our website for the link.

St Swithun Wells - Tuesdays at 10am, this may be attended in person in the church.

OLQA - Wednesdays at 7.30pm, this may be attended by up to 25 people in the church, it will also be available via Zoom. Please go to our website for the link.

Fridays in Lent - "Knowing your Catholic Faith"

A series of talks by fr Bruce, to help us understand the teaching of our church so that we may be able to explain it to others. **At 7pm**, this may be attended by up to 25 people in OLQA and will also be available via Zoom. Please go to our website for the link.

Lent Penitential Services

Thursday 25th March, 7.30pm OLQA

Friday, 26th March, 7.30pm St Andrew

Saturday 27th March, 11am Holy Cross

A number of priests will be available for confession.

Frassati Centre Survey

What do you think about the Frassati Centre and our parish vision? We would really like to know and understand your views on this. Please take the time to fill in the survey which is on our website, it should only take 10 minutes to complete and your comments and thoughts are important in shaping our future! If you don't have access to the internet please pick up a paper copy of the survey from one of our churches.

Second Collection - This weekend for the **Clergy Assistance Fund** which supports the Clergy Support Team. They support newly ordained priests to settle into their ministry, provide ongoing support and formation for those in active ministry, care for our clergy through illness or in a time of need. The Diocese are responsible for supporting the 73 diocesan clergy in active ministry, 40 from religious orders or overseas and 45 in retirement. They rely on your commitment and generosity to do this, if you would like to give to this collection you can donate at: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/clergy-assistance-fund>

MESSAGES CONTINUED

Changes to St Edward's Mass

The following Masses will also resume:

Starting from 21st March - Sunday Mass at 9am

Starting from 23rd March - Tuesday Mass at 6pm

Starting from 26th March - Friday Mass at 10am

St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School

We are pleased to announce the appointment of the new St Swithun Wells Primary School Headteacher, Mrs Anne-Marie Jordan, who will be starting after Easter. We wish Anne-Marie all the very best in her new role!

Mothering Sunday

This Sunday is Mothering Sunday – we wish all mothers a very happy day! In medieval England, today was a holiday from work when people went home to the mother church in which they were baptised. As families gathered, they gave gifts to their mothers, hence Mothering Sunday, a day we pray for our mothers too. Please remember to say a prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary this Sunday for your mother and grandmother.

Catenian's Talk by Circle Brother Stephen Whelan "Alfred The Great and Viking Attacks in Wessex"

19th March at 7.30pm

This talk is open to all parishioners.

Link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89738403680?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89738403680?pwd=aVYvSzVKQTYzMHNhdmNiWjZEQlVnUT09)

pwd=aVYvSzVKQTYzMHNhdmNiWjZEQlVnUT09

Meeting ID: 897 3840 3680 Passcode: 008080

Message from the Office for National Statistics

Ready, Steady, Census!

21st March 2021

By now you may have already seen 'The census is coming' postcard, and may even have your invitation package. If not it will be with you soon. Each household's letter has a unique access code, allowing you to complete the questionnaire on computers, phones or tablets. Please do not worry if you do not have online access, you can call the freephone helpline on 0800 141 2021 to request a paper copy. This number is on the invite along with your unique number which will be helpful for the call. See also www.census.gov.uk.

If you are finding particular difficulty in completing the Questionnaire online or via paper, we also have a local support team who can provide Completion support over the telephone. Please call 0300 555 1387 to book your appointment.

The census team will have field staff in the area over the census time, and if you've not been able to complete the census you may get a visit to remind you and to see if you have any questions. Please be reassured they will comply with any COVID19 guidelines in place at the time, and census staff will never ask you for money, bank details, personal documents or to enter your home.

MASS (STREAMING & BOOKING SYSTEM), CONFESSION &

Live Streamed Mass

All of the Masses from Holy Cross will also be live streamed. To join please go to our parish website www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

For details of all of our Public Masses please see the timetable on the back page of the newsletter.

Confession

- OLQA, Saturdays at 10am
- St Joseph, after Mass & Saturdays at 5.30pm
- St Andrew, after Mass & Sundays at 8.30am
- Holy Cross, after Mass & Saturday at 10.00am
- If you would like to make Confession at St Edward or St Swithun Wells please speak to a Priest after Mass or alternatively please go and see either Fr Raffaele, Fr Luca or Fr Marco during one of the advertised times below.

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Tuesdays: | Fr Raffaele, 4.00pm-6.00pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church), Eastleigh |
| Wednesdays: | Fr Luca, 4.00pm-6.00pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church), Eastleigh |
| Fridays: | Fr Marco, 10.30am-12.30pm, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey |

To reserve a seat at Mass in St Joseph's & OLQA

St Joseph's, Romsey:

- **Saturday Vigil Mass 6.00pm**

To reserve a seat for the Saturday Mass please contact Teresa Rayment from Wednesday through to Friday (Tel: 01794 513528 / teresarayment@tiscali.co.uk).

- **Sunday 11.00am**

To reserve a seat for the Sunday Mass please contact Joanna Russell from Wednesday through to Friday (Tel: 07917 802814 / joanna@silvasmiths.co.uk).

Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Bishop's Waltham:

- **Sunday at 9.30am** (no booking needed for Thurs Mass)

To reserve a seat for the Sunday Mass please email:

olqamassbook@gmail.com

This Mass is also streamed via Zoom:

Meeting id: 504 727 7919

Password: 467815

Communal Praying of the Rosary with

Meditations from the Holy Cross Presbytery

Tuesdays to Thursdays at 6.00pm through Zoom

For more information and to join please click the link on the homepage of our website. You can send your intentions to:

pagani.matteolessandro@gmail.com

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

| DATE | TIME | CHURCH | MASS INTENTION |
|---|--|--|---|
| Sat 13th March | 9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm | Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) St Swithun Wells St Joseph St Edward | Msgr Juan Antonio Cruz Serrano (Special Intention) The Harfield Family (Well-being) John Carmody RIP For the People of the Parish |
| Sun 14th March <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i> | 8.30am 9.00am 9.30am 10.30am 11.00am 11.00am | Holy Cross St Andrew OLQA St Edward St Joseph Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) | <i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Norah Smewing RIP Janet Larcombe RIP Patrick Burke RIP FM Anna Barrett RIP David Bennett RIP |
| Mon 15th March | 9.30am | Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) | Special Intention for an end to the war in Syria & Afganistan A Special Intention |
| Tues 16th Mar | 10.00am | St Andrew | Patrick & Mary Ellen McNally RIP |
| Wed 17th Mar <i>St Patrick</i> | 10.00am | St Edward | Mary Uphill RIP FM A Special Intention |
| Thurs 18th March | 9.30am 12 Noon | Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) OLQA | Robert Benedict Harris RIP A Special Intention |
| Fri 19th March <i>St Joseph</i> | 10.00am | St Joseph | Sr Mary Michael (Well-being) |
| Sat 20th March | 9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm | Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) St Swithun Wells St Joseph St Edward | James & Kate Ann Kelly RIP & their deceased and living relatives For the People of the Parish Margaret Fielder RIP Andrew Wilson RIP |
| Sun 21st March <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i> | 8.30am <u>9.00am</u> 9.00am 9.30am 10.30am 11.00am 11.00am | Holy Cross <u>St Edward</u> St Andrew OLQA St Edward St Joseph Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) | <i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Patricia Bradley RIP FM Eileen Oag, recently deceased, RIP John Crowther RIP Anniversary Phyllis Altman (Anniversary) |

CLERGY

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: rcoffa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: lspeziale@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Marco Vignolo (Assistant Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: mvignolo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Bruce Barnes (Assistant Priest)

Tel: 01489 890947 (OLQA Office)

Deacon Bob Birtles

Tel: 023 8069 2416; E: bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon John di Meo

Tel: 01794 515688; E: jdimeo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Paul Owen

Tel: 023 80254806; E: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Paul Wilson

Tel: 02380 616618; E: pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

PARISH OFFICE

Address: Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road,
Eastleigh, SO50 9DF

Tel: 02380 273882

Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance Admin:

Linda Roberts (works full day Mon-Wed, half day Thursday now working from home, is answering the Parish telephone)
lroberts@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Sarah Goodfellow (works Wed-Friday 9.30am-2.30pm (working from home on Wednesday, in the office Thursday & Friday)
stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website Contact: website.sswp@gmail.com



LENT & EASTER 2021



LENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES WITH CONFESSION

Thurs 25th March
7.30pm - Our Lady Queen of Apostles
Bishop's Waltham

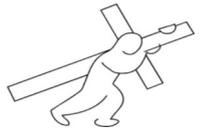
Friday 26th March
7.30pm - St Andrew, North Baddesley

Saturday 27th March
11am - Holy Cross, Eastleigh

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Are being said during Lent at the following churches:

St Swithun Wells: Tuesdays at 10.00am
OLQA: Wednesdays at 7.30pm*
Holy Cross: Fridays at 6.00pm* (excluding Good Friday)
St Edward: Good Friday (only) at 10am - family orientated but open to all



HOLY WEEK - EASTER TRIDUUM - MASS TIMES

All Services listed below (excluding Polish Masses & the Easter Monday Mass) have a booking system in place. Please go to our website www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk for more info & to book. If you do not have access to the internet please ask friends/family to assist you in reserving a seat.

* Denotes those Services/Stations that are live streamed, please go to our website for more information.

Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Bishop's Waltham:

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Maundy Thursday (1st April), 7.30pm* | Mass of the Lord's Supper |
| Good Friday (2nd April), 3pm* | Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion |
| Holy Saturday (3rd April), 8pm* | Easter Vigil |
| Easter Sunday (4th April), 9.30am* | Easter Day Mass |

Holy Cross, Eastleigh & St Edward, Chandler's Ford & St Swithun Wells, Fair Oak:

| | |
|---|--|
| Maundy Thursday (1st April) Holy Cross, 7.30pm* | Mass of the Lord's Supper & Adoration |
| Good Friday (2nd April) St Edward, 10am | Stations of the Cross |
| Good Friday (2nd April) St Edward, 3pm | Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion |
| Good Friday (2nd April) Holy Cross, 5pm* | Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion |
| Holy Saturday (3rd April) St Edward, 8.30pm | Easter Vigil |
| Easter Sunday (4th April) St Edward, 9am | Easter Day Mass |
| Easter Sunday (4th April) St Edward, 10.30am | Easter Day Mass |
| Easter Sunday (4th April) Holy Cross, 11am* | Easter Day Mass |
| Easter Sunday (4th April) Holy Cross, 5pm* | Easter Day Mass |
| Easter Sunday (4th April) St Swithun Wells, 5pm | Easter Day Mass |
| Easter Monday (5th April) Holy Cross, 10am* | <i>No booking required for this Mass</i> |

St Andrew, North Baddesley & St Joseph, Romsey:

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Maundy Thursday (1st April) St Andrew, 7pm | Mass of the Lord's Supper & Adoration |
| Good Friday (2nd April) St Andrew, 3pm | Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion |
| Holy Saturday (3rd April) St Joseph, 8.30pm | Easter Vigil |
| Easter Sunday (4th April) St Andrew, 9am | Easter Day Mass |
| Easter Sunday (4th April) St Joseph, 11am | Easter Day Mass |

Polish Liturgy at Holy Cross, Eastleigh:

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Easter Sunday (4th April) Holy Cross, 8.30am | Easter Day Mass |
| Easter Monday (5th April) Holy Cross, 8.30am | |

