

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES & ST. SWITHUN'S NEWSLETTER



16 FEBRUARY 2025

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FR. ANTHONY'S REFLECTION. What does it mean to be a Christian? Today's readings give us great insight. It first involves a foundation of trust in God, which is based on our faith, a gift given to us, to believe in God and all that he has revealed to us and live a life in him. The Psalmist reminds us that *"blessed is the man who has placed his trust in the Lord,"* for as the Prophet Jeremiah says, *"He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and it is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."*

This trust is based on the reality that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead, that he conquered sin, death, and destruction, and that we will rise again in glory. With this in mind, we hear in today's gospel of how Christians are to be in the world through living out the Beatitudes. In a sense, it is a job description of the values, the attitude, and the ethos that we stand for as being followers of Jesus Christ. Yes, the Beatitudes are radical and go against the flow of the world and culture that we live in. But as Pope Francis mentions, *"We can only practice them if the Holy Spirit fills us with his power and frees us from our weakness, our selfishness, our complacency, and our pride."* (Pope Francis, *Gaudete et Exsultate*, 65)

SEBASTIAN JANICKI. A funeral service will be held for Sebastian Janicki on Thursday 20 February at 9.30am at Kingston Cemetery.

NEW PARISH COUNCIL & FINANCE COUNCIL. We are pleased to announce the establishment of this council. The members are: Morag Jack (Chair), Caroline Elder (Vice-Chair), Tony Denny, Susy Carvalho, Lucy Sayer, and Fr. Anthony. If you have any matters to raise, please speak with any of us.



GOSPEL. Luke 6:17,20-26. *'How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God.'*

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION. £1,096.26. Thank you for your generosity.

BAPTISM, being the doorway to fullness of life and to the kingdom of God, is the first sacrament of initiation celebrated. If you are thinking of having your child baptised and raising them in the Catholic faith, please speak to Fr. Anthony.

IN THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY, spouses signify and participate in the mystery of unity and fruitful love between Christ and the Church. If you are thinking of getting married, please speak to Fr. Anthony to arrange a meeting. Please keep in mind that a minimum of six months is needed to prepare all the paperwork and to complete the marriage preparation programme.

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND. The Catholic Church shows great love and concern towards the sick and suffering through fellowship and the support of the sacraments. If you are interested in a home visit by a priest or parishioner, please get in contact with the parish office.

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/southsea

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Saturday 15 February - 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5.30pm - St. Swithun's (Vigil Mass) *People of the parish*

Sunday 16 February - 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8.30am - St. Swithun's - *Elsie Margaret Purton RIP*

10.15am - St. Swithun's - *Patricia Vitali RIP*

Monday 17 February - FERIA

No Mass

Tuesday 18 February - FERIA

9.00am - St. Swithun's - *Anne O'Neill*

Wednesday 19 February - FERIA

9.00am - St. Swithun's - *William Flynn RIP*

Thursday 20 February - FERIA

9.00am - St. Swithun's - *Private intention*

Friday 21 February - ST. PETER DAMIAN

10.00am - St. Swithun's - *Thelma Ogbeche*

Saturday 22 February - ST. PETER'S CHAIR

9.00am - St. Swithun's - *Jane McShane RIP*

5.30pm - St. Swithun's (Vigil Mass) *Pope Francis*

Sunday 23 February - 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8.30am - St. Swithun's - *People of the parish*

10.15am - St. Swithun's - *John Bernard Bullock RIP*



OFFERTORY. The Parish bank account details are as follows:

Lloyds Bank Account name: CDP Our Lady of Lourdes' and St Swithun Church

Sort code: 30-93-04

Parish Account no: 01730453

MASS INTENTIONS & OFFERINGS.

It is a long-standing Catholic tradition to have the Eucharist offered for a particular intention, for the living and the dead. We do this because our faith is centred on the celebration of the Eucharist, the source of our life in Christ. Of course, Mass is 'free' but it is customary to make a donation in a form of a Mass offering. If you would like to arrange a Mass offering for yourself or loved ones, whether living or dead, please contact Emma in the office.

POPE'S INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY.

For vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

OUR BIBLE STUDY GROUP takes place at 7.30pm each Wednesday in the sacristy. Please join us if you can. All are welcome.

PARISH OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES & ST. SWITHUN'S

Address: 105 Waverley Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO5 2PL United Kingdom

Priest in Charge: Fr. Anthony Fyk - 023 9282 8305

Email: afyk@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish office: southseaparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish office opening hours: Tuesday - Friday, 9.00am - 1.00pm

Safeguarding: safeguarding.porls@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk (Anne Worden and Teresa Rowe)

Website: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/southsea

Charity number: 1199568

PARISH EVENTS

Sunday 16 February

11.15am - Tea & Coffee Fellowship
St. Swithun's Hall

Wednesday 19 February

7.30pm - Bible Study Group
Sacristy, entrance through car park

Thursday 20 February

9.30am - Tea & Coffee Fellowship
Canon Kuner Room

Sunday 23 February

11.15am - Tea & Coffee Fellowship
St. Swithun's Hall

PARISH REGISTRATION. We are developing a new parish database and would like you to visit the website www.caspar.church/me?ID=9840 and fill in a few details. If you don't feel confident using the internet, please speak to the parish office.

LENTEN RETREAT AND HEALING SERVICE. St. John the Evangelist Cathedral, Saturday 22 February from 10.00am to 4.00pm. For more information, please email parambi@hotmail.co.uk. *Deacon Zacharias.*

RECONCILIATION THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION. Through Confession, we obtain the pardon of God's mercy for the sins we have committed by not loving him and each other. We are reconciled to God and with one another. We are healed, restored, and given peace. Confession times are Saturdays from 9.30am to 10.00am and 5.00pm to 5.25pm. If you would prefer, an appointment can be made with Fr. Anthony.

ASCENSION PRESS APP. The number-one Catholic Bible app. The word of God, commentaries and teachings of our Catholic faith. Video, audio, and textual. <https://ascensionpress.com>

CAFOD. Could your new year's resolution be to help promote CAFOD's fast days at St. Swithun's? Your desire for a better world will help connect your community with those overseas and enable our sisters and brothers in the poorest places in the world to lift themselves out of poverty. To be a CAFOD parish volunteer, please contact Jo Lewry for more information. jolewry@cafod.org.uk

ADORE SPIRITUAL MINI-RETREAT - Saturday 22 February, 10.00am - 1.00pm. *"Pilgrims of hope - the Holy Spirit is our guide."* This includes Mass, Adoration, praise, prophecy, prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring guest speaker Gerry Penfold. Please register for the free Zoom meeting in advance at bit.ly/ADOREFEB2025.

'KEYS TO ACCOMPANIMENT - GOOD CONVERSATIONS TO ACCOMPANY OTHERS.' Join this online course and explore conversations that can help others to grow closer to Jesus. Listening conversations require us to call on the help of the Holy Spirit to embed our conversations in his love. Email: Inahajski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

THANK YOU for your support.