

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



16 MARCH 2025

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

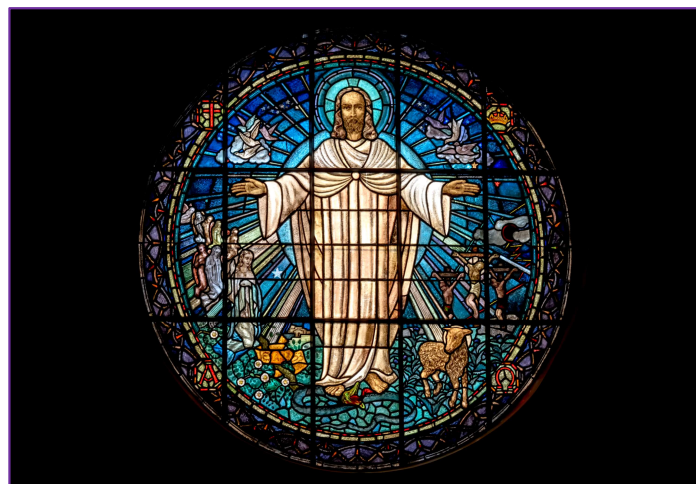
PARISH VISION. We are a community of Christian people who seek our strength from the Word of God and the Eucharist, which unites us together. Our mission is to be a living presence of Christ for the people of our area and to share God's love, compassion, reconciliation, and peace with everyone. With his help, we aim to be a place of welcome and hospitality for all.

FR. ANTHONY'S REFLECTION. We hear of the contrast between this Sunday's reading of the Transfiguration and last Sunday's reading of the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness. Lent is a time where we focus on the 'battle' against wrongdoing, injustice, sin, selfishness, and pride. This 'battle' eventually leads to the Resurrection. After Jesus told his disciples of his coming passion and death, he manifested to them his glory through his Transfiguration, which will be fully realised in his Resurrection.

The Transfiguration is therefore a foreshadowing of the bliss and joy that is to come in the Resurrection. We all have our 'battles' of life, so we are invited this Sunday to keep a good perspective knowing that good will come about. It is easy in our relationship with God and with each other to grow tepid. Lent is a great opportunity for renewal to refocus our attention by spending more time in prayer, fasting from wrongdoing, and sharing our goods with others in need, always realising that the 'battle' we encounter during this lifetime can be 'won' with God's grace, for victory and glory to result.

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION. £1,144.10.

ASCENSION PRESS APP. The number-one Catholic Bible app. <https://ascensionpress.com>.



GOSPEL. Luke 9:28-36. *Jesus is transfigured before them.*

COULD YOU HELP? I am very grateful for your continual support of the parish. Your sharing of your gifts, talents, and time is greatly appreciated. To run the mission of the parish, we depend on your generosity. During this time of Lent, we are invited to be more 'sharing'.

Have you considered 'Stable Giving' by setting up a regular monthly donation to the parish through a Direct Debit? If you are a taxpayer, have you considered 'Sensible Giving' by signing up for Gift Aid, which increases your donation to the parish by 25%? All the forms are available at the back of the church so please return them to the office. If you have any questions, please speak with Emma.

Fr. Anthony

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

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Saturday 15 March - 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

5.30pm - St. Swithun's (Vigil Mass) *Fr. Terence McClean-Wilson*
RIP

Sunday 16 March - 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

8.30am - St. Swithun's - *People of the parish*
10.15am - St. Swithun's - *Fr. Andrew Barrett RIP*

Monday 17 March - ST. PATRICK

No Mass

Tuesday 18 March - 2ND WEEK OF LENT

9.00am - St. Swithun's - *Mary Cook*

Wednesday 19 March - ST. JOSEPH

9.00am - St. Swithun's - *Sick and housebound of the parish*

Thursday 20 March - 2ND WEEK OF LENT

9.00am - St. Swithun's - *Fr. Charles Arthur RIP*

Friday 21 March - 2ND WEEK OF LENT

10.00am - St. Swithun's - *Brian Teeling*

Saturday 22 March - 2ND WEEK OF LENT

9.00am - St. Swithun's - *People of the world*
5.30pm - St. Swithun's (Vigil Mass) *Pope Francis*

Sunday 23 March - 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

8.30am - St. Swithun's - *Sr. Ellen Munn*
10.15am - St. Swithun's - *People of the parish*



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 MARCH.

For families in crisis. Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

OUR BIBLE STUDY GROUP takes place at 7.00pm this Wednesday in the sacristy. Please join us if you can. This is a wonderful way to learn more about the scriptures.

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

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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 March

9.30am - Sacrament of Reconciliation
11.15am - Tea & Coffee Fellowship in St. Swithun's Hall

Wednesday 19 March

9.30am - Sacrament of Reconciliation
7.00pm - Bible Study Group - Sacristy, entrance through car park

Thursday 20 March

9.30am - Tea & Coffee Fellowship - Canon Kuner Room

Sunday 23 March

9.30am - Sacrament of Reconciliation
11.15am - Tea & Coffee Fellowship - St. Swithun's Hall



Friday 28 March

10.00am - St. Swithun's
School Mass

Sunday 13 July

St. Swithun's Parish Fete

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.

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. During Lent, the Sacrament will also be available in between the 8.30am and 10.15am Masses. If you would prefer, an appointment can be made with 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.

BAPTISM. If you are thinking of having your child baptised, please speak to Fr. Anthony.

SECOND COLLECTION - CAFOD Family Fast Day. We thank Jo Lewry from CAFOD who talked about CAFOD's work in Kenya and made an appeal for CAFOD parish volunteers at St. Swithun's last weekend. You can donate to CAFOD's Family Fast Day parish collection and be a pilgrim of hope with CAFOD this Jubilee Year by using the CAFOD envelope in church, donating online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or calling us on 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10. Many thanks for your support.

PARISH SOCIALS. As Christians, it is important to gather for fellowship or socials to build and strengthen the bonds between us. We are looking for ideas for social activities. Please share your ideas at the back of the church on the Parish Socials Poster.

PETITION. Please consider signing the Care Not Killing petition which calls on MPs to vote against legalising assisted suicide in England and Wales. The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill would make vulnerable people - including the elderly and disabled - feel a burden on family or carers resulting in pressure to end their lives.

THANK YOU to all our volunteers.

A MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS

The Gospel of the Liturgy of this second Sunday of Lent narrates the Transfiguration of Jesus (cf. Lk 9: 28-36). While praying on a high mountain, he changes in appearance, his robe becomes bright and radiant, and in the light of his glory, Moses and Elijah appear, who speak with him about the Passover that awaits him in Jerusalem, namely, his Passion, Death and Resurrection.

The witnesses to this extraordinary event are the apostles Peter, John and James, who went up the mountain with Jesus. We can imagine them with their eyes wide open before that unique sight. And, certainly, it must have been so. But the evangelist Luke notes that *“Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep”*, and that *“when they wakened”* they saw the glory of Jesus (cf. v. 32). The drowsiness of the three disciples appears to be a discordant note. The same apostles then fall asleep in Gethsemane too, during the anguished prayer of Jesus, who had asked them to keep watch (cf. Mk 14:37-41). This sleepiness in such important moments is surprising.

However, if we read carefully, we see that Peter, John and James fall asleep precisely before the Transfiguration begins, that is, while Jesus is in prayer. The same would happen in Gethsemane. This is evidently a prayer that continued for some time, in silence and reflection. We may think that, at the beginning, they too were praying, until tiredness prevailed, until sleep prevailed.

Brothers, sisters, does this ill-timed slumber perhaps resemble many of our own that come in moments we know to be important? Perhaps in the evening, when we would like to pray, to spend some time with Jesus after a day of rushing around and being busy. Or when it is time to exchange a few words with the family and we no longer have the strength. We would like to be more awake, attentive, participatory, not to miss precious opportunities, but we are unable to.

The powerful time of Lent is an opportunity in this regard. It is a period in which God wants to awaken us from our inner lethargy, from this sleepiness that does not let the Spirit express itself. Because - let us bear this in mind - keeping the heart awake does not depend on us alone: it is a grace and must be requested. The three disciples of the Gospel show us this: they were good, they had followed Jesus onto the mountain, but by their own strength they could not stay awake. This happens to us too. However, they awoke precisely during the Transfiguration.

We might think that it was the light of Jesus that reawakened them. Like them, we too are in need of God's light, that makes us see things in a different way: it attracts us, it reawakens us, it reignites our desire and strength to pray, to look within ourselves, and to dedicate time to others. We can overcome the tiredness of the body with the strength of the Spirit of God. And when we are unable to overcome this, we must say to the Holy Spirit: *“Help us, come, come, Holy Spirit. Help me: I want to encounter Jesus, I want to be attentive, awake”*. Asking the Holy Spirit to bring us out of this slumber that prevents us from praying.

In this Lenten time, after the labours of each day, it will do us good not to switch off the light in the room without placing ourselves in the light of God. To pray a little before sleeping. Let's give the Lord the chance to surprise us and to reawaken our hearts. We can do this, for instance, by opening the Gospel and letting ourselves be amazed by the Word of God, because the Scripture enlightens our steps and inflames the heart. Or we can look at the crucified Jesus and wonder at the boundless love of God, who never tires of us and has the power to transfigure our days, to give them a new meaning, a new, unexpected light.

May the Virgin Mary help us to keep our heart awake, to welcome this time of grace that God offers to us.