



MARCH 20TH 2022 | THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
ST JOSEPH'S & ST EDMUND'S
City Centre Catholic Parish Southampton



The God who cares, who listens, and WHO IS.

Our first reading today is particularly poignant when we find ourselves in the midst of the atrocities happening in the Ukraine. There have been an extraordinary number of heartfelt examples of prayer vigils, rosaries, liturgies entreating God to put an end to this violation of justice and the misery it is causing. In these dark times there is a temptation to cry "Where are you God?" It is vital to our faith to realise that God does listen and God does care. Moses came to the mountain of God and was trying to find God in the burning bush. Although Moses has to close his eyes and has to hide his face from God, he hopes that the Lord will not close His eyes to the affliction of His people. God puts that fear to rest by saying 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt and I am well aware of their suffering'. God does see what is happening and there is reason to hope. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Joseph is not like other gods who have ears but they cannot hear or eyes and they cannot see. God is capable of being moved: He is not simply an onlooker. Moses shows us a God of action who is moved to act on what He sees. 'I will bring them to a land where milk and honey flow.' God cares deeply about what will happen to His people. He is a God who is openly against oppression and His care takes the shape of historical liberation. Moses is chosen as the leader to give voice to God's opposition of the manufactured suffering of His people. We need to be that voice, to assist the liberation of those in Ukraine and Russia.

Throughout salvation history we have witnessed a God whose tolerance and mercy has been tested over and over again. Will the day come when God will run out of mercy? The answer lies in the revelation given to Moses. God is not only the God of history. It is in His name and who He is 'I AM who I AM'. God will never be a has been for He will always be an I AM. His fidelity and staying power is in the assurance of His presence.

In the parable of the fig tree we get further insight into the patience of God. An orchard owner orders his gardener to chop down an unproductive tree. The gardener advises him to leave it one more year giving it one more chance. We can wrongly assume that Jesus is the orchard owner but on the contrary Jesus is the gardener, asking mercy for the disobedient fig tree. The question that we can be asking ourselves is where does repentance sit in the current climate: surely God is not wanting those perpetrating the crimes to perish but to repent and turn back to Him?

What should our response be to the current situation? We have already seen amazing generosity from across the world in donations of supplies and money and most recently in the opening up of homes and accommodation for the refugees.

I was struck by some beautiful 'Stations of the Cross in a Time of Conflict' that were sent to me. The twelfth station is entitled 'Peace'.

'You died Jesus, so You could be with us, yes, to the end of time even in the horrors of life. No one knows what happened in the darkness of the tomb ..even in the midst of death there is life. At some point in warfare, opposing sides must sit down and broker peace. Some said that war in Europe could never happen again. We are a united people but obviously not united with our neighbours. Thank God that goodness prevails and evil is shattered, then hopefully brought to justice. Some say 'The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing'. Jesus did something, can't we?

Tina Quinn

Today's Notices

Children Liturgy at 9am Mass

1st Scrutiny takes place at 10am Mass (for those to be Baptised or Received into the Church at Easter)

Memorial Service for Jeff Voler

Stations of the Cross at 6.15pm in St Edmund's Church

Please continue to sanitise hands on entry to the churches and we **encourage wearing face masks**

Questions for the week....

1. ".....leave it one more year..." we hear in today's gospel. God gives us time to change, again and again and.....! Do you give people another chance after they make a mistake? Has God used others to help you bear fruit?

2. For whom did God call Moses (1st reading)? Was it for Moses' sake or for the sake of the Israelite people? Does "I Am Who I Am" intervene in our history as s/he did in the Israelites? Name some incidents that you think are/were God's interventions. Are we asking God to intervene for Ukraine right now?

3. Do you have to work at keeping a friendship alive and healthy (2nd reading)? Does the same hold true for your relationship with God?

Vincent Harvey (adapted from Anne Osdieck)

A Few Words...

*Please continue to pray for the situation in and around **Ukraine** and how we can help in a practical way (see elsewhere).*

The EST began the process of looking at the 'Synodal Way' responses (all on the Parish website). We have shared our immediate responses to the summary sent to the Diocese and will continue at future meetings to unpack and develop what we perceive as priorities to take forward. We will produce a 'hard copy' of the responses we sent to the Diocese.

*Remember that all through **Lent** there is a 6.30am Mass in St Ed's, as well as the usual 7pm Mass. Also Stations of the Cross in both churches (see elsewhere) and see also '**Working Through Lent 2022**' in the Lent link on our website.*

Thank you to those who have sponsored me for my 'cycle against hunger' for CAFOD....so far I have done more walking than cycling!.....keep it coming!!

Have a good weekend... Vincent H

Prayers

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Michael Peters who passed in the early hours of Thursday morning. May he rest in peace.

Jeff Voller RIP: Service at 4pm on Sunday (20th) to pray for Jeff who died at the beginning of lockdown. We pray for his wife, Ellen and their family, Stephen (sadly also died during lockdown), Colin and Kathleen. 11am Mass today also for Jeff: may he rest in peace.

Parish CAFOD Prayer Group Fridays in Lent, on Zoom at 8:15pm. Email joyce@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Please remember especially in your prayers *Ivanka and Jayden Roberts, Laneisha Vaz, Jannette and Robert Keith, Margaret Hicks, Gary, Margaret Murray, Mary Mullen, Mary O'Reilly* and all in the Parish who are ill, dying, undergoing treatment or are experiencing distress.

Pope's prayer intention for March: *Christian response to bioethical challenges. We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges. May they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.*

Please join our Lenten Rosary Prayer Chain. It just involves you taking and praying one decade of the Rosary each day throughout Lent. Please contact Catheryn 07534110228 or catherynhulme1@hotmail.com to receive your decade and details.

*Tomorrow, we will celebrate World Down Syndrome Day. We pray especially for the lives of all unborn children diagnosed with Down's syndrome, that as a society we would not view them as a problem to resolve, but as people to love and protect. **Lord hear us.***

Prayer diary for our churches' action on climate and sustainable living: *The world and all that is in it belong to the LORD; the earth and all who live on it are His (Ps 24:1).*

Let us continue to pray for peace in Ukraine

Fortnight focus. Thanksgiving for communication:
·Our churches' clear messages about climate change
<https://asauc.org.uk/climate-change>
<https://www.southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org/greenliving>

·Our websites' designers and administrators
·The Green Living leaflets online – see links above
·Pope Francis' inspirational lead on response to climate

Current action points needing prayer support:

·Wessex Synod of the URC, meeting 12th March, saw our Green Living leaflets and the administrator has offered to put them on the Synod website!
·A number of local networks wanting to upload these also, and more being contacted during this fortnight.
·That the aim of the leaflets will be fulfilled: *"to lead from your present awareness, through deeper understanding and broader vision, to important action you may take, locally and more widely".*

What's going on?

Appeal for aid for Ukraine. The Polish Social Club have a new collection point - the former ToysRUs building in the city centre. They will be open **Wednesday 5pm-7pm / Thursday 1pm-7pm / Friday 4.30pm-7pm and Saturday 10am-3pm.** Below is an updated list of the most needed items. Any donations you can give would be very gratefully received.

- Sleeping bags •Folding camping beds
- Non-applicator tampons •Tinned meats and fish
- Baby food and milk •First aid kits
- Supplements and vitamins •Protein bars
- Instant food •Head torches

Making a financial donation. If you would like to support the emergency in Ukraine, please see the below links for donations - and please pray for all those affected.

<https://www.caritas.org/donate-now/>
<https://www.siepomaga.pl/southamptondlaukrainy>
https://cafod.org.uk/donations/picker?defaultuniversalttype=single&_Appeal=123770

Too many children in this world are living in countries where fighting has become part of everyday life. This includes children in South Sudan, where **Mary's Meals** serve life-changing meals. One third of children living in this country are suffering chronic malnutrition. Half are missing school. Millions are displaced. Please donate to this vital cause <https://donate.marysmeals.org/gb>

Food Banks. Please when shopping buy 'one' extra item to bring to church and put in the box in the porch. No perishables. Southampton City Missions Basics Bank are very low on the following: **tinned vegetables, cold tinned meat**, small bags of **sugar, rice pudding, milk and coffee.**

Musician required for St Vincent de Paul Music Ministry
We are seeking an experienced Musician to accompany the Choir at 9:30am Sunday Mass in St Vincent's. If you or if anyone you know would be interested, please contact svpoffice@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

This Week...

- Tues** St Michael's Meditation Group @ 6pm
Wed Evening Prayer @6pm..... to join email Dcn Andy Journey in Faith 7pm
Thurs Stations of the Cross at St Joseph's: 11.30am
Richard Rohr @ 5pm
Fri Stations of the Cross at St Edmund's: 6.15pm
CAFOD prayer online
Sat CAFOD Walk Against Hunger

For info

- Mon** Day Off: VH/JP
Tues SLT: VH/JP/TQ/LS/AP
Wed Clergy Team Meeting: VH/JP/AP
Governors' online training: VH
Thurs Cathedral Chapter: VH
Fri St Anne's Masses: VH/JP
Foundation Gvs Training: VH
Clergy Ministry Group: VH

CAFOD Our 'Common' Walk Against Hunger - Sat 26 March. Join the Journey in Faith team walking against hunger this Lent. Start at St Edmund's Church from 2pm - or any time that afternoon. Walk up to 5km on the Common. Return to St Edmund's Hall for tea, coffee & cake - donations in aid of CAFOD ('Cafe' open 2:00 - 4:30pm). Please let Marina know if you would like to help with refreshments or donate cakes. Donations of cakes welcome - drop off on the day please from 1 pm. Contact Marina : mjoyce@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
See our Walk Against Hunger page:
<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/southampton-journey-in-faith-group>

Evening Adoration is available Tuesdays and Fridays in St Edmund's 5-7pm. **We rely on your attendance to be able to offer this opportunity.** We are called to do more than just attend the Mass. Why not commit this period of Lent to visiting Our Lord in Adoration?

Stations of the Cross: Thursday 11.30am in St Joseph's
Fridays & Sundays 6:15pm in St Edmund's.

Wednesdays in Lent: Masses at 6.30am & 7pm in St Edmund's.

Stop new abortion threat. Baroness Sugg has tabled an amendment to the Health and Care Bill that would make 'DIY' at-home abortion permanent. It is vital that as many Peers as possible oppose this amendment. Right To Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool on its website that makes it easy for you to send an email to a randomly-assigned Peer asking them to oppose the amendment. Please visit www.righttolife.org.uk/DIYabortionthreat to contact your MP now. It only takes two minutes.

CONCHORD Singers are preparing a newly-composed work commemorating the sailing of the Mayflower and looking to recruit new members. No audition. Just come along to our next practice at Christ Church, Freemantle SO15 3BS at 1930h on Friday 25th March. For further details please email: sineadnicdaithi@yahoo.co.uk

Weekly Green Living Suggestion...

New low-cost food store provides high-quality, low-cost food and household products - on average half the price. **The Company Shop, Campana House, Hawkeswood Road, Southampton, SO18 1AB.**

The World Health Organisation says that our Western diet (and increasingly the diet of the wealthier parts of the rest of the world) contains at least twice the amount of protein we need to be healthy and contributes to obesity, heart disease and Type 2 Diabetes so we should try and reduce the amount of meat, especially red meat, and dairy products we consume and when we do buy meat try and buy local produce that isn't being transported long distances. This would also help reduce greenhouse gas.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING SUNDAY 20TH MARCH*(CHURCH KEY TO CITY CENTRE CATHOLIC MASSES BELOW: SJ = ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, BUGLE STREET, SO14 2AH AND SE = ST EDMUND'S CHURCH, THE AVENUE, SO17 1XJ)*Prayer of the Church
Week 3

Saturday 19th March	6:15pm SJ	Dr Sarah Macauley
<i>St Joseph</i>	7:00pm SE	Msza Polska / Mass in Polish
Sunday 20th March	9:00am SE	Mrs G Clements RIP
<i>Third Sunday in Lent</i>	10:00am SJ	Fanny Shek RIP
	11:00am SE	Jeffrey Voller RIP 2nd Ann.
	7:00pm SE	Repose of the soul of Rosa Weingart 9th Ann.
Tuesday 22nd March	10:00am SE	Eileen & Alex Aitken RIP
Wednesday 23rd March	6.30am SE	Peter James Conway RIP
<i>St Turibius</i>	7:00pm SE	Jane Potter RIP
Thursday 24th March	12:15pm SJ	Helena Houston
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>		
Friday 25th March	7:00pm SE	Deceased members of the La Sainte Union Community, Southampton
<i>The Annunciation of the Lord</i>		
Saturday 26th March	11:00am SE	Flora Furtado RIP
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	6:15pm SJ	Mary O'Brien RIP
	7:00pm SE	Msza Polska / Mass in Polish
Sunday 27th March	9:00am SE	Joaquim Rodrigues RIP
<i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i>	10:00am SJ	Birthday blessings to Sangeeve, Sandamali & Baby Aaron
	11:00am SE	Cpt George Ponniah Birthday Blessing
	7:00pm SE	Alan Cunningham RIP

20th March
Third Sunday in Lent
Psalm Response:
The Lord is compassion and love.
Gospel Acclamation:
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Readings 27th March**First Reading:***Joshua 5: 9-12***Second Reading:***2 Corinthians 5: 17-21***Gospel:***Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32***Weekly Collection 6th March**

Standing Orders: £1877.25

Cash Donations: £641.27

Total : £2,518.52**CONTACT DETAILS**

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Won't you consider coming to Adoration?

When we reach out to Jesus by making the effort to visit Him in the many tabernacles we pass throughout our days, He responds with an outpouring of grace, especially for those who have died or are dying. While you are quietly praying, offer a Chaplet of Divine Mercy for the souls in most need, and name your deceased loved ones with each bead offered.

"You cannot be too gentle, too kind. Shun even to appear harsh in your treatment of each other. Joy, radiant joy, streams from the face of one who gives and kindles joy in the heart of one who receives"

*St Seraphim of Arov***Second Collections:**This week: **No second collection**Next week: **No second collection****Confessions: St Joseph's:**Thursdays 11.45am & Saturdays 5.45pm
(before Mass)**St Edmund's:**

Saturdays 11.30am (after Mass)