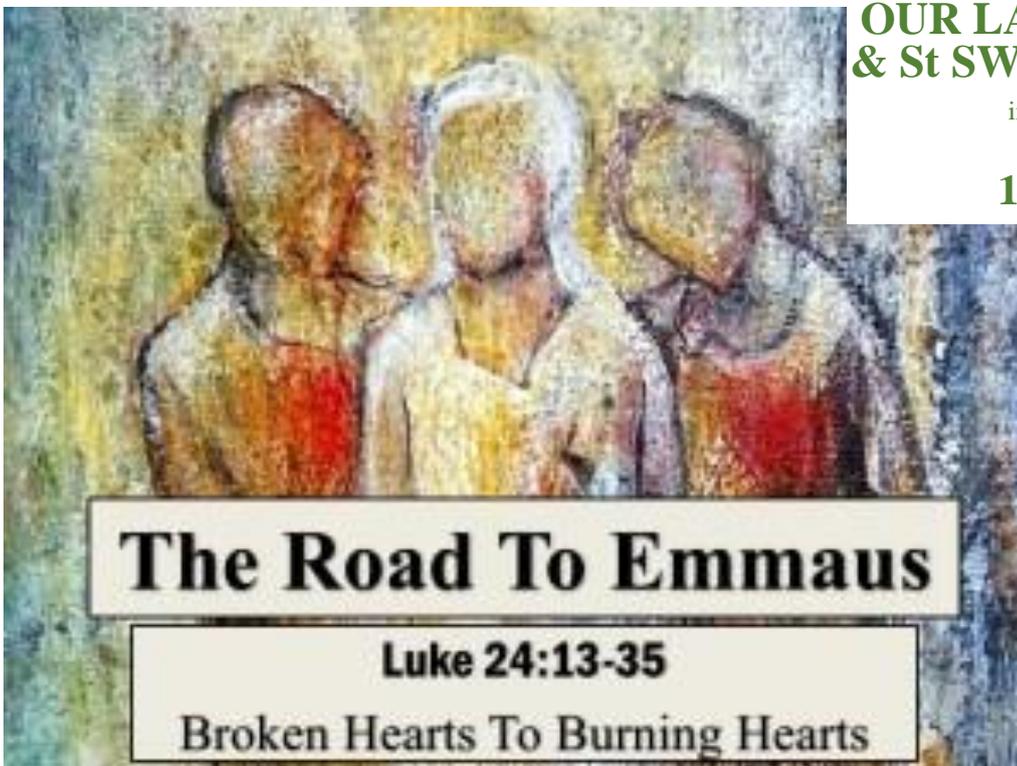


**OUR LADY OF LOURDES
& St SWITHUN'S CHURCH**
in SOUTHSEA

15th April 2018



Today, the Gospel still refers us to the Resurrection of the Lord, when the two disciples of Emmaus are going to Jerusalem and, once there, while explaining how the Lord made himself known to them, the Resurrected appears in their midst. But his presence is disconcerting. On the one hand, it provokes a great fright on them, to the point «they thought they were seeing a ghost» (Lk 24:37) but, on the other, his body pierced by the nails and the spear, is an eloquent testimony that he was the very Jesus, the Crucified one: «Look at my hands and feet and see that it is I myself. Touch me and see for yourselves that a ghost has no flesh and bones as I have» (Lk 24:39).

«Lord, show us the light of your face!», sings the psalm of today's liturgy. Yes, for Jesus «then opened their minds to understand the Scriptures» (Lk 24:45). It is quite urgent. It is absolutely necessary the disciples have a clear and profound understanding of the Scriptures, for as St. Jerome tells us, «Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ».

But understanding the word of God is not something we can manage privately, or within a gathering of friends or acquaintances. The Lord revealed the meaning of the Scriptures to the Church gathered in that Paschal community presided over by Peter and the other Apostles, who had been appointed by the Master so that «repentance and forgiveness in his name would be proclaimed to all the nations» (Lk 24:47).

Therefore, to be witnesses to the real Christ it is urgent that—in the first place—the disciples learn how to recognize his Passion scarred Body. An ancient author makes the following recommendation to us: «He, who understands that our Pasch has been sacrificed for him, has also to understand that his life starts when Christ died to redeem us». Furthermore, the apostle has to intelligently understand the Scriptures, read under the light of the Spirit of truth spilled over into the Church.

We welcome among us Fr Simon Francis Gainé OP
and we wish him a very holy and fruitful time among us.
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and we wish him a very holy and fruitful time among us.**



**PLEASE, read a very powerful & important
Pastoral Letter of our Bp Philip for all of us.
Thank You!**

PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE BISHOP PEOPLE OF LIFE

My dear People of God, People of Life, Happy Easter!

Today, as you leave church, I have a small Easter Gift for you: a booklet of prayers and reflections that I hope you will like and treasure. More, by God's grace, I hope it will inspire you, your parish and all our Framework and Evangelisation Teams, to prayer, commitment and strategic action.

However, here I want to explore again what it means to be a human person, created by God, fallen through sin, yet redeemed in Christ. There is now in society great confusion and conflict about what it means to be human, about relationships, sexuality and love, but also, most seriously, about the actual value and dignity of human life itself from conception to natural death. As Catholics, the Gospel is always a sure guide. Jesus Christ is God, Deum de Deo, but as the Creed also affirms, the New Adam, from the earth the Perfect Human.¹ He is our Model. It is thrilling that we humans, body and soul, live at the intersection between the two realms of creation, the material and the spiritual! This should make us a people of life, a people of joy and good will, people who promote the sanctity of life in all its beautiful diversity.

Consider this. It's over fifty years since the 1967 Abortion Act, one of the most liberal in the world, came into effect. Since then, ten million babies in the UK have been aborted, one in five pregnancies. As a people of life, our efforts to defend the unborn child, to care for pregnant mothers and to reverse or blunt this Act have had mixed results and it now looks as if, unjustly, our secularist government will no longer allow us even to pray outside hospitals and clinics. Consequently, I'm discussing with pro-life groups and with our Justice, Peace and Social Responsibility Team some new forms of witness. We need to change tack. As a start, from this year on, I would like us to keep every 23rd October, the day the Act was passed, as a diocesan Day of Prayer and Reparation for Life. On that day, as we celebrate being people of life with various initiatives, I ask our priests to offer a Mass for the Progress of Peoples, but wearing the purple vestments of penitence.

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the saintly Pope Paul VI's prophetic Encyclical Letter *Humanae Vitae*. It restates the Church's doctrine on the integrity of sexual intercourse, reserved to a husband and wife in marriage, as an act of love open to life and that these two aspects, openness to life and love, must not be split or artificially separated. Otherwise, the Pope warned, there would be catastrophic consequences for persons, families and society. Years on, we can now see exactly what he meant in broken family relationships, the reduction of sex to a casual activity, the trafficking of people for prostitution and pornography, the sexualisation of the young and the explosion of addictive behaviours leading to despair, shame and guilt. I invite everyone to revisit this teaching and to reflect on the alternative 'spiritual ecology' that the Gospel proposes for family life, when natural methods of fertility and family planning are used. Our diocesan Marriage and Family Life Team are keen to help and to give advice.

As a people of life, who celebrate life as a Divine gift, full of meaning, purpose and value, we cannot idly stand by

before evil, injustice, suffering and violence in our world, including the abuse of the Earth and its resources. We must act. Next month is the anniversary of Pope Francis's brilliant Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si*, in which he begs people to live an authentically human ecology, a more balanced, simple life-style, a life that respects the environment, helps end poverty and espouses justice. It would be good to re-read *Laudato Si* alongside *Humanae Vitae*. As Catholics, we should live an integrally 'green' and natural way of life. To do this, of course, given our fallen nature, we need the love of Christ and the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit.

Ours is an era of amazing advances in knowledge and technology, from science and medicine to the arts and humanities. Yet the demise of faith and religion, the demise even of people praying, is rapidly undermining in Britain the foundations of ethics. This dilution of our Christian patrimony threatens to usher in a frightening new Dark Age. No wonder a death-wish is arising for assisted suicide and euthanasia. As Catholics, as people of life, we cannot ignore these challenges. We must act. We must ask Jesus to help us reach out in love to those around, to assist people develop a personal relationship with God. This is fundamental to the mission of our schools and parishes. But more than this, we must enable the Catholic Tradition to engage positively and constructively with culture and society in a mutually enriching conversation. Indeed, in November this year, our Dialogue with Cultural Sectors Team is organising an exciting Symposium called "Science – or - Religion?" It will tackle positively some of the issues that current advances raise: What does it mean to be human? How can we be happy? What does the Gospel say about life? There will be more details soon in ENews.

"Peace be with you!" says the risen Jesus to His apostles in today's Gospel. Living a Christian life is demanding, but living life without Christ is intolerable. As we sang in the Easter Exsultet, He came to bring us life, joyful life, life to the full. Even if at times history seems ambiguous, His victory on Calvary guarantees that good will triumph. So I ask you now: Be people of life! Love Jesus; keep close to Him and adore Him in the Eucharist. Read the Gospels; study the Church's social teaching and be open to the questions people raise. This will help us to become positive, confident, 'can-do' Catholics. May Mary Immaculate, St. Edmund of Abingdon, and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati inspire us and pray for us. May they help us share our Christian faith and Christian values, Bringing People Closer to Jesus Christ through His Church. Thank you for listening.

In Corde Iesu

+ *Philip Bishop of Portsmouth*





The Holy Father Pope Francis has released the Apostolic Exhortation 'Gaudete et Exsultate' on the call to holiness in today's world.

There is an emphasis on the document being practical and useful in modern times and it is not intended to be an academic or doctrinal text per se. As its accompanying summary document states, its goal is "to repropose the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time."

The call to holiness in one that cries out to all of us in our daily lives. Gaudete et Exsultate encourages us to take inspiration from the 'Saints

next door' - people who may not be officially canonised but can be decisive in bringing about change. Pope Francis quotes Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross:

"The greatest figures of prophecy and sanctity step forth out of the darkest night. But for the most part, the formative stream of the mystical life remains invisible. Certainly the most decisive turning points in world history are substantially co-determined by souls whom no history book ever mentions. And we will only find out about those souls to whom we owe the decisive turning points in our personal lives on the day when all that is hidden is revealed."

Holiness is described as the "most attractive face of the Church" and is attainable despite the challenges of everyday life. Pope Francis wants people to know that they don't need special education or qualifications, nor to have taken religious vows to be holy - just an open heart and a desire to spend some time with the Lord in prayer and by reading the Gospel. He also wants people to know that the Church makes available everything they need to become holy.

A far reaching and accessible document, 'Gaudete et Exsultate' examines many subjects tied in to our relationship with Christ - prayer, reading scripture, helping others, maintaining and upholding human dignity not to mention challenges to holiness such as the danger of gossip.----- It also looks at two ancient heresies - Gnosticism and Pelagianism.

The next **Ascent Group Meeting** is on St George's Day April the 23rd from 2-15 pm in the Church Hall. The guest Speaker on this occasion will be Dr John Steadman from Portsmouth History Centre who will speak on 'Famous People connected with Portsmouth'.

BEACON PROJECT - The next meeting is 16th April at 7:30PM in St Swithun's Hall for praise and worship and a time of prayer for our upcoming Discovering Christ pilot.

If you haven't signed up yet for the Discovering Christ pilot starting in April, please send an email to: coreteam@beaconprojectportsmouth.org.uk to register. Please feel free to pass this information on to anyone you would like to invite. Here are the dates:

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| 1: What is the Meaning of Life? | 23rd April, 7-9:30PM |
| 2: Why Does Jesus Matter? | 30th April, 7-9:30PM |
| 3: What Does Jesus Want Us To Know? | 7th May, 7-9:30PM |
| 4: Why Do I Need a Saviour? | 14th May, 7-9:30PM |
| 5: Why is the Resurrection Important? | 21st May, 7-9:30PM |
| RETREAT: 26th May (Saturday), 9 AM -3 PM (to be confirmed) | |
| 6: Who is the Holy Spirit? | |
| 7: The Holy Spirit and You! | |
| 8: New Life in the Spirit | 4th June, 7-9:30PM |
| 9: Our Need for the Church | 11th June, 7-9:30PM |

Please pray for those who are ill, especially: David Shields, Bob Guy, Ms Sini Chacko, Shirley Parker, Kathleen Jones, Heidi Badnell, Rosemary Devonald, Dominic, Carol Langsford, Patricia Ward, Pat Groom, Stan Whitnell, Mary Mckenna, Eileen Inkpen, Rory McCreesh, Eddie Coppani, Peter Softly, Tony Denny, Betty Foster, Bobby, Eileen Stewart, Joan Smith, John Williams, Margaret Bager, Monica Madigan, Fred Vuksani, Tom & Lily, Greta Kemp, Magda K, Mary Wallis, Micheline Thompson, Pat Needham, Margaret Badger, Rosemary Ashton, Anne Sullivan, Catherine Morgan, Jo Wheeler and Josephine Butler.

And all whose anniversaries occur at this time: 15TH April: Dolores Sanderson, Simon Urwin, Edward Thompson, Marie Moakes, Benedict McCreesh, Albert Langford, Mary Herra, Walter Harry Ferbrache, William Walsh, Robert Forrester, Mary Margaret Cecilia Grant, Frank Short, Michael Power, Edward Marks, Ernest Japler, John O'Driscoll, Gladys Minnie O'Hara, Thomas Pearson, Ethel Pharo, William Parsons, Mary Comber, Sydney Tynan, Violet Querstret, Adeodata Andrews, Lilian da Silva, Patricia Rose Andow, John Molloy, Johanna O'Callaghan, Sheila McCaughey, Mary Simpson, Catherine Capon, Bro. David Poulten FSC, John Cogher, Bernard Duffy, George Crook, Phyllis Foster and Isabel Clabburn.

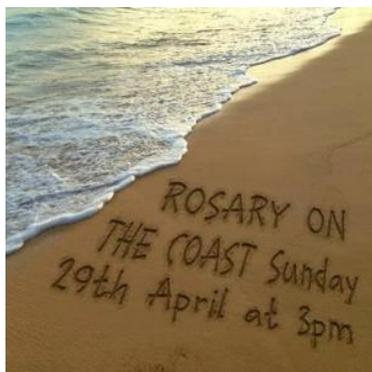
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

ST SWITHUN'S CHURCH - (105 Waverley Road, Southsea PO5 2PL)

DAY OF THE WEEK	TIME	INTENTION OF THE HOLY MASS	FEASTS & MEMORIALS of the Holy Liturgy	Readings of a day
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER 15-04-2018	8.30 am 10.15 am 1.00 pm	For Sr Mary Ann - recovering from surgery + Theo Donnelly RIP Mass in Polish: + Maciej & Janina Lach RIP		Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19; Psalm - 4; 1 John 2: 1-5a; Luke 24: 35-48;
MONDAY 16-04-2018	10.00 am	<u>Liturgy of the Word followed with The Rosary Prayer</u>	of the 3 RD Week of Easter	Acts 6:8-15; Psalm 118; John 6, 22-29;
TUESDAY 17-04-2018	9.30 am 10.00 am 10.30 am 7.00 pm	Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament + Rev. Patrick McSwiney RIP <u>We pray the Rosary</u> NO MASS!!!	of the 3 RD Week of Easter	Acts 7:51-8,1; Psalm - 30; John 6: 30-35;
WEDNESDAY 18-04-2018	10.00 am	<u>Liturgy of the Word followed with The Rosary Prayer</u>	of the 3 RD Week of Easter	Acts 8:1-8; Psalm 65; John 6: 35-40;
THURSDAY 19-04-2018	9.30 am 10.00 am 10.30 am	Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament + Dec. of Naylor Family RIP <u>We pray the Rosary</u>	of the 3 RD Week of Easter	Acts 8:26-40; Psalm - 65; John 6: 51-52;
FRIDAY 20-04-2018	 9.00 am 7.00 pm	Requiem Mass of + Dolores Sanderson RIP followed by the committal in Milton Cemetery NO MASS!!!	of the 3 RD Week of Easter	Acts 9:1-20; Psalm - 116; John 6: 52-59;
SATURDAY 21-04-2018	9.30 am 10.00 am 10.30 am	Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament For Rohan's intention <u>We pray the Rosary</u>	St Anselm, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	Acts 9:31-42; Psalm - 115; John 6: 63.68;
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 22-04-2018	8.30 am 10.15 am 1.00 pm	+ Claire Estelle Adams RIP No intencion! Mass in Polish: + Malcolm Morse RIP		Acts 4: 8-12; Psalm - 117; 1 John 3: 1-2; John 10: 11-18;

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH (Bransbury Road, Portsmouth PO4 9JY)

THURSDAY 19-04-2018	12.00 noon	NO MASS!!!	NO MASS!!!	NO MASS!!!
Saturday 21-04-2018 VIGIL MASS of SUNDAY	6.00 pm	For all Parishioners		Acts 4: 8-12; Psalm - 117; 1 John 3: 1-2; John 10: 11-18;



ROSARY ON THE COAST: Sunday 29 April 2018 at 3pm. This is an initiative of the Lay Faithful across the British Isles inviting the faithful of our nations, with the support of our clergy and Bishops, to a Day of Prayer for Life.

WE'LL MEET NEARBY SOUTHSEA CASTLE – ON THE SIDE OF Fountain – all ARE VERY WELCOME!!!

OFFERTORY: Thank you for last Sunday's Collection. The total amount was: £1345.58 (55,6% Gift Aid). As always, your generosity is much appreciated. Your offertory make the life and work of the Parish possible.

