



## *Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ* 1st DECEMBER 2024: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### PRAYER DURING ADVENT

This year Advent begins, very neatly, on the 1st of December. This Sunday's Gospel - this year from the Gospel of Luke - develops a sense of expectation. Something very important is about to happen, "Straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

The new translation of this Gospel (ESV) is very powerful. "Watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down. (...) Stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength." It is a strong invitation to pray and to stay awake.

Advent is really a great opportunity to develop and grow in our life of prayer. But what is prayer? I would like to give you three points to help you pray. They are like three steps, once we have developed one step we can move on to the next in a crescendo from prayer to meditation to contemplation.

1. Prayer is a dialogue between ourselves and God. This dialogue is made possible by the presence of the Holy Spirit in us, through whom we can say "Abba Father". The Holy Spirit makes the Son of God dwell in us and the dialogue between the Son and the Father becomes possible for us too.

And in this dialogue, all the people I know are present, they are between me and the Father. The dialogue between Jesus and the Father includes intercessions for the world, for sinners, for the needs of people...; in the same way, the dialogue between me and God includes prayers for those entrusted to me. Especially during Mass, all those present are those for whom I pray to the Father.

True prayer is a dialogue with God in which there is space for adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving and praise.

2. Prayer is the memory of Christ. During prayer we are invited to remember what Jesus has done for us. The Lord Jesus came two thousand years ago, but He has also visited us many times in our own lives. In prayer we should remember the times when the Lord has come to us. The Lord Jesus is like a treasure in a field, and prayer is a work in which we meditate to discover more and more how Jesus has become present in the field of our circumstances.

3. Prayer is also a development of our spiritual senses, which we receive through Baptism and the other sacraments. Just as we have bodily senses that allow us to see, taste, touch, hear and smell, our soul also has spiritual senses that allow us to see, taste, touch and hear the Lord present in us and under the veil of Scripture, creation, circumstances, sacraments and our brothers and sisters in the community. All this is not automatic, the spiritual senses must be used and developed, otherwise they wither. Everything speaks of God, a rock is a sign of the Lord's stability, an eagle is a sign of our desire for heaven, a child is a sign of God's humility... Indeed, our spiritual senses, if trained, allow us to see and hear the Lord present and dwelling in the people, things and circumstances around us.

*Fr Raffaele*

### GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "A Life Worth Living", a CL Leaflet about Assisted Suicide - you can find this on our homepage. If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact [website.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:website.sswp@gmail.com)

For the next Newsletter, items should be received into the parish office by **10am on Wednesday 4th December 2024**, please email your messages/notices to: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

If you wish to make a donation to our parish please go to: <https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/financesdonations>

# LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 1st December 2024: Year C - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 1

PSALM RESPONSE: TO YOU, O LORD, I LIFT UP MY SOUL.

1<sup>st</sup> reading Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2 Gospel Luke 21:25-28,34-36

Sunday 8th December 2024: Year C - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 2

PSALM RESPONSE: WHAT GREAT DEEDS THE LORD WORKED FOR US! INDEED WE WERE GLAD.

1<sup>st</sup> reading Baruch 5:1-9 Psalm 126 (125) 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Philippians 1:3-6,8-11 Gospel Luke 3:1-6

## PARISH GROUPS



**Afternoon Club** - St. Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water. Come and join us for tea, games and good fun. Please note the next games afternoon will be held on Tuesday 3rd December at 2pm.

**Growing In Faith Together Group (GIFT)** - The GIFT Group is meeting in the Balcony of Holy Cross Church every Tuesday at 10.30am whilst the Resource Centre is being re-furnished.

See our website for details of more groups: CL, Fellowship, Stars of Abraham, Grail Seekers, Student Youth, Ark...

## MESSAGES



### Parish Financial Summary September 2023-August 2024 and Ways to Support your Parish

Last weekend you received with the Newsletter a summary of St Swithun Wells parish finances for 2023/2024, please read this carefully and if you have any questions please contact Fr Raffaele. You can support our parish through regular planned giving. Details of the ways to do this are below.

1. To set up a new Direct Debit (DD), complete the form provided last week and hand to a member of clergy, your Gift Aid coordinator (details below) or the parish office.
2. To give by Standing Order (SO). The forms for new standing orders are available at each church and on the parish website. Complete the SO form and a gift aid declaration form if you are a UK taxpayer. Then contact your Gift Aid co-ordinator, details below and on the parish website.
3. Use the QR code on the parish financial summary to set up regular online giving.

If you wish to increase your DD or SO donation, you do not need a new form, simply contact your Gift Aid co-ordinator again details below.

**St Andrew and St Joseph's** – David Martin (01794 511883) [giftaid.sjsa@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:giftaid.sjsa@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

**St Edward's** – Mike Greenslade (02380 262870)

[giftaid.sea@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:giftaid.sea@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) Donna Scappaticci (07515 727765)

[giftaid.seb@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:giftaid.seb@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

**Holy Cross, St Swithun Wells, Our Lady Queen of the Apostles** – Pat Baggott (02380 694060)

[giftaid.hcolqa@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:giftaid.hcolqa@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

### Parish Retreat for Advent on Sat 30th November, 2.30pm-4.30pm at St Edward's. Open to everyone.

There will be a talk about Advent, some time for private prayer in the church and a time for questions and sharing thoughts.

### Advent Penitential Services

These will be held across our parish, with the opportunity for individual confession:

Thursday 12th December, 7.30pm – OLQA

Friday 20th December, 7.30pm – St Andrew

Saturday 21st December, 11am – Holy Cross

A number of priests will be available on each occasion.

**Upcoming Funeral** - Please pray for the repose of the soul of Helen Armshaw and for her family. Helen's Funeral Mass will take place on **Tues 3rd December at 10am in St Andrew's.**

**OLQA Volunteers** - There will be a meeting for all the volunteers in Our Lady Queen of the Apostles and for those who want to join us to contribute to the life of the Catholic Church in Bishop's Waltham. We are gathering in the church hall on **Saturday 7th December at 4pm.**

**Annual Christmas Fayre at St Edward's** after Mass on Saturday 7th & Sun 8th December. Christmas related "goodies" will be on sale and a Christmas hamper will be raffled. Donations of cakes or Christmas gifts will be gratefully received. All proceeds will go to CAFOD's Advent Focus helping vulnerable people in Ukraine to survive the winter months.

### Christmas Flower Workshop at OLQA

For all novices who would like to create a simple arrangement for the Christmas table - no previous skills needed! The OLQA (Bishop's Waltham) Flower Ladies are holding a workshop in the church hall for up to 15 people on **Friday 13th December from 9.00 - 12.00, which will be followed by Mass, then a simple lunch.**

**Minimum donation to cover the morning: £10**

(all donations will go to Crisis At Christmas).

If you would like to join us for an enjoyable morning, please email - [paulinestmargaret@gmail.com](mailto:paulinestmargaret@gmail.com) by 6th December latest.

### Parish Christmas Party - Sunday 15th December, 1pm-4pm at St Swithun Wells Primary School

**Menu:** Main - Chicken with vegetables, a vegetarian option will be available and a Dessert.

Please bring your own drinks.

**Price £10 per person**, children 16 and under free. We have kept the ticket price the same as last year (£10), however if you are able to pay more, please do so.

In Holy Cross & St Edward's you can pay by contactless if you would prefer.

**Tickets** are available in our churches (in the welcoming areas) from this weekend. A limited number of tickets is available, the **deadline for purchasing tickets is Sunday 8th December.**

**Admission by ticket only**

Christmas jumpers and fancy dress actively encouraged!

## MESSAGES CONTINUED

### Upcoming Second Collection

**Christmas Flowers** - If you would like to contribute towards the beautiful flowers & decorations that will be displayed in all of our churches there is a collection **next weekend**. Please do not use the yellow gift aid envelopes for this collection.

**OLQA Annual Carol Service** - Sunday 15th December at 6pm followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Any offer of mince pies and raffle gifts would be gratefully appreciated. All are welcome!

**CL Christmas Carols** - Our Christmas Carols will be back on 21st December 2024 at 2pm in Eastleigh (Swan Centre). For those who would like to help with the singing, there will be two rehearsals, on 10th and 17th December at 8pm in Holy Cross.

**Carol Service** - Faith, festivities, food and fun! Please join us for our Carol Service on Sunday 22nd December 2024 at 3pm, in St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak.

### St Swithun Wells, Fair Oak - Fundraising for CAFOD

This year, we have two initiatives:

Firstly, our Christmas Card Collection - last year we raised £300 for a Medical Outreach Team. This year we'd like to do it again!

Secondly, we have a hamper to raffle with Fair Trade goods. Tickets on sale after Mass at Fair Oak, the draw will be at our Carol Service on 22nd December.

*Thank you, Trisha Holmes*

### Parish Pilgrimage (Fri 23rd - Mon 26th May 2025)

The pilgrimage to Lisieux, France will be led by Fr Raffaele & Fr Mario. We will visit the place where St Therese lived and the surrounding area. See posters on church noticeboards; the itinerary, booking form and more information are on the parish website.

**The New Sunday Missal** - Please remember to use the new Sunday Missal from this weekend!

### Walk with Me Advent Booklets & Children's Advent

**Calendars** - these are available to pick up in church welcome areas from this weekend (a suggested donation of £1 for the booklets would be most welcome, the Advent Calendars are free).

**CAFOD World Gift Catalogues** will be available to pick up from church welcome areas along with CAFOD **Advent prayer cards** from this weekend.

**Date for your Diary! Seniors (over 60s) Afternoon Tea** - Sunday 2nd February. Details to follow.

### CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Tuesday:	9.30am-10.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew
Tuesday:	6.30pm-7.30pm (after Mass)	St Edward
Saturday:	10.00am-10.30am (after Mass)	Holy Cross
	5.30pm-6.00pm	OLQA
	5.30pm-6.00pm	St Joseph
Sunday:	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Edward
	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tues: St Edward - after Mass (6.30pm-7.30pm)  
 Wednesday: Holy Cross - after Mass (10am-11am)  
 Thursday: St Joseph - before Mass (5pm-6pm)

## SCHOOL NOTICES

### St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School

**Nativity for the Parish** - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 10am in our school hall. The parish is warmly invited to join us.

**Thank you** - We have received a donation of £400 from an anonymous donor towards the children's football kit. We would like to say a big thank you to whoever you are!

### Consultation of St Anne's Catholic School

**Admissions Policy (2026/2027)** - A copy of the proposed policies, as well as the guidance sheets for completing SIFs and the school's aptitude for music admissions priority, are in church welcome areas. The consultations will run to 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2024. The school welcomes views from any interested parties. Go to: <https://st-annes.uk.com/about-us/news/44/consultation-admissions-policy-2026-2027>

### St George Catholic College

#### **Give the Gift of a Picnic Bench This Christmas!**

This Christmas, please consider supporting Saint George Catholic College Governors by contributing towards the cost of a picnic bench, which students have identified as a need for the school. The bench costs £600 and will include a plaque recognising our parish's generosity. It's a meaningful way to give back during the season of giving. Every donation, no matter the amount, is welcome! If you'd like to contribute, please arrange payment via your bank to Account name: St George College – Governors A/C, Sort Code: 30-80-27, Account number: 23820860, Reference: Bench + your surname. Thank you.

### At a Glance - List of Upcoming Parish Events

30th Nov:	Parish Advent Retreat
4th Dec:	Parish Lunch
7th Dec:	OLQA Volunteers Meeting
7th & 8th Dec:	CAFOD Christmas Fayre at St Edward
12th Dec:	Penitential Service at OLQA
13th Dec:	Christmas Flowers Workshop at OLQA
15th Dec:	Parish Christmas Party
15th Dec:	OLQA Carol Service
20th Dec:	Penitential Service at St Andrew's
21st Dec:	Penitential Service at Holy Cross
21st Dec:	CL Christmas Carols
22nd Dec:	Carol Service at St Swithun Wells Church

### TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Tuesdays:	Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Church, Eastleigh;
Wednesdays:	Fr Luca, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Church, Eastleigh;
Fridays:	Fr Mario, 10am-12 Noon, OLQA, Bishop's Waltham;
Fridays:	Fr Pietro, 11am-12.45pm, 26A Abbey Water, Romsey.

## MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 30th Nov <i>Morning Mass: St Andrew</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Kenneth Sweet FM Justine Power RIP Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP People of the Parish Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP
Sunday 1st December <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 5.30pm	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Paul Chandler RIP 9th Anniversary Jesus Ocaya & Francisco Villaver RIP James & Catherine Pearson RIP In Memoriam FM In Thanksgiving Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP
Monday 2nd Dec	9.30am	Holy Cross	Fraternity of St Charles; Gualtero Family FM
Tuesday 3rd Dec <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	<u>Funeral Mass: Helen Armshaw RIP</u> Carol Singers and their helpers
Wed 4th Dec	9.30am 9.30am	Holy Cross St Edward	Smyth Family FM Keith Small RIP
Thursday 5th Dec	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Phil Talbot RIP Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP
Friday 6th Dec	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	Tony Williams RIP Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP
Saturday 7th Dec <i>Morning Mass: St Ambrose</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Mr & Mrs Meech and Family (Wellbeing) Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP People of the Parish
Sunday 8th December <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 5.30pm	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Mrs Edward Christian FM Benito Ocaya RIP Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP Ellen Lane RIP FM Deceased Friends and Relatives of the Ceresa Family Marion Smith RIP

## CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)  
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: [rcossa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:rcossa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)  
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Fr Mario Toma (Assistant Priest)  
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Fr Matteo Pagani (Assistant Priest)  
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Fr Pietro Paiusco (Assistant Priest)  
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Deacon Paul Wilson  
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**Parish Office** Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF Tel: 02380 273882  
Opening Times: Mon-Thurs 9.30am-5.30pm;  
Fri 9.30am-2.30pm (see newsletter for changes).

**Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance Admin:** Fiona Mooney  
Email: [accounts@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:accounts@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

**Parish Secretary:** Sarah Goodfellow  
Email: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

**Website Contact:** [website.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:website.sswp@gmail.com)

**Safeguarding:** Please see Safeguarding posters in each of our churches for details of the Parish Safeguarding Reps. Diocesan Safeguarding: Ruth Attfield [rattfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:rattfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)