



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ 9th FEBRUARY 2025: FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Dawning Of Something Original

One of the privileges of being a priest is the opportunity to listen to people's stories. And if you are a missionary priest in a worldwide spread priestly Society, like I am, you hear stories from all over the world: from Taiwan to the United States, from England to Africa. Of course it doesn't exist in the world, a culture that is completely identical to another, a story that is the exact copy of another story, because each individual is unique and irreplaceable. But I've become aware that, at least in the Western World, there is something that we are all experiencing: the fading of an old world and the dawn of a new one.

Secularism has done its job, and we see the consequences: less than half of the British population believes in God, churches are closing or being converted into hotels, and passing on faith to new generations has become more difficult than climbing Mount Everest barefoot. This does not surprise me. It is part of a decline we have, unfortunately, grown accustomed to.

What does surprise me is something different. G. K. Chesterton once wrote: "*Christianity has died many times and risen again; for it had a God who knew the way out of the grave.*" God has not abandoned us. When I travel for my responsibilities as supervisor of our missions in Europe I see everywhere people who have strayed so far from God that now they cannot help but return to Him: in France, Germany, Norway, Austria, Hungary... People who, after experiencing every extreme or being given complete freedom since childhood, now ask: *What must I do with my freedom?* Restless hearts finally finding rest in God.

I see signs of a new dawn. They may not be as grand as cathedrals, but they are real, beautiful, and surprising - like a flower blossoming in the desert. When you see them, you can't help but wonder: *How is this possible? Where does it come from?* These are delicate yet strong sprouts of hope.

I also see, in some teenagers and children, an authentic thirst for higher goals - beyond the narrow ambitions of success and career. But are we, as adults, giving them what they need? Or are we simply lowering the bar, treating them as if they have never left primary school, settling for second-best?

This year, we invited children from Grail Seekers (ages 11-14) to make a Promise before God, which they will renew annually: to treat one another as brothers and sisters, to say a special daily prayer (the *Prayer of the Knights*), and to be missionaries by inviting new friends to join the group. In the eyes of some, I saw the excitement of finally being part of something grand.

I see a new dawn - but not an unprecedented one. It is an *original* dawn, in the truest sense of the word: a return to the origins of Christianity. *For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am with them.* A renewed passion for Christ and His Church - an answer to a society yearning for truth and fellowship. This new dawn is a reminder for many of us, who may have never dramatically left the Church, of the core of our faith: a life changing encounter, a love story. It is also a call to share with those who have just encountered Christ the ancient yet ever-new richness of our faith.

Fr Luca

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "*Praying for vocations to Priesthood and religious life*" by Pope Francis. If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact website.sswp@gmail.com

For the next Newsletter, items should be received into the parish office by **10am on Wednesday 12th February 2025**, please email your messages/notices to: 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 9th February 2025: Year C - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 1

PSALM RESPONSE: IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ANGELS I PRAISE YOU, O LORD.

1st reading Isaiah 6:1-2a,3-8 Psalm 138 (137) 2nd reading 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Gospel Luke 5:1-11

Sunday 16th February 2025: Year C - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 2

PSALM RESPONSE: BLESSED THE MAN WHO HAS PLACED HIS TRUST IN THE LORD.

1st reading Jeremiah 17:5-8 Psalm 1 2nd reading 1 Corinthians 15:12,16-20 Gospel Luke 6:17,20-26

PARISH GROUPS



Youth Groups (including First Holy Communion & Confirmation)

Stars of Abraham (school years 3, 4, 5 & 6)

Tuesdays 4pm-5.30pm, St Edward's

Fridays 4.30pm-5.45pm, St Andrew's

Saturdays 10.30am-12pm, Holy Cross R/Centre

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9)

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

Fridays 6.30pm-8.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre

For more information about the groups please go to

our website: www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/parishlife

(scroll down to Youth Groups).

Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community meet weekly at:

Holy Cross every Wednesday at 8pm;

St Edward's every Thursday at 8pm.

For more information please click the link on the homepage of our website. All are welcome!

Fellowship Group - Wednesdays at St Swithun Wells Church, 7.30pm-9pm.

On 12th February we will be looking at the Apostles Creed. Everyone is welcome. If you wish to join us by Zoom please email Peter Baggott for the link on peterbaggott@aol.com.

Growing In Faith Together Group (GIFT) - every

Tuesdays at 10.15am for coffee followed by bible study at 10.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. All are welcome!

Learn to Pray with the Weekly Scripture Readings

Wednesdays at 11am in St Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water, Romsey;

Thursdays at 10am in St Edward the Confessor Church, Chandler's Ford.

Please come along if you would like to grow in your life of prayer by praying with the following Sunday's Mass readings. All are welcome.

Ark of Fellowship - Group for learning disabilities or learning difficulties, their families and friends

Thursdays at 6.30pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre. Interested in volunteering or know some young adults who would like to join the group?

Contact: arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com

Knitting Club - Third Tuesday of the month, from

2pm-4pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. If you would like to join us for a knit and cup of tea please come along, all levels of knitting ability welcome!

Next Meeting: Tuesday 18th February

CL Portsmouth Diocese Day

Sunday 9th February at St Edward the Confessor church, Chandler's Ford. Please arrive from 12pm.

12.30pm: Bring & share lunch;

3pm: Witnesses and questions (children activities held simultaneously); 5pm: Holy Mass.

Please bring a donation for the venue. This is a great opportunity to invite any family or friends, make sure you register as soon as possible so that we know how many people are coming. To register please go to the St Swithun Wells parish website.

Mass at St Joseph's - On Saturday 15th February

there will be an additional Mass at 12 Noon at

St Joseph's Church, Romsey. At this Mass, Samantha Harris of St Joseph's and Andrea Hurry of St Boniface, Shirley will make their First Promises as Secular Carmelites. The Mass will be led by Fr Matt Blake a Carmelite Friar from Kensington Priory. All parishioners are invited and would be most welcome at this Mass.

Come & See Spring Half Term Club (for children 7yrs -14yrs) at St Edward the Confessor Church

Mon 17th to Friday 21st February, 8.30am-3.30pm

Registrations are now open. For more information including costs, times and to register please go to:

<https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/comeandsee>

Please pay the whole amount by bank transfer by Friday 14th February 2025.

MESSAGES



Laugh off the winter blues - Come to an afternoon of Call My Bluff plus a light hearted quiz, in Romsey Parish Centre, Tuesday 18th February, from 2-4pm. No charge but, as space is limited, if you intend to come please give your name to either Ann Heslop, Sr Catherine or Rosemary Peacock.

Happy Monday Club - Hello and a Happy New Year!

We have a birthday and a jury service summons in February so our first event of the year will be on Monday 10th March at 2pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre in Eastleigh. We will be showing a film, "Shamrock Spitfire". The film is a true story based on the life of Brendan "Paddy" Finucane, a fighter pilot who became the youngest Wing Commander in the history of the Royal Air Force, at the age of 21. Suggested donation of £2 to include refreshments. If you need to know anything please contact Karen or Peter on 07809596831 or jakeman1966@hotmail.co.uk and we hope to see you there.

Cultural Friday - 7th March from 7pm in St Edward's

We will listen to a talk by Fr Alberto Frigerio, priest of the Diocese of Milan, and Assistant Professor of Ethics of Life at the Higher Institute of Religious Sciences in Milan. He obtained a Masters in Integrative Neuroscience at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Please save the date, more details to follow.

MESSAGES CONTINUED

Lent Parish Retreat

We will hold a Parish Retreat for Lent, led by Fr Raffaele on **Saturday 15th March, 2.30pm-4.30pm at St Edward**. Open to everyone. There will be a talk about Lent, some time for private prayer in the church and a time for questions and sharing of thoughts.

Parish Pilgrimage to Lisieux, France **Friday 23rd - Monday 26th May 2025**

Bookings for our parish pilgrimage have been very encouraging, and there are only a few places left. If you are considering joining us to learn more about St Therese and visit the place of her birth, convent and surrounding area, please visit the parish website for more information and booking form. If you have any questions or would like more help, please email: Anne Monaghan at anne.monaghan@outlook.com Please do come and join us!

Recommended Reading - The Story of A Soul *by St Thérèse of Lisieux.*

Story of a Soul is an autobiographical work by Saint Thérèse of Lisieux. In this book, she shares her family life, personal conversion, and years of trials. Thérèse illuminates the "little way" to sainthood, emphasizing childlike simplicity before God and doing small things with great love. We recommend the translation by John Clarke which can be bought online.

Grail Seekers The Promise - 15th & 16th February. Isle of Wight

The Promise is a special celebration that we will hold annually (this year is it in Quarr Abbey), inviting the young people who are part of Grail Seekers to freely and consciously respond to God's love. During this celebration, they will promise before Him to remain faithful to the Church by following the Rule of Grail Seekers. The Promise offers children an opportunity to make a personal decision, deepening their experience of the Church as their home and fostering a sense of belonging to God. Please pray for our young people as they take this important step.

Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

If you, or someone you know, would like to be baptised, confirmed or received into the Catholic Church (or know more about the Catholic faith) please email Dcn Paul Owen: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or alternatively please speak to a priest.

Thank you from Stella Maris - "We are most grateful for your parish's donation of £739.17 (plus gift aid). Your generosity will help ensure that seafarers and fishers in this country and around the world will continue to receive the care and support that they need".

ADoRE Zoom Mini Retreat "Pilgrims of Hope – The Holy Spirit is our Guide"

22nd February 2025, 10am-1pm on Zoom
Please register in advance at bit.ly/ADOREFEB2025
For a retreat programme please go to:
https://www.altonrenewal.com/this_month

Promotion of hall hire to external groups - if you know of any external groups who are looking for hall hire please point them in our direction as we have a number of suitable locations in the parish!

OLQA Hall in Bishop's Waltham; St Edward's cloister in Chandler's Ford; 26A Abbey Water in Romsey. Our newly refurbished Resource Centre in Holy Cross also still has some availability, especially on Monday afternoons and all day Friday (until 4pm). Hall hire is £20 per hour. For more information about booking, and terms & conditions of use please contact Fiona at accounts@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk or by phoning 02380 273882.

Eastleigh & Fair Oak Street Pastors - Volunteers Needed!

Could you spare one Friday night a month, to spread the love of Jesus in Eastleigh or Fair Oak. We patrol in teams of at least three with both ladies and gents from our local churches. There is a choice of shifts from 8pm to around midnight, or from 11.30pm to around 3am, on a Friday night. You are invited to come out as an observer. If you then wish to join a team, there is an application form and training to be completed.

Training times: Friday Eve 7pm – 9.30pm, Sat All Day 9.30am-4.30pm, Sunday All Day 9.30am-4.30pm.

Weekend 1: 14th, 15th, 16th March

Weekend 2: 28th, 29th, 30th March

Weekend 3: 11th, 12th, 13th April

Applications by end of Sunday 23rd February 2025.

For more information please go to our website <http://www.eastleigh.streetpastors.org.uk/> or email eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk or phone Eric Hyom on 07736967921

To view our latest newsletter please go to:

https://streetpastors.org/locations/eastleigh/wp-content/uploads/sites/67/2025/01/newsletter_Edition_30.pdf

At a Glance - List of Upcoming Parish Events

9th Feb:	CL Portsmouth Diocese Day
12th Feb:	Parish Lunch at King Rufus
17th-21st Feb:	Come & See Half Term Club
18th Feb:	Call My Bluff & Quiz afternoon
18th Feb:	Knitting Club at Holy Cross restarts
2nd Mar:	Parish Get2Gether - save the date!
7th Mar:	Cultural Friday - save the date!
10th Mar:	Happy Monday Club Event
15th Mar:	Lent Parish Retreat

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

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Tuesdays:	Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh;
Wednesdays:	Fr Luca by appointment, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh;
Fridays:	Fr Mario, 10am-12 Noon, OLQA, Bishop's Waltham;
Fridays:	Fr Pietro, 11am-12.45pm, 26A Abbey Water, Romsey.
Fridays:	Fr Matteo, 11am-12.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 8th Feb	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOA St Joseph St Edward	Doris Rice RIP Gillian Meaney (Wellbeing) Keith Small RIP
Sunday 9th February <i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 5.30pm	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLOA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Deceased Members of the Fung Family People of the Parish Deceased Members of the Marucci & Bibbo Families Danny Hogan RIP Pauline Whalley (Wellbeing)
Monday 10th Feb <i>St Scholastica</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross	Tony Magee (Wellbeing)
Tuesday 11th Feb	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	
Wed 12th Feb	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Paul Glover RIP Kathleen Ditte RIP & Deceased Family FM
Thursday 13th Feb	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLOA St Joseph	Doris Rice RIP Mavis Philpot RIP
Friday 14th Feb <i>St Cyril & St Methodius</i>	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLOA	Special Intention Emmanuel Altman RIP Anniversary
Saturday 15th Feb	9.30am 12 Noon 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Joseph St Swithun Wells OLOA St Joseph St Edward	<u>Carmelites Mass</u> Teresa Savage RIP Roy Haslam RIP
Sunday 16th February <i>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 5.30pm	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLOA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Jeanette Butcher RIP Anniversary Baby Thomas RIP Max Cockings RIP People of the Parish

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

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

Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: lspeziale@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Mario Toma (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: mtoma@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Matteo Pagani (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Pietro Paiusco (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: ppaiusco@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Bob Birtles
Tel: 023 8069 2416; E: bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon John di Meo
Tel: 01794 515688; E: jdimeo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Paul Owen
Tel: 023 8025 4806; E: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Paul Wilson
Tel: 023 8061 6618; E: pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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

Parish Secretary: Sarah Goodfellow
Email: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Website Contact: 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