



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

17th NOVEMBER 2024: THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE END – OR THE BEGINNING? – IS APPROACHING

The month of November reminds me that life is short, that my time is getting shorter, that the end - mine and the world's - is approaching.

Two things in particular - apart from the physical ailments - in this month remind me that time is passing: First, the fact that in November I have my birthday, so relatives and friends wishing me well remind me that another year of my life has passed. And, like a good bottle of wine, when it is full you quietly drink while enjoying the delicacy of Bacchus, but when more than half the bottle is empty, then you pay more attention to it, because it is running out.

The other element that reminds me that time is getting short is the liturgical year, in fact this Sunday is the last of Ordinary Time, next week will be Jesus Christ the King and then with Advent the new liturgical year begins. Therefore the readings for this Sunday, which is the thirty-third, have as their theme the end of the world, the approach of the Last Judgement, the apocalypse and the collapse of the world.

Dwelling on this second aspect, I can say that the readings of this last Sunday are frightening at first glance, because by putting the end of the world in the foreground, they create a certain anxiety, especially when one would like to still have so much time to live, to do things, to carry on or to finish one's projects. When I think of the young families I know, for example, the plan for them is to have their children grow up, to see their grandchildren grow up as well, and perhaps to be able also to give their great-grandchildren a kiss.

But unfortunately - or fortunately? - we are not masters of time and we are not masters of our lives. The British government would like to claim the right to end life in certain circumstances, but, as our Bishop Philip says, this is a mortal sin, a grave failing before God who is the One who gives us life and therefore also the One who takes it away from us when He wills, not when it suits us.

Returning to the point of my time running out, I have the record of being the oldest priest in our house... but at the same time I boast of being the only one who still rides a bicycle when the weather permits, who goes jogging when the bones are not broken, and who plays football with the kids during half-term. In this last activity, fortunately, Fr Pietro comes to my aid.

Actually I tend to be lazy, but whenever I do some sporting activity, then I feel better. So it is with my relationship with Jesus. It happens that when I have to pray I get lazy, and instead of praying I use my time for less useful things, often wasting it. All the times, instead, that I dedicate my time to Jesus, then I feel much better, I am much happier, above all I have a clearer goal in life.

So even at a time that reminds me of the end of time and the end of my life, praying actually reminds me also - and above all - that the beginning of eternal life is approaching, the possibility at last to see Jesus face to face, the person who is dearest to me, for whom I am giving my life, and with joy!

So my advice to the less young - but also to the young, because nobody knows that day or hour - pray, live a deep relationship with Jesus every day, in this way the time that passes will become an ever greater expectation of meeting the One who loves you with infinite love.

Fr Mario

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

For the next Newsletter, items should be received into the parish office by **10am on Wednesday 20th November**, 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 17th November 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 1

PSALM RESPONSE: PRESERVE ME, GOD, I TAKE REFUGE IN YOU.

1st reading Daniel 12:1-3 Psalm 15 2nd reading Hebrews 10:11-14,18 Gospel Mark 13:24-32

Sunday 24th November 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: Office Proper

PSALM RESPONSE: THE LORD IS KING, WITH MAJESTY ENROBED.

1st reading Daniel 7:13-14 Psalm 92 2nd reading Apocalypse 1:5-8 Gospel John 18:33b-37

PARISH GROUPS



Youth Groups (including First Holy Communion & Confirmation)

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

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9)

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

Registrations for the year 2024/2025 are open on our website: www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/parishlife

(scroll down to Youth Groups).

Fellowship Group - Wednesdays at St Swithun Wells Church, 7.30pm-9.30pm. On Wed 20th November we will be starting a 4 week Advent Bible Study, "Watch and Pray", week 1 - Anticipation. Everyone is welcome. If you wish to join by Zoom please email Peter Baggott for the link on: peterbaggott@aol.com.

See our website for details of more groups: GIFT, CL, Little Flowers, Lectio Divina Prayer Groups, Afternoon Club...

MESSAGES



Second Collection This Weekend

16th & 17th November: Missions of the Fraternity of St Charles Borromeo. This second collection is to help our missionary work in seventeen countries especially the poorest ones, in Siberia & Kenya.

CL Portsmouth Diocese Day

Sunday 17th November, 12 Noon at St Edward

We start at 12 Noon with a bring & share lunch and finish at 5pm with Holy Mass.

For more information and to register for this event please go to our parish website and complete the online registration form. Please bring a donation for use of 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.

Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Peggy Scally and for her family. Peggy's Funeral Mass will take place on **Wed 20th November at 1pm in St Edward's**.

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**.

Good Companions

Our get-togethers are now open to anyone who feels in need of some friendly company and delicious food. We will be meeting at **12 Noon on Friday 22nd November in St Edward's cloister**. Please note THE EARLIER START TIME DURING THE WINTER MONTHS. Please call Tony Wilson on 023 80266617 if you would like to join us. We look forward to seeing you.

Upcoming Wedding - Congratulations to Holly Klonowicz & Fergus McConnell who are getting married in St Joseph's on **Sun 24th November at 1pm**.

Cultural Friday - 22nd Nov, 7pm in Holy Cross Church "I Choose All" (St Therese of Lisieux)

During the evening Fr Raffaele & Tecla Giuccioli will present the life and writings of St Therese of Lisieux.

At a time when human beings are obsessed with grandeur and new forms of power, she points out to us the little way. St Therese writes in Story of a Soul: "I understood that the Church had a Heart, and that this Heart was burning with love. I understood it was love alone that made the Church's members act". And then: "Yes, I have found my place in the Church: in the Heart of the Church, my Mother, I will be Love!"

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. Cost: approx £500 per person depending on numbers. There will be a meeting to present the itinerary and answer any questions on **Saturday 23rd November at 2.30pm in St Edward**.

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.

Parish Lunch at the Hunters Inn, Romsey, on **Wednesday 4th December at 12.30pm**. To see the large choice of food, go to their website: huntersromsey.co.uk/menu and look at main, lunch and kids menus as all are available to us. All are welcome. If you would like to come, please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know before Monday 25th November as we have to pre-order.

Annual Christmas Fayre at St Edward's after Mass on Saturday 6th & Sun 7th 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 to be used as and when needed in our suffering world. For more info please contact Clare on 02380 252138.

OLQA Red Missio Boxes - An end of year call up for your contributions please. Very much appreciated as always. I can collect. *Marie Kemp*

MESSAGES CONTINUED

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.

Carol Service - Faith, festivities, food and fun! Please join us for our Carol Service on Sunday December 22nd 2024 at 3.00pm, in St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak.

The New Lectionary - Fr Anthony Fyk (Diocesan Director of Liturgy) is providing a one-hour introductory online session for Ministers of the Word (Readers). You can register to take part on Tuesday 19th November, 7pm-8pm using the link in the weekly Diocese of Portsmouth e-News. Thank you for all your support.

The New Sunday Missal

St Edward's - These are now available from the parish shop at St Edward's at a cost of £19.95. They contain the new ESV translations of the lectionary which will be read at every Mass from the 1st Sunday in Advent.

Holy Cross Shop - Please be aware the supplier does not currently have the new Sunday Missals in stock, however they are on order.

St Joseph's & St Andrew's - The new Sunday Missal is available from Martin Ceresa. Please phone 07757 999165 for details.

Assisted Suicide - Kim Leadbeater MP is introducing a bill to introduce assisted suicide, which will be voted on by MPs on the 29th November. It is disgraceful that MPs and the wider public are only seeing this Bill barely two and a half weeks before it goes to a vote. Right to Life comment that 'what is being proposed is a monumental change to our laws, and it's totally unjustifiable and fundamentally undemocratic to try and rush it through without proper public scrutiny. We need to make it clear right now to MPs why publishing this Bill so late is totally unacceptable - and reiterate that they must oppose the Bill.

Even if you have emailed your MP earlier on the assisted suicide Bill, it's crucial that you contact them again on this issue now.

Please contact your MP by visiting:

<https://righttolife.org.uk/ASThreat>

We have a template letter that can be used to send to your MP on the parish website.

Leaflets 'Assisted Suicide' - In order to inform our neighbours about the dangers of this proposed bill, and to encourage them to ask their MP to oppose it, please take some of the SPUC leaflets, available at the back of church and drop one through the letterboxes of your local neighbourhood. Thank you.

Postcards - Not Dead Yet UK (a network of disabled and terminally ill people) have produced postcards that can be filled in and sent to local MPs. These can be found in church welcome areas.

Request for Readers for the new 5.30pm Mass on Sundays at Holy Cross Church - If anyone is interested, please contact Jenny on 07787 532642.

Ordo - The Diocese makes available a free PDF download of the Ordo. The 2025 edition is now on the Diocese of Portsmouth website, go to:

<https://8d3352fd846deebdb7a2.b-cdn.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/ORDO-2025.pdf>

Upcoming Road Closures in Eastleigh - please be aware Hampshire County Council will be closing Desborough Road from Monday 18th November for 5 days so there will be no access to the church car park via Hanns Way through the Desborough Road entrance. Further resurfacing will then take place on Hanns Way on Thurs 28th & Fri 29th November with the road being closed from 9am-4.30pm therefore there will be no access to the Holy Cross Church car park on those days.

SCHOOL NOTICES

St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School

Mini Bus Driver Needed

The school is URGENTLY recruiting a Mini Bus Driver. 10 hrs per week, Mon to Friday, Term Time only. More info can be found on the school website: <https://www.st-swithunwells.org.uk/staff-vacancies/> For an application form please contact the school office on 02380 266210 or email: adminoffice@st-swithunwells.hants.sch.uk

Request for Raffle Prizes

The St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School PTFA are sourcing raffle prizes from local businesses for the Christmas Fayre on the 5th December. If any parishioners are linked with local businesses and are able to help us out by donating a prize/voucher we would be sincerely grateful.

If you are able to help please let us know via email at: A.PTA@st-swithunwells.hants.sch.uk

Thank you in advance, *The PTFA Committee*

Tea, Coffee, Biscuits & Christmas Card Making

Thursday 21st November, 1.30pm-2.30pm

at St Swithun Wells Primary School

Parishioners are invited to join Year R, 5 & 6, to come and help make Christmas cards for the children of a school in Bamenda. No need to book please just turn up.

At a Glance - List of Upcoming Parish Events

17th Nov:	CL Portsmouth Diocese Day
22nd Nov:	Good Companions
22nd Nov:	Cultural Friday
23rd Nov:	Pilgrimage Meeting
30th Nov:	Advent Retreat
4th Dec:	Parish Lunch
6th & 7th Dec:	CAFOD Christmas Fayre
7th Dec:	OLQA Volunteers Meeting
15th Dec:	Parish Christmas Party
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 16th Nov <i>Morning Mass: St Edmund of Abingdon</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Andrea Hyom (Wellbeing) Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP Mrs Hedwig Gunston RIP 5th Anniversary Maxima Salizon RIP Deceased Members of the Baker & Hanrahan Families RIP
Sunday 17th Nov <i>Thirty-Third 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 OLQA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Constance Brixey FM Tony Armshaw RIP Anniversary People of the Parish Hero Roy RIP Denis Keefe RIP Anniversary Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP
Monday 18th Nov	9.30am	Holy Cross	Scaria Punnamchira RIP; Akhil Sebastian RIP
Tuesday 19th Nov	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Edward Rayment RIP Anniversary Stewart Russell (Wellbeing)
Wed 20th Nov	9.30am 9.30am 1.00pm	Holy Cross St Edward St Edward	Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP Funeral Mass: Peggy Scally RIP
Thurs 21st Nov <i>The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP
Friday 22nd Nov <i>St Cecilia</i>	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	John & Beppie Marsh RIP Patrick Burke RIP FM Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP
Saturday 23rd Nov <i>Morning Mass: St Edmund of Abingdon</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Special Intention Joe & Lydia Fonseca RIP Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP Deceased Members of Shina's Family John Milne RIP Anniversary
Sunday 24th Nov <i>Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe</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> Angela Thompson RIP Birthday Anniversary Harold Butcher RIP Anniversary Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP Steven Roy (Wellbeing) People of the Parish Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: 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 Bob Birtles

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

Deacon John di Meo

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Deacon Paul Owen

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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