



## *Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ* 23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2025: SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### God is Building His Glorious Kingdom

It is another Wednesday morning. I am woken by the alarm clock. It is never late, it always comes at 6.30am! With a sleepy awareness of the moment, I mentally offer my day to the Lord and ask for his help. Then the bathroom, breakfast and at 7.15am all the priests are in the church for the morning prayer. We sing our thanksgiving to the Lord and then worship him in the Eucharist. After the prayer of the Office of Reading, I go to the park to pray the Rosary. In this moment I remember all the people I'd met yesterday and those I'd meet today. A spiritual talk accompanies me until 9am, when we meet together for the daytime prayer. When it is over, we can finally speak to each other, "Good morning!" Fr Raffaele is looking forward to eating his yoghurt, while I, Fr Matteo and Fr Luca are waiting to drink our second coffee of the day. Fr Mario is getting ready to cycle to Bishop's Waltham.

I concelebrate the 9.30am Mass at Holy Cross with Fr Luca; a friend of mine is very ill and I am offering the Mass for him. After answering a few emails and getting ready, I grab a quick bite and drive to Romsey. I arrive at our hall at 26A Abbey Water and find Rachel already there preparing the tables and arts & crafts activities. Her children welcome me and then go back to their toys. She shows me the craft of the day: a painted ping-pong ball with a little hole with a little light inside: it is Planet Earth! At 1pm, some mothers with their children enter the room: the Little Saints group begins. It's a group that was born to teach the children that Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of every fragment of reality. We let the children play while we adults talk. I am interested in the stories of these families and then I ask a lot of questions. After 30 minutes, the children sit in a semicircle and the mini talk begins. I show them how big and old the universe is and explain that the atoms that make up our bodies come from the hearts of exploded stars. How great is God, who has created this great and perfect universe just for our existence and our eyes! Some children are amazed. Arts and crafts time can now begin! We end with a prayer to our Mother in Heaven, Mary. All the children now know that everyone has two mothers, the mother of the womb and the mother of heaven. In a few minutes the mothers go to the park with their children, enjoying their friendship, while I drive home with joy, thinking, "*How very good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!*" (Psalm 133).

At home, I go to my bedroom to ask Him if He felt alone while I was away, and I spend some time with Him. The rest of the afternoon is devoted to preparing the script for the scene about St Francis that we will perform on Friday for the Stars of Abraham.

At 6.30pm all the priests meet at home for the evening prayer. Fr Luca cooks, then dinner is served. At 8pm we meet in the Resource Centre with some friends of Communion & Liberation. We began to sing together, "*The things that I see, I can look at what He gave me! And He's gonna show me even more than I see*". Then we compare our daily experiences with the deepest questions of the human heart: Who can satisfy my infinite need to be loved? What is the meaning of the beauty of the universe?... Listening to the experiences of my friends is a peaceful way of discovering how Jesus personally loves each one of us. After a brief moment of conversation, we tidy up and return home.

I can finally check the score of the Inter Milan game. Luckily we won, so I can go to sleep without any problems! After a quick chat with my brothers about the day, it is finally time to go to bed. But first, I thank the Lord for what he gave me today and ask him to forgive me for my lack of love. As I lay down to sleep, my thoughts slow down, the last thought being a phrase from the Gospel of the day, "*The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head*" (Mark 4:26-28). Even today He is building His glorious Kingdom.

*Fr Pietro*

### 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](mailto:website.sswp@gmail.com)

For the next Newsletter, items should be received into the parish office by **10am on Wednesday 26th February 2025**, 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 23rd February 2025: Year C - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 3

PSALM RESPONSE: THE LORD IS COMPASSIONATE AND GRACIOUS.

1<sup>st</sup> reading 1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23 Psalm 103 (102) 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Gospel Luke 6:27-38

Sunday 2nd March 2025: Year C - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 4

PSALM RESPONSE: IT IS GOOD TO GIVE THANKS TO YOU, O LORD.

1<sup>st</sup> reading Sirach 27:4-7 Psalm 92 (91) 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 1 Corinthians 15:54-58 Gospel Luke 6:39-45

## 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](http://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!

### 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.

Fellowship Group - Wednesday 26th February at St Swithun Wells Church, 7.30pm-9pm. This week we will be sharing thoughts on an article. There will be no meeting on 5th March as it's Ash Wednesday.

### 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](mailto:arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com)

## MESSAGES



On Sunday 2nd March, the children from St Swithun Wells Primary School will help at the liturgy in St Edward's & Holy Cross in the morning. Welcome to all of them.

Prayers for Pope Francis - please offer your prayers for the Holy Father who was hospitalised with double pneumonia last week. Let us offer a Decade of the Rosary for his intentions, for a restoration of his health, strength and wellbeing.

Message of thanks - last week we had the Come and See with around 40 children attending. We would like to give a massive thank you to all the volunteers who gave up their time to make this a success.

### Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 2nd March, 1pm-4pm Pavillion on the Park, 1 Kingfisher Road, SO50 9LH

An event for all of the parish, especially families.

We begin at 1pm, sharing a meal together followed by some activities and a discussion, the topic is 'Rest and the Day of the Lord'. No cost, however we kindly ask you to give a donation to cover the hire of the Pavillion. Please bring some food, beverages or cakes to share with others. We would be grateful if you could please write down the main ingredients and allergens on a piece of paper so people can make an informed decision as to whether the food is suitable for them. Please can you bring your own cups/plates/cutlery. To book your place please go to our parish website and use the link you find on the "Next main parish events" section. *Next Get2Gether: 6th April*

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

We will listen to a talk entitled, "The Enigma of Sexuality - Sex, gender and sexual orientation: What is it all about?" by Fr Alberto Frigerio, Assistant Professor of Ethics of Life at the Higher Institute of Religious Sciences in Milan. He graduated in Medicine and Surgery and obtained a Masters in Integrative Neuroscience at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Cheese, wine and nibbles from 7pm, suggested donation of £1, the talk starts at 7.30pm.

### 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](mailto:jakeman1966@hotmail.co.uk) and we hope to see you there.

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.

## MESSAGES CONTINUED



**St Patrick's Day Musical Evening - Save the date!**  
**Saturday 22nd March at OLQA.** All are welcome.  
Tickets £7 each. Start at 7.15pm. More details to follow. *Marie Kemp on 07760 809640*

### **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](mailto:anne.monaghan@outlook.com)

### **Upcoming Funerals**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Maureen Borowicz and for her family. Maureen's Funeral Service will take place on **Thursday 27th February at 11am in St Edward's church.**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Norma McCarthy and for her family. Norma's Funeral Mass will take place on **Friday 28th February at 11.30am in St Joseph's church.**

### **World Day of Prayer Services Across the Parish Friday 7th March**

The service has been prepared by the ladies of the Cook Islands.

Theme : I made you wonderful (from Psalm 139)  
Be part of a huge wave of prayer going around the world throughout the 24 hours of that day.

**Chandler's Ford** - Chandler's Ford Methodist Church at 10.30am, coffee served after the service. All are welcome to attend.

**Romsey** - 2pm at the Elim Church, Middlebridge St., Romsey. All very welcome.

**Shedfield** - 2pm at St John the Baptist Church, Church Road, Shedfield SO32 2HY. Compulsory Afternoon Tea and Chatter in the Church Rooms afterwards. We will look forward to seeing you on the day!

**Altar Serving at St Edward's** - we warmly invite all young boys and girls who are receiving Holy Communion to embrace the opportunity of becoming Altar servers. Serving in the Sanctuary allows you to deepen your faith and make a meaningful impact in our community. We encourage parents to inspire their children to take part in this fulfilling experience. Training will be provided to all new servers. Thank you for considering this rewarding role in our church. If interested, please speak to Dcn Paul Owen or Emmanuel. You can always also speak to any of our Priests. There is joy in serving the Lord.

### **The Parish of St Swithun Wells require a Part-Time Communications & Events Coordinator**

The position will be based in Eastleigh and involves maintaining the parish website/promoting parish events using social media platforms/organise and plan parish events in accordance with Diocesan policies, including Health & Safety, GDPR & Safeguarding, and comply with copyright law.

The role promises a varied and interesting workload. The job is part-time (15 hours per week) on an initial

fixed term contract of 18 months.

Salary offered for the role is £9,377.12 per annum based on 15 hours per week.

For more details and how to apply, please see the parish website [www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](http://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk) or contact the Parish Office at: [accounts@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:accounts@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk) or tel - 02380 273882.

**The closing date for applications is 12 Noon on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March.**

Interviews to be held on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March.**

The intention is that the successful applicant will start as soon as possible following receipt of satisfactory references and confirmation of right to work in the UK.

**Message of thanks** - Samantha Harris and Andrea Hurry would like to thank all the parishioners who supported them at their Secular Discalced Carmelite First Promises Mass at St Joseph's on 15th February. It was a truly memorable day made extra special by having so many of you there. Thank you!

**Mass Intentions** - The donation that you make goes directly to the priest who offers the Mass Intention, it does not go to the parish, therefore the donation cannot be gift aided.

Please either place cash or a cheque (made payable to CDP St Swithun Wells) in the envelope and hand to a member of the clergy who will bring it down to the parish office in Eastleigh. Alternatively you can make a **bank transfer** to the main parish account: CDP ST SWITHUN WELLS, with sort code 30-93-04 and account number 01786599.

Please indicate that the transfer is for a Mass intention by putting MI in the reference.

Please do not use the DONA machines at Holy Cross, St Edward or OLQA to make a donation for a Mass Intention. If you have ever made an offering to the parish through the DONA and signed up to gift aid on the machine it will automatically add gift aid.

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

<b>2nd Mar:</b>	Parish Get2Gether
<b>7th Mar:</b>	Cultural Friday
<b>7th Mar:</b>	World Day of Prayer Services
<b>10th Mar:</b>	Happy Monday Club Event
<b>15th Mar:</b>	Lent Parish Retreat
<b>22nd Mar:</b>	St Patrick's Day Musical Evening

### **ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

<b>Tues:</b>	St Edward - after Mass (6.30pm-7.30pm)
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Holy Cross - after Mass (10am-11am)
<b>Thursday:</b>	OLQA - after Mass (12.30pm-1pm)
<b>Thursday:</b>	St Joseph - before Mass (5pm-6pm)

### **TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET**

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

## MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 22nd Feb <i>Morning Mass: The Chair of St Peter</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOA St Joseph St Edward	People of the Parish Helena & Jan Ferenc RIP Teresa Rogers RIP Mary & Thomas Connolly (Special Intention)
Sunday 23rd February  <i>Seventh 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> George Sandhu (Birthday Intentions) Helen Armshaw RIP  Ray Harrison RIP Eric Clarke RIP Anniversary Milad-Joseph Kreiker RIP
Monday 24th Feb	9.30am	Holy Cross	Narciso Denamarquez Snr RIP 1st Anniversary
Tuesday 25th Feb	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	
Wed 26th Feb	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Joyce Whitlock (Wellbeing)
Thursday 27th Feb	9.30am <u>11.00am</u> 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross <u>St Edward</u> OLOA St Joseph	Piedade Fernandes RIP Anniversary <u>Funeral Service: Maureen Borowicz RIP</u>  Sr Avis (Jubilee 75yrs)
Friday 28th Feb	10.00am 10.00am <u>11.30am</u> 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward <u>St Joseph</u> OLOA	Sr Agnes (Jubilee 70yrs)  <u>Funeral Mass: Norma McCarthy RIP</u>
Saturday 1st March <i>Morning Mass: St David</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOA St Joseph St Edward	Special Intention People of the Parish  John Witcher RIP
Sunday 2nd March  <i>Eighth 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>  Angela Pantanella RIP Anniversary  Edward Kosniowski RIP Peggy Bazen 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)  
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: [lspeziale@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lspeziale@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

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

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

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

Deacon Bob Birtles  
Tel: 023 8069 2416; E: [bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Deacon John di Meo  
Tel: 01794 515688; E: [jdimeo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:jdimeo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Deacon Paul Owen  
Tel: 023 8025 4806; E: [powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Deacon Paul Wilson  
Tel: 023 8061 6618; E: [pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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](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)