



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

22nd DECEMBER 2024: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

This Newsletter Also Covers Sunday 29th December '24 & Sunday 5th January '25

The Mystery Beyond All Things Became A Baby!

Throughout my life, many questions have arisen in my mind. They often arose through some small or large contemplative experience. Nature has always fascinated me, especially the mysteries of the vast universe. That's why I chose to study physics at university. One of my favourite questions was: What is the purpose of biological life? Do you know? After all, the laws governing matter and energy in our vast universe are quite simple (although there are still many mysteries to be unravelled). But the complexity of biological life, even in a small cell, is absolutely amazing! The very existence of DNA, which contains the information to run millions of operations, is infinitely amazing! The very fact that DNA contains information is amazing! Shouldn't DNA be made up of random combinations? Why does it actually contain the entire life project of a cell or a whole body composed of billions of cells? But something more came to me when I looked at the life of plants, animals and human beings. I see that all living beings are programmed to receive life, maintain it for a certain period of time, during which they pass it on to other living beings, and then lose it when they die. Life sustains itself, but individuals die. So why does life want to be? Why do forests want to be? Why does the animal kingdom want to live? Do they live for the sake of living? Why do individuals die while the species survive? Why is life so programmed? Then there are humans, the most complex living beings. Not only do they survive and reproduce, but they are conscious of their lives and do things that go beyond the need to survive, such as making music, painting, cooking elaborately, playing sports, studying... Then, most reluctantly, they grow old and die like the other living beings. What is the purpose of all this?

In addition to these great questions, the story of my life kept raising new ones in me. The last one is: Why should I leave so many people I love in Turin (Italy), my students, my friends, my priest brothers, my spiritual children, to move to England and start from scratch?

In the last days of Advent, in the Christmas Novena, the Church prays to the coming Lord with seven ancient antiphons. I love one of them because it has answered many of my questions and given me peace. "O Wisdom of the Most High, ordering all things with strength and gentleness; come and teach us the way of true knowledge".

Through my encounter with Jesus, the treasures of his wisdom are opening up in my life every day. I experienced that everything is ordered by the Lord. He gives a place to all things in the universe. When I see the flower arrangements in church, I learn that the beauty of nature is to glorify the Lord and to make our hearts rejoice. When I sit at the table and give thanks, I learn that the food taken from nature is a gift from the Lord to make me alive. When I see a masterpiece of sacred art and hear a polyphonic Christian carol, I learn that our artistic skills are there to celebrate the majesty of the Lord. When I manage to give the Sacraments of the Sick to a dying person and a hopeful peace fills my heart, I learn that our life is fulfilled in heaven at the side of the Lord. And when I am asked to leave my friends to move to a foreign land, I learn that the Lord wants to fulfil the promise of happiness He made to me, as He did to Abraham.

That's why I love Christmas. The mystery beyond all things, the One to whom all our deepest questions are addressed, the wisdom of the Most High who ordered all things, revealed Himself by becoming a little baby. An infant! The whole purpose of creation is expressed in the child Jesus! A pure gift of love for us, like every newborn child, who asks to be loved in return. May this good news reach everyone in the world!
Merry Christmas.

Fr Pietro

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "Let us see this thing that has happened" by fr. Massimo Camisasca - 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 8th January 2025**, please email your messages/notices to: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

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

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 22nd December 2024: Year C - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 4

PSALM RESPONSE: BRING US BACK, O GOD; LET YOUR FACE SHINE FORTH, AND WE SHALL BE SAVED.

1st reading Micah 5:2-5a Psalm 80 (79) 2nd reading Hebrews 10:5-10 Gospel Luke 1:39-45

Sunday 29th December 2024: Year C - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Office Proper

PSALM RESPONSE: BLESSED ARE ALL WHO FEAR THE LORD, AND WALK IN HIS WAYS

1st reading Sirach 3:2-6,12-14 Psalm 128 (127) 2nd reading Colossians 3:12-21 Gospel Luke: 2:41-52

Sunday 5th January 2025: Year C - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Office Proper

PSALM RESPONSE: ALL THE NATIONS ON EARTH SHALL FALL PROSTRATE BEFORE YOU, O LORD.

1st reading Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72 (71) 2nd reading Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6 Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday 12th January 2025: Year C - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Office Proper

PSALM RESPONSE: THE LORD WILL BLESS HIS PEOPLE WITH PEACE.

1st reading Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7 Psalm 29 (28) 2nd reading Acts 10:34-38 Gospel Luke 3:15-16,21-22

MESSAGES



Christmas Collection

Our Christmas Collection celebrates and gives thanks to our parish priests and all the dedication, guidance and care they give across our parish. This collection will be equally divided between Frs Raffaele, Luca, Mario, Matteo & Pietro. For your convenience there are several ways to make an offering:

- Loose cash or cheques in the collection baskets at Christmas Masses. Gift aid these donations using a yellow envelope;
- All donations for Christmas collections handed in outside Christmas masses must be clearly designated **Christmas offerings** and placed in yellow envelopes if you wish to gift aid the donations;
- Cheques made out to **CDP St Swithun Wells with Christmas** on the back;
- Bank transfer into the main parish account sort code **30-93-04**; a/c **01786599** using the reference **Christmas**;
- Click on the green 'donate' button on the Homepage of our website and then click 'Clergy Christmas Collection 2024'. This will take you to a Give as You live page:
<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/st-swithun-wells-catholic-parish-christmas-collection-2024>

Upcoming Second Collections - Crib Offerings: This year our Christmas Crib offerings will go to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre (KHS). Please do not use the yellow gift aid envelopes for this collection.

CL Christmas Carols - Our Christmas Carols will be on **Sat 21st December 2024 at 2pm in Eastleigh (Swan Centre, Tesco's end)**. If you want to come along there will be a quick practise from 12.30pm in Holy Cross Church.

Romsey United Reformed Church have kindly invited us to join them in their Carols by Candlelight Service of readings and carols at **6.30pm on Saturday 21st December** in their church.

Carol Service - Faith, festivities, food and fun! **All are welcome to our Family Friendly Carol Service on Sunday 22nd December at 3pm**, in St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak.

Christmas Carols at Waitrose - Join us between **6pm and 7pm on Monday 23rd December inside Waitrose**, Oakmount Road, Chandler's Ford to sing

Christmas carols for shoppers. The event is organised by Churches Together in Chandler's Ford.

Parish Office Closures & Parish Newsletter over the Christmas period - The Office will be closed from Tuesday 24th Dec through to and including Wed 1st Jan & then also on Friday 3rd January. For any urgent enquiries over the festive period please contact our priests on 02380 612430. The next newsletter to be published will be the 12th January 2025 edition.

Message from the Office - We would like to wish all of our parishioners peace, joy, health & happiness over the Christmas period and throughout 2025!
Best wishes, Fiona & Sarah

Holy Cross Right of Way - Annually we have to bar access through our car park for at least 24 hours to prevent it becoming a public right of way. The main Leigh road gate will be closed after Mass on **Thursday 26th December and will re-open at 10am on Friday 27th December**.

Eucharistic Ministers Retreat - Saturday 11th January from 2.30pm to 4pm in St Edward's for all Eucharistic Ministers of the parish.

Holy Cross Resource Centre Update - The newly refurbished Resource Centre will be formally handed over to the parish on Friday 10th January, therefore it will be available for groups to use after this date.
Coffee Stop will be reopening on Thursday 23rd January from 10am-11.30am. We look forward to seeing everyone again! Join us for coffee, tea, hot chocolate, biscuits and a chat. Come and meet new friends.

Seniors (over 60's) Afternoon Tea - Sunday 2nd February at 2.30pm in St Swithun Wells Church Fair Oak. Join us once again for delicious food, free raffle and entertainment. This event is for the whole parish. We do not make a specific charge for the Tea but ask for donations to help cover the costs. Places are limited so need to be booked in advance. For those who have no transport please mention this when booking as we hope to have use of a mini-bus. To book a place please contact Pat Baggott on 07801 454400 or by email on: baggott.pm@gmail.com

Priest Availability - Our priests are not available over Christmas, however they are able to meet at the usual times and places week commencing 6th January.

Trip to Italy for young people (21st - 26th August 2025) there will be a trip to Italy for young people aged 18 to 25. The reason for the trip is to attend the Rimini Meeting, a cultural event organised by the Catholic Movement of Communion and Liberation. It is a week of conferences, exhibitions, etc; on different topics. All run by volunteers. We will also be visiting different

places and staying in Cesenatico. **The final cost will be £600** which includes: flight, hotel and minibus hire. **Meals are not included.**

I would ask you to **let me know by Sunday 12th January 2025** if you will be coming and to pay a **deposit of £300**, for further information please contact Fr Matteo: mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

St Edward the Confessor

191-193, Winchester Rd, Chandlers Ford, SO53 2DU

Holy Cross Church

53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF

St Joseph

Abbey House Drive, Romsey, SO51 8YB

Our Lady Queen of Apostles (OLQA)

Martin Street, Bishop's Waltham, SO32 1DN

St Swithun Wells

Allington Lane, Fair Oak, SO50 7DB

St Andrew

Fleming Ave, North Baddesley SO52 9EP

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 21st Dec	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Margaret Egan RIP Ronnie Castelino RIP People of the Parish Capistrana Emperio RIP Michael Vokes RIP
Sunday 22nd December <i>Fourth 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* St Joseph Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP Deceased Members of the Viola Family RIP Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP Antonio Cicu RIP FM Herbert Howie (Senior) RIP Anniversary Charles Egan RIP
Monday 23rd	9.30am	Holy Cross	Anna-Claire Anthraper (In Thanksgiving)
Tuesday 24th December <i>The Nativity of the Lord (Vigil)</i>	<u>10.00am</u> <u>6.00pm</u> <u>6.00pm (carols from 5.30pm)</u> <u>7.00pm</u> <u>8.00pm</u> <u>11.00pm (carols from 10.30pm)</u> <u>12 Midnight</u>	<u>St Andrew</u> <u>St Swithun Wells</u> <u>St Edward</u> <u>St Andrew</u> <u>OLQA</u> <u>St Joseph</u> <u>Holy Cross</u>	<u>No Mass</u> Living & Deceased Members of the Helm & Roberts Families Patsy McCormack RIP Simere Anakwenze (Birthday Intentions) Edward & Sybille Crump RIP Daughters of Wisdom General Council Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP
Wed 25th December <i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>	<u>9.00am</u> <u>9.00am</u> <u>9.30am</u> <u>11.00am</u> <u>11.00am</u> <u>5.30pm</u>	<u>St Edward</u> <u>St Andrew</u> <u>OLQA</u> <u>Holy Cross*</u> <u>St Joseph</u> <u>Holy Cross</u>	Mrs Edward Christian FM Thomas Thomas RIP For peace with justice in the world Andy Breen RIP
Thurs 26th <i>St Stephen</i>	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Margarita, Cedric & Charles Harris FM Sr Agnes (Wellbeing)
Fri 27th Dec <i>St John</i>	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	Robert Twigg RIP Anniversary Kevin Coen RIP 1st Anniversary
Sat 28th Dec <i>Morning Mass: The Holy Innocents</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	In grateful thanksgiving to St Joseph Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP Leonard Peacock RIP Anniversary Canon France RIP

* 11am Mass at Holy Cross is also livestreamed - please go to our website <https://stswithunwellsparish.org.uk> to view

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES (CONTINUED)

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sunday 29th December <i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 5.30pm	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLOQA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> George, Gertrude & Mary Lawton RIP Anniversary People of the Parish Raymond Harrison & Keith Clark RIP Anniversary Hollie & Fergus McConnell (recently married) Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP
Monday 30th Dec	9.30am	Holy Cross	Anthraper Family (In Thanksgiving)
Tuesday 31st Dec	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	The Monks of Quarr Abbey Eric & Roslyn Lasker and Family RIP Anniversary
1st Jan - <i>Mary, The Holy Mother of God</i>	9.30am 9.30am	Holy Cross St Edward	Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP
Thurs 2nd Jan <i>Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen</i>	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLOQA St Joseph	Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP The Nuns of St Cecilia's Abbey
Friday 3rd January	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLOQA	Sr Anne Colette (Wellbeing) Keith Wiggans (Wellbeing)
Saturday 4th January	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOQA St Joseph St Edward	Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP Deceased Members of the Roddy Family RIP FM Domenico Bibbo RIP 1st Anniversary
Sunday 5th January <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 5.30pm	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLOQA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Albert James Boaden FM Harry Roydon RIP Anniversary Michael Grimes RIP Eugene Toolan & Family Canon John Doran FM
Monday 6th Jan	9.30am	Holy Cross	
Tues 7th January	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Family of the late Margaret Allan Mrs Edward Christian FM
Wednesday 8th January	9.30am 9.30am	Holy Cross St Edward	Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP
Thursday 9th January	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLOQA St Joseph	Sr Catherine Carey (Wellbeing)
Friday 10th January	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLOQA	Sr Ancilla (Wellbeing) Fr Matteo's Grandfather RIP
Saturday 11th January	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOQA St Joseph St Edward	Michael Lane RIP FM Beppie Marsh RIP Anniversary Pasquale Marucci RIP 4th Anniversary
Sunday 12th January <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 5.30pm	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLOQA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Nestor Imperio & Flaviano Ocaya RIP Dora Pond & her children Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP