



## *Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ* 12th JANUARY 2025: THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

### Pope Francis' Message for The Baptism of the Lord

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord (cf. *Mk* 1:7-11). It occurs at the River Jordan, where John — for this reason known as the “Baptist” — performs a rite of purification, which expresses the commitment to renounce sin and to convert. The people go to be baptized humbly, sincerely, and as the Liturgy says, “barefoot and bare of soul”, and Jesus goes there too, inaugurating his ministry. He thus shows that he wants to be close to the sinners, to have come for them, for us all who are sinners!

And some extraordinary things happen on that very day. John the Baptist says something unusual, publicly acknowledging Jesus, seemingly equal to everyone else, as one who is “mightier” (v. 7) than him, who “will baptize you with the Holy Spirit” (v. 8). Then the heavens open, the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus like a dove (cf. v. 10) and the voice of the Father proclaims from on high, “Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased” (v. 11).

All this, while on the one hand it reveals to us that Jesus is the Son of God, on the other it speaks to us of our Baptism, which has made us in turn children of God, because Baptism makes us children of God.

Baptism: it is God who comes into us, purifies, heals our heart, makes us forever his children, his people, his family, heirs to Paradise (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1279). And God becomes intimate to us and he does not leave us anymore. This is why it is important to remember the day of our Baptism, and also to know the date. I ask all of you: you, each one of you, think: “Do I remember the date of my Baptism?”. If you do not remember, when you return home, ask what it is, so as not to forget it any more, because it is a new birthday, because with your Baptism you were born into the life of grace. Let us thank the Lord for Baptism. Let us also thank him for the parents who brought us to the font, for those who administered the Sacrament, for the godfather, for the godmother, for the community in which we received him. To celebrate your own Baptism: it is a new birthday.

And we can ask ourselves: am I aware of the immense gift I carry within me through Baptism? Do I acknowledge, in my life, the light of the presence of God, who sees me as his beloved son, his beloved daughter? And now, in memory of our Baptism, let us welcome God's presence within us. We can do so with the sign of the cross, which traces in us the memory of the grace of God, who loves us and wishes to stay with us. That sign of the cross reminds us of this. Let us do it together: *In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

And do not forget the date of your Baptism, which is a birthday.

May Mary, temple of the Spirit, help us to celebrate and welcome the wonders that the Lord works in us.

### GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is “Let us see this thing that has happened” by fr. Massimo Camisasca.  
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** 15th January 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 12th January 2025: Year C - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Office Proper

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

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

Sunday 19th January 2025: Year C - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 2

PSALM RESPONSE: PROCLAIM THE WONDERS OF THE LORD AMONG ALL THE PEOPLES.

1<sup>st</sup> reading Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 96 (95) 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 Gospel John 2:1-11

## 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).

### Growing In Faith Together Group (GIFT) - every

Tuesday at 10.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. All are welcome!

### 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 Wed 15th Jan we will be having a New Year's Liturgy followed by a planning

meeting. Everyone is welcome. If you wish to join by Zoom please email Peter Baggott for the link on [peterbaggott@aol.com](mailto:peterbaggott@aol.com).

### 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 - restarting Thurs 16th Jan. 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.

### The Little Flowers Baby & Toddler Group

Meet on Wednesdays during term time from 10am in St Edward's. The group is for 0-4 years and their families. More information is on the website or you can email: [littleflowers.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:littleflowers.sswp@gmail.com)

### 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)

### Eucharistic Ministers Retreat

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

Congratulations to our Emmanuel Chituh who is receiving the Ministry of Acolyte on Sunday 12th Jan at 11am in Holy Cross. This is an important step in Emmanuel's journey towards the Diaconate. Let's keep him in our prayers.

### Upcoming Second Collections

25th/26th January - St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth

Trip to Italy for young people (21<sup>st</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> 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 mini bus 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](mailto:mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

## MESSAGES



Thank you to everyone for your Christmas greetings, prayers, cards and gifts. We are also very grateful for your generosity shown through the Christmas Offerings which we do appreciate.  
*Frs Raffaele, Luca, Mario, Matteo & Pietro*

Good Companions - Our next get-together is at 12 Noon on Friday 17th January in St Edward's cloister. Why not join us for some good company and delicious food. If you have any queries please ring Tony Wilson on 023 80266617. We look forward to seeing you there.

Coffee Stop in the Holy Cross Resource Centre 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.

Upcoming Readers Retreat - Saturday 1st February  
For Readers at St Andrew's & St Joseph the retreat is at St Andrew's from 2.30pm to 4pm;  
For Readers at Holy Cross, St Swithun Wells and St Edward's the retreat is at Holy Cross from 2.30pm-4pm;

## MESSAGES CONTINUED

### Cultural Friday - 24th January, 7pm

Save the Date! We will be showing a film, the title of which we will announce next week. Cheese and wine from 7pm, the film starts at 7.30pm.  
Suggested donation of £1.

### Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 2nd February, 1-4pm Pavilion 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 will be 'Poverty and Charity in Family Life'. 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 date for your diary: 2nd March*

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 and would like to come along we have a mini bus that can take you. Please mention this when booking. To book a place please contact Pat Baggott on 07801 454400 or by email on: [baggott.pm@gmail.com](mailto:baggott.pm@gmail.com)

Parish lunch at a new venue, the KING RUFUS, Chandler's Ford, on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 12.30pm. The huge choice can be accessed by Googling 'Menu, King Rufus'. Look at both the main and the lunch menus. 2 course lunches, of either starter and main or main and dessert from the lunch menu, are £12.99. Please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know your choice of meal by Thursday 31st Jan as we have to pre-order.

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.

### 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  |

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th-25th Jan) - Churches Together in Chandler's Ford

This year the church swaps take place on **Sunday 19th January**. Members of St Edward's are invited to visit St Francis Church on that date (service starts at 10am). Members of the Anglican Church will be visiting St Edward's.

### 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.

Thank you for all the lovely gifts that were delivered to Two Saints before Christmas. Going forward they have requested sleeping bags, towels, clothes (inc boxer shorts, socks), ladies clothes (small build), and slippers, trainers, wellies and warm coats/jackets.

CAFOD 2024 Christmas Card collection & Fair Trade Hamper raffle at St Swithun Wells Church - An amazing £303 was donated for a CAFOD Medical Outreach Team. Well done and thanks to all who contributed.

## 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](mailto:adminoffice@st-swithunwells.hants.sch.uk)

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

|           |                                   |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| 11th Jan: | Eucharistic Ministers Retreat     |
| 17th Jan: | Good Companions get together      |
| 19th Jan: | Chandler's Ford Church Swaps      |
| 23rd Jan: | Coffee Stop at Holy Cross returns |
| 24th Jan: | Cultural Friday                   |
| 1st Feb:  | Readers Retreat                   |
| 2nd Feb:  | Parish Get2Gether                 |
| 2nd Feb:  | Seniors Afternoon Tea             |
| 12th Feb: | Parish Lunch                      |

### 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.         |

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

## MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

| DATE   | TIME   | CHURCH  | MASS INTENTION  |
|--|--|---|---|
| Saturday 11th Jan  | 9.30am<br>5.00pm<br>6.00pm<br>6.00pm<br>6.30pm                       | Holy Cross<br>St Swithun Wells<br>OLOA<br>St Joseph<br>St Edward  | Michael Lane RIP FM<br><br>Beppie Marsh RIP Anniversary<br>Pasquale Marucci RIP 4th Anniversary   |
| Sunday 12th January<br><br><i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>        | 8.30am<br>9.00am<br>9.00am<br>9.30am<br>11.00am<br>11.00am<br>5.30pm | Holy Cross<br>St Edward<br>St Andrew<br>OLOA<br>Holy Cross (also livestreamed)<br>St Joseph<br>Holy Cross | <i>Polska Msza Święta</i><br><br>Nestor Imperio & Flaviano Ocaya RIP<br><br>Dora Pond & her children<br>Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP   |
| Monday 13th January  | 9.30am   | Holy Cross  | Gualteri Smyth FM   |
| Tuesday 14th January   | 10.00am<br>6.00pm  | St Andrew<br>St Edward  |   |
| Wednesday 15th January   | 9.30am<br>9.30am   | Holy Cross<br>St Edward   | Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP   |
| Thursday 16th January  | 9.30am<br>12 Noon<br>6.00pm  | Holy Cross<br>OLOA<br>St Joseph   | Catherine Mary Robinson FM<br><br>Sr Mary (Wellbeing)   |
| Friday 17th January<br><i>St Anthony of Egypt</i>                | 10.00am<br>10.00am<br>12 Noon  | St Joseph<br>St Edward<br>OLOA  | Theresa Hamilton & Family<br>The Living & Deceased Members of the Atterbury & O'Grady Families  |
| Saturday 18th January  | 9.30am<br>5.00pm<br>6.00pm<br>6.00pm<br>6.30pm                       | Holy Cross<br>St Swithun Wells<br>OLOA<br>St Joseph<br>St Edward  | Roger Clack RIP<br><br>Sr Rani and Team: Daughters of Wisdom<br>Ian Brien (Senior) RIP  |
| Sunday 19th January<br><br><i>Second Sunday In Ordinary Time</i> | 8.30am<br>9.00am<br>9.00am<br>9.30am<br>11.00am<br>11.00am<br>5.30pm | Holy Cross<br>St Edward<br>St Andrew<br>OLOA<br>Holy Cross (also livestreamed)<br>St Joseph<br>Holy Cross | <i>Polska Msza Święta</i><br>Mark Herbich RIP 1st Anniversary<br>Arthur & Constance Allan RIP<br><br>Samantha & Simon Harris (Wellbeing)<br>Debora's Exam (Special Intention) |

## 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 Owen  
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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)