



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ 19th JANUARY 2025: SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Stay Alive Like A Hyacinth

A new year has started, the holidays are over and the daily routine has resumed.

It is tempting to say, "How boring is winter, I can't wait for spring and some new things, like warmer weather or the novelties of the Easter season".

It is a great temptation, but fleeing with thought and desire towards more beautiful horizons (at least on the level of imagination) does not help one to live the present to the full, indeed everything becomes boring and gives room for complaint.

Yet, if one does not live superficially, every day is an opportunity to discover something beautiful, something new, something fascinating, which makes even the dullest routine day something new and therefore worth living.

Among the things that help me most to remember that every day is a gift from the Lord, full of His newness, is a little plant that a dear parishioner couple gave me for Christmas. When I opened my presents on Christmas Day, I found this pot with a bulb in the middle of some dry soil. I thought, "Will it still be alive?" I started to water the soil every day with a little bit of water, and after a few days, much to my surprise and joy, the first leaf sprouted from the bulb, then another and another. All you had to do was water that dry soil and life immediately sprang up; it is amazing to see how nature takes its course and grows the moment you give it just a drop of water. Every day these leaves grow longer and it is as if the plant is different every morning, new.

So it is also with the everyday routine. We can put up with it because there is nothing else to do (we are forced to do certain things every day) or we can "wet" our days with the water of faith (which also reminds us of the water of baptism, ours and Jesus', whose feast we celebrated only a week ago). In this way, the most usual and monotonous things will become exceptional because faith makes us glimpse in the usual things the hand and action of the One who is always at work and continually renews life. Every day we will have the opportunity to catch a glimpse of new leaves emerging from the usual things.

I invite everyone at the beginning of this year to refresh the soil of their days with the newness of the water that comes from Jesus, the water of faith. In this way we will not fantasize with our desires, dreaming of sunny beaches in some remote ocean atoll, but we will learn to enjoy even the English rain, because with Jesus even that becomes an opportunity for blessing and new life.

Fr Mario

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "Unexpected Love - an interview about family life" by Eugenia Scabini.
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** 22nd 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: <https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/financesdonations>

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



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

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

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

Sunday 26th January 2025: Year C - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 3

PSALM RESPONSE: YOUR WORDS, O LORD, ARE SPIRIT AND LIFE.

1st reading Nehemiah 8:2-4a,5-6,8-10 **Psalm** 19 (18) **2nd reading** 1 Corinthians 12:12-30 **Gospel** Luke:1:1-4:4:14-21

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).

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!

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. This week is Christian Unity

Week, and so we will be looking at the question

"The Church of Christ is One - or is it?" Everyone is welcome. If you wish to join us by Zoom please email Peter Baggott for the link on 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.

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 Holy Cross Resource Centre. The group is for 0-4 years and their families. More information is on the website or you can email: 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

MESSAGES



Changes to Mass at St Edward

From **Wed 22nd January**, Mass returns to its usual start time of **10am** (rather than 9.30am), with tea and coffee available afterwards.

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.

Cultural Friday - 24th January, 7pm in St Edward's

We will be showing the film, "About Time" (Cert 12A), a 2013 romantic science fiction comedy-drama film directed by Richard Curtis, and starring Domhnall Gleeson, Rachel McAdams and Bill Nighy. The film is about a young man with the ability to time travel, a real inspiring and funny story about the beauty of living every moment of life with intensity and love.

Cheese and wine from 7pm, the film starts at 7.30pm. Suggested donation of £1.

Upcoming Second Collections

25th/26th January - St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth
If you are able to gift aid please use the yellow envelopes for this collection.

Upcoming Readers Retreat - Sat 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;

For Readers at OLQA the retreat is at **OLQA** from 2.30pm-4pm.

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 Pavilion. 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 scroll to see the "Next Main Parish Events" section. Next *Get2Gether for your diary: 2nd March*

MESSAGES CONTINUED

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 contact Pat Baggott on 07801 454400 or by email: baggott.pm@gmail.com

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.**

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.

Churches Together in Romsey

We welcome Revd Andrew deVille from Romsey Methodist church as the guest speaker for the **Unity Service in Romsey Abbey on Sunday 19th January at 6.30pm.**

In addition, Rosy Payne Romsey Abbey Youth Worker is hosting a **WPCU Youth Session on Saturday 25th January, in St. Swithun's Church, Crampmoor, SO51 9AP, at 11am** lasting about an hour.

Churches Together in Eastleigh

Unity Service - Sunday 26th January, 7pm to 8.15pm in Holy Cross Church - You are warmly invited to the Unity Service. This will be a wonderful occasion where local churches come together as one family to celebrate, pray, and reflect on our shared unity in Christ. We will also have the privilege of hearing inspiring stories and updates from our local Street and School Pastor teams, who faithfully serve and minister to our communities.

It promises to be an uplifting gathering, and your presence would make it all the more special.

Parish lunch at a new venue, the KING RUFUS, Chandler's Ford, on Wednesday 12th 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 30th Jan as we have to pre-order.

OLQA Repository Vacancy

Having run the repository at Our Lady Queen of the Apostles for over ten years, I have decided to stand down. I am looking for a volunteer or volunteers to take over from the end of January. I will be quite happy to guide them through the procedures. *Anne Coleman*

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

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.

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

At a Glance - List of Upcoming Parish Events

19th Jan: Chandler's Ford Church Swaps
23rd Jan: Coffee Stop at Holy Cross returns
24th Jan: Cultural Friday
26th Jan: Churches Together E/leigh Unity Service
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 Resource Centre, Eastleigh;
Wednesdays: Fr Luca, 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**

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)

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

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 18th January	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOA St Joseph St Edward	Roger Clack RIP Sr Rani and Team: Daughters of Wisdom Ian Brien (Senior) RIP
Sunday 19th January <i>Second 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> Mark Herbich RIP 1st Anniversary Arthur & Constance Allan RIP Samantha & Simon Harris (Wellbeing) Debora's Exam (Special Intention)
Monday 20th January	9.30am	Holy Cross	Hazel Freda Jurd FM
Tuesday 21st <i>St Agnes</i>	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Stella & Peter Bowerman RIP Anniversary
Wednesday 22nd January	9.30am <u>10.00am</u>	Holy Cross <u>St Edward</u>	Ronald Walter Russ RIP FM
Thursday 23rd January	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLOA St Joseph	Maureen Clewlow (Wellbeing)
Friday 24th January <i>St Francis de Sales</i>	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLOA	Ann Ryan (Wellbeing) Keith Small RIP Anniversary FM
Saturday 25th January <i>Morning Mass: The Conversion of St Paul</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOA St Joseph St Edward	Steve Chambers RIP Andrew Russell-Smith RIP Keith Small RIP
Sunday 26th January <i>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 OLOA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Emie Ocaya RIP Sr Maureen (Wellbeing) Maria Smyth FM

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)
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Deacon Paul Wilson
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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