

NEWSLETTER Catholic Parish of St Swithun Wells

www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity No. 1199568



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ 12th MAY 2024: SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Live Everything in the Light of a Greater Love

Some weeks ago Dcn Matteo and I went to St Cassian's Centre in Kintbury (Berkshire), with fifty kids from secondary school. Fr Mario also was supposed to come but... you know from the previous newsletter (21st April) what happened to him!

The theme of the Camp was "The Giver", the title of a very interesting and thought provoking film, based on a dystopic novel written by Lois Lowry in 1993. The film tells the story of a society that, following a calamity referred to as "the Ruin", has been reorganized, taking away from the heart of people any big questions, any sense of emotion, good or bad, any form of love and affection, any trace of past history. People live without thinking too much: they just do what they are told to do. Everything changes when Jonas, the protagonist, meets "the Giver", an old wise man who helps him to rediscover that there is more to life than just "doing things". Together they rediscover the history of humanity, its highs and lows, the importance of asking themselves "big questions", the value of relationships...

Not only did we watch the movie, but I must say that we lived it. I still remember the faces of the kids when we arrived. Some of them were lost, apparently emotionless. Others were sceptical about the possibility of making new friends. We adults repeatedly invited them to leave behind any fear and preconceptions, and simply say yes to what we had planned for them. Slowly, to my surprise, like flowers that open and blossom to the rays of light, something changed in them. In small groups they shared the "big questions" they have in their hearts. They walked for more than three hours without complaining to see a very beautiful Anglican Church in the countryside, where they learned something about our Christian heritage.

The last evening we gathered around the fireplace and sang some songs. They were not the same kids of a few days before. They were now "one body".

How did this happen? Firstly, I think it happened thanks to the grace of God, who promised us that "when two or three (and we were fifty!) are gathered in my name, I will be there". Isn't this the most convincing proof of the Resurrection of Jesus? His Spirit who makes possible the miracle of unity is still at work... He is still alive.

Secondly, I think we had the courage to challenge these kids, proposing them an intense and all encompassing experience: Mass everyday, Morning prayers, games, walks, short moments of silence and deep conversation, a certain order in their rooms, no mobile phones, we even did homework together... Christianity is not something beside life, but the most beautiful way of living it.

My experience is that in this society what we offer to young people is too little for their hearts: some offer them just entertainment. Some offer rules. Some hard work and achievements. This is the reason why they seem apathetic. It is not their fault. It is down to us, adults, to give them everything we have received, with patience and mercy: the opportunity to live everything in the light of a greater love. And never give up on them, as God never gives up on us.

Fr Luca

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is the Vatican Declaration on Human Dignity "Infinite Dignity" - 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 15th May**, 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 12th May 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 3

PSALM RESPONSE: THE LORD HAS SET HIS SWAY IN HEAVEN.

1st reading Acts 1:15-17,20a,20c-26 Psalm 102 2nd reading 1 St John 4:11-16 Gospel John 17:11b-19

Sunday 19th May 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: Office Proper

PSALM RESPONSE: SEND FORTH YOUR SPIRIT, O LORD, AND RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

1st reading Acts 2:1-11 Psalm 103 2nd reading 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7,12-13 Gospel John 20:19-23

PARISH GROUPS



Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community meet weekly:

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.

Belong & Believe at OLOA

Wednesday 15th & 22nd May: Refreshments from 7pm for a 7.30pm start. It's not too late to come and

join us - contact Sue Thomson on 07393 917202

sue.thomson.st@gmail.com

Fellowship Group - Wednesday 15th May, 7pm at St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. This week leading up to Pentecost, we will be looking at "The Spirit at work in the New Testament", in particular the role of Ananias following Paul's dramatic encounter with Christ on the road to Damascus. Everyone is most welcome. If you want to join by Zoom please contact Peter Baggott on peterbaggott@aol.com.

Growing In Faith Together Group

Tuesdays 10.15am to approx. 11.45am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. All are welcome!

Knitting Club - third Tuesday of the month, from 2pm-4pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. If you would like to join us for a knit and cup of tea please come along, all levels of knitting ability welcome!

Please go to our website for details of more groups (e.g. Little Flowers Baby & Toddler Group, Ark of Fellowship)

MESSAGES



The Rosary will be prayed in Holy Cross

every Thursday at 9.00am (before Mass) during May. age of the newsletter.

Changes to Mass - Please note there will be **No Mass** at OLOA on Wed 15th, Thurs 16th & Fri 17th May.

Please pray for our Emmanuel Chituh who is on a journey to becoming a Deacon. On **Sunday 19th May** at the **9am Mass** in St Edward's, Emmanuel will receive the Ministry of Lector.

Second Collection this weekend

World Communications Day - 11th/12th May

Assists the Church to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with people throughout the world. Please do not use the yellow gift aid envelopes for this collection. <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/world-communications-day-second-collection-2024>

Canon Peter Wilkie's Funeral, a Requiem Mass, will be at **11am on Friday 17th May** at Our Lady of Sorrows, Fordingbridge. Canon Peter will be buried in the cemetery at Our Lady of Sorrows. Following the Requiem Mass and burial, there will be refreshments provided in the marquee. If you are driving, it is advised that you park in the town centre car park.

Parish Office Opening Hours - Fiona, our Finance Administrator, will be taking annual leave this week, therefore the office will be **closed on Monday 13th & Tuesday 14th May**. The office will close earlier at 2.30pm instead of 5.30pm on Wednesday 15th &

Thursday 16th May. It is open as usual on Friday 17th May from 9.30am to 2.30pm.

Cultural Friday is on a Saturday! - We have arranged a guided tour of Winchester Cathedral on **Saturday 18th May**. The tour will last about 1 hour and will cost £11 per person - **you will need to pay cash on the day**. We will meet at the front of the Cathedral at 1.45pm. After the visit we will head to the café outside the Cathedral. As we are limited to 30 places, **if you wish to go you must phone or email Patricia to book (01962 849425 or aaustinnippy@gmail.com)**. Winchester has a number of car parks and Park & Ride and details and costs can be found at www.winchester.gov.uk/parking

CAFOD Coffee morning - **Wed 22nd May, 10.30am-12 Noon** at St Edward's. Cakes, produce and plants on sale. There will also be a raffle. Donations of cakes & produce gratefully accepted. All proceeds to CAFOD's Humanitarian Appeal for Sudan.

Good Companions - Our next get-together for those who live alone or are lonely is at **3pm on Friday 24th May** in the Cloister at St Edward's. Please note the start time. If you have any queries contact Tony Wilson on 023 80266617. Hope to see you there.

Parish Lunch at the Hunters Inn, Romsey, on **Wednesday 12th June at 12.30pm**. All are welcome. Menus will soon be on the churches notice boards. Please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know your choice of meal by Tuesday 4th June as we have to pre-order.

MESSAGES CONTINUED

Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 12th May, 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 will be again 'Relationships with Technology in the Family'. This time there will be **two guest speakers to address this topic and help our families:**

Dr Giovanna Moretto who is a Clinical Psychologist in Liverpool and works for the Child Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), and, **Gisele Mendonca** who is a Child and Adolescent Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist in Oxford and works for various Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. 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. 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: Saturday 15th June (this will be a walk instead).*

Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Dolores Barfield and for her family. Dolores' Funeral Mass takes place on **Tuesday 14th May at 11.30am in St Joseph's Church.**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Linda Prachar and for her family, friends and all who knew her at St Swithun Wells Primary School. Linda's Funeral Service takes place on **Friday 17th May at 4pm in Test Valley Crematorium.**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Anne Wellington and for her family. Anne's Funeral Service takes place on **Wednesday 22nd May at 12 Noon in St Edward's Church.**

Come & See Summer Half Term Club (for children 7yrs-14yrs) at St Edward the Confessor Church Tuesday 28th May to Friday 31st May

Registrations are now open. For more information including costs, times, the Club extension and to register please go to:
<https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/comeandsee>

Grail Seekers & Student Youth Summer Camp Monday 29th July to Friday 2nd August

St Joseph's House, 8 Lyndhurst Rd, Southampton
Cost: £180 for eldest/only child, siblings £130 each
Registrations are now open. For more information and to register please go to:
<https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/camp>

The Happy Monday Club - The 60s Club at Holy Cross is changing it's name. It will still meet on a Monday at 1pm, either fortnightly or monthly, **in the Holy Cross**

CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Tuesday: 6.30pm-7.30pm (after Mass)	St Edward
Tuesday: 9.30am-10.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew
Saturday: 10.00am-10.30am (after Mass)	Holy Cross
10am or by appointment	OLQA
1.30pm-2.30pm & 5.30pm-6pm	St Joseph
Sunday: 8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Edward
8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew

Resource Centre and will primarily be aimed at seniors, but adults of all ages are welcome.

We are looking to introduce some new activities such as film afternoons, bingo, outings (including mystery tours), guest speakers, themed food afternoons (Italian, French, Spanish, Irish etc), meals out, basket meals, fish & chips, Christmas lunches, beetle drives, quizzes, Generation Show type demonstrations and many more. We are open to suggestions.

We are looking for new members, not just from Holy Cross Church but ALL six churches in our parish.

Our first event will be on Monday 20th May at 1pm and will be a film afternoon. The film, "The Miracle Club" is a moving drama and follows a group of women from Dublin on a pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Suggested donation is £2 and ice cream will be served during the film. Please join us and have a fun afternoon! Please feel free to contact us with any questions or for more information. *Karen, Peter and Angela*
07809 596831 or email: jakeman1966@hotmail.co.uk

Romsey Relay Marathon, Broadlands Estate 19th May 2024 - Update:

A fundraising page has now been set up: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/sswpyouthgroups>. We need your support! Please could you help us by sharing this link with your friends & family and let them know we are raising money for our youth groups and/or give generously by donating whatever you can. Details of the event can be found at: <https://www.romseymarathon.co.uk/> Thanks, *Carrie*

Recognition for former Councillor - Roger Wood, a long standing parishioner at St Edward's, has been recommended to receive the title of Honorary Alderman in recognition of his public service. Roger was a Councillor for Chandler's Ford from 1964 to 1982. The award will be presented at Mayor Making on 20th May. Many congratulations Roger!

SCHOOL NOTICES

St Swithun Wells Primary School - Vacancies

Site Manager - 5 days a week, 52 weeks a year.

Minibus Driver - Term time only, 12hrs per week.

For more information please see posters on church noticeboards or go to:

<https://www.st-swithunwells.org.uk/vacancies/>

Email: adminoffice@st-swithunwells.hants.sch.uk

Closing date for both applications is

Wednesday 15th May 2024.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tues: St Edward - after Mass (6.30pm-7.30pm)

Wednesday: Holy Cross - after Mass (10.00am-11.00am)

Thursday: St Joseph - before Mass (5.00pm-6.00pm)

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

Saturdays: Fr Mario, 2.30pm-4.30pm,
Romsey Parish Office (26A Abbey Water)

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 11th May	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	People of the Parish The Wheeler Family (Wellbeing) Special Intention for Dian Ossie Carr RIP FM
Sunday 12th May <i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Eric & Roslyn Lasker and Family RIP Anniversary Children of Palestine Janet Cooke RIP
Monday 13th May	9.30am	Holy Cross	Sheila Starrs RIP FM Intention of the Layzell Family
Tuesday 14th May <i>St Matthias</i>	10.00am <u>11.30am</u> 6.00pm	St Andrew <u>St Joseph</u> St Edward	Martin Allen RIP <u>Funeral Mass: Dolores Barfield RIP</u> Thomas William Mason RIP FM
Wed 15th May	9.30am <u>9.30am</u> 10.00am	Holy Cross <u>OLQA</u> St Edward	Anne Rosemary Wellington RIP <u>No Mass</u> Phyllis & Georg Roman RIP FM
Thurs 16th May	9.30am <u>12 Noon</u> 6.00pm	Holy Cross <u>OLQA</u> St Joseph	<u>No Mass</u> Special Intention
Friday 17th May	<u>9.30am</u> 10.00am 10.00am	<u>OLQA</u> St Joseph St Edward	<u>No Mass</u> John Boog RIP and family Fr Peter Wilkie RIP
Saturday 18th May	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Francesco Papallo RIP FM People of the Parish John Sharkey RIP Anniversary Alexis Pobjoy (Wellbeing)
Sunday 19th May <i>Pentecost Sunday</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Mark Herbich RIP Deceased Members of the Peters Family Lorina Rebeiro (Special Intention) Peggy Carmody (Wellbeing)

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: rcossa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: lspeziale@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Mario Toma (Assistant Priest)
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Fr Bruce Barnes (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 01489 890947 (OLQA Office)

Deacon Bob Birtles
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Deacon John di Meo
Tel: 01794 515688; E: jdimeo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Paul Owen
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Deacon Matteo Pagani
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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