



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

27th OCTOBER 2024: THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

My Story

Dear parishioners and friends,

Fr Raffaele has asked me, for this newsletter, to tell you my story...

I was born in 1987 in the North of Italy. My parents had me baptised on Easter night. I lived my childhood in Legnano, together with my two sisters, in a terraced house attached to a block of flats with a large garden. There we spent summer afternoons and evenings playing with other children. On Sundays we went to Mass. Fr Mario Caccia was there, strict but a good priest. He accompanied me to my first Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. During those years, he got to know the families in the parish who, like my parents, belonged to the Communion and Liberation (CL) movement and became fond of them. So he accepted the invitation to take part in the holiday of the CL movement's community. It was summer, my father worked in a bank, so my mother and I got into Fr Mario's small car and headed for the mountains. I was still in primary school and remember sitting in the back seat while my mother and he had a heated discussion. At one point, he started talking sadly about the worrying drop in the number of young men choosing to embrace the priestly vocation. I remember feeling called into question. I did not want priests to 'run out'! I believe that at that moment the Lord made me feel a fragment of his passion for the Church and the world.

Meanwhile, I grew up. I finished primary school and went to secondary school. I started attending a group for young people called Student Youth (SY), which belonged to the CL movement. I immediately got on well. At the same time I formed friendships with classmates and joined a group of boys who were quite lively and distant from the Church. Attending two such different groups, the faith I had received from my parents and the education in the CL movement was constantly being tested. In secondary school, during the month of May dedicated to Mary, I felt a strong desire to go to Mass every day. The few older people who attended those Masses, as well as my parents, were somewhat perplexed. I am sure that, thanks to the annual visits of the whole family to the shrine in Loreto, Our Lady took our story to heart and prepared me for what was to come, the following month, on SY's holiday in Madonna di Campiglio. Fr Ettore Ferrario, a member of the St Charles Fraternity and freshly ordained, accompanied us. One evening he told us the story of his vocation and I was impressed. He described what I was really looking for. I was full of joy and certainty. The Lord was calling me and I wanted to go.

Back home, my sister Rachele told me she was going to Rome to found a new congregation of nuns. Thanks to her, I met Fr Paolo Sottopietra, our current Superior General, and told him what had happened to me. He launched me into university life. The years in Milan within the Communion and Liberation Students at the University (within the Physics faculty) were a path of certainty. I experienced a strong belonging to a community oriented solely to a relationship with Christ. Meanwhile, with the excuse of visiting my sister in Rome, I would visit the seminary of the St Charles Fraternity once or twice a year. I was always fascinated by the friendship that priests and seminarians lived, and I was grateful for the way they welcomed me. Each time I would leave with the desire to return.

Fr Marco Barbetta, to whom Fr Paolo had entrusted me, suggested I go to Vienna on Erasmus. There was a St Charles missionary house there. It was an overwhelming year. Mission, study, liturgy and friendship. When I returned to Italy, I was determined to enter the seminary. The three years I spent in Rome flew by, as did the nine years I lived in Turin, six of which were spent teaching and four in the priesthood.

Of my early years in Rome, I keep a great teaching that I summarise with a Benedictine phrase: 'Put nothing before the love of Christ'; of my years in Turin, I keep another great teaching, that the essence of Christianity is communion with the Lord expressed in a real friendship, and that the priesthood is but a gift that the Lord gives to some people so that His presence may reach all.

Grateful to have received such a beautiful life and companionship, I wish to give this grace to you through my priesthood here in England.

Fr Pietro

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is **"Why This is Gravely Wrong"** by Bishop Philip - 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 30th October**, 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 27th October 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 2

PSALM RESPONSE: WHAT MARVELS THE LORD WORKED FOR US! INDEED WE WERE GLAD.

1st reading Jeremiah 31:7-9 Psalm 125 2nd reading Hebrews 5:1-6 Gospel Mark 10:46-52

Sunday 3rd November 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 3

PSALM RESPONSE: I LOVE YOU, LORD, MY STRENGTH.

1st reading Deuteronomy 6:2-6 Psalm 17 2nd reading Hebrews 7:23-28 Gospel Mark 12:28b-34

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, St Edward's until Christmas

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9)

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

Fridays 6.30pm-8.30pm, St Edward's until Christmas

Our Youth Groups are also the path we propose to those who want to be prepared to receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Registrations for the year 2024/2025 are open on our website: www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/parishlife (scroll down to Youth Groups).

Fellowship Group - Wednesdays at St Swithun Wells Church, 7.30pm-9.30pm. Due to Half Term there will be no meeting on Wed 30th Oct. Meetings resume on Wed 6th Nov where we will be having 'A look at Lost Scriptures' led by Dcn Bob. Everyone is welcome. If you wish to join 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, 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.

Growing In Faith Together Group (GIFT) - The GIFT Group will be meeting in the Balcony of Holy Cross Church every Tuesday at 10.30am whilst the Resource Centre is being re-furbished. We are currently studying the Acts of the Apostles. All are welcome!

Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community meet weekly at:

Holy Cross every Wednesday at 8pm (meeting in the presbytery 53 Leigh Rd until Christmas);
St Edward's every Thursday at 8pm.

For more information please click the link on the homepage of our website. All are welcome!

Afternoon Club - St. Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water. Come and join us for tea, games and good fun. The next games afternoon will be held on Tuesday 5th November at 2pm.

Ark of Fellowship - Group for learning disabilities or learning difficulties, their families and friends
Thursdays at 6.30pm in St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak SO50 7DB. Interested in volunteering or know some young adults who would like to join the group? Contact: arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com

MESSAGES



Bishop's Pastoral Letter "Thou Shalt Not Kill"

- Copies have been inserted into our parish newsletter and are also available to pick up from church welcome areas this weekend. You will also find a template letter you can use to send to your MP on our website (a few copies have been left in church welcome areas for those who cannot access the internet).

Solemnity of All Saints - Friday 1st Nov

As this is a Holy Day of Obligation, a number of Masses will be held across the Parish, please see the back page of the newsletter for details.

Commemoration of All Souls will be celebrated at Holy Cross Church on Saturday 2nd November at 9.30am. Please remember as Catholics we celebrate All Saints but not Halloween. We celebrate light and Saints, not darkness and demons!

Lighting of Candles and Prayers for parishioners who have died in the past year

We normally hold this on All Souls, however this year we will be lighting candles and praying for parishioners who have died in the past year on 9th Nov (Vigil

Masses) & Sunday 10th Nov during Mass at St Swithun Wells, Holy Cross, St Edward, St Andrew & St Joseph. However, in OLQA we will be lighting candles and praying for the parishioners who have died during the 2nd Nov Vigil Mass and Sunday 3rd Nov Mass.

Blessing of the Graves

In November each year we remember in a special way those who have died and gone before us. One of our traditions is the Blessing of Graves in the cemeteries within our Parish. Details for this year are:

3rd November: OLQA churchyard after 9.30am Mass

10th November (Remembrance Sunday):

Romsey Cemetery 2pm Woodley 2.30pm

Bishopstoke Cemetery 2pm Fair Oak Cemetery 2pm

Eastleigh Cemetery 3pm Ramalley Cemetery 3pm

12th November: North Baddesley 10.30am

Upcoming Second Collections

3rd November: Bamenda

17th November: Missions of the Fraternity of St Charles

MESSAGES CONTINUED



Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 3rd November, 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 'Dialogue in the Family'. 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. *Parish Christmas Party: 15th December*

OLQA Quiz - Saturday 9th November, 7.15pm

Open to all. Please bring a team (up to six people) or join one. £5 per ticket includes cheese and charcuterie board, plus one free drink, if interested please phone Marie Kemp on 07760 809640.

Upcoming Funeral

Regular worshippers at OLQA will be very sorry to learn of the death of Ann Vail. Ann's funeral will take place at **2.30pm on Wednesday 30th October at St Peter's Church, Winchester.**

Ann and her late husband John were stalwart members of the church community at Bishops Waltham for many years. Ann, a talented artist & author, together with John were the driving force behind the building of the church we now have. Ann was instrumental in designing the church and her initial drawings were made on the back of a cigarette packet! Without their sheer enthusiasm, hard work & generosity the church would not have been built.

OLQA - Isabelle Godwin, a long standing parishioner, died recently and the church would like to acknowledge her valued contribution over many years. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Isabelle and for her family.

Parish Pilgrimage (Fri 23rd - Mon 26th May 2025)

The pilgrimage to Lisieux, France has now been confirmed. We will visit the place where St Therese lived and the surrounding area. Cost: approx £500 per person depending on numbers. There will be a meeting to present the itinerary and answer any questions on **Saturday 23rd November at 2.30pm in St Edward.**

OLQA - Meon Valley Foodbank are very grateful for the support received from the churches in Bishop's Waltham. Please continue to bring your gifts to church, the baskets for collection are in the Welcome Area. There is a list of 'Low Stock Items' on the noticeboard, details can also be found on the website: meonvalleyfoodbank.co.uk

Holy Cross Shop - Please be aware the supplier does not currently have the new Sunday Missals in stock, however they are on order.

Parish Office - will be closed on **Friday 1st November**, we apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Message from the Bishop's Conference

Kim Leadbeater MP is introducing a bill to introduce assisted suicide, which will be voted on by MPs on the **29th November**. This is the biggest threat to the vulnerable in a decade, and we need a huge effort to lobby MPs. Please contact your MP by visiting: <https://righttolife.org.uk/AStreat>

CAFOD-DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal

The conflict in the Middle East is getting worse and the families affected need our help. Please donate today to the CAFOD-DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal and support our local Caritas partners in Gaza and Lebanon as they continue to provide essential food, water and shelter: cafod.org.uk/give

End of British Summer Time

Please remember that the clocks go back by one hour **this weekend of 26th/27th October.**

SCHOOL NOTICES

St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School

Children Starting in September 2025

Please come to our open mornings to see our school in action on **Tues 5th & Thurs 14th November between 9.30am and 10.30am.**

Find out more about our school at our parent information evening on **Wed 6th November at 6.30pm.**

Find us in Hillcrest Ave, Chandler's Ford, SO53 2JP.

www.st-swithunwells.org.uk Tel: 02380 266210

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

At a Glance - List of Upcoming Parish Events

Mon 28th Oct - 1st Nov: Come and See Club

Sun 3rd Nov: Parish Get2Gether

Sat 9th Nov: Quiz at OLQA

9th & 10th Nov: Lighting of Candles and Prayers for the Deceased (except OLQA which takes place on 2nd & 3rd Nov)

10th & 12th Nov: Blessing of the Graves (except OLQA which takes place on Sun 3rd Nov)

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

Wednesday: Holy Cross - after Mass (10am-11am)

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

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

There will be no priest surgeries during half term.

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 26th October	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOA St Joseph St Edward	Annama RIP Jackie Callow RIP 14th Anniversary Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP Jane Hewitt RIP
Sunday 27th October <i>Thirtieth 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> Anne Ginty RIP People of the Parish Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP Tom Cronin RIP Elvira Golez RIP Anniversary Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP
Monday 28th Oct <i>Ss Simon & Jude</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross	Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP
Tuesday 29th Oct	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP Robin Mooney (Wellbeing)
Wed 30th October <i>Blessed Winchester Martyrs</i>	9.30am 9.30am	Holy Cross St Edward	Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP
Thurs 31st Oct	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLOA St Joseph	Gerard Carr RIP FM Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP Roy Russell-Smith RIP Anniversary
Friday 1st Nov <i>All Saints</i>	<u>9.30am</u> <u>10.00am</u> <u>10.00am</u> <u>7.00pm</u> <u>7.00pm</u> <u>7.00pm</u>	<u>OLOA</u> <u>St Joseph</u> <u>St Edward</u> <u>St Andrew</u> <u>Holy Cross</u> <u>OLOA</u>	George & Camilla Farrugia RIP Anniversary Flotilda Guia & Eustacio Guia Sr Private Intention Audrey & Denis Queen FM
Saturday 2nd Nov <i>Morning Mass: All Souls</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOA St Joseph St Edward	Mass Offered for the Deceased (All Souls Mass) People of the Parish Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP Intention for the Deceased of the Past Year Real & Florentina Boucher RIP
Sunday 3rd Nov <i>Thirty-First 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> Mrs Edward Christian FM Patricia Roydon RIP Anniversary Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP Beatrice & George White; Laura, David & Eduardo Fernandes FM Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)

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Fr Pietro Paiusco (Assistant Priest)

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Deacon John di Meo

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Deacon Paul Owen

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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