



*Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ*  
**23rd July 2023: SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Weeding In The Garden Of Your Soul

We are fortunate in this country to have many Stately Homes. A number of them are still inhabited by the same families that built them many centuries ago but, in most cases, this does not stop them from being open to the public. Both the National Trust and English Heritage make sure that the Homes are maintained to a first rate standard. It maybe that you make a bee-line for the House and spend many an hour looking at the treasures within of art, furniture and design. How many spend as much time looking at the beautifully kept gardens? I always make sure that I explore the gardens and wonder at the immaculate flowerbeds, trees and shrubs and, if I am lucky, I may be able to speak to one of the gardeners who always seem to be endlessly keeping everything up to a high standard. The conversation with the gardener(s) soon turns to practical maintenance. What is common to all is that no matter how well kept the flowerbeds are, there is a constant battle with weeds; each day there is a task to be done in weeding out those unwanted "flowers in the wrong place".

I wonder if a gardener went to the doctor and informed him that he was suffering from a severe complaint called **Lolium Temulentum** from which most people in the country suffer, I wonder what he would think? Well, let me explain, in the Gospel for this Sunday there is certainly a lot of it about. **Lolium Temulentum** is the Latin name for what was sown in the man's field of wheat - Darnel (you may remember it as *sticky arrow* a common grass which you could take off the head and throw it like an arrow at someone and it would stick in their hair or on their clothes). The problem is that it looks like wheat but is highly poisonous. The double effect is intended by the evil one next door to ruin the crop by deception and by its poisonous effect.

I find this parable so helpful in my own life where the weeds of sin grow side by side with the desire to have a fruitful and worthy Christian life. We are reminded that we all have to face this nasty neighbour, Mr Evil, who will sow the poisonous seeds of deception wherever goodness seeks to grow and flourish. I like the idea that as we grow we learn to identify our sins more clearly, and, as Jesus continues to tell us, that when you do recognise them, you must pull them out, cast them aside and burn them up! How? Through Penitence in the act of Sacramental Confession. The weeds are pulled out but as every gardener knows in time they will come back, but, we shall go again and again to ask for forgiveness and take the only effective medicine for **Lolium Temulentum**.... I suggest you take one dose at least every month. You will be surprised how immediate the remedy works and you will feel better instantly.

*Fr Bruce*

## GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "That's All That Matters" a surprising interview with the Oklahoma softball players - you can find this on our homepage. 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 **9.30am on Wednesday 26th July 2023**, please email your messages/notices to: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

# LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 23rd July 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 4

PSALM RESPONSE: O LORD, YOU ARE GOOD AND FORGIVING.

READINGS: 1<sup>st</sup> reading Wisdom 12:13,16-19 Psalm 85 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Romans 8:26-27 Gospel Matthew 13:24-43

Sunday 30th July 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 1

PSALM RESPONSE: LORD, HOW I LOVE YOUR LAW!

READINGS: 1<sup>st</sup> reading 1 Kings 3:5,7-12 Psalm 118 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Romans 8:28-30 Gospel Matthew 13:44-52

## Youth Groups (including First Holy

**Communion & Confirmation)** - are now taking a Summer Break, they will resume in September.

Please check the parish website for the calendar of meetings, times and venues.

[www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](http://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

## **Communion & Liberation Groups**

School of Community groups are now on their Summer break, resuming in September.

For more information please click the link on the homepage of our website.

## **Growing In Faith Together Group**

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

**Fellowship Group** - now on their Summer break.

**Romsey Prayer Group** - Every Wednesday morning at 11am in the St Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water. All will be made very welcome.

**Afternoon Club** - St. Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water, first Tuesday in the month at 2pm. Come and join us for tea, games and good fun.

## **The Little Flowers Baby & Toddler Groups**

both groups are now on their Summer break, resuming in September (dates to be confirmed)

## PARISH GROUPS



**Holy Cross Group** normally meet on Wednesdays in the Resource Centre, Eastleigh;

**St Joseph's Group** normally meet on Thursdays from 10.30am-12 Noon in the Hall (26 Abbey Water, Romsey).

The groups are 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**

Now on their Summer break. Normally Thursdays at 6.30pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. More information is on the website. Interested in volunteering or know some young adults who would like to join the group? If yes, please contact: [arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com)

**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!

## **Sunday Boules Group OLOA**

Meet in the car park at 11am, all welcome! If you have a set of boules please bring them along.

## **Clergy Retreat & Holidays**

Frs Raffaele, Luca & Marco will be away until 28th July. Supply priests have been arranged to cover weekend Masses and weekday Masses (24th - 28th July). Fr Bruce will also be away from 22nd to 29th July.

## **Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)**

If you, or someone you know would like to be baptised, confirmed or received into the Catholic Church (or know more about the Catholic faith) please email Deacon Paul Owen: [powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or alternatively please speak to a priest.

## **Gift Aid Declaration Forms cut off 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 - Urgent Message**

As you will all be aware we changed our charity name on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023. This requires all of our regular Gift Aid donors to sign a new gift aid declaration form under the new charity name: Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. We are required, as a Diocese, to have completed this by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 or gift aid claims under old declaration forms will be invalid.

Please, if you haven't already, collect a new form from your church, your Gift Aid Co-ordinator

## MESSAGES



(Pat Baggott, Donna Scappaticci, Mike Greenslade, David Martin) or download from the 'Comprehensive Giving Guide' available on our parish website:

<https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/financesdonations>

Please hand your completed forms in at the parish office, to any of our clergy, or to your Gift Aid Co-ordinator as a matter of urgency.

*Many thanks, Fr Raffaele*

## **Grandparents' Day**

'His Mercy is from age to age' (Luke 1:50) is the banner the Holy Father is flying for World Youth Day and for Grandparents' Day this year which falls on **Sunday 23rd July**. God bless all our grandparents all over the world. The Diocese have a Grandparents' Rosary group, if you are interested please contact them at: [marriagefamilylife@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:marriagefamilylife@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Holy Cross Shop** - We will be closing the shop during August for the Summer break and will re-open on Thursday 7th September.

## MESSAGES CONTINUED



### Come & See Summer Club

(ages 7 years to 14 years)

**St Edward's Church, 8.30am to 3.30pm**

**Monday 7th to Friday 11th August 2023**

**Monday 14th to Friday 18th August 2023**

Daily cost: £10 for the first child, £5 per additional child (siblings). For more information and to register please go to:

<https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/comeandsee>  
Volunteers will open the venue and welcome children from 8.30am (activities start at 9am) and will close it at 3.30pm (activities finish at 3pm). Please note that every day the Summer Club is on we are offering a **Club Extension** where children can stay at the venue from 3.30pm until (maximum) 5.30pm. The Club extension costs £10 per day per child.

In order to join the Summer Club please complete the registration form on our website and **pay the whole amount by bank transfer by Friday 4th August 2023**. Please also include the cost of the Club Extension (3.30pm-5.30pm) if your child is going to attend.

**Parish BBQ** - The CAFOD group and the Knights of St Columba invite you to a parish barbeque at St Edward's on **Saturday 19th August, from 1pm**.

Food including desserts and a first free drink with each **£12 ticket. Children under 12 are FREE.**

BBQ, desert, and raffle contributions all gratefully accepted and there will be a CAFOD produce stall. Enquiries to Neil Hendricks (023 8026 6324); tickets on sale after Masses 5th/6th August and 12th/13th August. Places are limited, so don't delay!

**New to the Parish?** - A very warm welcome to our Parish; we are delighted that you have joined us. If you are looking to regularly attend one of our churches and join our vibrant community please complete one of the new 'Parishioner Registration' Forms available from the Welcome Areas in our churches or from our parish website: [www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](http://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk).

All families are welcome at **ALL** Masses, however we have specific Children's Liturgies on Sundays. Please ask one of the Welcomers for details of the times at your Church.

### Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Rosalina Mandapat and for her family. Rosalina's Memorial Mass takes place on **Monday 24th July at 3pm in St Andrew's**.

Rosalina's Requiem Mass will take place at a later date in the Philippines.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Kim Mucci and for her family. Kim's Funeral Service takes place on **Wed 2nd August, at 11.30am in Holy Cross Church**.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Diamantino (Dino) Guerreiro and for his family. Dino's Funeral Service takes place on **Wed 2nd August, at 11.30am in St Edward's Church**.

### Diocesan Day for Catechists

**St Peter's Catholic Church, Winchester, SO23 8RY**  
Fr Mark Hogan and the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph invite you to join them on **Saturday, 30th September (10am-4pm)** for a day for fellowship, formation and prayer for the Catechists of Portsmouth Diocese to be encouraged and strengthened in faith.

Join Fr Mark Hogan and the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph for a day of thanksgiving, prayer, fellowship and formation in Winchester Catholic Pastoral Centre. This is a day when we give thanks for all catechists in the diocese, who have generously responded to the call of Christ and have placed themselves at the service of their parish. The highlight of the day is the celebration of Mass, offered for all catechists and for all who contribute to Children's Liturgy in the diocese. This day for catechists is also a great source of support and strength, as we meet catechists from all corners of the diocese, share with them our experience, and take time to pray together. The day is free to attend, however please bring a packed lunch.

Please register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/diocesan-day-for-catechists-registration-598927286637>

### Engaging the Disengaged: How to accompany non religious persons

Online seminar on **Tuesday 21st November at 6pm**, exploring strategies for all Catholics to fulfil their mission to bring people closer to Christ. *Engaging the Disengaged* is about how to accompany the non-religious person in daily life. Demand for the event is expected to be high and early booking is advised to reserve a place. **Tickets are priced at £10 per person (non refundable)**. To book please go to: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/engaging-the-disengaged-how-to-accompany-non-religious-persons-tickets-646139539757>

### Street Pastors: Volunteers needed for Eastleigh & Fair Oak

- Could you spare one Friday night a month to listen, care and help make our community a kinder and more caring place to live in?

We go out either between 8pm to Midnight, or from 11pm to about 3.30am. For more details please go to: <https://streetpastors.org/locations/eastleigh/>  
Or for an informal chat, please contact Eric Hyom on 07736 967921.

### CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

<b>Tuesday:</b>	6.30pm-7.30pm (after Mass)	St Edward
<b>Tuesday:</b>	9.30am-10.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew
<b>Saturday:</b>	10.00am-10.30am (after Mass)	Holy Cross
	10am or by appointment	OLQA
	5.30pm-6.00pm (before Mass)	St Joseph
<b>Sunday:</b>	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Edward
	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tues: St Edward (6.30pm-7.30pm)

Wednesday: Holy Cross - 10.00am-11.00am

Thursday: St Joseph - before Mass (5.30pm-6.00pm)

### TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Frs Raffaele, Luca & Marco will be unable to meet this week (24th - 28th July)

# MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 22nd July <i>Morning: St Mary Magdalene</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	<u>Liturgy of Word &amp; Communion</u> People of the Parish  Herbert Howie RIP Anniversary Bryan George Dolbear FM
Sunday 23rd July  <i>Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8.30am 9.00am  9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward  St Andrew OLQA Holy Cross (& livestreamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Living & Deceased Members of the Mongan & Turner Families FM Vincent Curmi RIP Anniversary  Angela Speight RIP FM Anne Kelly RIP Anniversary
Mon 24th July	9.30am <u>3.00pm</u>	Holy Cross <u>St Andrew</u>	Regina Turl (Special Intention) <u>Memorial Mass: Rosalina Mandapat RIP</u>
Tues 25th July <i>St James</i>	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Deceased Members of the Peter's Family Edward Fenwick RIP FM
Wed 26th July <i>Ss Joachim &amp; Anne</i>	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross OLQA St Edward	
Thurs 27th July	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Ellen Farmer RIP
Fri 28th July	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Maureen Clewlow (Wellbeing)
Sat 29th July <i>Morning Mass: Ss Martha, Mary &amp; Lazarus</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	People of the Parish  Ron & Sheila Rhymer RIP Anniversary Vocations for the Priesthood, Religious Life and the Diaconate
Sunday 30th July  <i>Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA Holy Cross (& livestreamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Mrs Sheila McMinn RIP Arthur Heslop RIP Anniversary  Beatrice & George White; Laura, David & Eduardo Fernandes FM Cecilia Harris RIP

## 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 Marco Vignolo (Assistant Priest)  
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: mvignolo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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

Deacon Bob Birtles  
Tel: 023 8069 2416; E: bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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

Deacon Paul Owen  
Tel: 023 8025 4806; E: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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)