



*Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ*  
**27<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

## A HYMN OF JOY

I really enjoy the Season of Advent. I love the change in the Liturgy, the change from 33 weeks of green to a period of purple is a bonus, and I like the symbolism of the Advent wreath and its candles to be lit as the days draw near to Christmas. Above all, I welcome the hymns we sing during this Advent Season. They are joyful in the way they mark the Gospel events, taking the themes of 'being alert for the coming of Jesus,' John the Baptist and the message of a Saviour for Israel, and, of course the wonderful example of obedience and generosity of Mary in accepting God's will for her.

Those iconic hymns ..*Wake, O Wake, with Tidings thrilling.. Lo he comes with clouds descending, ...On Jordan's bank the Baptist cries... The Angel Gabriel from Heaven came and Tell out my Soul..* have wonderful words on which to meditate during the season. I wonder how many people use hymns for aids to prayer? It's worth taking a hymn(s) and using them for your prayers during the day. In fact the Daily Office for the priest always starts with a hymn: recognizing that they not only calm the soul but are also prayers in themselves.

I had a friend who rather annoyingly used to hum jazz tunes and sometimes he would break into a muffled, not always in tune, song with the words to what he was humming. It certainly made people look and often people would either ask what was the song he was trying to sing or hum or join in with it. (There were those who told him to shut up - but at least it prompted a reaction)!! In a way this was a form of evangelisation for jazz. In the same way I feel, that the humming of a well known hymn would have the same effect. Who knows people might be inclined to join in or it may resonate with something inside the listener to remind the person of a religious dimension to life.

It has been a great joy to see how over the years the Catholic community in England has got a lot better at singing hymns. There is such a variety of choice both old and new and there has been a definite recognition, both spiritually, and, doctrinally, that in singing at Mass we link, through the Communion of Saints, to the continuous song of the *heavenly choir*. I certainly look forward to that heavenly choir where everyone will be singing in tune and no one will grumble about the hymn tunes!!

*Fr Bruce*

## GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "The true meaning of Advent" by Fr Mike Schmitz - 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 30th November, please email your messages/notices to: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

## LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 27th November 2022: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 1

PSALM RESPONSE: I REJOICED WHEN I HEARD THEM SAY: "LET US GO TO GOD'S HOUSE."

READINGS: 1<sup>st</sup> reading Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 121 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Romans 13:11-14 Gospel Matthew 24:37-44

Sunday 4th December 2022: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 2

PSALM RESPONSE: IN HIS DAYS JUSTICE SHALL FLOURISH AND PEACE TILL THE MOON FAILS.

READINGS: 1<sup>st</sup> reading Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 71 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Romans 15:4-9 Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

## PARISH GROUPS



### Stars of Abraham (school years 3, 4, 5 & 6)

Tues 29th Nov, 4.00pm-5.30pm in St Edward's Cloister;

Wed 30th Nov, 4.15pm-5.45pm in St Andrew;

Sat 3rd Dec, 10.30am-Noon in Holy Cross R/Centre.

This week we invite the parents to attend the session with their children.

### Fellowship Group - Wed 30th November, 7.30pm at

St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. Advent Bible Study using the carol *Hark the Glad Sound* to look at the promise of, and the birth and life of Jesus, our Saviour and Prince of Peace. Join us at St Swithun Wells or by Zoom. To join us on Zoom contact peterbaggott@aol.com for the link.

### Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) Group

Tuesdays at 10.15am to approx. 11.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. All are welcome!

### 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.

Next Meeting Date: 6th December

### OASIS Christmas Meeting - Monday 5th December,

7.30pm-9pm at St Edward's: Come along to join in some Christmas craft, making cards and baking cookies to give to some isolated parishioners. All ladies welcome...we look forward to seeing you.

### Knitting Club - There will be no Knitting Club in

December (normally 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!

### 60 Club - Meets fortnightly in Holy Cross Resource

Centre from 2pm to 4pm. All are welcome!

Next Meeting Date: Monday 28th November

Please note this will be our last meeting before the end of the year. New dates will be announced in January.

## MESSAGES



### Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Adrian Garlick and for his family. Adrian's funeral service takes place at Holy Cross Church on Wed 30th November at 11.30am.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Brian Spincer and for his family. Brian was a parishioner of Our Lady Queen of Apostles. Brian's Funeral Mass will be held at Christ the King & St Colman in Bitterne on Thursday 1st December at 2pm. There will be time to gather after the Mass in the Hall. On Friday 2nd December there will be a service at Wessex Vale at 10am. Parishioners are welcome to attend the Funeral Mass, gathering and crematorium service. Donations to White Fathers on their website:

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

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Brian De La Nougere and for his family. Brian's funeral service takes place at Holy Cross Church on Friday 2nd December at 11am.

### Second Collection 3rd/4th December

Christmas Flowers

My Day by Day Advent Booklets - these are available in the church welcome areas. Children's booklets are free; a suggested donation of £1 for the adult booklets would be most welcome.

### Parish Advent Retreat - We will hold a Parish

Retreat for Advent on Sunday 27th November,

2.30pm-4.30pm at St Edward. Open to everyone.

There will be a talk about Advent - 'The Jacob's Ladder' - some time for private prayer in the church and a time for questions and sharing thoughts.

### Looking At Revelation In Advent: An Ecumenical

Course From Christians Together in Bishop's

Waltham - A series of talks given by the Clergy and Ministers of the Churches in Bishop's Waltham.

Beginning Wed 30th November at 7.30pm in OLQA.

Fr Bruce will talk about 'Who is Jesus Now? Who will bring peace? How will it all End? For more information please see the poster on church noticeboards.

### Advent Adoration at OLOA - Fridays during Advent at

11.15am-12Noon followed by soup and rolls in the Hall.

### Advent Penitential Services

These will be held across our parish, with the opportunity for individual confession:

Thursday 15th December, 7.30pm - OLQA

Friday 16th December, 7.30pm - St Andrew

Saturday 17th December, 11am - Holy Cross

A number of priests will be available on each occasion.

Advent & Christmas 2022 - Please pick up your copy of the Christmas Mass timetable.

## MESSAGES CONTINUED

### St Swithun Wells, Fair Oak,

**Christmas Card CAFOD Collection** - From the 26th November we shall be encouraging everyone to send one Christmas Card to church friends, and place it on our special noticeboard in St Swithun Wells Church. You can donate what you would have spent on cards and postage to CAFOD World Gifts, by placing your contribution in the CAFOD collecting box by the notice board where the cards are. Trisha (02380 693669)

**Christmas Cards** - Please support the Knights of St Columba in the parish by purchasing their Christmas cards, available at Masses on 26th/27th Nov. Profits will be donated to the parish, school and charities supported by the Knights. Packs of 10 for £3.50. Cash only please.

### Meeting to discuss Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham

There will be a meeting to explain the programme and to answer all of your questions on Friday 2nd December, 7pm in St Edward. If you would like to go on the pilgrimage please go to our website and complete a form and answer a few questions. The deadline for payment is the end of December.

**10 Year Plan Consultation** - We are going to hold a consultation at OLQA on Friday 9th December at 7pm. We will be discussing the 10 Year Plan 'You will be my Witnesses' together with the Parish Vision. You will find both of these documents on our website and some copies at church. This consultation is for both the communities at OLQA & St Swithun Wells Church.

### Christmas Gifts for Poitiers and Two Saints Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th December

Suggested donations are cakes, biscuits, sweets, chocolates, mince pies etc for Poitiers and hats, gloves, scarves, socks, toiletries etc for Two Saints. Please wrap your gifts and label them with the name of the Charity and bring them to Mass so that they can be taken up at the Offertory.

**CAFOD Annual Christmas Fayre** will be held in St Edward's Cloisters on Sat 10th & Sun 11th of December after both Masses. Donations of cakes and other festive fayre will be gratefully received. Any unwanted gifts which you have would also be welcome. All proceeds to CAFOD food crisis.

**Closer to Christ Campaign** - If you haven't received your pack at home please collect one from the Welcoming Area in each of our churches.

### Parish Christmas Party

**Sunday 11th December, 1pm-4.30pm**

**St Swithun Wells Primary School**

**Menu:** Main - Chicken Daverio (with roast potatoes & ratatouille), a vegetarian option will be available; Dessert - Apple crumble; Please bring your own drinks.

**Price** £10 per person, children 16 and under free.

In Holy Cross, St Andrew & St Edward's you can pay by contactless if you would prefer.

**Tickets** are available in our churches (in the welcoming areas) during the weekend.

A limited number of tickets is available, the **deadline for purchasing tickets is Sunday 4th December.**

**Admission by ticket only**

Christmas jumpers and fancy dress actively encouraged!

### Christmas Lunch at the Hunters Inn, Romsey

**Tuesday 13th December at 12.30pm**

Menus are on church noticeboards. All are welcome!

Please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know your choice of main course and dessert before Monday 5th December as we have to pre-order.

**Advent Carol Service at OLQA - 6pm, Saturday 17th December** (followed by social in the hall). Please note the **Vigil Mass will be at 5pm on this day.**

### MISSIO - Red Boxes

Please collect a Missio Calendar from the shelf in the lobby (St Edward's). Please empty your red boxes into a named sandwich bag or such like. Bring it to St Edward's at either weekend Masses and give it to myself or Teresa in the repository. Alternatively post it through my letter box: 65 Pine Crescent, Chandler's Ford. Many thanks, Mary Vokes (Chandler's Ford Only)

### New Year Afternoon Tea for all our Senior

Parishioners across the whole Parish on **Sunday 15th January, 2.30-4.30pm at St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak.** If you consider yourself to be a Senior Citizen then come along and enjoy delicious food, free raffle and entertainment. Places are limited and need to be booked. To book a place contact Pat Baggott by phone or text on 07801 454400 or email: [baggott.pm@gmail.com](mailto:baggott.pm@gmail.com)

We would welcome donations of homemade scones and cakes. If you can help with this please contact Pat.

### St Swithun Wells Parish Online Giving

If you would like to give directly online please use your phone to scan in this QR code which will take you to our online giving page.



### CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Tuesday:	6.30pm-7.30pm	St Edward
Tuesday:	9.30am-10.00am	St Andrew
Saturday:	10.00am-10.30am	Holy Cross
	10am or by appointment	OLQA
	5.30pm-6.00pm	St Joseph
Sunday:	8.30am-9.00am	St Edward
	8.30am-9.00am	St Andrew

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday:	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
Fridays:	Fr Raffaele, 10.30am-11.30am, Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey
Saturdays:	Fr Marco, 9.30am-12.30pm, Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey

# MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 26th Nov	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Charlie & Rita Kelly FM Joe & Lydia Fonseca RIP  Deceased relatives of Sr Mary Barney & Peggy Rice RIP FM
Sunday 27th Nov  <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA (also live streamed) Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> John Milne RIP Anniversary Harold Butcher RIP Anniversary  People of the Parish Members of Shina's family
Mon 28th	9.30am	Holy Cross	Antonio Cicu RIP FM Zaki Hanna Hayek RIP
Tues 29th	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Mrs Edward Christian FM
Wed 30th <i>St Andrew</i>	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am 11.30am	Holy Cross OLQA St Edward <u>Holy Cross</u>	Kenneth Sweet FM  William & Maureen Atterbury RIP <b>Funeral Service: Adrian Garlick RIP</b>
Thurs 1st	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	In Memoriam  Kate Prendergast RIP
Fri 2nd	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am 11.00am	OLQA St Joseph St Edward <u>Holy Cross</u>	Conor McCaughey RIP Patrick & Amy Griffin RIP <b>Funeral Service: Brian De La Nougerede RIP</b>
Sat 3rd Morning Mass: <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Bethany (Thanksgiving) People of the Parish  Francisco & Capistrana Birthday Anniversaries Hazel Brown RIP Anniversary
Sunday 4th Dec  <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA (also live streamed) Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Mary Uphill RIP FM Margaret Martindale RIP  Phil Talbot RIP Leszek Kuras RIP

## CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

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

Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)  
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Deacon Andrew Lee  
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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)