



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ 21st APRIL 2024: FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

This Holiday Cost an Arm and a Leg!

This year for the first time I took a holiday after Easter with all my brothers (we didn't do this in Hungary). We went to Venice for a few days. The apartments there are not cheap, but in the end we only had to pay for the trip, because we received the house courtesy of a friend, so we did not have to pay for accommodation.

We toured many churches of Venice, between a Tintoretto, a Titian and a Palma Vecchio, we filled our eyes and hearts with wonderful paintings, with images representing the history of salvation that were truly beautiful and majestic.

But at a certain point I started to see badly... at first just a little soot, then the soot gradually increased, until with one eye I could see everything very dimly and could no longer distinguish objects. So I went to a hospital to get checked out and there they told me that I had to undergo surgery to fix a retinal detachment. The doctor told me that surgery for this isn't too complicated, however as it is a surgical procedure, there is a chance that it could fail and I may lose the sight in one eye. At that moment I was a bit afraid, I thought of how my life and lifestyle would change. In short, I had a series of worries related to the outcome of the operation, until I came out of the room where I had my check-up, and in the waiting room saw again the faces of my brothers: Fr Luca, Fr Raffaele and Dcn Matteo. At that moment the anxiety passed, because their presence immediately reminded me of the presence of Another. I felt their being there at that difficult moment like the embrace of Jesus who told me: "Don't worry, I am with you". So from that point on I carried on with my holiday with difficulty because with one eye I couldn't see, but from a spiritual point of view I was in peace.

I knew that the NHS has biblical waiting times, so my only remaining concern was: When am I going to have surgery? Will I have to wait that long and will my eye be ruined in the meantime?

As soon as I got home, I went straight to Southampton (Saturday afternoon) and there, after my check-up, they scheduled my urgent operation for Sunday morning. So I had one more confirmation that I am not alone, that I am loved, that the only concern I have to have is to follow Jesus with all my being, to surrender myself to Him.

You may ask, but what does the title of this front page have to do with all this? You will understand if you translate this English saying into Italian. When you want to emphasise that something costs a lot, in Italian you say it costs an eye of the head.

So I really must admit that this holiday costed me an eye of the head, though not because of the money, but because one eye didn't work. But on the other hand, this misfortune has put my heart back into what matters in life, made me rediscover in Jesus the greatest treasure I have. So my advice to readers, even without becoming half-blind, is to rediscover the primary importance of Jesus' presence and love in your life, above all else, even your health!

Fr Mario

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 24th April**, 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 21st April 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 4

PSALM RESPONSE: THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED HAS BECOME THE CORNERSTONE.

1st reading Acts 4:8-12 **Psalm** 117 **2nd reading** 1 John 3:1-2 **Gospel** John 10:11-18

Sunday 28th April 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 1

PSALM RESPONSE: YOU, LORD, ARE MY PRAISE IN THE GREAT ASSEMBLY.

1st reading Acts 9:26-31 **Psalm** 21 **2nd reading** 1 John 3:18-24 **Gospel** John 15:1-8

PARISH GROUPS



Youth Groups (including First Holy Communion & Confirmation)

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

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9) &

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

Please check the parish website for the calendar of meetings, times and venues. To register for these groups please go to our website:

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

Fellowship Group - Wednesday 24th April, 7pm at St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. This week we are looking at two more of the Early Church Fathers, Polycarp and Papias. 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!

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!

60s Club - meets every fortnight on a Monday from 2pm-4pm at Holy Cross Resource Centre. Our next meeting is on **Monday 22nd April**. All welcome!

Please go to our website for details of more parish groups (e.g. Little Flowers, Ark of Fellowship, Afternoon Club)

MESSAGES



Second Collection This Weekend

Clergy Training Fund (20th/21st April) - if you are able to gift aid please use the yellow gift aid envelopes for this collection. A Give As You Live Donation Page has been set-up: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/clergy-training-fund-second-collection-2024>

Mass for the Sick & Housebound

Saturday 27th April at 2pm in St Edward's Church
There will be a special Mass in which we will pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish. During the Mass it will be possible to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. All who are sick, elderly, facing surgery, or seeking the gift of God's healing are welcome to participate. The whole Parish will be invited to join in prayer for those who are sick and for their caregivers.

Cultural Friday - 26th April, 7pm at St Edward's

We will be watching the film **Sound of Freedom** (15+) directed by Alejandro Monteverde, produced by Eduardo Verástegui and starring Jim Caviezel (all three Catholics). Recently Pope Francis has spoken a lot about human trafficking and how it violates human dignity. Sound of Freedom addresses precisely this urgent issue and is based on an incredible true story. After rescuing a young boy from ruthless child traffickers, a federal agent learns that the boy's sister is still captive and decides to embark on a dangerous mission to save her...

Cheese and wine at 7pm, suggested donation of £1.

The film starts at 7.30pm.

Belong & Believe at OLOA

Exploring Celtic spirituality through CaFE (Catholic Faith Exploration) – as we watch an inspirational DVD taking us to the beautiful locations of the saints whose spreading of the gospel influenced our lands. We will explore and discuss what these seemingly ordinary men and women might teach us about living more lovingly and more creatively in our fragmented world of today. Wednesdays: refreshments from 7pm for a 7.30pm start - April 24th, May 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd. Please book your place via Sue Thomson on 07393 917202 or email: sue.thomson.st@gmail.com

Divine Mercy Chaplet - Every 3rd Wednesday of the month at Holy Cross Church, the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be said at the start of Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament after the 9.30am Mass. Enquiries to Roz Monaghan or Fr Raffaele.

Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Siobhan Waters and for her family. Siobhan's Funeral Mass takes place on **Tuesday 30th April at 2pm in Holy Cross.**

What is the Fraternity of St Charles?

On **Sunday 5th May at 3pm in St Edward's**, Fr Paolo Sottopietra, General Superior of the Fraternity of St Charles, the Society the priests of our parish belong to, will held a meeting for all the parish where he will describe what the Fraternity of St Charles is. There will also be time for questions.

MESSAGES CONTINUED



Irish Music night at Our Lady Queen of Apostles - Charity Fundraiser

Come and join us at OLOQA on Friday April 26th at 7pm for a fun night of music and food, all in a good cause! Local folk band Shantyhead will be playing and you can enjoy a buffet of hot soup and tasty snacks - you are welcome to bring your own wine/beer! Tickets are just £10 per person and all funds raised will be supporting a local group travelling to Lourdes in June with the charity Across (www.across.org.uk). Across provides travel for people with disabilities and life-limiting illness, supported by volunteer helpers. For tickets, and for more details on the trip to Lourdes (volunteers still needed!) please contact Marianne Wanstall at mwanstall@btinternet.com.

Upcoming Baptisms - next Sunday 28th April at 3pm in Holy Cross we will have the joy to baptise some children, most of which are part of the Stars of Abraham groups. They are, Emilie, Crixus, Rheia, Olivia, Robert, Emma, Chloe, Mufaro, Jayden and Winston.

Mass in Cantonese 廣東話彌撒

Fr. Bruno Lepeu, MEP, who served in Hong Kong for many years will come to celebrate Mass and hear Confessions in Cantonese. Welcome all faithfuls and friends from nearby areas!

在香港服務多年的巴黎外方傳教會龐樂培神父 將會在 Eastleigh 為大家以廣東話舉行感恩祭及辦修和，歡迎在附近地區的兄弟姐妹及朋友參加，同頌主恩！

Date 日期：Monday 6th May 2024

星期一 (Bank Holiday 英國假期)

Place 地點：Holy Cross RC Church (53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh SO50 9DF)

Time 時間：

2.00pm Confessions 修和 - 請報名

3.00pm Mass 感恩祭

4.00-6.00pm Tea & Coffee 茶聚

Please enrol through the google form below. 請填寫以下表格，於2024年5月5日晚上6時前報名。

<https://forms.gle/gvObZkjNt775aXPYz>

Finance Committee Meeting 19th March Parish

Summary - A summary of the Finance Committee Meetings will now be available on the parish website. You will find the quarterly summaries in the Finances & Donations section on the parish website.

St Edward's Repository more help needed!

For the repository's continued existence we desperately need more helpers to create a rota for Saturday/Sunday Masses. Please come forward to help with this key church resource.

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
	5.30pm-6.00pm	St Joseph
Sunday:	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Edward
	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew

Gift Aid Personal Statements

This year the parish has decided not to send out individual personal statements due to the high cost of postage. However, if you require a personal statement, please contact your church's gift aid coordinator (details below and on the parish website) and they will be happy to email you the amounts of gift aid claimed on your donations. A separate thank you statement from Fr Raffaele has been inserted into this week's Newsletter.

St Andrew's and St Joseph's: David Martin
giftaid.sjsa@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

St Edward's: Donna Scappaticci
giftaid.seb@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Holy Cross, St Swithun Wells & OLOQA: Patricia Baggott
giftaid.hcolqa@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Carmelite Group - Would you like to 'Go Deeper' in your faith, grow in prayer and develop your spiritual life? Why not join our Carmelite group that meets on the third Saturday monthly for mutual support in spiritual growth. We have times of liturgical prayer and silent prayer, discussion of a Carmelite text and social time. We meet from 10.30am to 3pm at the St Joseph's Catholic Church Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water, Romsey, Hampshire. For more information contact Samantha Harris on 07840 756078 or email: samanthaharris218@gmail.com.

Our Father In Heaven Retreat - Fr Mark Hogan invites us all to a FREE Year of Prayer Retreat on Friday 4th May (evening) and Saturday 5th May (all day) at St Peter's Church Pastoral Centre in Winchester. Once you have registered, you will receive further details nearer to the date of the event. Please confirm your attendance by Monday 29th April latest by registering here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/year-of-prayer-our-father-in-heaven-retreat-days-fri-3-pm-and-sat-4-may-tickets-877957062207?aff=oddtcreator>

Churches Together in Chandler's Ford - Fryern

Funtasia (6th May 2024) - We have a stand at the Fryern Funtasia and are in urgent need of volunteers from our church congregations to help staff this on the day. We will have a couple of summer fete style games for children, a prayer tree and will give out goody bags with some sweets and fliers about our activities. The Funtasia runs from 12.00-4.30pm. If anyone can help even for an hour or two during that time, or alternatively with the set up earlier in the morning please contact Mike Greenslade (our Parish Contact) on 01962 715894.

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 not 23rd April, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre

Wednesdays: Fr Luca not 24th April, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh

Saturdays: Fr Mario not 27th April, 2.30pm-4.30pm, Romsey Parish Office (26A Abbey Water)

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 20th April	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Siobhan Waters RIP Sebi Devassy RIP Anniversary Freya Linsdell (Wellbeing)
Sunday 21st April <i>Fourth 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> Mark Herbich RIP People of the Parish Jon Davies RIP Elvira Golez & Hilario Ceballos RIP
Mon 22nd April	9.30am	Holy Cross	Mr Pappachan RIP
Tuesday 23rd April <i>St George</i>	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Mrs Edward Christian FM
Wed 24th April	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross OLQA St Edward	Oswald Carr RIP FM Mary Wray RIP
Thurs 25th April <i>St Mark</i>	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Joyce Whitlock (Wellbeing) Eileen Murphy (Wellbeing)
Friday 26th April	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	OLQA St Joseph St Edward	John Boog RIP Agnes Harrison RIP
Saturday 27th April	9.30am <u>2.00pm</u> 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross <u>St Edward</u> St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	John Quinn RIP FM <u>Mass for the Sick & Housebound</u> People of the Parish Sarah Howie RIP Anniversary Rosemary Oxby RIP
Sunday 28th April <i>Fifth 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> Susan Johnston (Special Intention) Ivy & Ted Bowerman RIP Christine Watson & Chloe Godding RIP Anniversary Robert Benedict 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 Mario Toma (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: mtoma@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 Matteo Pagani
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: mpagani@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