



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

4th SEPTEMBER 2022: TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TO BE A VOLUNTEER...

"Who can learn the counsel of God?" (Wis 9:13). This question from the Book of Wisdom that we have just heard in the first reading suggests that our life is a mystery and that we do not possess the key to understanding it. There are always two protagonists in history: God and man. Our task is to perceive the call of God and then to do his will. But in order to do his will, we must ask ourselves, ***"What is God's will in my life?"***

We find the answer in the same passage of the Book of Wisdom: ***"People were taught what pleases you"*** (Wis 9:18). In order to ascertain the call of God, we must ask ourselves and understand what pleases God. On many occasions the prophets proclaimed what was pleasing to God. Their message found a wonderful synthesis in the words ***"I want mercy, not sacrifice"*** (Hos 6:6; Mt 9:13). God is pleased by every act of mercy, because in the brother or sister that we assist, we recognize the face of God which no one can see (cf. Jn 1:18). **Each time we bend down to the needs of our brothers and sisters, we give Jesus something to eat and drink; we clothe, we help, and we visit the Son of God** (cf. Mt 25:40). In a word, we touch the flesh of Christ.

We are thus called to translate into concrete acts that which we invoke in prayer and profess in faith. **There is no alternative to charity:** those who put themselves at the service of others, even when they don't know it, are those who love God (cf. 1 Jn 3:16-18; Jas 2:14-18). The Christian life, however, is not merely extending a hand in times of need. If it is just this, it can be, certainly, a lovely expression of human solidarity which offers immediate benefits, but it is sterile because it lacks roots. The task which the Lord gives us, on the contrary, is the *vocation to charity* in which each of Christ's disciples puts his or her entire life at his service, so to grow each day in love.

We heard in the Gospel, "Large crowds were travelling with Jesus" (Lk 14:25). Today, this "large crowd" is seen in the great number of volunteers (...). You are that crowd who follows the Master and who makes visible his concrete love for each person. I repeat to you the words of the Apostle Paul: *"I have indeed received much joy and comfort from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you"* (Philem 1:7). How many hearts have been comforted by volunteers! How many hands they have held; how many tears they have wiped away; how much love has been poured out in hidden, humble and selfless service! This praiseworthy service gives voice to the faith – it gives voice to the faith! – and expresses the mercy of the Father, who draws near to those in need.

Following Jesus is a serious task, and, at the same time, one filled with joy; it takes a certain daring and courage to recognize the divine Master in the poorest of the poor and those who are cast aside, and to give oneself in their service. In order to do so, volunteers, who out of love of Jesus serve the poor and the needy, do not expect any thanks or recompense; rather they renounce all this because they have discovered true love. And each one of us can say: *"Just as the Lord has come to meet me and has stooped down to my level in my hour of need, so too do I go to meet him, bending low before those who have lost faith or who live as though God did not exist, before young people without values or ideals, before families in crisis, before the ill and the imprisoned, before refugees and immigrants, before the weak and defenceless in body and spirit, before abandoned children, before the elderly who are on their own. Wherever someone is reaching out, asking for a helping hand in order to get up, this is where our presence – and the presence of the Church which sustains and offers hope – must be."* And I do this, keeping alive the memory of those times when the Lord's hand reached out to me when I was in need.

Pope Francis

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is, **"Artisans of Peace - The Passion to Conciliate"** - 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 **9.30am on Wednesday 7th September**, please email your messages/notices to: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 4th September 2022: Year C - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 3

PSALM RESPONSE: O LORD, YOU HAVE BEEN OUR REFUGE FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT.

READINGS: 1st reading Wisdom 9:13-18 Psalm 89 2nd reading Philemon 9-10,12-17 Gospel Luke 14:25-33

Sunday 11th September 2022: Year C - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 4

PSALM RESPONSE: I WILL LEAVE THIS PLACE AND GO TO MY FATHER.

READINGS: 1st reading Exodus 32:7-11,13-14 Psalm 50 2nd reading 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Gospel Luke 15:1-32

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)

Our Youth Groups for children in primary school and young people in secondary school will restart at the end of September 2022. They are also the path we propose to those who want to be prepared to receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Registrations for the year 2022/2023 are now open on our website: www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

We would like to remind you that if a child or a teenager wants to be prepared to receive First Holy Communion (and is at least in school year 3) or Confirmation (and is at least in school year 9) we will ask them to come regularly to one of the three groups according to their age. They will receive First Holy Communion or Confirmation when they are ready (usually after one year).

There will be a meeting on **Saturday 17th September 2022 at 11am** in St Edward's cloister for all the parents and guardians where we will present the **2022/2023 Stars of Abraham** programme.

There will be a meeting on **Sunday 18th September 2022 at 4pm** in the Holy Cross Resource Centre for all the parents and guardians where we will present the **2022/2023 Grail Seekers** programme.

With Student Youth and Grail Seekers groups we will have our **first meeting on Saturday 24th September**. It will be a day trip, for more information and to register please go to our website.

Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community are currently on their summer break. For more information please click the link on the homepage of our website.

Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

Starts on Wed 5th October at 8pm in St Edward's

If you 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 or alternatively please speak to a priest.

Fellowship Group - will restart on **Wednesday 14th September at 7.30pm** in SSW church, Fair Oak. We will begin with a liturgy then discussion on ideas for the coming months. If you would like to join us on Zoom please contact peterbaggott@aol.com

Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) Group

Tuesdays at 10.15am to approx. 11.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. On 6th Sept we will be looking at the life of St Catherine of Siena. All are welcome!

The Little Flowers Baby & Toddler Groups

Holy Cross Group resume their meetings on **Wed 21st Sept at 10am** in the Resource Centre, Eastleigh; **New group at St Joseph's: Will meet on Thursdays from 10.30am-12 Noon** in the Parish Hall (26 Abbey Water, Romsey) starting from **8th September**.

The groups are for 0-4 years and their families. More information is on the website or you can email: littleflowers.sswp@gmail.com

Ark of Fellowship - Group for learning disabilities or learning difficulties, their families and friends

Are currently on their Summer break (they normally meet on Thursdays at 6.30pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre). Interested in volunteering or know some young adults who would like to join the group? If yes, please contact Fr Luca at: arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com

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.

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!

Upcoming Funerals

Joan Paul RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Joan Paul and for her family. Joan's Funeral Mass takes place at **St Joseph's on Monday 5th September at 1pm**.

Doreen Lawless RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Doreen Lawless and for her family. Doreen's Funeral Mass takes place at **St Edward's on Wednesday 14th September at 11am**.

MESSAGES



Tony Harwood RIP: Many parishioners at St Edward's will remember Tony who regularly attended the 6.30pm Mass and was active in the parish. Tony died on Friday 19th August. Please pray for the repose of his soul and for his family. **Tony's funeral service is at 11.30am on Thursday 15th September at Test Valley Crematorium and the family extend a warm invitation to any parishioners who wish to attend.**

MESSAGES CONTINUED



Good Companions

An afternoon tea has been arranged for those who live alone or are lonely at **3pm on Friday 9th September in the Cloister of St Edward's Church**. No charge but donations to CAFOD will be welcome. If you would like to join us, please ring Tony Wilson on 023 80266617 for catering purposes. We look forward to seeing you.

Communion & Liberation Day

On **Sunday 11th September** the Communion and Liberation (CL) groups of our Parish and the diocese of Portsmouth will meet to begin this new social year together. The event is open to everyone (kids, parents, adults...), and those who are interested to know more about this group. We will meet at **1pm at St Joseph's House in Ashurst** (8 Lyndhurst Rd - SO40 7DU), share a lunch together, sing some songs and have some activities, followed by a conversation. We'll finish our day celebrating Mass. If you would like to participate please go to our parish website and book your place.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Margaret French would like to invite you to her annual Macmillan coffee morning at **St Andrew's on Friday 23rd September from 10.30am to 12.30pm**. We always manage to raise a good amount of money for this very worthy cause. Macmillan were a lifeline for us when we nursed my husband for six weeks until he died of cancer in 2004, so this charity is very close to our hearts.

Visit of the Relics of St Bernadette of Lourdes to Portsmouth Diocese - 8th/9th September 2022

The relics of St Bernadette of Lourdes will be touring the UK this autumn. More info can be found at: www.portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk by clicking on the relic tour logo on the home page, alternatively please see the posters in our churches.

Latest Portsmouth Diocese Vacancies

Head of Charity - Caritas
Planned Giving Officer - Portsmouth
Please go to <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs/> for more information, closing dates and how to apply.

Street Pastors - Can you spare one Friday night a month? There is a choice of shifts, from 8pm to around midnight, or from 11pm to around 3.30am.

Provisional dates for our next training programme:
Friday 7, Saturday 8, and Sunday 9 October 2022
Friday, 21, Saturday, 22, and Sunday, 23 October 2022
Friday, 4, Saturday, 5, and Sunday, 6 November 2022
Please note the training dates are Friday 7.30pm to 9.15pm and Sat/Sun 9.30am to 4.30pm

Our newsletter can be found at:

https://streetpastors.org/locations/eastleigh/wp-content/uploads/sites/67/2021/12/newsletter_Edition_25.pdf

For an informal chat please contact Eric Hyom on 07736967921. Or email Street Pastors at: eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk

SCHOOL NOTICES



St Anne's Catholic School and Sixth Form College Prepares for Education Sunday (11th Sept)

The students and their families of St Anne's Catholic School and Sixth Form College in central Southampton are looking forward to starting our new academic year. Please pray for us and all Catholic Schools in the region this week as we lead up to Education Sunday on the 11th September. The theme for Education Sunday is "enlightening the mind" which we, along with all Catholic Schools, strive to do well, along with softening our hearts and preparing our hands for service.

We thank God for the exceptional GCSE and A Level exam results we have achieved this summer which help prepare our young people to meet our vision statement to "Be at the Heart of our rapidly changing World, revealing God's Love": over 80% of pupils achieved 4 or above in English and maths, putting us among the top achievers in the region and country. Also as the only Catholic Sixth Form College in the Southampton area, we are uniquely placed to support our Catholic families with the next steps beyond GCSE.

Although oversubscribed, Catholic students get priority admission at both year 7 and year 12. We may still be able to place some students for a September start this year, so please get in touch so we can see how we may serve you. Due to our outcomes and our reputation, there is the misconception that we are an independent school so we want to reassure all that we are a state school and there is no cost for admission to the school or sixth form college. Our website can be found at: www.st-annes.uk.com

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
	5.30pm-6.00pm	OLQA
	5.30pm-6.00pm	St Joseph
Sunday:	8.30am-9.00am	St Andrew
	9.00am-9.30am	OLQA

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday: St Edward's - 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 is not available on 6th Sept, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh
Wednesdays: Fr Luca, 4.30pm-6.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh
Fridays: Fr Raffaele is not available on 9th Sept, 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 3rd September	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Seamus Doyle RIP Nelita Hechanova RIP Anniversary Felino Cagampang (Thanksgiving)
Sunday 4th Sept <i>Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</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> Geoffrey Bird RIP Margaret Martindale RIP Emilia Tuppein RIP People of the Parish
Mon 5th Sept	9.30am <u>1.00pm</u>	Holy Cross <u>St Joseph</u>	Fraternity of St Charles <u>Funeral Mass: Joan Paul RIP</u>
Tues 6th Sept	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Skipton Leonard & Mary Marjorie Haslam RIP Dudley Roberts RIP FM
Wed 7th Sept	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross OLQA St Edward	Jerry McDonnell RIP FM Keith Small RIP
Thurs 8th Sept <i>The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Reverend Murphy O'Connor FM Margaret Martindale RIP
Fri 9th Sept	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	OLQA St Joseph St Edward	John Lapage RIP Birthday Anniversary Charlotte White (Wellbeing)
Sat 10th Sept	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	For the Intentions of the Calverley Family Jane Roberts RIP Anniversary Maria Szczetnikowicz RIP Anniversary
Sunday 11th Sept <i>Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</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> Roger Candler (Special Intention) People of the Parish Special Intention

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

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

Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)
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Fr Marco Vignolo (Assistant Priest)
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Fr Bruce Barnes (Assistant Priest)
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Deacon Paul Owen
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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