



*Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ*

**22<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER 2023: TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

## NOT WASTED BUT FULFILLED

Some parishes have schools others contain hospitals. Both have their specialised ministries and parish clergy assist as best they can in both places. When it is a hospital which is without a full-time Catholic Chaplain the local clergy try and help by offering to either visit one day of the week or be "on call" if there are any emergencies or special needs.

One such experience came my way when I was an assistant chaplain to a large hospital, I received a telephone call to say that a three year old child had just died and that the Mother would not give up her child, would I come and try to persuade her to give the child over to a nurse or doctor?

When I arrived I found the distressed and distraught Mother and Father in a side room; the Mother held the child tightly in her arms rocking backwards and forwards cradling her child. Words could not express the sadness of the situation. It soon became clear that the Mother could not bring herself to hand over the child to some clinical representative. I suggested that I would leave them alone for a few minutes to say their final "goodbye" and that I would return, say a final prayer and then the Mother could hand me the child and I would take the child across the corridor to the waiting nurses. This is what the Mother wanted. She needed someone out of the clinical system who represented a more hopeful love for the child and who represented a future for the child in heaven. I returned, said a prayer and took the child which was gently placed into my arms. It was an emotional moment because at the same time as I received the child I became acutely aware that this child's life had, in a strange way, not ended but had reached its fulfilment.

Every person, whether their life be long or short, has reached the fulfilment of the time they have been given on this earth. It is so easy to think of a fulfilled life in terms of an expected life span with its material benefits and earthly glory. This little child had made me see that it is possible to be fulfilled at any age and that life cannot be considered wasted just because it seems to be short. It is God's gift of unique existence and not measured in *human made* time. Maybe we need to hear again the words of JOB when he faced the death of his family - "the Lord gives and the Lord takes away, Blessed be the name of the Lord". He could thank God for the essence of life rather than the time span and so, even in sorrow, could trust in the God who will bring our designated fulfilled time on earth to a glorious celebration in His eternal presence.

*Fr Bruce*

## **GEM OF THE WEEK**



This week's GEM is "Israel: The Possible Path of Unity" by Maria Acqua Simi  
- 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 25th October 2023**, please email your messages/notices to: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

## LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 22nd October 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 1

PSALM RESPONSE: GIVE THE LORD GLORY AND POWER.

1<sup>st</sup> reading Isaiah 45:1,4-6 Psalm 95 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Thessalonians 1:1-5b Gospel Matthew 22:15-21

Sunday 29th October 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 2

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

1<sup>st</sup> reading Exodus 22:20-26 Psalm 17 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Thessalonians 1:5c-10 Gospel Matthew 22:34-40

## PARISH GROUPS



### Youth Groups (including First Holy Communion & Confirmation)

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

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

Sat, 10.30am-Noon in Holy Cross Resource Centre.

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9) & Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

We usually meet on Friday evenings in the Holy Cross Resource Centre at 6.30pm. Please check the parish website for the calendar of meetings, times and venues.

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 2023/2024 are still open on 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 - Wednesdays from 7pm-9pm

Please note, there will be no Fellowship on Wednesday 25th October due to Half Term, nor on Wednesday 1st November as it is All Saints.

### Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community meet weekly:

Holy Cross, Wednesdays at 8pm;

St Edward's, Thursdays at 8pm.

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

### 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 Church, 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. For more info please contact: Emmanuel Chituh (chiati2002@yahoo.com or 07915 379686) or Dcn Paul Owen (02380 254806 or powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) for the St Edward's group or Marilyn on 07909 127027 for the Romsey group.

### The Little Flowers Baby & Toddler Groups

Holy Cross Group meet on Wednesdays from 10am in the Resource Centre, Eastleigh;

St Joseph's Group 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

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

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: 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!

## MESSAGES



### Second Collection this weekend

Sunday 22nd October for World Missions

Today is World Mission Sunday, when the Holy Father invites all Catholics to contribute to a special collection for Missio, his charity for world mission. Please support Missio in helping missionaries to work alongside communities through the world that are poor or in need. Please do not use our yellow gift aid envelopes for this collection, Missio have provided their own, these are available to pick up in church welcome areas. Alternatively please go to mission.org.uk to donate online.

Upcoming Weddings - On Sunday 22nd October we start marriage preparation with 6 couples due to celebrate their weddings next Summer. Please pray for them and for all those who are considering this wonderful vocation to matrimony.

### Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Pasqualina Marucci and for her family. Pasqualina's **Funeral Mass takes place on Tuesday 24th October at 12 Noon in Holy Cross Church.**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Clare Ashcroft and for her family. Clare's **Funeral Service takes place on Wednesday 8th November at 11.30am in St Edward's Church.**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Maria Houghton and for her family. Maria's **Funeral Mass takes place on Tuesday 14th November at 2pm in Holy Cross Church.**

Rosary at Holy Cross - We will pray the Rosary every Thursday during October at 9am (before Mass).

# MESSAGES CONTINUED



**Come & See Half Term Club (ages 7 yrs to 14 yrs)**  
St Edward's Church, 8.30am to 3.30pm & Extension till 5.30pm  
Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October 2023  
Daily cost: £10 for the first child, £5 per additional child (siblings). For more info and to register please go to: <https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/comeandsee>

**Annual Mass and lighting of candles for parishioners who have died in the past year**  
Thursday 2nd November:  
Holy Cross at 9.30am; St Joseph at 10am;  
St Edward 7pm; St Andrew at 7pm.  
Saturday 4th November, St Swithun Wells at 5pm.

**Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 5th November, 1-4pm**  
Pavillion 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 'Silence and Personal Prayer'. 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 click the link.  
Next Get2Gether: 10th December (Christmas Party)

**Parish Pilgrimage to Siena, Assisi & Rome**  
Tuesday 18th June - Sunday 23rd June 2024  
We are jointly planning a Pilgrimage to Siena, Assisi and Rome with Tangney Tours on the occasion of the Ordination (God willing) of Matteo as a Priest. Estimated cost is £1,105 per person based on two people sharing. For more details including the itinerary please go to our website. The pilgrimage will be led by Fr Raffaele.

## 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 Luca, 10.30am-11.30am, Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey

## 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)

**Message of Thanks from Margaret French** - Thank you to everyone who supported our Macmillan coffee morning in any way at all. We had a lovely, very busy morning and, up to now, have raised £633.80. Donations are still coming in so don't think you are too late, I have several paying in slips!

## St Swithun Wells Parish requires a Part-Time Housekeeper for the clergy in Eastleigh

The position involves housekeeping support to the parish clergy; dealing with house cleaning, laundry for the clergy and house; grocery shopping and cooking of some meals. The job is part-time (5 hours per week ideally to be worked Tuesday 09.30am to 1.30pm and Friday 9.30am to 10.30am, but we are flexible) with a salary of £10.73 per hour. For more details and an application form please see the parish website [www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](http://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)  
Or pick up an application form from the Parish Office.  
**The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Friday 27th October.** Interviews will then be held the following week with the intention that the successful applicant will start as soon as possible once references have been received.

## Conference: Finding God in The Non-Christian World - Sat 4th November, 10am-3.30pm at St Bede's Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX

Anyone with an interest in the Catholic Church's relationship with non-Christian faiths is invited to attend. For more info and a list of confirmed speakers: please see posters on church noticeboards.  
To book please go to:  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/portsmouth-diocese-inter-religious-day-tickets-698845133607?aff=oddtcreator>

**Communication Group** - If you have are having difficulties with Communication, maybe following a Stroke or Parkinson's or because of Dementia we would be interested in hearing from you. We are looking at setting up a group to support people and their spouses or carers with these issues. Once we know whether there is a need for such a group we can decide on a time and frequency and the most appropriate venue. We would also be looking for people to help with the group should it be required. I am usually at the 5pm Mass at Swithun Wells to give more information or phone me on 01962 849943 or 07928 050948, or email: [kathyeast361@gmail.com](mailto:kathyeast361@gmail.com)  
I look forward to hearing from you. *Kathy East*

## SCHOOL NOTICES

### St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School

We're delighted to invite parents & their children to come together & visit us when considering a place for their child. See the school in action during the following mornings from **9.30am-10.30am:**  
**Tues 7th & Wed 8th November 2023**  
For further information visit the school website: <https://www.st-swithunwells.org.uk/admissions/>

# MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 21st Oct	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Thanksgiving Jackie Callow RIP  Nigel Tait RIP Anniversary Florentina Boucher RIP 1st Anniversary
Sunday 22nd Oct <i>Twenty-Ninth 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 (also livestreamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Catherine La Rooy RIP Monica Carrasco RIP Anniversary  Paul O'Brian RIP Michael Hayden (Wellbeing)
Monday 23rd Oct	9.30am	Holy Cross	Regina Turl (Special Intention)
Tuesday 24th Oct	10.00am <u>12Noon</u> 6.00pm	St Andrew <u>Holy Cross</u> St Edward	<u>Funeral Mass: Pasqualina Marucci RIP</u> Peace in Israel
Wed 25th Oct	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross OLQA St Edward	Annamma RIP  Clare Ashcroft RIP
Thurs 26th Oct	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Children of Palestine  Carol Evan RIP
Friday 27th Oct	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	OLQA St Joseph St Edward	John Marsh RIP Peace in Israel
Saturday 28th Oct <i>Morning Mass: Ss Simon &amp; Jude</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Anu (In Thanksgiving) Carmel Ratna RIP  People of the Parish Evert Van Willigenburg (Wellbeing & Good Health)
Sunday 29th Oct <i>Thirtieth 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 (also livestreamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Paul Chandler RIP 8th Anniversary  Deceased Members of the Nolan & Grimes Families RIP Colette Tait (Wellbeing)

## CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

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