



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ 2nd FEBRUARY 2025: THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE NATIONS

The Gospel of Luke tells the story of Jesus being presented in the temple, when he was just a baby. Mary and Joseph brought him to Jerusalem to fulfil a requirement of the Jewish law. This law said that every first-born son should be offered to God. At the same time, the parents had to make a small sacrifice. For Mary and Joseph, this was the offering of two doves as a sign of their humility.

There were two holy people in the temple that day, Simeon and Anna. Simeon was a righteous man who had been promised by God that he would see the Messiah before he died. He waited and prayed for that moment. When he saw Jesus, he took him in his arms and praised God, saying, *"Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel."*

Simeon's prayer was a moment of revelation: the baby Jesus is announced as a light for all nations and the glory of Israel. Simeon uses the two words glory and light to help us understand the mission of Jesus Christ.

I have always been fascinated by the presence of light. I remember when I came here, one of the first things I did in the churches of our Parish was to upgrade the lights. Holy Cross and St Edward's were the first churches to have their lighting improved, then I did a bit of work on St Andrew's and finally St Joseph's. Perhaps Holy Cross is the church where people have noticed more of a difference between before and after the upgrade. The new lighting has transformed the space into something warmer, and on Sundays your eyes immediately go up to the ceiling and to the cross that dominates the sanctuary. The space has become more prayerful. All this is because of the light, nothing has changed in the church, but the light gives new life and beauty to what was already there.

This example helps me to understand what we mean when we say that Jesus is the light of the nations. Our faith in Jesus is something that allows us to see what is around us in a new way. Things and people are the same, but they are also more beautiful because of the light that comes from Jesus. It happens to me that when I visit someone or do something, the sudden thought that Jesus is real and present helps me to give more value to that person or action. In a way, Jesus makes everything more beautiful. It is not something we can explain, but something we can experience. Jesus really is the light!

Fr Raffaele

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is *"Antiqua e Nova"*, note of the Vatican on the relationship between human intelligence & artificial intelligence. 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 5th February 2025**, 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 2nd February 2025: Year C - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Office Proper

PSALM RESPONSE: THE LORD OF HOSTS, HE IS THE KING OF GLORY!

1st reading Malachi: 3:1-4 Psalm 24 (23) 2nd reading Hebrews 2:14-18 Gospel Luke:2:22-40

Sunday 9th February 2025: Year C - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 1

PSALM RESPONSE: IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ANGELS I PRAISE YOU, O LORD.

1st reading Isaiah 6:1-2a,3-8 Psalm 138 (137) 2nd reading 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Gospel Luke 5:1-11

PARISH GROUPS



Youth Groups (including First Holy Communion & Confirmation)

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

Tuesdays 4pm-5.30pm, St Edward's

Fridays 4.30pm-5.45pm, St Andrew's

Saturdays 10.30am-12pm, Holy Cross R/Centre

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9)

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

Fridays 6.30pm-8.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre

For more information about the groups please go to

our website: www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/parishlife

(scroll down to Youth Groups).

Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community meet weekly at:

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!

Fellowship Group - Wednesdays at St Swithun Wells Church, 7.30pm-9pm.

On 5th February we will have a taster session on the Nicene Creed. Everyone is welcome. If you wish to join us by Zoom please email Peter Baggott for the link on peterbaggott@aol.com.

Growing In Faith Together Group (GIFT) - every

Tuesdays at 10.15am for coffee followed by bible study at 10.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. 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.

The Little Flowers Baby & Toddler Group

Meet on Wednesdays during term time from 10am in Holy Cross Resource Centre. The group is 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 Holy Cross Resource Centre. Interested in volunteering or know some young adults who would like to join the group?

Contact: arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com

MESSAGES



Readers Retreat - Sat 1st February

For Readers at St Andrew's & St Joseph the retreat is at St Andrew's from 2.30pm to 4pm;

For Readers at Holy Cross, St Swithun Wells and St Edward's the retreat is at Holy Cross from 2.30pm-4pm;

For Readers at OLQA the retreat is at OLQA from 2.30pm-4pm.

Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 2nd February, 1-4pm Pavilion 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 'Poverty and Charity in Family Life'. No cost, however we kindly ask you to give a donation to cover the hire of the Pavilion. Please bring some food, beverages or cakes to share with others. Please can you bring your own cups/plates/cutlery. To book your place please go to our parish website and scroll to see the "Next Main Parish Events" section. Next *Get2Gether: 2nd March*

Memorial of St Blaise - during the 9.30am Mass at Holy Cross on **Monday 3rd February** we will be following an ancient tradition where it will be possible to receive the blessing of the throat.

Seniors (over 60's) Afternoon Tea - Sunday 2nd February at 2.30pm in St Swithun Wells Church, Fair

Oak. Join us once again for delicious food, free raffle and entertainment. This event is for the whole parish. We do not make a specific charge for the Tea but ask for donations to help cover the costs. Places are limited so need to be booked in advance. For those who have no transport and would like to come along we have a mini bus that can take you. Please mention this when booking. Contact Pat Baggott on 07801 454400 or by email: baggott.pm@gmail.com

Upcoming Funeral - Please pray for the repose of the soul of Theo Osime and for his family. Theo's Funeral Mass takes place on **Monday 3rd February at 10am in St Andrew's church.**

Recommended Reading - The Story of A Soul by St Thérèse of Lisieux.

Story of a Soul is an autobiographical work by Saint Thérèse of Lisieux. In this book, she shares her family life, personal conversion, and years of trials. Thérèse illuminates the "little way" to sainthood, emphasizing childlike simplicity before God and doing small things with great love. We recommend the translation by John Clarke which can be bought online.

Parish Office - please note the office will be closing at 2.30pm on Thursday 6th February instead of 5.30pm as Fiona, our Finance Administrator, has a day off.

MESSAGES CONTINUED



CL Portsmouth Diocese Day

Sunday 9th February at St Edward the Confessor church, Chandler's Ford. Programme as follows:

Please arrive from 12 Midday.

12.30pm: Bring & share lunch;

3pm: Witnesses and questions (children activities held simultaneously);

5pm: Holy Mass.

Please bring a donation for the venue. This is a great opportunity to invite any family or friends, make sure you register as soon as possible so that we know how many people are coming. To register please go to the St Swithun Wells parish website.

Come & See Spring Half Term Club (for children 7yrs -14yrs) at St Edward the Confessor Church

Mon 17th to Friday 21st February, 8.30am-3.30pm

Registrations are now open. For more information including costs, times and to register please go to: <https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/comeandsee>

Please pay the whole amount by bank transfer by Friday 14th February 2025.

Mass at St Joseph's - On Saturday 15th February

there will be an additional Mass at 12 Noon at St Joseph's Church, Romsey. At this Mass, Samantha Harris of St Joseph's and Andrea Hurry of St Boniface, Shirley will make their First Promises as Secular Carmelites. The Mass will be led by Fr Matt Blake a Carmelite Friar from Kensington Priory. All parishioners are invited and would be most welcome at this Mass.

Laugh off the winter blues - Come to an afternoon of

Call My Bluff plus a light hearted quiz, in **Romsey Parish Centre, Tuesday 18th February, from 2-4pm.** No charge but, as space is limited, if you intend to come please give your name to either Ann Heslop, Sr Catherine or Rosemary Peacock.

Happy Monday Club - Hello and a Happy New Year!

We have a birthday and a jury service summons in February so our first event of the year will be on **Monday 10th March at 2pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre** in Eastleigh. We will be showing a film, "Shamrock Spitfire". The film is a true story based on the life of Brendan "Paddy" Finucane, a fighter pilot who became the youngest Wing Commander in the history of the Royal Air Force, at the age of 21. Suggested donation of £2 to include refreshments. If you need to know anything please contact Karen or Peter on 07809596831 or jakeman1966@hotmail.co.uk and we hope to see you there.

Message to Parish Volunteers who are DBS checked

We would like to remind you of the changes to the government update service. From Sunday 8 December 2024, subscribers to the Update Service will be emailed 30 days before their renewal date to ask if they wish to stay subscribed. Renewal dates are based on original joining dates. In preparation for this change, DBS advises volunteers to check that the email address attached to their subscription is linked to the individual who is subscribed. The renewal email will ask volunteers to access their Update Service Account and confirm that they wish to continue with the service. For those who confirm, this request will be repeated

annually. If no confirmation is made, their volunteer subscription will automatically be cancelled. If you are a volunteer that is subscribed to the Update Service, please log into the subscription service to check that the correct email address is linked.

<https://secure.crbonline.gov.uk/crsc/subscriber>

Please email: safeguarding@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk if you have any questions.

Parish Pilgrimage (Fri 23rd - Mon 26th May 2025)

The pilgrimage to Lisieux, France will be led by Fr Raffaele & Fr Mario. We will visit the place where St Therese lived and the surrounding area. See posters on church noticeboards; the itinerary, booking form and more information are on the parish website. If you have any questions relating to the pilgrimage please email Anne Monaghan: anne.monaghan@outlook.com

Retrouvaille is a Catholic ministry for marriages in difficulty; helping couples whose relationships 'need a little help' to those with more serious challenges and thus are separated or considering divorce. Their next online programme begins on **Thursday 27th February.** For confidential information about Retrouvaille, or to register for the next programme commencing via Zoom from **Thurs 27th February to Sun 2nd March 2025,** call/text 07887 296983 or email info@retrouvaille.org.uk

Communion for the Sick & Housebound - if you, or anyone you know requires Communion at home please contact the parish office in Eastleigh and we will pass your request onto the relevant co-ordinator at each of our six churches.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tues: St Edward - after Mass (6.30pm-7.30pm)
Wednesday: Holy Cross - after Mass (10am-11am)
Thursday: OLOA - after Mass (12.30pm-1pm)
Thursday: St Joseph - before Mass (5pm-6pm)

At a Glance - List of Upcoming Parish Events

1st Feb: Readers Retreat
2nd Feb: Parish Get2Gether
2nd Feb: Seniors Afternoon Tea
12th Feb: Parish Lunch at King Rufus
17th-21st Feb: Come & See Half Term Club
18th Feb: Call My Bluff & Quiz afternoon
18th Feb: Knitting Club at Holy Cross restarts
2nd Mar: Parish Get2Gether - save the date!
7th Mar: Cultural Friday - save the date!
10th Mar: Happy Monday Club Event

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Tuesdays: Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh;
Wednesdays: Fr Luca by appointment, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh;
Fridays: Fr Mario, 10am-12 Noon, OLOA, Bishop's Waltham;
Fridays: Fr Pietro not available 7th Feb, 11am-12.45pm, 26A Abbey Water, Romsey.
Fridays: Fr Matteo not available 7th Feb, 11am-12.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

| DATE | TIME | CHURCH | MASS INTENTION |
|---|--|---|--|
| Saturday 1st February | 9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm | Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOA St Joseph St Edward | People of the Parish Muriel Matthias (Wellbeing) Mollie & Tom Falvey RIP |
| Sunday 2nd February <i>The Presentation of the Lord</i> | 8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 5.30pm | Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLOA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph Holy Cross | <i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Mrs Edward Christian RIP FM Calvin Nel RIP Anniversary Helen Baxter RIP 1st Anniversary John Gare RIP Assad-Bshara Hayek RIP |
| Monday 3rd Feb <i>St Blaise</i> | 9.30am <u>10.00am</u> | Holy Cross <u>St Andrew</u> | <u>Funeral Mass: Theo Osime RIP</u> |
| Tuesday 4th Feb | 10.00am 6.00pm | St Andrew St Edward | Deceased Members of the Wyman & Uphill Families FM |
| Wed 5th Feb <i>St Agatha</i> | 9.30am 10.00am | Holy Cross St Edward | William & Isabella Regan FM Angela Frances Adams FM |
| Thursday 6th Feb <i>St Paul Miki & Companions</i> | 9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm | Holy Cross OLOA St Joseph | Albert & Violet Harrington FM Pascal Arquier RIP |
| Friday 7th Feb | 10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon | St Joseph St Edward OLOA | Sue Arquier & Family Fr Gerry Walsh (Special Intention) |
| Saturday 8th Feb | 9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm | Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOA St Joseph St Edward | Gillian Meaney (Wellbeing) Keith Small RIP |
| Sunday 9th February <i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> | 8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 5.30pm | Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLOA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph Holy Cross | <i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Deceased Members of the Fung Family People of the Parish Deceased Members of the Marucci & Bibbo Families Danny Hogan RIP Pauline Whalley (Wellbeing) |

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 Pietro Paiusco (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

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