



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

1st OCTOBER 2023: TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"I AM WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE WORLD"

G. K. Chesterton, a very prolific Catholic writer in the twentieth century, was once asked the question, "What is wrong with the world?" He repeated the question a few times, "What is wrong with the world?" and people thought he was thinking about World War II or something similar. But instead, in response to the question "What is wrong with the world?" he said, "I am what's wrong with the world." With this answer he did not mean that he and all of us are responsible for all the difficulties and evil in the world but he was emphasizing the fact that if we admit that there is something wrong in what we do and we try to do something about it, then we can change something around us.

We have the same message in the first reading of this Sunday, a reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel. A question was being asked by the Jewish community, "What's wrong with what's going on in our world today?" because they were at that time captives in Babylonia, they had been captured by the Babylonians and taken away to a second exile in Babylonia. It was a dramatic question, "Why are these terrible things happening to us?" And the answer that was given by most of them was, "We are being punished for the sins of our ancestors. It is their infidelity to God that caused this Babylonian captivity." They thought that they should blame someone for their difficulties, their parents or their grandparents, the past generation and even God. Speaking for God, the prophet Ezekiel gave the lesson that he gives us in today's first reading. This is what he said, "You object, 'What the Lord does is unjust.' Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed."

We should take personal responsibility for what we do wrong. This is very difficult for us to do, let's look at our own family lives or our life at work, or our life with our friends. It's often her fault, referring to the wife, or his fault, referring to the husband rather than our own fault. We very easily see the faults of others and find it more difficult to see our own faults. Many of us are willing to admit that we are sinners in a generic way, but it's much harder for us to say: I am envious, I'm jealous, I'm unfair, I'm lazy... In conclusion, the only way to progress is to acknowledge that we have sinned and that we need to change. Personal responsibility is the beginning of change.

Fr Raffaele

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is Bishop Philip's Pastoral Letter, "You Will Be My Witnesses"

- 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 4th October 2023**, please email your messages/notices to: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 1st October 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 2

PSALM RESPONSE: REMEMBER YOUR MERCY, LORD.

1st reading Ezekiel 18:25-28 Psalm 24 2nd reading Philippians 2:1-11 Gospel Matthew 21:28-32

Sunday 8th October 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 3

PSALM RESPONSE: THE VINEYARD OF THE LORD IS THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL.

1st reading Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 79 2nd reading Philippians 4:6-9 Gospel Matthew 21:33-43

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 - St. Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak, Wednesdays 7pm-9pm. On Wednesday 4th October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, we will be marking the end of the Season of Creation with a Liturgy on the theme of *Let Justice and Peace Flow*. Biodiversity is being lost at an ever increasing rate. At times we feel helpless, but we can join together in prayer. Join us on 4th to pray for our fragile planet.

Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community meet weekly:

Holy Cross, Wednesdays at 8pm (restarts 4th Oct);
St Edward's, Thursdays at 8pm (already restarted).

For more information please click the link on the homepage of our website. 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.

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!

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

Upcoming Second Collections

Sunday 8th October for CAFOD Harvest Appeal

Please do not use our yellow gift aid envelopes for this collection, CAFOD have provided their own envelopes. These will be made available this weekend in preparation for the Family Fast Day on 6th October, please pick up an envelope. You will then be able to hand in the CAFOD envelopes during the second collection on the 7th/8th October.

Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA) in English & Cantonese - Wednesdays at 8pm in St Edward the Confessor Church, Chandler's Ford.

If you, or someone you know, would like to be baptised, confirmed or received into the Catholic Church (or know more about the Catholic faith) please speak to a priest or email Deacon Paul Owen: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

MESSAGES



Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 1st October, 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. 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. Please can you bring your own cups/plates/cutlery. To book your place please go to our parish website and click the link.
Next Parish Get2Gether: 5th November

Parish Calendar 2023/2024

Please find the updated Parish Calendar for September 2023 to August 2024 on church noticeboards detailing key Parish events and dates for your diaries.

MESSAGES CONTINUED



Masses with St Swithun Wells Primary School

On Sunday 1st October at 9am in St Edward the Confessor and on Sunday 8th October at 11am in Holy Cross Church, we will welcome the children of St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School who are going to lead the readings, bidding prayers and offertory. A warm welcome to them and their families!

CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal - Friday 6th October

Please use the CAFOD envelopes in church or scan the QR code with your phone to be taken to CAFOD's website where you can make your donation (alternatively please go to cafod.org.uk). Envelopes are available in our churches this weekend at the end of Mass, please take one. There will be a **Fast Day Lunch held at St Edward's on Friday 6th Oct from 12 Noon-1.30pm**, no cost however donations gratefully received; money raised will go to the CAFOD Fast Day Appeal.



Learn to Pray with the Weekly Scripture Readings

We are starting a new group on **Thursdays, commencing 12th October at 10am in St Edward the Confessor Church**. Please come along if you would like to grow your prayer life by praying with the following Sunday's Mass readings. The Bishop encourages us in his Six Holy Habits to join a group for formation and prayer. All are welcome. For more info, contact: Emmanuel Chituh (chiati2002@yahoo.com or 07915 379686) or Dcn Paul Owen (02380 254806 or powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

Come & See Half Term Club (ages 7 yrs to 14 yrs)

St Edward's Church, 8.30am to 3.30pm
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>

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
Saturdays: Fr Marco, not available on 7th October, 9.30am-12.30pm, Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey

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 (before Mass)	St Joseph
Sunday: 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)

Volunteers will open the venue and welcome children from 8.30am (activities start at 9am) and will close it at 3.30pm (activities finish at 3pm). Please note that every day the Club is on we are offering a **Club Extension** where children can stay at the venue from 3.30pm until (maximum) 5.30pm. The Club Extension costs £10 per day per child.

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. More details will be given next week, in the meantime please save the date. There will be a meeting to explain the itinerary and to answer questions on **Tues 17th October, 7.45pm in St Edward's**. The pilgrimage will be led by Fr Raffaele. Everyone is welcome.

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 £10.42 per hour. For more details and an application form please see the parish website 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.

New Diocesan Job Vacancies

Head of People (HR & Volunteer Support)

To view the latest job vacancies please go to: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs/>

SCHOOL NOTICES

St George Catholic College - We would be delighted to show you round our Ofsted rated Outstanding school on the evening of **Thursday 5th October 2023, 5pm-8pm**.

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 3rd, Wed 4th & Thurs 5th October 2023
Tues 7th & Wed 8th November 2023

We also have a **Parents' Information Evening** on: **Thursday 19th October at 6.30pm**

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
Sat 30th Sept <i>Morning Mass: St Jerome</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	People of the Parish Nicholas Bellord RIP
Sunday 1st Oct <i>Twenty-Sixth 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> Living & Deceased Members of the Murphy & Lucas Families FM Gail Patrick RIP Florence Bohan FM John Marsh RIP
Monday 2nd Oct <i>The Holy Guardian Angels</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross	Antonio Cicu FM Fraternity of St Charles
Tuesday 3rd Oct	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	
Wed 4th Oct <i>St Francis of Assisi</i>	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross OLQA St Edward	Keith Small RIP
Thurs 5th Oct	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Robert Brockway RIP FM Joan McGrory RIP
Friday 6th Oct	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Frances (In thanksgiving)
Sat 7th Oct <i>Morning Mass: Our Lady of the Rosary</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Raymond Kelly RIP FM Helen Sanders (Thanksgiving) Jane Palmer RIP
Sunday 8th Oct <i>Twenty-Seventh 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> People of the Parish Frederick Bishop FM Deceased Members of the Fox, Kelly & Slevin Families

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