



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

12th DECEMBER 2021: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE)

The Inn and the Stable

Every artist has the feeling of being at home in his studio, every patriot at home in his own country, and every man at home in his house. One should therefore expect that the Creator would be at home in His own creation, and that God would be at home in the world He had made. And yet the most startling fact of human history is that when God came to earth, He was homeless at home. "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not." (1 John 1:11) Ere yet the great portals of the flesh swung open, Mary and Joseph sought in vain for a place where might be born the One to whom the heavens and earth belonged. And so, when human history shall have written its last word in the scrolls of time, the saddest line of all will be "There was no room in the inn." (2 Luke 2:7)

There was room in the inn for those who bore on their breasts the screaming eagles of Rome; there was room for the daughters of the rich merchants of the East; there was room for all clothed in fine purple and soft garments; there was room for everyone — except the foster-father and the mother of the One who was to bring redemption to the world.

And so, away from the inn and out to the stable they had to go, to a crude cave into which shepherds drove their flocks in storms. In that little haven, with manger beasts as companions, and at a central point between the three great civilizations of Memphis, Athens, and Rome, something happened — the only thing in the world that ever happened and mattered. That which happened was nothing less than Heaven being found on the earth as the cry of a God cried out in the cry of a Child.

A startling paradox indeed: When God came to earth, there was no room in the inn, but there was room in the stable. What lesson is hidden behind the inn and the stable?

What is an inn, but the gathering-place of public opinion, the focal point of the world's moods, the residence of the worldly, the rallying place of the fashionable and those who count in the management of the world's affairs? What is a stable, but the place of outcasts, the refuge of beasts, and the shelter of the valueless, and therefore the symbol of those who in the eyes of public opinion do not count, and hence may be ignored as of no great value or moment? Anyone in the world would have expected to have found Divinity in an inn, but no one would have expected to have found it in a stable. Divinity, therefore, is always where you least expect to find it.

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is a short video by Bishop Barron, *The Three Comings of Christ* - 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 15th December, please email your messages/notices to: stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 12th December 2021: Year C - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 3

PSALM RESPONSE: SING AND SHOUT FOR JOY FOR GREAT IN YOUR MIDST IS THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL.

READINGS: 1st reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18a Psalm: Is 12 2nd reading: Philippians 4:4-7 Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2021:

READINGS: 1st reading: Micah 5:1-4a Psalm: 79 2nd reading: Hebrews 10:5-10 Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

PARISH GROUPS



Youth Groups

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

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9)

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

These groups meet regularly in person. For more details and how to join please go to the parish website www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community in Holy Cross meets every Wednesday, for more information please click the link on the homepage of our website. All are welcome!

School of Community in St Edward meets every

Thursday at 8pm in St Edward's cloister.

All welcome!

Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

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.

Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) Group

Fr Marco will be giving a presentation with a general Advent Theme on Tuesday 14th December. Start as

usual at 10.15am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre, finish time approx. 11.30am. All welcome!

Fellowship Group

Wednesday 15th December 7.30pm in St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak

End of Year Liturgy followed by refreshments.

Everyone is most welcome to join us.

Afternoon Club

St Joseph's Parish Centre (26 Abbey Water), first Tuesday in the month. Come and join us for tea, games and good fun. All welcome!

CAFE - is on 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the month at 2pm in St. Joseph's Parish Centre and 7.30pm in St. Andrew's. All are welcome. For more information please contact Ann Heslop: ann.heslop@virginmedia.com / 02380 734429.

The Little Flowers Baby & Toddler Group

Will start on Wednesday 12th January, 10am, at Holy Cross Resource Centre and each Wednesday thereafter. The group is for 0-4 years and their families. More information is on the website or you can email: littleflowers.sswp@gmail.com More volunteers are always welcome.

MESSAGES



Changes to Confession at St Edward

Please note on Tuesday 14th December there will be no Confession after Mass.

Advent & Christmas 2021

Please pick up your copy of the Christmas Mass timetable.

Christmas Offerings - For those who give Christmas Offerings to our priests, if possible please use the Gift Aid yellow envelopes which can be found in each of our churches. Please write "Christmas Offering" on the envelope - this can be placed in any collection between now and Christmas. Thank you.

Upcoming Funeral - Please pray for the soul of Maureen Westwood and for her family. Maureen's Funeral Mass will take place on Friday 17th December at 9am in Holy Cross.

OLQA Advent Bible Study - 1st Letter of St Peter Thursdays in Advent, 10am-11.30am followed by Mass at 12 Noon. All welcome! Please bring a Bible.

Holy Cross Shop

We have some lovely gifts and cards this year, and we are also reducing a lot of our Christmas children's books to half the marked price. We look forward to seeing you. *Lynette & Angela*

Christmas Posters - The Knights of St Columba are again supplying "Keep Christ in Christmas" posters. These are available at Masses this weekend 11th/12th December.

CAFOD at Holy Cross & St Edward

Do you have any used stamps, old mobile phones, old items of jewellery (dress, genuine or damaged) that you don't use anymore? Please could you give to June Wilson at Holy Cross or Clare Lasker at St Edward. This will be raising money for CAFOD.

CAFOD Fair Trade Christmas Fayre December 11th/12th

The Fayre will be held at St Edward after both weekend Masses.

MESSAGES CONTINUED

Parish Christmas Party

Sunday 12th December, 1pm-4.30pm

St Swithun Wells Primary School

Please remember to bring your tickets. Christmas jumpers and fancy dress are actively encouraged! COVID precautions: Hand sanitiser will be available, masks are optional, please do not attend if you/your family members are unwell. We suggest taking a lateral flow test before attending.

Knitting afternoon - Tues 14th Dec 2pm-4pm in the Resource Centre, Holy Cross. At the moment we are knitting squares to make blankets. If you would like to join us for a knit and cup of tea please come along.

Coffee Stop Christmas Special will be on Thursday 16th December from 10am to 11.30am. Coffee or tea plus mince-pie £1.30. There will also be a raffle. Prizes gratefully received. Come and have a great morning with friends.

Advent Penitential Services will be held across our parish, with the opportunity for individual confession:
Thursday 16th December, 7.30pm – OLOA
Friday 17th December, 7.30pm – St Andrew
Saturday 18th December, 11am – Holy Cross
A number of priests will be available on each occasion.

Parish Advent to Christmas Carol Service at St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak

Sunday 19th December at 3.30pm

Please remember to wear your mask for the service, as you do for Mass. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served afterwards for those who wish to stay.

Carol Service in OLOA

Sunday 19th December at 6pm followed by a reception in the hall. All are welcome!

Romsey United Reformed Church invite us to join the Carols by Candlelight in their church on Sunday 19th December at 6.30pm. It is always a beautiful service of carols and bible readings. Masks must be worn in the church.

Invitation from Churches Together in Chandlers Ford

On the evening of Monday 20th December we are inviting all members of local churches to join us in Carol singing at ASDA between 6pm and 7pm. After the events of last year we are delighted to be able to resume this annual Churches Together event, albeit with a difference this year. We will be singing outside, so please dress up warmly and bring a small torch with you, if you have one. Please meet outside the main entrance at 5.55pm. In the event of bad weather we will be in the large trolley shelter near the main entrance so you will be dry! We will be accompanied by musicians and will be singing a selection of well known carols - words provided - so no need to practice beforehand. Please come along and support this event which is a great blessing to shoppers and a reminder of the true reason for Christmas.

Two Saints urgently need new unwrapped hats, gloves, socks and scarves only (for Christmas). There is a collection box at St Edward.

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

We would like to create a new group to accommodate young adults with learning disabilities or learning difficulties, their families and friends. We will meet regularly on Thursday at 6.30pm at Holy Cross Resource Centre for a couple of hours, commencing Thursday 27th January.

We will have fun and games and meals together. We are open to suggestions to make this group an inclusive and enjoyable one. It is important that we build a good community spirit which recognises that there is value in every individual, no matter their strengths or perceived weaknesses and certainly that there is value to be found in the bonds created within such a group.

We are looking for volunteers to help run the group. If you would be interested in volunteering or you know some young adults who would like to join the group, please contact Fr Luca at:
arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com

Parish Pilgrimage to Rome

Tuesday 28th June - Sunday 3rd July 2022

More details including the itinerary, prices and booking are available on our website. The deadline for booking is 20th December 2021. You can also find details on our website about alternative cheaper accommodation which will be made available for families.

The pilgrimage will be led by Fr Raffaele.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday: 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)

CONFESSION

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesdays:	not on Tues 14th Dec	St Edward
Tuesdays:	9.30am-10.00am	St Andrew
Saturdays:	10.00am-10.30am	Holy Cross
	5.30pm-6.00pm	OLOA
	5.30pm-6.00pm	St Joseph
Sundays:	8.30am-9.00am	St Andrew
	9.00am-9.30am	OLOA

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Tuesdays:	Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church), Eastleigh
Wednesdays:	Fr Luca, 4.00pm-6.00pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church), Eastleigh
Fridays:	Fr Raffaele, 10.30am-11.30am, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey
Saturdays:	Unfortunately Fr Marco is unable to meet on Sat 18th Dec, 9.30am-12.30pm, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 11th December	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) St Swithun Wells St Joseph OLQA St Edward	Raymond Kelly RIP Tommy Johnston RIP Richard Bradley RIP 2nd Anniversary
Sunday 12th December <i>Third Sunday of Advent</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> Hazel Brown RIP Anniversary For the People of the Parish Luis Castro RIP FM Fr Bob Douglas RIP
Mon 13th Dec <i>St Lucy</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed)	Gerard Carr RIP FM Ron Reynolds FM
Tues 14th December <i>St John of the Cross</i>	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Tracy Hubbard RIP
Wed 15th December	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) OLQA St Edward	Betty Swan RIP Anne & Sean Connolly RIP
Thurs 16th Dec	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) OLQA St Joseph	Wilhemina Hendrikse, Caliope Glanville & Agnes Hinze RIP Anniversary Margaret Martindale RIP
Friday 17th Dec	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	OLQA St Joseph St Edward	 Mrs Edward Christian FM
Saturday 18th December	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross (also Live Streamed) St Swithun Wells St Joseph OLQA St Edward	Paddy McMahon RIP FM Catherine Haslam RIP The Pigniczki Family Patrick & Mary Burke FM
Sunday 19th December <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</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> For the People of the Parish Denis Keefe RIP Anniversary Flora Kelly RIP FM Sean Kelly RIP Anniversary

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 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

Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance Admin: Linda Roberts
Email: lroberts@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Sarah Goodfellow
Email: stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website Contact: website.sswp@gmail.com