



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

**5<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023: THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

## HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

French Military Cemetery in Rome  
2nd November 2021

A writing on the entrance door of a small cemetery comes to mind: "You who are walking, think about your steps, and of your steps, think about the final step".

You who are walking. Life is a journey, all of us are on a journey. All of us, if we wish to do something in life, are on a journey. It is not a stroll, nor is it a labyrinth, no, it is a journey. On the way, we pass in front of many historical events, in front of many difficult situations. And also in front of cemeteries. The advice of this cemetery is: "You who are passing by, halt your step and think, and of your steps, think about the final step". We will all have a final step. Some may say to me, "Father, don't be so mournful, don't be so tragic". But it is the truth. The important thing is that the final step finds us on a journey, not strolling around; in the journey of life and not in an endless labyrinth. To be on a journey so that the last step finds us walking. This is the first thought that I would like to say and that comes from my heart.

The second thought, is the graves. These people — good people — who died in the war, they died because they were called to defend their homeland, to defend values, to defend ideals and, many other times, to defend sad and lamentable political situations. And they are the victims, the victims of war, that eats the children of the homeland. And I think of the Piave River in 1914 — so many were left there —; I think of Normandy beach: forty thousand, in that landing! But it doesn't matter, they fell....

I stopped in front of a tomb: "Inconnu. Mort pour la France 1944" [Unknown. Died for France 1944]. Not even the name. In God's heart is the name of all of us, but this is the tragedy of war. I am sure that all these who went in good will, called by their homeland to defend it, are with the Lord. But do we, who are on the journey, fight sufficiently so that there will be no wars? So that the economies of countries are not fortified by the arms industry? Today the sermon should be to look at the tombs: "Died for France"; some have names, some others do not. But these graves are a message of peace: "Stop, brothers and sisters, stop! Stop, arms manufacturers, stop!".

I leave you with these two thoughts. "You who are walking, think about your steps, and of your steps, think about the final step": may they be in peace, in peace of the heart, all in peace. The second thought: these graves that speak, cry out, they cry out of themselves, they cry out, "Peace!".

May the Lord help us to sow and keep these two thoughts in our hearts.

## GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "Prayer and Silence" from the Poco a Poco Podcast - 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 **10am on Wednesday 8th November 2023**, please email your messages/notices to: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

# LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



**Sunday 5th November 2023:** Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 3

**PSALM RESPONSE:** KEEP MY SOUL IN PEACE BEFORE YOU, O LORD.

**1<sup>st</sup> reading** Malachi 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10 **Psalm 130** **2<sup>nd</sup> reading** Thessalonians 2:7b-9,13 **Gospel** Matthew 23:1-12

**Sunday 12th November 2023:** Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 4

**PSALM RESPONSE:** FOR YOU MY SOUL IS THIRSTING, O GOD, MY GOD.

**1<sup>st</sup> reading** Wisdom 6:12-16 **Psalm 62** **2<sup>nd</sup> reading** Thessalonians 4:13-18 **Gospel** Matthew 25:1-13

## 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.

### Growing In Faith Together Group

**Tuesdays 10.15am to approx. 11.45am** in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. All are welcome!

**Fellowship Group - Wednesday 9th November, 7pm**

at St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. We will be having a talk on the History of Portsmouth Diocese by Ann Williams. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to join us by Zoom, contact Peterbaggott@aol.com for the link.

### 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.

### 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

### Commemoration of All Souls Annual

**Mass (and lighting of candles for parishioners who have died in the past year)**

**Saturday 4th November, St Swithun Wells at 5pm.**

### Blessing of the Graves

In November each year we remember in a special way those who have died and gone before us. One of our traditions is the Blessing of Graves in the cemeteries within our Parish. Details for this year are:

#### **5th November**

OLQA churchyard after 9.30am Mass

West Hoe Cemetery 3.30pm

#### **12th November (Remembrance Sunday)**

Romsey Cemetery 2pm

Woodley 2.30pm

Bishopstoke Cemetery 2pm

Eastleigh Cemetery 3pm

Fair Oak Cemetery 2pm

Ramalley Cemetery 3pm

**14th November - North Baddesley 10.30am**

### Remembrance Sunday (12th November)

**Holy Cross - Mass** will start at **11.30am** following the civil commemoration in the park.

**St Joseph's - Mass** will be at **11.30am** following the civil commemoration in the park.

**St Swithun Wells Church Community** will be laying a wreath at the Memorial in Fair Oak Village Square at **11am** on Sunday 12th November. Please come and join us in this Service of Remembrance.

## MESSAGES



### Second Collection This Weekend

#### **Bamenda Sunday**

We shall be celebrating Bamenda Sunday in the Diocese on **5th November**, when we shall be giving thanks for our link with the Archdiocese of Bamenda and for the ministry of their five priests serving in our Diocese; praying for our brothers and sisters in Bamenda and for the restoration of peace and justice in the region; and giving to our annual appeal to support projects in Bamenda in 2024, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the link!

Please read the annual Bamenda Newsletter:

<https://www.bamendaandportsmouth.com/index.php>

Donations can be made via the parish second collection or online securely at:

<https://www.bamendaandportsmouth.com/donate.php>

where gift aid and standing order forms can also be downloaded and bank details can be found for direct transfers. If you already have gift aided your donations to Bamenda, please complete and submit a new form to address the change of name to CDP Bamenda Commission. Thank you for your generosity!

**St Swithun Wells Prayer Link** - A Prayer Request list was sent by email this week. There were a few emails about which I was uncertain. If you did not receive yours, or would like to join the Prayer Link, please let me know. Marion (marionbirtles@gmail.com)

## MESSAGES CONTINUED

### Parish Get2Gether

**Sunday 5th Nov, 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)*

### Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Norman Joyce.

**Norman's Funeral Mass takes place on Tuesday 7th November at 10am in St Andrew's Church.**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Clare Ashcroft and for her family. **Clare's Funeral Mass 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.**

**Good Companions** - Our next get-together for those who live alone or are lonely will be at **12 Noon on Friday 24th November in St Edward's Cloister.** Please note the EARLIER START TIME due to the daylight factor. Please join us. Contact Tony Wilson on 023 80266617.

**Parish Lunch** on **Wednesday 6th December, 12.30pm** at the Hunters Inn, Romsey. Menus are on the notice boards. All are welcome. Please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know your choice of meal **by Tues 28th Nov.** as we have to pre-order. Thank you.

**CAFOD Messages** - Due to Traidcraft, the supplier of CAFOD Christmas cards, going into administration there will not be any CAFOD Christmas cards on sale at

St Edward's this year. Cards can still be purchased online from CAFOD but the choice is very limited.

Thank you to all who supported the Fast Day appeal. It is due to the generous response to these appeals that £100,000 was sent directly to our partners to help all affected in the present conflict.

### Parish Pilgrimage to Siena, Assisi & Rome

**Tuesday 18th June - Sunday 23rd June 2024**

Estimated cost is £1,065 per person based on two people sharing. For more details including the itinerary and booking form (including payment details) please go to our website. Copies of the booking form are available to pick up in church welcome areas. Please note that completed booking forms and deposit payments need to be made to **Tangney Tours by 9th November.**

**Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024** - A group from the Hampshire area will be going to Lourdes with the charity Across, 13-22 June 2024. Across organises pilgrimages using specialist transport, for people with life-limiting illness, disability or complex care needs, who cannot travel by conventional means. The group will comprise 24 people including up to 10 "VIPs" (those needing care), helpers, a medical team and a chaplain. Travel is by Jumbulance, an adapted coach with beds, lift and assistance for all care needs, plus 7 nights in a 4 star hotel in Lourdes. Price will be confirmed shortly but likely to be c. £995 including all travel, meals and accommodation. Anyone who is interested in travelling please contact Marianne Wanstall by email: [mwanstall@btinternet.com](mailto:mwanstall@btinternet.com)

We especially need helpers and nurses - no prior experience necessary, just a willingness to help. All those travelling need to self-fund their place, so we are also planning to do some fundraising in the next few months, to sponsor those who might struggle financially but would really benefit from time in Lourdes. If you can't or prefer not to join the pilgrimage, but would like to support others in our community to do so, donations can be made directly to Across by bank transfer, sort code 80-08-64, account number 00101485 - please put "Hampshire" in the payment reference so the Across team can allocate it to our group and also let Marianne know. Thank you so much for your interest and support.

### 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

## 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/>

### St Swithun Wells Primary School Vacancy

We are looking for an LSA, full or part time, hours negotiable. Please contact the school or visit our website for more details:

<https://www.st-swithunwells.org.uk/vacancies>

# MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 4th Nov <i>Morning Mass:</i> <i>St Charles Borromeo</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Phil Talbot RIP Ida D'Mello RIP  Deceased family of Shina Michael Feord RIP
Sunday 5th Nov <i>Thirty-First 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> Annina Neri RIP Birthday Anniversary Patricia Roydon RIP Anniversary  Beatrice & George White; Laura, David & Eduardo Fernandes FM People of the Parish
Monday 6th Nov	9.30am	Holy Cross	Fraternity of St Charles Martin Russell RIP
Tuesday 7th Nov	<u>10.00am</u> 6.00pm	<u>St Andrew</u> St Edward	<b>Funeral Mass: Norman Joyce RIP</b> Nuala Bright RIP 25th Anniversary
Wed 8th Nov	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am <u>11.30am</u>	Holy Cross OLQA St Edward <u>St Edward</u>	Deceased Family Members of Shalu  Keith Small RIP <b>Funeral Mass: Clare Ashcroft RIP</b>
Thurs 9th Nov <i>The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica</i>	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Paul Freeman FM  Gladys Glassett RIP
Friday 10th Nov <i>St Leo the Great</i>	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Deceased Relatives of Samantha In Thanksgiving Cagampang Family
Saturday 11th Nov <i>Morning Mass:</i> <i>St Martin of Tours</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Maureen Westwood RIP   Rosemary Oxby RIP Anniversary
Remembrance Sunday 12th Nov <i>Thirty-Second Sunday In Ordinary Time</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am <u>11.30am</u> <u>11.30am</u>	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA <u>Holy Cross</u> (also livestreamed) <u>St Joseph</u>	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> People of the Parish Norman Joyce RIP  Florence Bohan FM

## 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