



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

10th NOVEMBER 2024: THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MISSION IS A HEART TO HEART RELATIONSHIP

Recently, I found myself talking to a friend about the state of our dear Europe and what many are calling the epidemic of loneliness. "It seems like we are faced with a world where we can only live in two ways: on one side, tribalism; on the other, individualism. It's either one or the other," he said. Looking closely, there seems to be a common root: whether we surround ourselves with people who are mirrors of ourselves or isolate ourselves in the bunker of our own thoughts and emotions, in the end, we remain irreversibly alone with ourselves.

A quick glance at the news and our daily lives seems to confirm this. Recent elections across various European countries have seen a significant rise in support for nationalist parties, a trend that can be interpreted both as a desperate search for a lost identity or belonging, and as a fear of anything beyond one's control. Even those circles that preach a colourless, global fraternity without sky, nation, or religion (as John Lennon sang) often end up closed to any possibility of dialogue. Increasingly, young people struggle to leave their rooms, preferring virtual spaces where they feel safe and comforted. The world of work has turned into a place where everything, from relationships with colleagues to career choices, is lived through the lens of solitary self-affirmation. Sometimes, in conversations with parents and young people, I get the impression that they're even willing to sacrifice their happiness in the name of independence, now regarded as an absolute value.

But is that really all there is? I travel around Europe quite a lot, to visit the missions of our religious order (Fraternity of St Charles). Many times, also in our Parish, I come across stories that have one thing in common: they speak of friendships that seem to be born by grace around an invitation from long ago, first spoken two thousand years ago by a man at a dinner with his closest friends: "I have called you friends, because I have told you everything" (John 15:15). The "everything" of which this man, Jesus, spoke - the essence and secret of the friendship he proposed - was the profound sharing of the human and the divine, of that surge of new life he himself had brought into the world, flowing from the very heart of God. It didn't leave one at peace but instead opened one's vision to the horizons of the world.

Stories of friendship, then, that often arise first in our mission houses in Europe, places built around the worship of God and the engagement of our lives, beginning with the way we approach our work and extending to the leisure time we spend together. A full-circle friendship that becomes, in a tentative way, an offering to everyone we encounter. This may happen during a pilgrimage, a catechism course, five days spent together in summer, a school meeting, or a charitable activity.

We feel called to stand at the threshold of the hearts of those we meet, provoking and awaiting that miraculous opening that allows us to glimpse the depths each person carries within. A depth that thirsts for truth, seeks a Saviour with both urgency and drama, hopes to be forgiven, and hungers for communion. An abyss that demands an answer and that refuses to leave us indifferent. From this springs our mission, which is the gift of the divine treasures we, too, have received and continue to receive from the depths of God, through a Body that has walked through history for two thousand years and to which we proudly, if unworthily, belong.

The Christian mission is not a game of Risk, but an encounter, heart to heart. What matters is not the number of armies we possess or the territories we conquer. What matters is depth, because it is in the depths that we truly encounter each other, and it is from there that we discover ourselves surprisingly open to meeting everything and everyone. Ultimately, our mission is inspired by this single intention: that the places we inhabit - be it our homes, parishes, classrooms, or school hallways where we work - become crossroads where the poverty of the human heart and the richness of God's heart can meet.

Fr Luca

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is **"Why This is Gravely Wrong"** by Bishop Philip - 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 **10am on Wednesday 13th November**, 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 10th November 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 4

PSALM RESPONSE: MY SOUL, GIVE PRAISE TO THE LORD.

1st reading Kings 17:10-16 **Psalm** 145 **2nd reading** Hebrews 9:24-28 **Gospel** Mark 12:38-44

Sunday 17th November 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 1

PSALM RESPONSE: PRESERVE ME, GOD, I TAKE REFUGE IN YOU.

1st reading Daniel 12:1-3 **Psalm** 15 **2nd reading** Hebrews 10:11-14,18 **Gospel** Mark 13:24-32

PARISH GROUPS



Youth Groups (including First Holy Communion & Confirmation)

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

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9)

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

Registrations for the year 2024/2025 are open on our website: www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/parishlife (scroll down to Youth Groups).

Fellowship Group - Wednesdays at St Swithun Wells Church, 7.30pm-9.30pm. On Wed 13th Nov we will be having a talk and sharing memories of "The Sisters of Fair Oak". Everyone is welcome. If you wish to join by Zoom please email Peter Baggott for the link on peterbaggott@aol.com.

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, 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 10.30am to 12 Noon in St Edward's Cloister.

The group is for 0-4 years and their families.

More information is on the website or you can email: littleflowers.sswp@gmail.com

See our website for details of more groups: GIFT, School of Community (CL), Ark of Fellowship, Afternoon Club...

MESSAGES



Lighting of Candles and Prayers for parishioners who have died in the past year

We normally hold this on All Souls, however this year we will be lighting candles and praying for parishioners who have died in the past year on 9th Nov (Vigil Masses) & Sunday 10th Nov during Mass at St Swithun Wells, Holy Cross, St Edward, St Andrew & St Joseph.

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:

10th November (Remembrance Sunday):

Romsey Cemetery 2pm Woodley 2.30pm

Bishopstoke Cemetery 2pm Fair Oak Cemetery 2pm

Eastleigh Cemetery 3pm Ramalley Cemetery 3pm

12th November: North Baddesley 10.30am

Remembrance Sunday - 10th November

Holy Cross - Mass will start at 11.30am following the civil commemoration in the park. There will be the annual parade with road closures (see Holy Cross noticeboard for a map and list of the roads being closed).

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

Fair Oak Remembrance Day Service will be at 11am in the Square. As usual St. Swithun Wells Church will be laying a wreath and would ask as many parishioners as possible to come along and take part in the Service.

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.

Second Collection Next Weekend

16th & 17th November: Missions of the Fraternity of St Charles Borromeo. This second collection is to help our missionary work in seventeen countries especially the poorest ones, in Siberia & Kenya.

CL Portsmouth Diocese Day

Sunday 17th November, 12 Noon at St Edward Programme for the Day:

12 Noon: Arrival, bring & share lunch;

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

5pm: Holy Mass.

To register for the event please go to our parish website and complete the online registration form. Please bring some food to share. We will provide drinks, pudding and plates and cutlery. Please bring a donation for use of 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.

Good Companions

Our get-togethers are now open to anyone who feels in need of some friendly company and delicious food. We will be meeting at **12 Noon on Friday 22nd November in St Edward's cloister.** Please note THE EARLIER START TIME DURING THE WINTER MONTHS. Please call Tony Wilson on 023 80266617 if you would like to join us. We look forward to seeing you.

MESSAGES CONTINUED

Cultural Friday

22nd November, 7pm in Holy Cross Church

"I Choose All" (St Therese of Lisieux)

During the evening Fr Raffaele & Tecla Giuccioli will present the life and writings of St Therese of Lisieux. At a time when human beings are obsessed with grandeur and new forms of power, she points out to us the little way. St Therese writes in Story of a Soul: "I understood that the Church had a Heart, and that this Heart was burning with love. I understood it was love alone that made the Church's members act". And then: "Yes, I have found my place in the Church: in the Heart of the Church, my Mother, I will be Love!"

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. Cost: approx £500 per person depending on numbers. There will be a meeting to present the itinerary and answer any questions on **Saturday 23rd November at 2.30pm in St Edward**.

Parish Retreat for Advent on Sat 30th November, 2.30pm-4.30pm at St Edward's.

Open to everyone. There will be a talk about Advent, some time for private prayer in the church and a time for questions and sharing thoughts.

Parish Lunch at the Hunters Inn, Romsey, on **Wednesday 4th December at 12.30pm.**

To see the large choice of food, go to their website: huntersromsey.co.uk/menu and look at main, lunch and kids menus as all are available to us.

All are welcome. If you would like to come, please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know before Monday 25th November as we have to pre-order.

OLQA Volunteers - There will be a meeting for all the volunteers in Our Lady Queen of the Apostles and for those who want to join us to contribute to the life of the Catholic Church in Bishop's Waltham. We are gathering in the church hall on **Saturday 7th December at 4pm.**

Request for Readers for the new 5.30pm Mass on Sundays at Holy Cross Church - If anyone is interested, please contact Jenny on 07787 532642.

The New Lectionary - The new translation of Sacred Scripture we use at Mass will begin at the start of Advent (Sun 1st Dec). To help with the changes, Fr Anthony Fyk (Diocesan Director of Liturgy) is providing a one-hour introductory online session for Ministers of the Word (Readers). You can register to take part on **Tuesday 19th November, 7pm-8pm** using the link in the weekly Diocese of Portsmouth e-News. Thank you for all your support.

The New Sunday Missal

St Edward's - These are now available from the parish shop at St Edward's at a cost of £19.95. They contain the new ESV translations of the lectionary which will be read at every Mass from the 1st Sunday in Advent.

Holy Cross Shop - Please be aware the supplier does not currently have the new Sunday Missals in stock, however they are on order.

St Joseph's & St Andrew's - The new Sunday Missal is available from Martin Ceresa. Please phone 07757 999165 for details.

Upcoming Funeral - Please pray for the repose of the soul of Peggy Scally and for her family. Peggy's Funeral Mass will take place on **Wednesday 20th November at 1pm in St Edward's.**

Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

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 email Dcn Paul Owen: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or alternatively please speak to a priest.

Assisted Suicide - Kim Leadbeater MP is introducing a bill to introduce assisted suicide, which will be voted on by MPs on the **29th November**. This is the biggest threat to the vulnerable in a decade, and we need a huge effort to lobby MPs. Please contact your MP by visiting: <https://righttolife.org.uk/Asthreat>
We have a template letter that can be used to send to your MP on the parish website.

SCHOOL NOTICES

St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School

Children Starting in September 2025

Please come to our open morning to see our school in action on **Thursday 14th November between 9.30am and 10.30am.**

Find us in Hillcrest Ave, Chandler's Ford, SO53 2JP.

www.st-swithunwells.org.uk Tel: 02380 266210

Email: adminoffice@st-swithunwells.hants.sch.uk

At a Glance - List of Upcoming Parish Events

Sat 9th Nov: Quiz at OLQA

9th & 10th Nov: Lighting of Candles and Prayers for the Deceased

10th & 12th Nov: Blessing of the Graves

17th Nov: CL Portsmouth Diocese Day

22nd Nov: Good Companions

22nd Nov: Cultural Friday

23rd Nov: Pilgrimage Meeting

30th Nov: Advent Retreat

4th Dec: Parish Lunch

7th Dec: OLQA Volunteers Meeting

15th Dec: Parish Christmas Party

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Tuesdays: Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Church, Eastleigh;

Wednesdays: Fr Luca not on 13th Nov, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Church, Eastleigh;

Fridays: Fr Mario, 10am-12 Noon, OLQA, Bishop's Waltham;

Fridays: Fr Pietro, 11am-12.45pm, 26A Abbey Water, Romsey.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tues: St Edward - after Mass (6.30pm-7.30pm)

Wednesday: Holy Cross - after Mass (10am-11am)

Thursday: St Joseph - before Mass (5pm-6pm)

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 9th Nov <i>Morning Mass: The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Paul Freeman FM People of the Parish Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP Commemoration of the Dead Rosemary Oxby RIP
Remembrance Sunday 10th 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> 5.30pm	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA <u>Holy Cross</u> (also livestreamed) <u>St Joseph</u> Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Commemoration of the Dead Commemoration of the Dead Commemoration of the Dead Phil Talbot RIP 20th Anniversary Commemoration of the Dead Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP
Monday 11th Nov <i>St Martin of Tours</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross	Florence Bohan FM; Thomas Tharayil RIP
Tuesday 12th Nov <i>St Josaphat</i>	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Cecilia Miranda RIP Anniversary
Wed 13th Nov	9.30am 9.30am	Holy Cross St Edward	Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP Donald & Maura Gorman RIP Anniversary
Thurs 14th Nov	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Cowling & Tierney Families RIP FM Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP
Friday 15th Nov	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	Special Intention Anne Clegg RIP Birthday Anniversary Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP
Saturday 16th Nov <i>Morning Mass: St Edmund of Abingdon</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Andrea Hyom (Wellbeing) Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP Mrs Hedwig Gunston RIP 5th Anniversary Maxima Salizon RIP Deceased Members of the Baker & Hanrahan Families RIP
Remembrance Sunday 17th Nov <i>Thirty-Third 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 OLQA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Constance Brixey FM Tony Armshaw RIP Anniversary People of the Parish Hero Roy RIP Denis Keefe RIP Anniversary Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)
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Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)
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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
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