



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ 18th DECEMBER 2022: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

I Will Be Tomorrow

The most characteristic element of the week from 17th to 23rd December, not to be confused with the novena, is the presence of the so-called "O" antiphons, both in the Liturgy of the Hours as antiphons to the Magnificat, and in the celebration of the Eucharist as verses of singing the Gospel. They are called "O" antiphons because they always begin with the vocative form of "O", followed by one of the titles attributed to Jesus. They are seven very ancient prayers which entered the liturgy around the ninth century. They are composed of biblical passages, taken almost literally from the Latin version of St. Jerome's Bible, and develop a particular biblical theme derived from the title with which they begin: O Sapientia, O Adonai, O Radix Jesse, O Clavis David, O Oriens, O Rex gentium, O Emmanuel. The initial letters of Latin titles, arranged from last to first, form the acrostic "ERO CRAS" ("I will be tomorrow"): it is Christ's promise in the imminence of His coming.

In ancient times these invocations were performed with great solemnity in cathedrals and monasteries. Even the liturgical reform of the Second Vatican Council wanted to keep them, both for the rich scriptural content and for the very ancient and uninterrupted tradition which has kept them intact up to us.

Every antiphon always has a reference to the past, present, and future. Therefore, in each antiphon, it is as if a small microcosm were enclosed: it is a question of looking at events or characteristics linked to God's way of acting in the past to invoke His coming in the present in the post-Easter church that we are, in anticipation of the eschatological fulfilment in the final and definitive coming of Christ in glory. In this way the liturgy of the Church proclaims that redemption and salvation have been given by Christ once and for all, but at the same time we do not fully enjoy the effects of redemption. We are an "already", but also in a "not yet". In this sense we are still waiting. We are not waiting for the incarnation of Christ, or for the coming of the Messiah for our redemption. However, we live in the ardent desire of Christ not so much for Him to come and save us, but for Him to become the centre of our lives and thus allow us to fully enjoy redemption.

The "O" antiphons project us towards the fulfilment that awaits us with His second coming in the glory. It is a question of the way of proceeding of the entire Advent liturgy which certainly does not place us in expectation of the Messiah of the people of Israel of the Old Testament but makes us aware of the expectation of Him who is placed today in our lives, as a Church who lives the last times, awaiting his definitive return. It is a question of an active awaiting and of the adherence of our faith to the One who has come, but for whom we always wait until He comes to be with us forever. These antiphons underline even more forcefully that the Child placed in the manger is truly the God we have awaited and desired: He is Eternal Wisdom, our Lord, the long-awaited Messiah, the Branch of David's lineage, the King, the true Sun rising, the God with us, the Emmanuel. He fulfilled the expectations of the peoples with His incarnation and above all in the paschal mystery; and finally, we wait for Him so that everyone can know him as Wisdom, Lord and King.

The "O" antiphons are a source of inspiration and prayer to invoke the coming of the Lord and thus guide us in the days of preparation for Christmas.

Fr Marco

GEM OF THE WEEK

This week's GEM is "Year of the Holy Spirit" the Pastoral Letter of 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 **9.30am on Wednesday 21st December**, please email your messages/notices to: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 18th December 2022: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 4

PSALM RESPONSE: LET THE LORD ENTER! HE IS THE KING OF GLORY.

READINGS: 1st reading Isaiah 7:10-14 Psalm 23 2nd reading Romans 1:1-7 Gospel Matthew 1:18-24

Sunday 25th December 2022: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Office Proper

PSALM RESPONSE: ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH HAVE SEEN THE SALVATION OF OUR GOD.

READINGS: 1st reading Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 97 2nd reading Hebrews 1:1-6 Gospel John 1:1-18

PARISH GROUPS



Fellowship Group - Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak.

We are now on our Christmas Break. Meetings will resume in the New Year, dates to be announced.

Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) Group

Tuesdays at 10.15am to approx. 11.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. On 20th December, Deacon Paul Owen will give a talk on 'Prayer'. All are welcome!

Going Deeper - a meeting for Catholics wanting to grow spiritually. Third Saturday in the month from 10.30am to 3pm in the St Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water. Contact Samantha Harris on 01794 503716 for details.

Romsey Prayer Group - Every Wednesday

morning at 11am in the St Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water. All will be made very welcome.

Knitting Club - not on in December.

Afternoon Club - St. Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water, first Tuesday in the month at 2pm.

Our next games afternoon will be held on Tuesday 3rd January 2023 commencing at 2pm when we will be celebrating the New Year with, once again, Bingo, prizes, a free raffle and a cream tea. Please contact Elizabeth Gare on 01794 515265 if you are intending to come along, as space will be limited to 30.

MESSAGES

Bishop Philip's Pastoral Letter

Please pick up a copy of Bishop Philip's Pastoral Letter, "Year of the Holy Spirit", available in all of our churches from this weekend.

Advent Penitential Services

These will be held across our parish, with the opportunity for individual confession:

Thursday 15th December, 7.30pm – OLOA

Friday 16th December, 7.30pm – St Andrew

Saturday 17th December, 11am – Holy Cross

A number of priests will be available on each occasion.

Advent Adoration at OLOA - Fridays during Advent at 11.15am-12Noon followed by soup and rolls in the Hall.

Advent Carol Service at OLOA - 6pm, Saturday 17th December (followed by social in the hall). Please note the Vigil Mass will be at 5pm on this day.

Changes to Mass - Please note, there will be no 9.30am Mass on Saturday 24th December at Holy Cross. Please see the back page of the newsletter for Christmas Day Mass times across the parish.

St Andrew's - Children's Nativity

We are planning a short children's nativity at the beginning of the 7pm Christmas Eve Mass. If you have a child who would like to narrate a few lines please text Imogen Jones on 07590 270743. All children are invited to dress up as either an angel, a shepherd, a king or a stable animal and will be invited to join in on the night.

Christmas Collection

Our Christmas Collection celebrates and gives thanks to our Parish priests and all the dedication, guidance and care they give across our Parish. For your convenience there are several ways to make an offering:

- Loose cash or cheques in the collection basket;
- Cheques made out to PRC DTR St Swithun Wells with Christmas on the back;
- Bank transfer into the main parish account sort code 30-93-04; a/c 01786599 using the reference Christmas;
- Click on the green 'donate' button on the homepage of our website and then click 'Online Christmas Collection'. This will take you to a Give as You live page: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/st-swithun-wells-catholic-parish-christmas-collection-2022>
- If you are a tax payer and wish to gift aid your offering you can use the yellow envelopes provided in the reception area of each church. Ensure all relevant information is included so we can reclaim the gift aid on your behalf. Please write "Christmas Offering" on the envelope - this can be placed in any collection between now and Christmas.

Christmas Crib Offerings 2022

In the Diocese, our annual Christmas Crib offerings are given alternately one year to the Friends of the Holy Land and one year to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. This year our Christmas Crib offerings will go to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre (KHS). They fund many works that support the Christians living in the Holy Land, thus ensuring that they survive and that the holy sites are still populated by Christians and do not become museums. Thank you in advance for your generosity! Monies can also be sent directly to the Diocesan Finance Office marked 'Knights of the Holy Sepulchre'.

MESSAGES CONTINUED



St Swithun Wells, Fair Oak, Christmas Card CAFOD Collection - we are encouraging everyone to send one Christmas Card to church friends, and place it on our special noticeboard in St Swithun Wells Church. You can donate what you would have spent on cards and postage to CAFOD World Gifts, by placing your contribution in the CAFOD collecting box by the notice board where the cards are. Trisha (02380 693669)

Churches Together in North Baddesley - Carols
You are invited to join North Baddesley Churches Together for Community Christmas Carols at All Saints Church on **Saturday 17th December at 4pm**. All ages welcome. If weather permits it will be an outdoor service so wrap up warm. St Andrew's church will be doing two readings. If you are planning to attend the event and would like to be a reader please contact Cath Szymanski on 07846 438224.

Candle Light Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at the United Reform Church in the Market Place Romsey on **Sunday 18th December at 6.30pm**. All parishioners are warmly invited.

Street Carols for AVSI - Saturday 24th December
We are very happy to announce a new initiative to reach out to people during this time of Christmas. We want to bring them the joy that springs from receiving the good news that God is not indifferent to our lives, but He is with us. With "Street Carols for Avsi" we want to sing classic Carols in the main square of Eastleigh and raise money for Avsi, an international charity that this year is supporting people in Ukraine. We invite everyone to join the choir - children, parents, young people, seniors, people who enjoy singing - everyone! Here is the morning programme:
10.00am we meet at the Holy Cross Resource Centre to practise some Christmas Carols;
11.00am we will go to Eastleigh main square and sing. The event will finish at 12 Noon (at the very latest). It is a wonderful occasion to grow together in faith as a community, sharing Christ's desire to be known. Please do your best to come along.

St Swithun Wells Parish Online Giving
If you would like to give directly online please use your phone to scan in this QR code which will take you to our online giving page.



New Year Afternoon Tea for all our Senior Parishioners across the whole Parish on **Sunday 15th January, 2.30pm-4.30pm** at **St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak**. If you consider yourself to be a Senior Citizen then come along and enjoy delicious food, free raffle and entertainment. Places are limited and need to be booked. To book a place contact Pat Baggott by phone/text on 07801 454400 or email: baggott.pm@gmail.com

We would welcome donations of homemade scones and cakes. If you can help with this please contact Pat.

Congratulations to Fr Bruce on his Jubilee
On the 20th December, Fr Bruce celebrates the 25th Anniversary since he was ordained a priest. We would like to take the opportunity to offer our congratulations to you. As a parish we value and appreciate your ministry, friendship and support - thank you fr Bruce!

MISSIO - Red Boxes - Please empty your red boxes into a named sandwich bag or such like. Bring it to St Edward's at either weekend Masses and give it to myself or Teresa in the repository. Alternatively post it through my letter box: 65 Pine Crescent, Chandler's Ford. Many thanks, Mary Vokes (Chandler's Ford Only)

Benefits & Support Available - Please go to the home page of our website where there is a guide, (prepared by the Catenians), that summarises certain schemes and benefits currently available to help parishioners when their finances are under significant pressure.
www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Holy Cross Right of Way
Annually we have to bar access through our car park for at least 24 hours to prevent it becoming a public right of way. The main Leigh road gate will be closed after Mass on **Monday 26th December** and it will re-open at **8.30am on Wednesday 28th December**. The barrier and pedestrian gate will remain operational.

The Parish Office will be closed from **Monday 26th December** and will reopen on **Tuesday 3rd January 2023**. Any urgent issues during this time please phone the Presbytery number (see priest contacts on the back page of the newsletter). The Parish Newsletter for **Sunday 25th December** will therefore cover **two weeks**. After this, the next newsletter to be produced will be for **Sunday 8th January 2023**.

Recently Deceased

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Eddie Barrett and for his family.

CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Tuesday:	6.30pm-7.30pm	St Edward
Tuesday:	9.30am-10.00am	St Andrew
Saturday:	10.00am-10.30am	Holy Cross
	10am or by appointment	OLQA
	5.30pm-6.00pm	St Joseph
Sunday:	8.30am-9.00am	St Edward
	8.30am-9.00am	St Andrew

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)

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 Raffaele, 10.30am-11.30am, Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey
Saturdays:	Fr Marco, 9.30am-12.30pm, Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 17th December	9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOA (Carol Service at 6pm) St Joseph St Edward	Margaret Martindale RIP Advent Penitential Service Noeline & Hugh Ormerod RIP Herbert Howie RIP Anniversary Atterbury Family (Special Intention)
Sunday 18th Dec <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLOA (also live streamed) Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Patrick & Mary Burke FM Michael Jeffery RIP Anniversary Paddy McMahon RIP FM People of the Parish
Mon 19th December	9.30am	Holy Cross	Flora Kelly RIP FM Michèle Baker & Family (Special Intention)
Tues 20th December	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Margaret Martindale RIP Dudley Roberts RIP FM
Wed 21st December	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross OLOA St Edward	Graham Owen RIP Marjorie Molloy (Birthday)
Thurs 22nd December	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLOA St Joseph	Antonio Cicu RIP FM Nigel Tait RIP
Fri 23rd December	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	OLOA St Joseph St Edward	Margaret Malcolm RIP Anna-Claire Anthraper (Thanksgiving)
Sat 24th December <i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>	9.30am 6.00pm 6.00pm 7.00pm 8.00pm 11.00pm Midnight	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells St Edward (Carols from 5.30pm) St Andrew OLOA St Joseph (Carols from 10.30pm) Holy Cross (Carols from 11.30pm)	No Mass Thanksgiving People of the Parish Jesus Ocaya & Francisco Villaver RIP Fr Louis Catterall RIP Kitty O'Brien RIP Anniversary
Sunday 25th Dec <i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLOA (also live streamed) Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Mrs Edward Christian FM Sr Maureen Seddon (Wellbeing) Andrew Breen RIP Anniversary John Gare RIP

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 (OLOA 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

Deacon Andrew Lee
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: alee@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)