



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

10th SEPTEMBER 2023: TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Beasts, Barbies or Humans?

On the 15th August a breaking news story went viral: over the previous weekend, in Southampton, young people aged 15 to 17, encouraged by social media videos on Tik Tok, took painkillers to see who could stay in hospital for the longest time. On the Wednesday before, following some videos on Tik Tok, teenagers in London robbed a JD shop and wrestled with police officers, **like beasts**.

The recent and popular film *Barbie*, tells the story of Barbie and fellow dolls who reside in Barbie Land; a **plastic society** with different variations of Barbies, Kens, and a group of discontinued models, who are treated like outcasts due to their appearance. The Kens spend their days playing at the beach, considering it as their profession, the Barbies dance and have fun. In Barbie Land every day is the best day ever and **people don't think too much**.

But one day, everything changes. At a dance party, Barbie is suddenly stricken with strange thoughts, "**Do you guys ever think about dying?**", she asked. It is not a sad question. It is like asking herself: **is there something eternal?** This moment is the beginning of a journey that will lead Barbie to discover what it means to be human.

Life in plastic might be comfortable, but it will always be fake. Living like a beast can be easy (just follow your instincts), but it is a life diminished.

Being human is to have big questions, it means thinking, being alert and searching, trying to respond to all the restlessness present in the human heart.

This eventually should be the aim of every parish community and of the whole Church, of our youth groups, our activities for elderly people and families: helping each one of us to become human, to rediscover the infinite thirst for meaning, love, justice and freedom that is in our hearts and the One who can quench it.

Fr Luca

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "God does exist" a talk by Professor John Lennox at Oxford Union
- 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 13th September 2023**, please email your messages/notices to: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 10th September 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 3

PSALM RESPONSE: O THAT TODAY YOU WOULD LISTEN TO HIS VOICE! "HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS."

1st reading Ezekiel 33:7-9 **Psalms** 94 **2nd reading** Romans 13:8-10 **Gospel** Matthew 18:15-20

Sunday 17th September 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 4

PSALM RESPONSE: THE LORD IS COMPASSION AND LOVE, SLOW TO ANGER AND RICH IN MERCY.

1st reading Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7 **Psalms** 102 **2nd reading** Romans 14:7-9 **Gospel** Matthew 18:21-35

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)

Our Youth Groups for children in primary school and young people in secondary school will restart at the end of September 2023. They 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 now open on our website: www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/parishlife (scroll down to Youth Groups).

We would like to remind you that if a child or a teenager wants to be prepared to receive First Holy Communion (and is at least in school year 3) or Confirmation (and is at least in school year 9) we will ask them to come regularly to one of the three groups according to their age. They will receive First Holy Communion or Confirmation when they are ready (usually after one year).

There will be a meeting on **Saturday 16th September 2023 at 11am** in St Edward's cloister for all the parents and guardians where we will present the **2023/2024 Stars of Abraham** programme.

The first meeting of Grail Seekers and Student Youth will be on **Friday 29th September, 6.30pm-8.30pm** in Holy Cross Resource Centre with a meeting for the parents afterwards.

For more information about these groups please go to our website.

Communion & Liberation Groups

Restarts at the end of September

School of Community usually meet weekly:

Holy Cross every Wednesday at 8pm;

St Edward's every Thursday at 8pm.

For more information please click the link on the homepage of our website. All are welcome!

Growing In Faith Together Group

Tuesdays 10.15am to approx. 11.45am in the Holy

Cross Resource Centre. All are welcome!

Fellowship Group - recommences on **Wednesday 13th September** with a "New Start Liturgy". Everyone welcome to join us at **St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak (7.30pm)** or by Zoom. For the Zoom link contact Peterbaggott@aol.com

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 will restart on **Wednesday 20th September 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

Restarts on **Thursday 28th September 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!

Sunday Boules Group OLOA

Meet in the car park at 11am, all welcome! If you have a set of boules please bring them along.

MESSAGES



Bishop Philip's Pastoral Letter

Bishop Philip's Pastoral Letter, 'You Will Be My Witnesses' will be read out in our churches this weekend, the Twenty-Third Sunday of the Year. You will find copies available in our parish newsletter and/or in church welcome areas so you will be able to follow along when the Pastoral Letter is read out.

Portsmouth Diocese CL Day Together

Sunday 10th September, 12.30pm - 5.30pm

Chieveley Village Hall, High Street Chieveley, RG20 8TE

We start with a bring and share lunch, followed by games and songs, conversation among adults and Holy Mass. Everyone is welcome! For more info please see posters on noticeboards. To register please send an email to: portsmouthdiocesecl@gmail.com

MESSAGES CONTINUED



Upcoming Second Collections

Sunday 17th September 2023 is for Home Mission. Evangelisation is an essential work of the Church. At all levels, and through every avenue we can utilize, we are called to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our neighbours and within our local communities. The Home Mission Office helps the local Church to share the joy of the Gospel. If you would like donate online please go to:
<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/home-mission-sunday-second-collection>
Please do not use our yellow gift aid envelopes for this collection (see note below).

Yellow Gift Aid Envelopes and Second Collections

We have been advised by the Diocese we can only claim gift aid on second collections for the Cathedral, the Clergy Assistance & Clergy Training Funds and Bamenda. Please do not use yellow gift aid envelopes for second collections to third party charities, e.g. CASE Home Missions, Missio APF World Mission, CAFOD, Peter's Pence, Crib, Holy Places of Palestine.

After Sunday Mass at St Joseph

Tea & coffee will be available after the 11am Mass on Sundays in the Romsey Parish Centre (26A Abbey Water) starting on **Sunday 17th September**.

Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Marsh and for his family. John's Funeral Mass takes place on **Thursday 14th September at 11.30am in St Joseph's Church.**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Doreen Baker and for her family. Doreen's Funeral Mass takes place on **Tuesday 26th September at 1.30pm in St Edward's Church.**

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 Deacon Paul Owen:
powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or alternatively please speak to a priest.
RCIA will start at the end of September.

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)

CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

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| 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 |

St Swithun Wells Parish Quiz Night

Saturday 16th September, meet at 7pm for a 7.30pm start in Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh
Join us for a fun quiz evening (you don't have to be a Mastermind!). Cost £1 per person, pay on the night. Please bring your own food and drink. Please ring Val Talbot on 07766 056488 so she has an idea of numbers attending.

Parish Lunch at the Hunters Inn, Romsey

Tuesday 19th September at 12.30pm. All are welcome. Menus are on the churches notice boards. If you would like to come, please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know your choice of meal by Monday 11th September as we have to pre-order. Thank you.

Good Companions

Our next get-together for those who live alone or are lonely will be at **3pm on Friday 22nd September in the Cloister of St. Edward's.** If you would like to join us, please ring Tony Wilson on 023 80266617. We look forward to seeing you.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Margaret French is holding her annual Macmillan Coffee Morning in the hall at St Andrew's on **Friday 29th September from 10.30am-12.30pm.** Please come along for a chat and coffee and cake, and support this very worthy cause.
Queries to Margaret: 01794 278151 or 07534 214937 or email: mpf46@icloud.com

Diocesan Day for Catechists

St Peter's Catholic Church, Winchester, SO23 8RY
Fr Mark Hogan and the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph invite you to join them on **Saturday, 30th September (10am-4pm)** for a day for fellowship, formation and prayer for the Catechists of Portsmouth Diocese to be encouraged and strengthened in faith.
The day is free to attend, however please bring a packed lunch. Please register at:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/diocesan-day-for-catechists-registration-598927286637>

CAFOD Family Fast Day

Will take place on Friday 6th October 2023, Fast Day posters and envelopes will be made available in our churches in the coming weeks.
There will be **Fast Day Lunch held at St Edward's on Friday 6th October from 12 Noon - 1.30pm,** no cost but donations gratefully received.

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

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| Tuesdays: | Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh |
| Wednesdays: | Fr Luca, not on 13th Sept 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 9rd September | 9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm | Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward | Reverend Murphy O'Connor FM People of the Parish Larry Park RIP Maria Szczetnikowicz RIP Anniversary |
| Sunday 10th Sept <i>Twenty-Third 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> Keith Small RIP Jane Mary Roberts RIP Anniversary Joya Elie Bassil & Pascal Hokayem RIP Emilia Tuppein RIP |
| Monday 11th Sept | 9.30am | Holy Cross | Mooney Family (Wellbeing) |
| Tuesday 12th Sept | 10.00am 6.00pm | St Andrew St Edward | Mrs Edward Christian FM |
| Wed 13th Sept <i>St John Chrysostom</i> | 9.30am 9.30am 10.00am | Holy Cross OLQA St Edward | Marjorie Harris RIP FM Layzell Family Intentions |
| Thurs 14th Sept <i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i> | 9.30am <u>11.30am</u> 12 Noon 6.00pm | Holy Cross <u>St Joseph</u> OLQA St Joseph | Jim & Marjorie O'Mara (Intentions) <u>Funeral Mass: John Marsh RIP</u> John Marsh RIP |
| Friday 15th Sept <i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i> | 9.30am 10.00am 10.00am | OLQA St Joseph St Edward | William & Maureen Atterbury RIP |
| Sat 16th Sept <i>Morning Mass: Ss Cornelius & Cyprian</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 John Marsh RIP Ian & Teresa Rivers (40th Wedding Anniversary) |
| Sunday 17th Sept <i>Twenty-Fourth 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> Tony Brosnan RIP Kathleen & Albert Harrison RIP Anniversary Charmaine Ebanks RIP Special Intention for Brenda & Paul |

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: rcossa@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
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)