



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ 16th July 2023: FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

I Knew It Was True

This year I had the opportunity to meet some students of the University of Winchester on a weekly basis. The relationship with two of them was very important to me, because every time after our meetings on Tuesday evening I returned home regenerated by the freshness and simplicity of their faith. Their names are Kathleen and Roberto.

The story of the two of them especially struck me. Kathleen, who will be 21 next November, was not a Catholic until last Easter Vigil. She told me why she decided to join the Catholic Church. Here is her story,

«It's amusing. Looking back at the last three years, I know my old self would be shocked to know I became a Catholic. I had faith in Christ, but had learned a wrong view of the Church. Nevertheless, I was curious, and immediately asked my now fiancé all my questions. Bless his heart. Roberto and I found that we both sought answers, and so our search together began. My heart was soon met with some determined, "stalking" saints. St Patrick was first to warm my heart to the Catholic faith through his life; later St Therese of Lisieux and St Francis of Assisi softened me, and the image of St Francis dancing as the birds listened to his sermon broke my heart. These human beings were not my distractions from God, as some may claim; they were my companions.

I continued to learn about the Biblical-ness of the Holy Mass, the authority of the Church; more and more it all made sense to me. But it was the Eucharist that sealed me into my conversion. What more can I say? Jesus is the Lamb of God, and we are to partake and eat of the sacrificed Lamb. From the knowledge of Sacred Scripture that I had, I believed it rather well but to understand it stumped me. But, I knew it was true. So, I turned to Roberto and told him 'I want to become a Catholic'. He was delighted but shocked, since we were happily planning our ecumenical future and now I wished to commit to Catholicism!

We joined our parish RCIA course, and the rest is beautiful history! While I was learning about Christ's 2,000 year old bride, sharing this powerful faith made me fall even more in love with Roberto and cherish the sacrament of marriage that we are entering into. This great, old family that is the Church, imperfect as she is, loves and is thrice-loved by our God. So, the fact that I can strive to reflect this love in my marriage is a gift. I can't quite fathom what I did to deserve this kind of love from God through my soon-to-be-husband and the Catholic Church - but I think that's the point: I don't deserve this. I'm just amused and grateful».

I don't want to add much more to the beautiful testimony of Kathleen, but I just want to promise that I will write about the story of her fiancé Roberto in one of the next newsletters!

Fr Marco

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "That's All That Matters" a surprising interview with the Oklahoma softball players - 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 19th July 2023**, please email your messages/notices to: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 16th July 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 3

PSALM RESPONSE: SOME SEED FELL INTO RICH SOIL AND PRODUCED ITS CROP.

READINGS: 1st reading Isaiah 55:10-11 Psalm 64 2nd reading Romans 8:18-23 Gospel Matthew 13:1-23

Sunday 23rd July 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 4

PSALM RESPONSE: O LORD, YOU ARE GOOD AND FORGIVING.

READINGS: 1st reading Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 Psalm 85 2nd reading Romans 8:26-27 Gospel Matthew 13:24-43

Youth Groups (including First Holy Communion & Confirmation)

- are now taking a Summer Break, they will resume in September.

Please check the parish website for the calendar of meetings, times and venues.

www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community groups are now on their summer break, resuming in September.

For more information please click the link on the homepage of our website.

Growing In Faith Together Group

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

Fellowship Group - now on their summer break.

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

both groups are now on their summer break, resuming in September (dates to be confirmed)

Holy Cross Group normally meet on Wednesdays in the Resource Centre, Eastleigh;

PARISH GROUPS



St Joseph's Group normally 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

Now on their summer break. Normally Thursdays at 6.30pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. More information is on the website. Interested in volunteering or know some young adults who would like to join the group? If yes, please contact: arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com

60 Club - Meets fortnightly in Holy Cross Resource Centre from 2pm to 4pm. All are welcome!
Next Meeting: **Monday 17th July**

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



Clergy Retreat & Holidays

From the afternoon of 16th July until 28th July, Frs Raffaele, Luca & Marco will be away. Fr Andrew also leaves us on 16th July. This week Dcn Paul Wilson & Dcn John will celebrate Liturgy of Word & Communion at Holy Cross, St Andrew & St Joseph, with the exception of St Joseph on 20th July when Fr Andrew Wagstaff will celebrate Mass. There will be no Mass, Confession or Adoration during the week at St Edward's. Supply priests have been arranged to cover weekend Masses and weekday Masses (24th - 28th July). Fr Bruce will also be away from 22nd to 29th July.

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.

Gift Aid Declaration Forms cut off 31st August 2023 - Urgent Message

As you will all be aware we changed our charity name on 1st January 2023. This requires **all of our regular Gift Aid donors to sign a new gift aid declaration form** under the new charity name: Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. **We are required, as a Diocese, to have completed this by 31st August 2023** or gift aid claims under **old declaration forms will be invalid.**

Please, if you haven't already, collect a new form from your church, your Gift Aid Co-ordinator (Pat Baggott, Donna Scappaticci, David Martin) or download from the 'Comprehensive Giving Guide' available on our parish website:

<https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/financesdonations>

Please hand your completed forms in at the parish office, to any of our clergy, or to your Gift Aid Co-ordinator as a matter of urgency.

Many thanks, Fr Raffaele

MESSAGES CONTINUED



Come & See Summer Club

(ages 7 years to 14 years)

St Edward's Church, 8.30am to 3.30pm

Mon 7th to Fri 11th August 2023

Mon 14th to Fri 18th August 2023

Daily cost: £10 for the first child, £5 per additional child (siblings). For more information and to register please go to:

<https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/comeandsee>

Volunteers will open the venue and welcome children from 8.30am (activities start at 9am) and will close it at 3.30pm (activities finish at 3pm). Please note that every day the Summer Club is on we are offering a **Club Extension** where children can stay at the venue from 3.30pm until (maximum) 5.30pm. The Club extension costs £10 per day per child.

In order to join the Summer Club please complete the registration form on our website and **pay the whole amount by bank transfer by Friday 4th August 2023**. Please also include the cost of the Club Extension (3.30pm-5.30pm) if your child is going to attend.

Good Companions - Our next gathering for those who live alone or are lonely is at **3pm on Friday 21st July in St. Edward's cloister**. Please join us for tea and a chat. If you have any queries call Tony Wilson on 023 80266617. Hope to see you there.

Parish BBQ - The CAFOD group and the Knights of St Columba invite you to a parish barbeque at St Edward's on **Saturday 19th August, from 1pm**.

Food including desserts and a first free drink with each **£12 ticket. Children under 12 are FREE.**

BBQ, desert, and raffle contributions all gratefully accepted and there will be a CAFOD produce stall. Enquiries to Neil Hendricks (023 8026 6324); tickets on sale after Masses 5th/6th August and 12th/13th August. Places are limited, so don't delay!

Engaging the Disengaged: How to accompany non religious persons

Online seminar on **Tuesday 21st November at 6pm**, exploring strategies for all Catholics to fulfil their mission to bring people closer to Christ. *Engaging the Disengaged* is about how to accompany the non-religious person in daily life. Demand for the event is expected to be high and early booking is advised to

reserve a place. Tickets are priced at **£10 per person (non refundable)**. To book please go to: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/engaging-the-disengaged-how-to-accompany-non-religious-persons-tickets-646139539757>

ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat on Zoom, 22nd July 10am-1pm "SIGHT FOR THE BLIND - The Charisms of healing and miracles in Evangelisation." For more information please see the poster on church noticeboards.

Grandparents' Day

'His Mercy is from age to age' (Luke1:50) is the banner the Holy Father is flying for World Youth Day and for Grandparents' Day this year which falls on **Sunday 23rd July**.

God bless all our grandparents all over the world. The Diocese have a Grandparents' Rosary group, if you are interested please contact them at: marriagefamilylife@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Diocesan Day for Catechists

St Peter's Catholic Church, Jewry Street, 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.

Join Fr Mark Hogan and the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph for a day of thanksgiving, prayer, fellowship and formation in Winchester Catholic Pastoral Centre. This is a day when we give thanks for all catechists in the diocese, who have generously responded to the call of Christ and have placed themselves at the service of their parish. The highlight of the day is the celebration of Mass, offered for all catechists and for all who contribute to Children's Liturgy in the diocese. This day for catechists is also a great source of support and strength, as we meet catechists from all corners of the diocese, share with them our experience, and take time to pray together.

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>

Latest Diocesan Job Vacancies

Full Time Estates Manager/Building Surveyor (closing date Fri 21st July);

Full Time Safeguarding & DBS Administrator (closing date Fri 21st July);

Full Time IT Technician (closing date Mon 31st July).

For all current vacancies please go to: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs/>

CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Tuesday: 6.30pm-7.30pm (not 18th July) St Edward

Tuesday: 9.30am-10.00am (not 18th July) St Andrew

Saturday: 10.00am-10.30am (not 22nd July) 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

Tues: St Edward (6.30pm-7.30pm) not 18th July

Wednesday: Holy Cross - 10.00am-11.00am

Thursday: St Joseph - before Mass (5.30pm-6.00pm)

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Frs Raffaele, Luca & Marco will be unable to meet for the next fortnight (16th - 30th July)

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 15th July <i>Morning Mass: St Swithun</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Finnerty & Molloy Families FM Agnes Carter RIP Graham & Pauline Alldred (Golden Wedding Anniversary) Jan Szczetnikowicz RIP Anniversary
Sunday 16th July <i>Fifteenth 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> Kamil Nadasky RIP Eileen Joyce RIP Anniversary Mrs Anne Clayton-Smith RIP FM Tony Porter RIP Anniversary
Monday 17th July <i>St Bonaventure</i>	<u>9.30am</u>	<u>Holy Cross</u>	<u>Liturgy of Word & Communion</u>
Tuesday 18th July	<u>10.00am</u> <u>6.00pm</u>	<u>St Andrew</u> <u>St Edward</u>	<u>Liturgy of Word & Communion</u> <u>No Mass</u>
Wed 19th July	<u>9.30am</u> 9.30am <u>10.00am</u>	<u>Holy Cross</u> OLQA <u>St Edward</u>	<u>Liturgy of Word & Communion</u> <u>No Mass</u>
Thurs 20th July	<u>9.30am</u> 12 Noon 6.00pm	<u>Holy Cross</u> OLQA St Joseph	<u>Liturgy of Word & Communion</u>
Friday 21st July	9.30am <u>10.00am</u> <u>10.00am</u>	OLQA <u>St Joseph</u> <u>St Edward</u>	<u>Liturgy of Word & Communion</u> <u>No Mass</u>
Sat 22nd July <i>Morning: St Mary Magdalene</i>	<u>9.30am</u> 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	<u>Holy Cross</u> St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	<u>Liturgy of Word & Communion</u> People of the Parish Herbert Howie RIP Anniversary Bryan George Dolbear FM
Sunday 23rd July <i>Sixteenth 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> Living & Deceased Members of the Mongan & Turner Families FM Vincent Curmi RIP Anniversary Angela Speight RIP FM Anne Kelly RIP Anniversary

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

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

Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)
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Fr Marco Vignolo (Assistant Priest)
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mvignolo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Andrew Lee (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: alee@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
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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)