



*Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ*  
**29<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023: THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**'JOY IS THE ECHO OF GOD'S LIFE WITHIN US'**

Autumn is setting in and we are having to adjust to the cold, wet and windy weather of the season and darker evenings. All Saints' Day this Wednesday; All Souls' Day this Thursday – and we are launched into November, the month of Remembrance and the harbinger of winter.

The change of season can affect our mood and our behaviour, but so too does the way in which we relate to other people and them to us. We all know the analogy of 'the glass half-full/the glass half-empty' to describe a person's outlook on life. Another analogy contrasts radiators with drains. 'Radiators' are those who give of themselves, enhancing and encouraging others through their joyful and positive attitude; 'drains' are those who leave one dry, make demands and have a negative attitude. Of course, we can as individuals have both 'radiator' and 'drain' times - depending on the many factors and circumstances making up our human complexity.

The abiding quality of a 'radiator' person is their sense of joy, a deep-seated gift within them which transcends all the difficulties they encounter. This can be seen in visiting people whose lives are drawing to a close in a hospice: a sense of utter serenity and trust in the Lord, with gratitude in their hearts. They know that God loves them unconditionally and that the gift of sanctifying grace dwells in their souls. This joy is not a worldly, external happiness or a wish for such but something much more important and lasting. Joy in this sense casts aside the threats of self-pity, worry and complaining in favour of contentment, hope and trust in the Lord.

Many writers have explored the theme of joy. During World War II there was a well-known fictional character 'Mrs Miniver' in stories which succeeded in lifting the spirits of people both in Britain and the USA. The author was Joyce Kilmer, who penned one of our best-loved hymns, 'Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy'. St John Henry Newman wrote a moving prayer of supplication, that we might be 'radiators', in effect radiating Christ to the world:

Dear Jesus, help us to spread your fragrance everywhere we go.  
Flood our souls with your spirit and life.  
Penetrate and possess our whole being so utterly that our lives may only be  
a radiance of yours.  
Shine through us, and be so in us, that every soul we come in contact with  
may feel your presence in our soul.  
Stay with us, and then we shall begin to shine as you shine:  
so to shine as to be a light to others; the light, O Jesus,  
will be all from you, none of it will be ours;  
it will be you, shining on others through us.

Blessed Columba Marmion, former Abbot of Maredsous in Belgium, is the author of the title above; and Léon Bloy, French Catholic novelist, wrote: 'Joy is the most infallible sign of God's presence'. As we proceed on our earthly pilgrimage, may we, even in our autumnal and wintry times, be the bearers of this joy with the voice of the psalmist echoing in our inmost being: 'I will come to the altar of God, the God of my joy.'

*Deacon John*

## GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "Israel: The Possible Path of Unity" by Maria Acqua Simi  
- 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 1st November 2023**, please email your messages/notices to: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

# LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 29th October 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 2

PSALM RESPONSE: I LOVE YOU, LORD, MY STRENGTH.

1<sup>st</sup> reading Exodus 22:20-26 Psalm 17 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Thessalonians 1:5c-10 Gospel Matthew 22:34-40

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

## 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.

Registrations for the year 2023/2024 are still open on 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 - Wednesdays from 7pm-9pm

Please note, there will be no Fellowship on Wednesday 1st November as it is All Saints.

### Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community meet weekly:

Holy Cross, Wednesdays at 8pm;

St Edward's, Thursdays at 8pm.

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

### 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.

### The Little Flowers Baby & Toddler Groups

Holy Cross Group meet on Wednesdays 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

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

60 Club - meets every fortnight on a Monday from 2pm-4pm at Holy Cross Resource Centre. Our next meeting is on Monday 30th October. All are welcome!

### Solemnity of All Saints - Wed 1st Nov

Please remember this is a Holy Day of Obligation, a number of Masses will be held across the Parish on this day, please see the back page for details.

### Commemoration of All Souls Annual Mass

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

Thursday 2nd November:

Holy Cross at 9.30am; St Joseph at 10am;

St Edward 7pm; St Andrew at 7pm.

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

### Commemoration of All Souls at OLQA

Two Masses will be celebrated at OLQA on Thursday 2nd November.

12 Noon Mass for All Souls (names not read out)

7.30pm Mass for Parishioner's Holy Souls (Sung Mass with Commemoration of the Dead).

### Blessing of the Graves

In November each year we remember in a special way

## MESSAGES



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.

# MESSAGES CONTINUED



## Upcoming Second Collections: 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!

## 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 Service 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.**

## St Charles Borromeo Feast Day

The **4th November** is the Memorial of St Charles Borromeo, patron of The Fraternity of Frs Raffaele, Luca, Marco, Mario and Deacon Matteo. On this day we will pray for all the missionaries of The Fraternity.

### 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

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**Tues:** St Edward (6.30pm-7.30pm)  
**Wednesday:** Holy Cross - 10.00am-11.00am  
**Thursday:** St Joseph - Not 2nd Nov (5.30pm-6.00pm)

## 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.

Deacon Paul Owen thanks parishioners for their prayers and good wishes following his recent spell in hospital. He is now back at home recovering and hopes to return to pastoral ministry before too long.

## Parish Pilgrimage to Siena, Assisi & Rome

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

We are jointly planning a Pilgrimage to Siena, Assisi and Rome with Tangney Tours on the occasion of the Ordination (God willing) of Matteo as a Priest.

Estimated cost is £1,165 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 be aware that completed booking forms and deposit payments need to be made to Tangney Tours by **9th November.**

Conference: Finding God in The Non-Christian World - Sat 4th November, 10am-3.30pm at St Bede's Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX  
For more info and a list of confirmed speakers: please see posters on church noticeboards. To book please go to: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/portsmouth-diocese-inter-religious-day-tickets-698845133607?aff=oddtcreator>

## End of British Summer Time

Please remember that the clocks go back by one hour this **weekend of 28th/29th October.**

## 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 28th Oct <i>Morning Mass: Ss Simon &amp; Jude</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Anu (In Thanksgiving) Carmel Ratna RIP  People of the Parish Evert Van Willigenburg (Wellbeing & Good Health)
Sunday 29th Oct <i>Thirtieth 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> Paul Chandler RIP 8th Anniversary  Deceased Members of the Nolan & Grimes Families RIP Colette Tait (Wellbeing)
Monday 30th Oct <i>Blessed Winchester Martyrs</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross	Gerard Carr RIP FM Hero Roy RIP Anniversary
Tuesday 31st Oct	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward (All Saints Vigil)	Roy Russell-Smith RIP Anniversary Clare Ashcroft RIP
Wed 1st Nov <i>All Saints</i>	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am 2.00pm 7.00pm 7.00pm 7.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Swithun Wells School St Andrew St Edward OLQA	Audrey & Denis Queen RIP FM    Mrs Edward Christian FM (Sung Mass)
Thurs 2nd Nov <i>All Souls</i>	9.30am 10.00am 12 Noon 7.00pm 7.00pm 7.30pm	Holy Cross St Joseph OLQA St Andrew St Edward OLQA	Mass offered for our deceased Mass offered for our deceased Mass for All Souls Mass offered for our deceased Mass offered for our deceased Mass offered for our deceased (Sung Mass with Commemoration of the Dead)
Friday 3rd Nov <i>Blessed John Body</i>	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	OLQA St Joseph St Edward	In Thanksgiving for Grandchildren In Thanksgiving
Saturday 4th Nov <i>Morning Mass: 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  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