



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ 8th JANUARY 2023: THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Benedict XVI could see God in everything that is beautiful

Cardinal Nichols, the President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, recalls some salient moments of the late Pope Emeritus' apostolic visit to the United Kingdom and shares his personal memories. The late Pope Emeritus' apostolic visit to Britain in September 2010 was "momentous" said Cardinal Vincent Nichols, delving into just some of the many memories he treasures of that "unique occasion". Speaking to Vatican Radio, the President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales looks back to the challenges Benedict XVI raised during his time in Britain, always putting God at the centre, and "urging people into prayer, into the search for holiness, because that – he knew – is where happiness lies."

Cardinal Nichols, who accompanied the Pontiff throughout his four-day apostolic visit to England and Scotland in September 2010, at a public level singled out the address he gave in Westminster Hall, describing it as a "very unique occasion."

"Every living British prime minister was present as well as all the great and the good, and in that very historic setting, Pope Benedict spoke of his esteem and respect for democracy and for the British institutions that support, and indeed promote, democracy," he said. But, the Cardinal continued, "he also challenged us by saying that democracy needs to be rooted in clear and firm moral principles." "Those moral principles are not established by social consensus, they are arrived at by the use of reason illuminated by faith." As he reads that speech again today, Cardinal Nichols said, it is still as relevant as ever. It was an expression, he explained, of how deeply the late Pope Emeritus understood European history and culture and the dramas of the 20th century. "His own childhood in Germany with the emergence of the Nazism, out of a democratic society, I think, alerted him to some of those dangers," he said.

On a more personal level, the President of the Bishops' Conference chose to share a powerful memory from the vigil of prayer in Hyde Park. He said that on that occasion he witnessed how "Benedict, with the Blessed Sacrament, managed to inculcate a deep sense of prayer and desire for God with a crowd of 80,000 people." "We were gathered in Hyde Park in the centre of London for 15 minutes of absolute silent prayer," he recalled. "As one mother said to me afterwards," the Cardinal continued, "my teenage boys learned more about prayer in those 15 minutes than I had ever been able to teach them. And that was the leadership of Benedict."

"He had this great desire to urge people into prayer into the search for holiness because that – he knew – is where happiness lies."

Another vivid memory from that apostolic visit Cardinal Nichols said he treasures, is being with Benedict XVI in the popemobile as it was driven down Pall Mall. He noted that this is the scene of a very solemn moment for every State visit with the Union Jack and the Papal flags lining the whole length of the street. "I never thought I would see this very official all-embracing welcome by Britain to the head of the Catholic Church." "And as we went down, I said to Pope Benedict, 'We're going to Hyde Park and we're going to use the stage that the BBC has kindly left in place because last week it was used for music for the Proms in the Park, but today it's going to be used for prayer.'" "He turned to me," the Cardinal said, "and he smiled and said: never forget that music is prayer as well!" "That came right from his heart, as a lover of music, and someone who could see the print of God in everything that was beautiful."

Source: Vatican Media

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is **Bishop Philip's Pastoral Letter about Pope Benedict XVI** - 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 11th January 2023**, please email your messages/notices to: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 8th January 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Office Proper

PSALM RESPONSE: THE LORD WILL BLESS HIS PEOPLE WITH PEACE.

READINGS: 1st reading Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7 Psalm 28 2nd reading Acts 10:34-38 Gospel Matthew 3:13-17

Sunday 15th January 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Psalter Week 2

PSALM RESPONSE: HERE I AM LORD! I COME TO DO YOUR WILL.

READINGS: 1st reading Isaiah 49:3. 5-6 Psalm 39 2nd reading 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 Gospel John 1:29-34

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)

Please check the parish website for the calendar of meetings, times and venues. All of our Youth Groups restart week commencing 9th January 2023.

Youth Group Registrations for the year 2022/23 are still open on our website: www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community 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 (GIFT) Group

Tuesday 10th January at 10.15am to approx.

11.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. We will be continuing our DVD series on Prayer called 'Strength to Strength'. All are welcome!

Fellowship Group - Restarts on Wed 11th January, 7.30pm in St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak.

We will start with a New Year Liturgy followed by a discussion on future topics. Everyone welcome. For queries or information on joining by Zoom please 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.

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.

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

Come and join us for tea, games and good fun. All welcome! Next Meeting: 2pm on 7th February.

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

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!

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

MESSAGES



Bishop Philip's Pastoral Letter & Prayer Booklets

Please read the Pastoral Letter from the Bishop entitled, 'Pope Benedict XVI'. Copies will be available in all of our churches this weekend. Prayer booklets (a special gift from Bishop Philip) are also available in church welcoming areas. Please pick up a copy for yourself and your family.

Message from the Diocese

The Diocese have been looking to simplify their Charity Status, which they have now done. From 1st January 2023, the Diocese is called 'Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth' (previously it was Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust), with registered Charity number 1199568. Our registered address remains the same. What does this mean for our Parish?

There is no change to our parish bank account number and sort code, however our bank account name has changed to: CDP St Swithun Wells, therefore please can you ensure that any cheques written out to the Parish of St Swithun Wells have CDP St Swithun Wells as the Payee. We have been advised that all existing standing orders and direct debits will not be impacted by the new charity name change. Standing Order/ Direct Debit forms and Gift Aid Declaration Forms with the new charity number will be issued by the Diocesan Finance department in due course.

We have ordered new Gift Aid yellow envelopes but in the interim please ignore the back of the envelope where it asks for cheques to be made payable to PRCDTR, this is now CDP St Swithun Wells.

MESSAGES CONTINUED

Changes to Mass at OLQA

Please note there will be no weekday Mass at OLQA on 11th, 12th & 13th January.

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**. Join us for delicious food, free raffle and entertainment. **Last date to book your place is 8th January**. There are only a few places left. If you have booked a place and find you cannot attend, please let Pat know for Catering purposes. We would welcome donations of homemade scones and cakes. If you can help with this please contact Pat Baggott by phone/text on 07801 454400 or email: baggott.pm@gmail.com

Cultural Friday - 20th January, 7pm at **St Edward's** Save the date! The topic will be Pope Benedict's Life and Legacy. More details to follow next week. Cheese, wine and nibbles will be available from 7pm, suggested donation of £1.

Parish Lunch at the Hunters Inn, Romsey on **Thursday 9th February, 12.30pm**. All are welcome. Menus are on the noticeboards. Please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know your choice of meal before Wednesday 1st February as we have to pre-order. Thank you.

Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Eddie Barratt and for his family. Eddie's Funeral Mass takes place in **St Joseph's on Thursday 12th Jan at 2pm**.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Victor Webb and for his family. Victor's Funeral Service takes place in **St Edward's on Wed 18th January at 1.30pm**.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jonathan Hayward and for his family. Jonathan's Funeral Service takes place in **St Edward's on Thurs 19th January at 11am**.

Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham (30th June -2nd July 2023) - We have now secured accommodation for those wishing to join our parish pilgrimage/retreat to Walsingham. **To book please go to our website and complete the new form by Sunday 5th February**.

The cost per person will be £250. Payments can be made by bank transfer, cheque, or cash. Bank transfers should be made to 'CDP St Swithun Wells' with Sort Code:30-93-04, Account No:01786599 with beneficiary reference *WALS_yoursurname* (e.g.

WALS_Smith). Cheques should be made payable to *CDP St Swithun Wells* and posted or handed into the Parish Office. If you wish to pay by cash, payments can be made Mon-Thurs 9.30am-5.30pm in the parish office. **All payments to be received by Sunday 5th February**.

Churches Together in Chandler's Ford - The annual church swaps in Chandler's Ford takes place on **Sun 15th January** this year. Members of St Edward's are invited to visit the Chandler's Ford Methodist Church on that date (service starts at 11am). It's a great opportunity to meet and be with others who share our faith.

Thank you to everyone for your Christmas greetings, prayers, cards and thoughts expressed in so many different ways. We are also very grateful for your generosity shown through the Christmas Offerings which we do appreciate.

Frs Raffaele, Luca, Marco & Bruce and Dcn Andrew

Pilgrimage to Lourdes - July 2023

ACROSS (a charity who specialises in supporting people who find travel difficult any other way and offer transport on the Jumbulance) are planning a Pilgrimage to Lourdes from the Winchester/Southampton area, on **13th to 22nd July 2023**. Cost is c. £990 for 10 days including all travel, accommodation in a 4 star hotel and food. For more information, either to travel as a VIP (person needing assistance) or as a Helper, please contact Marianne Wanstall at: mwanstall@btinternet.com

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.



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. stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

SCHOOL NOTICES

Warm Room - From January 5th 2023, St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School will be holding a Warm Room every Thursday between 1-3pm. This will provide somewhere for parishioners to enjoy the company of others in a warm and welcoming environment. We look forward to seeing you there.

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Tuesdays: Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh
Wednesdays: **Not available on Wed 11th Jan**
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

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)

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 7th Jan	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOA St Joseph St Edward	Smyth Family FM People of the Parish Jean Prescott's Family, Living & Deceased Mrs Edward Christian FM
Sunday 8th Jan <i>The Baptism 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> Eamonn O'Rourke Jnr RIP Margaret Martindale RIP Florentina Boucher RIP The Murphy Family (Special Intention)
Mon 9th	9.30am	Holy Cross	Gualtero Family FM
Tues 10th	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Sr Philomena (Wellbeing) Graham Owen RIP & Deceased members of the Lennon Family
Wed 11th	9.30am <u>9.30am</u> 10.00am	Holy Cross <u>OLOA</u> St Edward	Michael Lane RIP FM No Mass Pasquale Marucci RIP
Thurs 12th Jan	9.30am <u>12 Noon</u> <u>2.00pm</u> 6.00pm	Holy Cross <u>OLOA</u> <u>St Joseph</u> St Joseph	Regina Turl (Special Intention) No Mass Funeral Mass: Eddie Barrett RIP Sr Catherine Carey (Wellbeing)
Fri 13th Jan	<u>9.30am</u> 10.00am 10.00am	<u>OLOA</u> St Joseph St Edward	No Mass Margaret Martindale RIP Fr Robin Sanders RIP
Sat 14th Jan	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOA St Joseph St Edward	Gualteri Smyth FM Rocio Bates (Thanksgiving) Colette Tait (Wellbeing) Joan Applin RIP
Sunday 15th Jan <i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</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> Rita Theodorou RIP People of the Parish Pasquale Marucci RIP Sr Shirley (Wellbeing)

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: rcosa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)

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Fr Marco Vignolo (Assistant Priest)

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Fr Bruce Barnes (Assistant Priest)

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Deacon Bob Birtles

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Deacon John di Meo

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Deacon Paul Wilson

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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)