



*Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ*

**12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023: SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

## He Gets Us

During the last few weeks a breakthrough campaign is becoming viral. It is a series of television, internet and billboard ads called "He gets us". Two of these commercials will be run during the Superbowl in the US, on the 12<sup>th</sup> February. If you go onto the campaign's website you can find the vision that inspired it: *From loneliness and anxiety, to anger, sorrow, temptation and more, Jesus gets what we go through because he went through it too.*

A few days ago a friend of mine suggested that I watch one of those ads. It's called: *AI love* (AI stand for Artificial Intelligence). The video shows what happens when you ask AI to visualize certain words, like 'Love'. The results are cold, with anonymous pictures that, despite their high resolution quality, don't give you at all that sense of warmth and fellowship that only human love can give.

The ad goes on. They ask AI to visualize love the way Jesus talks about it: "forgiving a friend who has betrayed you", "spending time with prisoners", "feeding the hungry", "eating dinner with outcast", "helping a neighbour in need", "clothing the poor", "a man laying down his life for his friends" ... The result is, again, a series of pictures colourful and well done, but faceless and – I have to say – a bit depressive.

The ad ends with these words: "Jesus' love was never artificial".

AI is becoming increasingly pervasive. People working in customer services, for example, will be entirely replaced over the next few years by computers and sophisticated programs that will be more efficient and convenient. Technology is becoming more and more our neighbour, the "person" we ask for advice or help. Are we missing something?

Technology is great, and can make life easier, but there is something it will never be able to deliver: love. The apex of love, by definition, is a relationship between two human beings: it involves all our senses, our reason and affection, our feelings and thoughts. How different it is to meet someone we love in person, rather than online! Perhaps it is more demanding: it's easier to lie to a friend when you are online rather than when you are talking with them face to face. But it's more human! Love is never artificial. Let's not forget this!

*Fr Luca*

## **GEM OF THE WEEK**



This week's GEM is 'He gets us', what is Jesus' love about? 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 **9.30am on Wednesday 15th February 2023**, please email your messages/notices to: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

## LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



**Sunday 12th February 2023:** Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Psalter Week 2

**PSALM RESPONSE:** THEY ARE HAPPY WHO FOLLOW GOD'S LAW!

**READINGS:** 1<sup>st</sup> reading Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20 Psalm 118 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 Gospel Matthew 5:17-37

**Sunday 19th February 2023:** Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Psalter Week 3

**PSALM RESPONSE:** THE LORD IS COMPASSION AND LOVE.

**READINGS:** 1<sup>st</sup> reading Leviticus 19:1-2,17-18 Psalm 102 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 1 Corinthians 3:16-23 Gospel Matthew 5:38-48

## PARISH GROUPS



### Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) Group

**Tuesday 14th February 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** - There will be no Fellowship on **Wed 15th February** as it is Half Term nor on **Wed 22nd February** as it is Ash Wednesday.

**OASIS Women's Group** - On **Mon 13th February** we are looking forward to welcoming Marianne Wanstall who will share her experiences of recent pilgrimages to Lourdes and the history of pilgrimage. This is a warm welcome to all women. Bring a friend, meet new ones. It is wonderful to be able to gather again and have these opportunities to share with one another. We will be meeting at **7:30pm, in the cloister of St Edward the Confessor**. See you there!

**Afternoon Club** - **St. Joseph's Parish Centre (26 Abbey Water)**, first Tuesday in the month. Come and join us for tea, games and good fun. All welcome! **Next Meeting: 2pm on 7th March**

**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!

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com)

**Going Deeper** - a meeting for Catholics wanting to follow the Carmelite spirituality. **Third Saturday in the month from 10.30am-3pm** in **St Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water**.

Contact Samantha Harris on 01794 503716 for details.

## MESSAGES



### Second Collection this weekend

#### Turkey Syria Earthquake Emergency Appeal

On 6th Feb, two high magnitude earthquakes hit Turkey and Syria in the space of just 12 hours, killing thousands and causing widespread devastation. The money raised during our special second collection will be sent to the CAFOD emergency appeal.

**Beat The Winter Blues** - Come to a light-hearted quiz in Romsey Parish Centre, 26 Abbey Water, on **Tuesday 14th February, starting at 2.30pm**. No charge but, due to limited space, we need to know numbers. If you intend to come, please let Margaret French (01794 278151), Jean Prescott ([prescott@waitrose.com](mailto:prescott@waitrose.com)) or Rosemary Peacock (01794 522411) know.

### Communion & Liberation Portsmouth Diocese Day

Our gathering will be on **Sunday 19th February at St Bede's Basingstoke at 12.30pm** (Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX). Programme as follows:  
**12.30pm:** Arrival and bring & share lunch

**2.00pm:** Games and Songs

**3.00pm:** School of Community together (children's activities will also take place then)

**4.30pm:** Mass - Father Giussani anniversary

Please bring some food to share and something to drink. We will provide pudding and plates & cutlery. Please do bring a donation for the venue. This is a great opportunity to invite any family or friends, make sure you register so that we know how many people are coming. To register please email: [soc.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:soc.sswp@gmail.com)

**Romsey Churches Lenten Lunch** - this year the Catholic community will be providing lunch on **Friday 10th March, 12 - 1.30pm, in the Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water**. As a change from the usual fare, lunch will consist of sandwiches, cakes, fruit, tea and coffee, including gluten free, vegan and dairy free options. If you can offer to bake a cake or help on the day, please contact Teresa Rayment (01794 513528). It will be much appreciated.

## MESSAGES CONTINUED

### OLQA St Patrick's Day Social

17th March at 7pm in the Church hall in Bishop's Waltham - OLQA Social Group would like to invite members of the Parish to a musical evening with a local group called 'Shantyhead'. Tickets £5 a head, byo nibbles and drinks. Please contact Marie Kemp on 07760 809640 for more info/to reserve your tickets.

### Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ann Brockway and for her family. Ann's Funeral Mass takes place on **Tues 14th February at 11am in Holy Cross Church.**

Parish Office - Please note that the office will be open from 10am to 12.30pm on **Friday 17th February.**

### 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](mailto:powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or alternatively please speak to a priest.

Holy Cross Church Shop - A volunteer is **urgently needed** to help in the Church Shop on Sundays. If you are able to help please contact Lynette on 02380 618542 or speak to her after Mass.

### Car Parking Spaces at Holy Cross Church, Eastleigh

The car park at Holy Cross has some spaces available for weekly parking. The fee is £100 per month for parking from Monday to Friday. If you, your family, friends, or colleagues would be interested please phone the Parish Office on 02380 273882 or email: [accounts@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:accounts@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

St Swithun Wells Church - Can you spare 2 hours (once every 8 weeks) on a Monday or Tuesday to help us keep our lovely church clean? Please contact Pat Baggott (02380 694060) if you can help or want to know more. Many thanks.

### Music Team Leader Vacancy at St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs Parish, Winchester

Part time: 21 hours per week, including weekends, Initially 18 months, fixed term contract. Closing date Thurs 16th Feb at 12 Noon. For info/to apply go to: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs/>

Please also use this link to view the latest Diocesan Job Vacancies.

### Street Pastors - Eastleigh & Fair Oak

Can you spare one Friday night a month? There is a choice of shifts, from 8pm to around midnight, or from 11pm to around 3am.

Provisional dates for our next training programme:

Fri eve 17th, Sat 18th and Sun 19th March 2023

Fri eve 24th, Sat 25th and Sun 26th March 2023

Fri eve 21st, Sat 22nd and Sun 23rd April 2023

Some of the above training may be taken online.

**For more info please see the poster in the Welcome Area in Holy Cross & St Swithun Wells Churches.**

**Applications by end of Sunday 26th February 2023.**

Website: <https://streetpastors.org/locations/eastleigh/>

Contact Eric on [erichyom@sky.com](mailto:erichyom@sky.com) or 07736967921.

### Romsey Relay Marathon (21st May 2023) - Runners required!

It works like this, as a team of 10, we will need to run collectively 26 miles and 385 yards (42.2 km). Each of us will run/jog/walk 2.6 miles (4.2 km) to complete our leg of the course before handing the baton to the next teammate. This will also be a great opportunity to raise money for CAFOD.

No training is required and you don't need to be an elite runner. It will be great fun. See

[www.romseymarathon.co.uk](http://www.romseymarathon.co.uk) for more info, please

contact me, Carrie at [cklfung@btconnect.com](mailto:cklfung@btconnect.com) if you are interested.

### CAFOD: A Gap Year opportunity

Are you 18-30, or do you know someone who is? Do you want to develop a wide range of skills including leadership while learning about global justice and inspiring others to use their faith in action? CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, believes in equipping and inspiring young adults to contribute to a more just and peaceful world. Step into the Gap is a fully funded year of volunteering, with food, accommodation, stipend and training within a UK placement plus a Rome and Assisi pilgrimage. Visit the CAFOD website for more information: [cafod.org.uk/gapyear](http://cafod.org.uk/gapyear)

### St Swithun Wells Parish Online Giving

If you would like to give directly online please scan in this QR code.



## SCHOOL NOTICES

Warm Room - St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School are 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.

### 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

### 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
Saturday 11th Feb	9.30am	Holy Cross	People of the Parish Alain Hunt RIP Anniversary  Magdalene Peto RIP Anniversary Real Olivier & Florentina Boucher RIP
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	
	6.00pm	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	
	6.30pm	St Edward	
Sunday 12th Feb  <i>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Kathleen Ditte RIP & Deceased Family Members FM Jeanette Butcher RIP Anniversary  Peter Singleton RIP Gillian Meaney (Wellbeing)
	9.00am	St Edward	
	9.00am	St Andrew	
	9.30am	OLQA (also live streamed)	
	11.00am	Holy Cross (also live streamed)	
11.00am	St Joseph		
Mon 13th	9.30am	Holy Cross	Gunta Navickiene (Wellbeing & Protection)
Tues 14th <i>St Cyril &amp; St Methodius</i>	10.00am	St Andrew	Tracy Hubbard RIP <u>Funeral Mass: Ann Brockway RIP</u>
	11.00am	<u>Holy Cross</u>	
	6.00pm	St Edward	
Wed 15th Feb	9.30am	Holy Cross	Emmanuel Altman RIP  Anne Topping RIP
	9.30am	OLQA	
	10.00am	St Edward	
Thurs 16th Feb	9.30am	Holy Cross	Members of the Pond Family
	12 Noon	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	
Fri 17th Feb	9.30am	OLQA	Margaret Martindale RIP George Bundock RIP
	10.00am	St Joseph	
	10.00am	St Edward	
Saturday 18th Feb	9.30am	Holy Cross	Eileen Wilkie (Birthday Anniversary)  Andrew Russell-Smith RIP Richard Bradley & Deceased Members of the Bradley Family RIP
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	
	6.00pm	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	
	6.30pm	St Edward	
Sunday 19th Feb  <i>Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> The New Family (Special Intention) Eileen Joyce RIP (Birthday Anniversary)  Edwin Legare RIP People of the Parish
	9.00am	St Edward	
	9.00am	St Andrew	
	9.30am	OLQA (also live streamed)	
	11.00am	Holy Cross (also live streamed)	
	11.00am	St Joseph	

### 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 (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

**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)