



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ 28th JANUARY 2024: FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JESUS HAS THE AUTHORITY BUT USES IT IN LOVE

I have learned over the years in Pastoral ministry not to judge a person after meeting them for the first time. Quite often the first meeting can be coloured by a series of difficulties, personal tragedies, worries and ill health. The temptation to make an early judgement on a person is real and I am sure that there are many today who suffer from a reputation set up by someone who has had little or no knowledge of the individual concerned. The truth is that the real person lies beneath the skin, and that we do not get to see the *whole person* until those qualities, talents and personality, rise to the surface in what they say or do. To put it another way, by their manner of life; words and actions authenticate our concept of the person. We can affirm the goodness of a person by their virtuous life of kindness, mercy, love etc; and decide whether they are in our judgment good or bad; people to have as friends or people to avoid.

For us who have Faith we know that for all the good that a person may do it does not make them a Christian. To be a Christian is to accept that Jesus is God Incarnate who takes our human form and who brings us Salvation. We believe His words will help us to achieve this. It's a struggle and we are still good and bad sometimes. The Gospel for this Sunday enables us to authenticate this message of eternal life and gain strength from it. Jesus' inner nature is revealed in the way He speaks with Authority. It was not like the Scribes but it was a recognizable authority. It comes from an inner source, indicative of His unique position as God Incarnate. It is a supernatural authority which is attested by the supernatural demons who cry out in fear of His use of it.

For Christians we are linked with the call to obey; to believe in the authority of God and of His Christ. This great gift which makes demons tremble, can heal the sick and restore sinners to health and well being, does not end with Jesus' death. It continues in the teaching Magisterium of the Church. The ministry of authentic and authoritative teaching is carried forward by the Apostles because Jesus wants His authentic word and actions to be present in every age and for all time. For each age we discover new and wonderful realities concerning the One we call our friend and our God. The depth of knowing the authentic Jesus is infinite and we are privileged to be allowed to see, even just a glimpse, of what lies in Him *under the skin*.

Some interesting words based on Psalm 18 show that authority is not so much an oppressive fearsome thing but for Christians an aid to freedom and wholeness.

How lovely is the law of God,
So righteous and so just;
Live out this way, the way of love
In all you say and do.

This law alone can soothe the soul
Give peace and inner joy;
like solid ground that we may trust,
and light to travel by.

Fr Bruce

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is the "Artificial Intelligence and Peace - message of Pope Francis" - 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 **10am on Wednesday 31st January**, please email your messages/notices to: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

If you wish to make a donation to our parish please go to: <https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/financesdonations>

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 28th January 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 4

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

1st reading Deuteronomy 18:15-20 **Psalm 94** **2nd reading** 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 **Gospel** Mark 1:21-28

Sunday 4th February 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 1

PSALM RESPONSE: PRAISE THE LORD WHO HEALS THE BROKEN-HEARTED.

1st reading Job 7:1-4,6-7 **Psalm 146** **2nd reading** 1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23 **Gospel** Mark 1:29-39

PARISH GROUPS



Youth Groups (including First Holy Communion & Confirmation)

Stars of Abraham (school years 3, 4, 5 & 6)

This coming week there will be a meeting with the parents during the sessions.

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9) &

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

For Grail Seekers & Student Youth 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.

To register for these groups please go to our website: <https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/parishlife>

Growing In Faith Together Group

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

Fellowship Group - Wednesday 31st January, 7pm-9pm in St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak.

This week we will have the first of our occasional series of evenings, "Understanding World Religions". We will begin with the "Abrahamic faiths" and so this week we

shall look at Judaism. Everyone is welcome. If you wish to join us on Zoom, please contact Peter Baggott on Peterbaggott@aol.com for the link.

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!

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.

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.

MESSAGES



Cultural Event on Artificial Intelligence

Sunday 28th January, 3.30pm in St Edward's

We have managed to reschedule the AI talk that was due to take place last October but had to be cancelled at short notice. We are going to listen to Daniele Magazzeni, PhD, who is an AI Expert. The topic of his talk will be the **Potential and Threats of Artificial Intelligence**.

Tea, coffee and cakes will be available from 3.30pm suggested donation of £1, the talk starts at 4pm.

Upcoming Readers Retreat - Saturday 3rd February

For Readers at St Andrew's & St Joseph the retreat is at **St Andrew's** from 2.30pm to 4.30pm, whereas **Readers at Holy Cross, St Swithun Wells and St Edward's** the retreat is at **Holy Cross** from 2.30pm-4.30pm.

Fr Raffaele's 50th Birthday Party

We are organizing a party to celebrate Fr Raffaele's 50th Birthday. It will be on **Monday 12th February 2024, 6pm** at **St Swithun Wells Primary School**. Please bring cake and snacks just enough for you and your family for the evening. We will provide coffee, tea and beverages. We also ask you to bring a donation for his present. Looking forward to seeing as many people as possible.

Fr Luca

Parish Lunch at the Hunters Inn, Romsey on

Monday 12th February at 12.30pm. All are welcome.

Menus are on the churches notice boards. Please let Rosemary (tel: 01794 522411) know your choice of meal by Sunday 4th Feb as we have to pre-order.

Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 4th February, 1pm-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 'Our Home as a Place of Memory'. 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 use the link you find on the "Next main parish events" section.

Next Get2Gether date for your diary: 3rd March

MESSAGES CONTINUED

Come & See Spring Half Term

Club (for children 7yrs-14yrs) at St Edward the Confessor Church

Monday 12th to Friday 16th February

Registrations are now open. For more information including costs, times, the Club extension and to register please go to:

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

CL Diocesan Day

The CL (Communion and Liberation) group in the Parish invites you to join in a special CL day, to be held on **11th February at St Edward the Confessor Catholic Church**, 191-193 Winchester Rd, SO53 2DU. **Please arrive at 12.30pm.** Programme for the day:

12.30pm: Arrival and bring & share lunch

2.30pm: Games and Songs

3.15pm: Witness and Conversation about Married life (children activities simultaneously)

4.30pm: Mass

Please bring some food to share. We will provide drinks, pudding and plates and cutlery. Please bring a donation for the venue. This is a great opportunity to invite any family or friends, **make sure you register by Sunday 4th February** using the link you find on the "Next main parish events" section on our website, so that we know how many people are coming.

Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Domenico Bibbo and for his family. Domenico's Funeral Mass takes place in **Holy Cross Church on Tuesday 30th January at 12.30pm.**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Kevin Coen and for his family. Kevin's Funeral Mass takes place in **St Edward's on Tuesday 6th February at 1pm.**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mark Herbich and for his family. Mark's Funeral Mass takes place in **St Edward's on Wed 7th February at 11.30am.**

What does it mean to be Human? Medical Ethics and Social Care Today - Saturday 16th March

10am-4.15pm, The Arc, Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8SB. Tickets cost £20.

See poster on church noticeboards for more info.

Parish Book Recommendation - The book is called *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* by Thornton Wilder. You can easily buy a copy online on Amazon or download it. This short novel is a real shining star which won the Pulitzer Prize. It helps us to understand how important it is to ask the right questions in life. I hope you will find the time to read this small masterpiece.
Fr Raffaele

A Big Thank You - My sister and I would, once again, like to thank Pat and Peter Baggott, Anna Goodfellow and all the wonderful team for baking and making The New Year Afternoon Tea such a lovely occasion. The food was delicious, with so much choice, and the entertainment was hilariously enjoyed by all. A lovely start to the New Year. God Bless You All!
Glenda & Pam

Eastleigh & Fair Oak Street Pastors

Could you spare one Friday night a month to listen, care and help make our community a kinder and more caring place to live in? We go out either between 8pm to around Midnight, or from 11pm to around 3am. Our training programme equips you for everything you need to join one of our patrols out on the streets.

Training dates have been arranged for March & April 2024. For more details and dates please go to:

<https://streetpastors.org/locations/eastleigh/about-us/newsletters/>

Contact Eric Hyom on erichyom@hotmail.com or tel: 07736 967921

Contact for Fair Oak is Mike Pritchard: M2rprtc@aol.com

Closing date for applications: Sunday 3rd March 2024.

Scam Alert - We have been made aware of parishioners in our parish being contacted by text or email by someone pretending to be Fr Raffaele asking for help with an 'urgent but discreet' matter. The scammer asks that you buy vouchers, for example Apple or Amazon gift cards, or goods which are needed urgently (as gifts to volunteers/staff hence the need for secrecy) and makes up an excuse as to why they won't be able to take calls. Parishioners are reminded that Fr Raffaele would **NEVER** email or text you asking for vouchers/goods in this way. None of our priests would do this. Scammers in the past have used a Gmail address and not Fr Raffaele's diocesan email. If you are in anyway unsure please speak to Fr Raffaele and do not respond to the email/text message.

SCHOOL NOTICES

St Swithun Wells Primary School Vacancy

Key Stage 2 Class Teacher required for Paternity Cover for the Summer Term. We strongly encourage prospective candidates to come and see the school, please contact the office to arrange an appointment either by email, adminoffice@st-swithunwells.hants.sch.uk or call on 02380 266210. If you would like further information please look on our website:

<https://www.st-swithunwells.org.uk/staff-vacancies/>
Closing date for applications: 5pm, Friday 2nd Feb

CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

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
1.30pm-2.30pm (not on 3rd Feb)	St Joseph
5.30pm-6pm	St Joseph
Sunday: 8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Edward
8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew

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
Saturdays:	Fr Mario not 3rd Feb, 2.30pm-4.30pm, Romsey Parish Office (26A Abbey Water)

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 27th January	9.30am	Holy Cross	Maria Smyth FM Sam & Sheila Sanders RIP Michael Wiston RIP Joan Applin RIP Anniversary
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	
	6.00pm	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	
	6.30pm	St Edward	
Sunday 28th January <i>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> People of the Parish Calvin Nel RIP Anniversary Sylvester McMahon RIP FM John Gare RIP
	9.00am	St Edward	
	9.00am	St Andrew	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	Holy Cross (also livestreamed)	
	11.00am	St Joseph	
Monday 29th Jan	9.30am	Holy Cross	Mary McMahon RIP FM
Tuesday 30th January	10.00am	St Andrew	Fr Clement Marshall RIP Funeral Mass: Domenico Bibbo RIP Mrs Edward Christian FM
	12.30pm	Holy Cross	
	6.00pm	St Edward	
Wed 31st January <i>St John Bosco</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross	Marjorie Harris & Benji Roberts RIP FM Roy Thomson RIP
	9.30am	OLQA	
	10.00am	St Edward	
Thurs 1st February	9.30am	Holy Cross	Sr Catherine Carey (Wellbeing)
	12 Noon	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	
Friday 2nd Feb <i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>	9.30am	OLQA	Sr Gina (Wellbeing) Mrs Edward Christian FM
	10.00am	St Joseph	
	10.00am	St Edward	
Saturday 3rd February	9.30am	Holy Cross	Regina Turl (Special Intention) People of the Parish Maureen Clewlow (Wellbeing) Tom Connolly (Wellbeing)
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	
	6.00pm	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	
	6.30pm	St Edward	
Sunday 4th February <i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Deceased Members of the Wyman & Uphill Families FM Stella & Peter Bowerman RIP Anniversary George Hendrikse (Thanksgiving) Eric Clarke RIP Anniversary
	9.00am	St Edward	
	9.00am	St Andrew	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	Holy Cross (also livestreamed)	
	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 Mario Toma (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: mtoma@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 Matteo Pagani
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: mpagani@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