



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

**26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023: OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE**

## MY KING AND MY GOD

One of the great changes I have noticed over the last twenty five years is the way in which the Faith is handed on to future generations of Catholics through imaginative and engaging Catechesis. The Children's Liturgy encourages our young children to have a familiarity with Scripture; our 1st Holy Communion Children follow imaginative courses to develop a love of the Church and its Sacramental life, while our Confirmation programmes help the Catechumens to answer for themselves their belief in Jesus and His teachings. All these wonderful things are carried out by dedicated Catechists who try to foster a relationship with Jesus which was not so obvious in times past.

Do you remember the Penny Catechism? Do you remember having to learn it by heart and be examined on it? There were a lot of numbers to remember - The Seven Deadly Sins, Four Cardinal Virtues and The Seven Corporal Acts of Mercy and the Ten Commandments. Well the Gospel for the Feast of Christ the King will remind you of the Acts of Mercy as Jesus uses them as hallmarks for those who are on their way to heaven. They are all Acts of Compassion and reflect what is right at the heart of true Kingship. The pomp and circumstance of Kingship epitomised in a Coronation is nothing without Compassion; power and dominion are nothing without Compassion....just think where you see the first sign of the true Kingship exemplified in Jesus. It is written in three languages above his bruised and battered body as he hung on the Cross, but that bruised and battered body is the price of true love for His people. Jesus, full of Love and Compassion, shows in his death what Kingship really means. This is the King who can conquer all through Compassion and Mercy.

In the old Rite of Confirmation a strange act used to take place as you knelt before the Bishop. Just after he Confirmed you he gave you a (hopefully) light smack on the cheek. This was thought to be a form of exorcism to drive out all harmful things. I like to think that it was also a reminder that the price of being part of the Royal Family of Christ the King, His Brothers and Sisters, is to suffer in the act of imitating His Love and Compassion as Disciples. It also earths us in a world which so often tries to stifle the voice of this triumphant message for political gain and utter selfishness by acts of violence.

I am sure that after the Coronation of King Charles III, there was a lot of clearing up to do - a lot of mess needing to be tidied up. You may remember the saying - "**After the Lord Mayor's Show comes the dust cart**". The two ceremonies go together; the ethereal pomp and the return to reality. The Feast of Christ the Universal King brings these two worlds together - the Transcendent and the Imminent. Lest we forget, Our King loves his subjects in all their conditions even when they think they are worthless.

I'm a man and a man is a creature  
Right up from his very birth.  
There's something as comes from Heaven  
And there's something as comes from earth.  
There's something as pulls him upward  
And there's something as pulls him down.  
So the consequence is that he hovers  
Between muck and a golden crown.

(Revd Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy - 1st WW Army Chaplain known as *Woodbine Willie*)

*Fr Bruce*

## GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is the "**Anscombe Statement about Indi Gregory**" - 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 29th November 2023**, please email your messages/notices to: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

# LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 26th November 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Office Proper

PSALM RESPONSE: THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; THERE IS NOTHING I SHALL WANT.

1<sup>st</sup> reading Ezekiel 34:11-12,15-17 Psalm 22 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Corinthians 15:20-26,28 Gospel Matthew 25:31-46

Sunday 3rd December 2023: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 1

PSALM RESPONSE: GOD OF HOSTS, BRING US BACK; LET YOUR FACE SHINE ON US AND WE SHALL BE SAVED.

1<sup>st</sup> reading Isaiah 63:16-17;64:1,3-8 Psalm 79 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Corinthians 1:3-9 Gospel Mark 13:33-37

## 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)

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.

## Growing In Faith Together Group

Tuesdays 10.15am to approx. 11.45am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. This Tuesday (28th Nov) we will be having a talk from Deacon Matteo about his vocation. All are welcome!

Fellowship Group - Wednesday 29th November, 7pm at St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. We continue our Advent Bible study. This week is, "A God Who Speaks". Everyone is welcome and if you wish to join us on Zoom please contact Peterbaggott@aol.com for the link.

## 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

## PARISH GROUPS



(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

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.

## 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 27th November. All are welcome!

## Upcoming Second Collection

9th/10th December for Church Christmas Flowers

Parish Retreat for Advent on Sat 2nd December, 2.30pm-4.30pm at St Edward's. Open to everyone. There will be a talk about Advent, some time for private prayer in the church and a time for questions and sharing thoughts.

## Advent Adoration at OLOA

Fridays: Mass will be at 10.30am, with Adoration from 11.15am-11.45am followed by soup and rolls in the Hall.

## Advent Penitential Services

These will be held across our parish, with the opportunity for individual confession:

Thursday 14th December, 7.30pm – OLOA

Friday 15th December, 7.30pm – St Andrew

Saturday 16th December, 11am – Holy Cross

*A number of priests will be available on each occasion*

## MESSAGES



Advent to Christmas Carol Service at St. Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak, on Sunday 10th December at 5.30pm. All are welcome. Please join us for mulled wine and mince pies afterwards!

Advent Carol Service at OLOA, Bishop's Waltham, on Sunday 17th December at 6pm. All are welcome. Please join us for a social afterwards in the hall!

## 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.

KSC Christmas cards designed by the pupils of St Swithun Wells school will be on sale after most Masses from this weekend. All for a good cause with all proceeds going towards local charities supported by the Knights of St Columba.

## MESSAGES CONTINUED

### Parish Lunch on Wednesday

**6th December, 12.30pm** at the Hunters Inn, Romsey. Menus are on the notice boards. All are welcome. Please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know your choice of meal **by Tues 28th Nov** as we have to pre-order. Thank you.

### Parish Christmas Party - Sunday 10th December, 1pm-4pm at St Swithun Wells Primary School

Menu: Main - Chicken (in a cream sauce with mushrooms and vegetables), a vegetarian option will be available; Dessert - To be confirmed; Please bring your own drinks.

Price £10 per person, children 16 and under free. We have kept the ticket price the same as last year (£10), however if you are able to pay more, please do so. In Holy Cross, St Andrew & St Edward's you can pay by contactless if you would prefer.

Tickets are available in our churches (in the welcoming areas) during this weekend and next weekend.

A limited number of tickets is available, the **deadline for purchasing tickets is Sunday 3rd December.**

### Admission by ticket only

Christmas jumpers and fancy dress actively encouraged!

### CAFOD Annual Christmas Fayre - St Edward's on Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th December after Mass.

Christmas produce and gifts on sale, also Hamper Raffle. Donations of cakes and Christmas goods gratefully received! For more details contact Clare Lasker on 02380 252138.

### Two Saints & Poitiers - Annual donations of gifts to Two Saints and Poitiers **will be collected at**

**St Edward's on 9th & 10th December.** For Two Saints gifts of hats, gloves, scarves and toiletries for both men and women; for Poitiers biscuits, sweets, chocolates, cakes and other Christmas goods would all be gratefully received.

Please do not wrap your gifts but put them into a "gift" type bag with a label attached naming the charity. The gifts will be brought up by the children during the

### 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 Mario, 10.30am-11.30am, Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**Tues:** St Edward - after Mass (6.30pm-7.30pm)

**Wednesday:** Holy Cross - after Mass (10.00am-11.00am)

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

### 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

5.30pm-6.00pm (before Mass) St Joseph

**Sunday:** 8.30am-9.00am (before Mass) St Edward

8.30am-9.00am (before Mass) St Andrew

Offertory at Mass. For more details contact Clare Lasker on 02380 252138.

### St Edward's Church - Flowers

Enhancing our lovely church with flowers is a very rewarding and joyful Ministry. We need more people to join the flower arranging team: all it takes is a little time – time that is flexible. No experience necessary as guidance can be given. Please contact Irene James to find out more on 023 8027 3389 or email [imajam17@outlook.com](mailto:imajam17@outlook.com). Thank you.

### Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Joan Mantell and for her family. Joan's funeral service takes place on **Thursday 30th November** at Southampton Crematorium.

Communication Group - The first meeting of the Communication Group was on 22nd November at **St Swithun Wells Church**. If you are interested in joining us please contact Kathy East: [Kathyeast361@gmail.com](mailto:Kathyeast361@gmail.com) or on 07928050948

Leaving a gift in your will - Legacy giving is an important form of stewardship, as it offers donors the opportunity to leave a lasting impact on the Church, and to ensure the continuation of the Catholic faith for generations still to come.

You can choose to leave a gift to your parish. However, you should ensure that the gift is made via the diocese, because the diocese is a registered charity and can benefit from charity tax exemptions. If you wish your parish to benefit, you can ask your will-writer to use particular wording to enable this. Indeed, it is important that you use a will-writing professional to ensure your final wishes are clear.

For more information contact the parish office on 02380 273882 or write to:

[legacygiving@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:legacygiving@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### Latest Diocesan Job Vacancies

Interim Finance Assistant (St Peters & the Winchester Martyrs Parish), Diocesan Health & Safety Officer, Diocesan Schools Estate Manager, Diocesan IT Technician. For more information please go to: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs/>

## OUR CHURCHES

**St Ed - St Edward the Confessor**

191-193, Winchester Rd, Chandlers Ford, SO53 2DU

**OLQA - Our Lady Queen of Apostles**

Martin Street, Bishop's Waltham, SO32 1DN

**HC - Holy Cross Church**

53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF

**SSW - St Swithun Wells**

Allington Lane, Fair Oak SO50 7DB

**St A - St Andrew**

Fleming Avenue, North, Baddesley SO52 9EP

**St J - St Joseph**

Abbey House Drive, Romsey, SO51 8YB

## MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 25th Nov	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Anu (Special Intention) Justine Power RIP  Anne Eley RIP Deceased members of the Baker & Hanrahan Families
Sunday 26th Nov <i>Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe</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> Barney & Peggy Rice RIP FM Harold Butcher RIP Anniversary  Charlie & Rita Kelly FM Teresa Rayment (for recovery)
Monday 27th Nov	9.30am	Holy Cross	Simeon Roy (Special Intention) Kevin Greig (Special Intention)
Tuesday 28th Nov	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	For the Carter Family
Wed 29th Nov	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross OLQA St Edward	Antonio Cicu FM
Thurs 30th Nov <i>St Andrew</i>	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Kenneth Sweet FM
Friday 1st Dec	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	OLQA St Joseph St Edward	
Saturday 2nd Dec	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	In Memoriam FM People of the Parish  Herbert Howie RIP Anniversary Jessie Regan RIP
Sunday 3rd Dec <i>First Sunday of Advent</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>  For the Patino Porto Family  Fr Marco (Wellbeing) Mrs Maureen Murphy (Wellbeing)

### 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