



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ
7th JANUARY 2024: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

TO FOLLOW THE STAR...

This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. The Magi arrive at Bethlehem from the East to pay homage to the King of the Jews following a star. The gospel of Matthew says, "There in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was."

The Magi followed a star which led them to the Son of God, one star among the many in the firmament of the sky, one star which was different, maybe more luminous, definitively going in a particular direction.

I have always been fascinated by the symbol of the star. We find many stars in our lives, stars which shine and invite us to follow them. Not all the stars are good, some are deceitful and, if we follow them, we go in the wrong direction and we get lost. Other stars are good, they lead us closer to God, closer to the truth and they allow us to discover what it means to be fully human.

We can find many good stars in literature. Some books are really shining stars which open great horizons in our human existence. As I did some time ago, I would like to suggest some readings this year which may help us to move in the direction of the truth.

Today I would like to suggest a book I read during the Christmas holidays. It is called *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* by Thornton Wilder. You can easily buy a copy online on Amazon or download it.

The beginning of the story is compelling. An ancient bridge collapses over a gorge in Peru, hurling five people into the abyss. It seems a meaningless human tragedy. But one witness, a Franciscan monk, believes the deaths might not be as random as they appear. Convinced that the disaster is a punishment sent from Heaven, the monk sets out to discover all he can about the travellers. The five strangers were connected in some way, he thinks. There must be a purpose behind their deaths. *"Why did this happen to those five?" If there were any plan in the universe at all, if there were any pattern in a human life, surely it could be discovered mysteriously latent in those lives so suddenly cut off. Either we live by accident and die by accident, or we live by plan and die by plan.*

I don't want to spoil this amazing story but just to say that 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. The Franciscan monk put forward the right question which leads the story to a surprising final. I hope you will find the time to read this small masterpiece.

I wish all of you a peaceful and happy 2024!

Fr Raffaele

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is the "Christmas Videoposter by Communion and Liberation" - 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 10th January**, please email your messages/notices to: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 7th January 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: Office Proper

PSALM RESPONSE: ALL NATIONS SHALL FALL PROSTRATE BEFORE YOU, O LORD.

1st reading Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 71 2nd reading Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday 14th January 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 2

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

1st reading Samuel 3:3b-10,19 Psalm 39 2nd reading 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20 Gospel John 1:35-42

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)

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 - The next meeting will be on Wednesday 10th January. We will have a New Year Liturgy starting at 7pm in St Swithun Wells Church. 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!

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.

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.

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 (26A 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

MESSAGES



Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Danny Munro and for his family. Danny's Funeral Mass takes place in St Edward's on Friday 12th January at 11.30am.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Maureen Clark and for her family. Maureen's Funeral Service takes place in Holy Cross Church on Friday 19th January at 11.30am.

Upcoming Second Collections: 20th/21st Jan for our Cathedral in Portsmouth. If you are able to gift aid please use the yellow envelopes for this collection.

Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

If you, or someone you know, would like to be baptised, confirmed or received into the Catholic Church (or know more about the Catholic faith) please speak to a priest or email Deacon Paul Owen: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Upcoming Parish Retreats

There will be a Eucharistic Minister Retreat on Saturday 13th January, 2.30pm-4.30pm in St Edward the Confessor, Chandler's Ford for all Eucharistic Ministers of the Parish.

There will be a Readers Retreat on Sat 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.

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, Mario & Bruce and Dcn Matteo

MESSAGES CONTINUED

New Year Afternoon Tea

14th January 2.30pm at St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. We are now fully booked for this event but if you have booked a place at the Afternoon Tea and find you are unable to attend, please let Pat Baggott know asap so that others can take your place. Contact details: Telephone or text 07801454400 or email: baggott.pm@gmail.com

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This year the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is from **Thursday 18th January to Thursday 25th January**. One of the ways in which Churches Together in Chandler's Ford marks this special week is to suggest to members of local congregations that they visit a different church service to that which they normally attend. The aim is to experience different types of worship and to appreciate a little of what is happening in other churches, as well as meeting other local Christians. This year the church swaps take place on **Sunday 21st January**. Members of St Edward's are invited to visit the Velmore Church on that date (service starts at 10.30am).

Help Needed - can you spare 2.5 hours once every 6/8 weeks? We need helpers at Coffee Stop on Thursday mornings between 9.15am-11.45am in Holy Cross Resource Centre. Please contact Pat Baggott 07801454400 or 02380694060 to discuss.

New to the Parish? - A very warm welcome to our parish; we are delighted that you have joined us. If you are looking to regularly attend one of our churches and join our vibrant community please complete one of the 'New to the Parish Registration Forms' available on our parish website: www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk. All families are welcome at ALL Masses, however we have specific Children's Liturgies on Sundays at Holy Cross, St Edward, St Andrew & St Joseph churches. Please ask one of the Welcomers for details of the times at your church.

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 info contact the parish office on 02380 273882 or write to:

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 & 5.30pm-6pm	St Joseph
Sunday:	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Edward
	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew

legacygiving@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Message from CAFOD

Do you enjoy working with children and young people? Could you help to inspire and empower children and young people in your local Catholic schools by delivering an assembly or a workshop? Supported by CAFOD with training and all resources provided please consider the role of CAFOD school volunteer. For more information contact Jo Lewry: jlwry@cafod.org.uk or phone 07710 094447. Also, the CAFOD Annual Report (including income and expenditure) has now been published and can be viewed at: <https://cafod.org.uk/about-us/how-we-work/annual-reviews>

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

The aim of the Symposium is to bring the Christian Tradition and its values into a constructive and fruitful dialogue with those of other viewpoints. It is open to people of all faiths and none, specialist and lay, to students and to anyone with an interest in medical and social care. Tickets cost £20, including sandwiches and refreshments, and are available on-line via Eventbrite: <http://what-does-it-mean-to-be-human-symposium.eventbrite.co.uk>

Come & See Spring Half Term Club (for children 7yrs -14yrs) at St Edward the Confessor Church

Mon 12th to Friday 16th February
Registrations are now open, please go to: <https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/comeandsee>

OUR CHURCHES

St Ed - St Edward the Confessor
191-193, Winchester Rd, Chandler's 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

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)

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Tuesdays: Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh
Wednesdays: Fr Luca not on 10th Jan, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh
Saturdays: Fr Mario not on 13th Jan, 2.30pm-4.30pm, Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 6th January	9.30am	Holy Cross	Mike Walsh RIP (Birthday Anniversary) People of the Parish Deceased Members of the Roddy Family RIP FM Albert James Boaden FM
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	
	6.00pm	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	
	6.30pm	St Edward	
Sunday 7th January <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Mrs Edward Christian FM Family of Margaret Allan Gary Leah & Thomas Leah RIP
	9.00am	St Edward	
	9.00am	St Andrew	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	Holy Cross (also livestreamed)	
11.00am	St Joseph		
Monday 8th Jan <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross	Louise Cosgrave RIP
Tuesday 9th January	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Pasquale Marucci RIP Anniversary
Wed 10th January	9.30am	Holy Cross	Thanksgiving Moira Houghton RIP
	9.30am	OLQA	
	10.00am	St Edward	
Thurs 11th January	9.30am	Holy Cross	Michael Lane RIP FM Mrs Thankamma Varghese RIP
	12 Noon	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	
Friday 12th January	9.30am	OLQA	Sr Maureen (Wellbeing) Funeral Mass: Danny Munro RIP
	10.00am	St Joseph	
	10.00am	St Edward	
	11.30am	St Edward	
Saturday 13th January	9.30am	Holy Cross	Fr Paul Chavasse RIP Rocio Bates (Thanksgiving) Joseph Fernandez RIP Anniversary People of the Parish
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	
	6.00pm	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	
	6.30pm	St Edward	
Sunday 14th January <i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Jozef Dembski RIP Eileen & Norman Joyce RIP Gualteri Smyth FM
	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