



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ 4th DECEMBER 2022: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent

Waiting or expectancy is an important dimension of our lives. We could say that a person is alive as long as they wait for something.

Each year during Advent we are encouraged to reawaken our desires, our longing and our expectancy. At the same time we are reminded that what really fulfils our longing is not something but a person. Advent is not just the waiting for something but of Someone, the Lord Jesus who comes to us every day.

I have recently reread the story of Jacob in the Old Testament. I was surprised at how rich it is in meaning. All the different parts of the life of the patriarch are profound but there is one which caught my attention and helps me to live Advent in a better way.

"When Jacob had reached a certain place, he passed the night there (...). Taking one of the stones to be found at that place, he made it his pillow and lay down where he was. He had a dream: a ladder was there, standing on the ground with its top reaching to heaven; and there were angels of God going up it and coming down. And the Lord was there, standing over him, saying, 'I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father, and the God of Isaac (...).'

Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, 'Truly, the Lord is in this place and I never knew it!' He was afraid and said, 'How awe-inspiring this place is! This is nothing less than a house of God; this is the gate of heaven!'" (Gen 28:10-17).

What strikes me in this episode is that the ladder of the mysterious relationship with God - the ladder which symbolizes the relationship between heaven and earth through this ascending and descending movement of the angels - this ladder rests on the earth, it is placed on the earth. And this physical contact of heaven with the earth, makes the earth sacred, or rather it reveals it as sacred, "Truly, the Lord is in this place and I never knew it (...). How awe-inspiring this place is! This is nothing less than a house of God; this is the gate of heaven!" (Gen 28:16-17).

Jacob had treated this earth and the stone upon which he had laid his head to sleep, with superficial familiarity. What is special, noble, precious about a stone in the desert? Now a dream reveals the truth to him. He understands that even a hard and insignificant stone in the desert can become an opportunity to meet God. For him that place, that stone, that reality is "the house of God; the gate of heaven", the place where God lives and the door through which we enter into a relationship with Him. For Jacob, all of reality has become the door that gives access to God, it is the base where the ladder is placed, the ladder that allows us to ascend to God.

This inspiring story helps me to remember that Jesus Christ is coming to me every day and the way he manifests himself is through the reality around me which becomes the door which gives access to Him.

Fr Raffaele

GEM OF THE WEEK

This week's GEM is "Your Pain is My Pain" letter from Pope Francis to the people of Ukraine - 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 7th December**, please email your messages/notices to: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 4th December 2022: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 2

PSALM RESPONSE: IN HIS DAYS JUSTICE SHALL FLOURISH AND PEACE TILL THE MOON FAILS.

READINGS: 1st reading Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 71 2nd reading Romans 15:4-9 Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

Sunday 11th December 2022: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 3

PSALM RESPONSE: COME, LORD, AND SAVE US.

READINGS: 1st reading Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 Psalm 145 2nd reading St James 5:7-10 Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

PARISH GROUPS



Fellowship Group - Wed 7th December, 7.30pm at St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. Advent Bible Study using the carol *Hark the Glad Sound* to look at the promise of, and the birth and life of Jesus, our Saviour and Prince of Peace. Join us at St Swithun Wells or by Zoom. To join us on Zoom contact peterbaggott@aol.com for the link.

Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) Group Tuesdays at 10.15am to approx. 11.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. On 6th December, Deacon Andrew will give a talk. Please arrive promptly for a 10.15am start. All are welcome!

Romsey Prayer Group - Every Wednesday morning at 11am in the St Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water. All will be made very 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. Next Meeting Date: 6th December

OASIS Christmas Meeting - Monday 5th December, 7.30pm-9pm at St Edward's: Come along to join in some Christmas craft, making cards and baking cookies to give to some isolated parishioners. All ladies welcome...we look forward to seeing you.

Knitting Club - There will be no Knitting Club in December.

60 Club - There will be no 60 Club in December. New dates will be announced in January.

MESSAGES



Second Collection 3rd/4th December

Christmas Flowers - If you would like to contribute towards the beautiful flowers & decorations that will be displayed in all of our churches there is a collection this weekend.

Solemnity of St Swithun Wells - On 10th December we celebrate the Solemnity of our Patron, St Swithun Wells. We will celebrate this during our morning Mass at Holy Cross, please try and attend and pray for our parish.

Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of James Vincent Quinn and for his family. James' funeral takes place at Holy Cross church on Thurs 8th December at 11am.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Roni Bown and for her family. Roni's funeral Mass takes place at St Joseph's church on Wed 14th December at 11.15am.

Advent & Christmas 2022 Sheet - see our website or pick up your copy from the church welcome area.

My Day by Day Advent Booklets - these are available in the church welcome areas. Children's booklets are free; a suggested donation of £1 for the adult booklets would be most welcome.

Looking At Revelation In Advent: An Ecumenical Course From Christians Together in Bishop's Waltham - A series of talks given by the Clergy and Ministers of the Churches in Bishop's Waltham. For more information please see the poster on church noticeboards.

Advent Adoration at OLOA

Fridays during Advent at 11.15am-12Noon 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 15th December, 7.30pm – OLOA

Friday 16th December, 7.30pm – St Andrew

Saturday 17th December, 11am – Holy Cross

A number of priests will be available on each occasion.

Advent Carol Service at OLOA - 6pm, Saturday 17th December (followed by social in the hall). Please note the Vigil Mass will be at 5pm on this day.

St Andrew's - Children's Nativity

We are planning a short children's nativity at the beginning of the 7pm Christmas Eve Mass. If you have a child who would like narrate a few lines please text Imogen Jones on 07590 270743. All children are invited to dress up as either an angel, a shepherd, a king or a stable animal and will be invited to join in on the night.

St Swithun Wells, Fair Oak, Christmas Card CAFOD Collection

- we are encouraging everyone to send one Christmas Card to church friends, and place it on our special noticeboard in St Swithun Wells Church. You can donate what you would have spent on cards and postage to CAFOD World Gifts, by placing your contribution in the CAFOD collecting box by the notice board where the cards are. Trisha (02380 693669)

MESSAGES CONTINUED



10 Year Plan Consultation

We are going to hold a consultation at **OLQA on Friday 9th December at 7pm**. We will be discussing the 10 Year Plan 'You will be my Witnesses' together with the Parish Vision. You will find both of these document on our website and some copies at church. This consultation is for both the communities at **OLQA & St Swithun Wells Church**.

Christmas Gifts for Poitiers and Two Saints

Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th December

Suggested donations are cakes, biscuits, sweets, chocolates, mince pies etc for Poitiers and hats, gloves, scarves, socks, toiletries etc for Two Saints. Please wrap your gifts and label them with the name of the Charity and bring them to Mass so that they can be taken up at the Offertory.

CAFOD Annual Christmas Fayre will be held in **St Edward's Cloisters on Sat 10th & Sun 11th of December after both Masses**. Donations of cakes and other festive fayre will be gratefully received. Any unwanted gifts which you have would also be welcome. All proceeds to CAFOD food crisis.

Parish Christmas Party

Sunday 11th December, 1pm-4.30pm

St Swithun Wells Primary School

Menu: Main - Chicken Daverio (with roast potatoes & ratatouille), a vegetarian option will be available;

Dessert - Apple crumble;

Please bring your own drinks.

Price £10 per person, children 16 and under free.

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 the weekend.

A limited number of tickets is available, the **deadline for purchasing tickets is Sunday 4th December**.

Admission by ticket only

Christmas jumpers and fancy dress actively encouraged!

Christmas Lunch at the Hunters Inn, Romsey

Tuesday 13th December at 12.30pm

Menus are on church noticeboards. All are welcome!

Please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know your choice of main course and dessert before Monday 5th

December as we have to pre-order.

Coffee Stop Christmas Special

Holy Cross Resource Centre, Thurs 15th December, 10am-11.30am. Coffee/tea and a Mince Pie £1.50.

There will be the popular Raffle during the morning. If you can bring a prize for the raffle we would be very grateful. Many thanks.

MISSIO - Red Boxes

Please collect a Missio Calendar from the shelf in the lobby (St Edward's). Please empty your red boxes into a named sandwich bag or such like. Bring it to St Edward's at either weekend Masses and give it to myself or Teresa in the repository. Alternatively post it through my letter box: 65 Pine Crescent, Chandler's Ford. Many thanks, Mary Vokes (Chandler's Ford Only)

Holy Cross Right of Way

Annually we have to bar access through our car park for at least 24 hours to prevent it becoming a public right of way. The main Leigh road gate will be closed after Mass on **Monday 26th December and it will re-open at 8.30am on Wednesday 28th December**. The barrier and pedestrian gate will remain operational.

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**. If you consider yourself to be a Senior Citizen then come along and enjoy delicious food, free raffle and entertainment. Places are limited and need to be booked. To book a place contact Pat Baggott by phone or text on 07801 454400 or email:

baggott.pm@gmail.com

We would welcome donations of homemade scones and cakes. If you can help with this please contact Pat.

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.



SCHOOL NOTICES



St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School

The School Nativity is on **6th December at 9.15am and also on 7th December at 2pm** at St Swithun Wells School.

Parishioners are welcome to attend the Nativity.

If you would like to come along please confirm your interest by emailing the school office:

adminoffice@st-swithunwells.hants.sch.uk

or calling 02380 266210.

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)

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

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 3rd Morning Mass: St Francis Xavier	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOA St Joseph St Edward	Bethany (Thanksgiving) People of the Parish Francisco & Capistrana Birthday Anniversaries Hazel Brown RIP Anniversary
Sunday 4th Dec <i>Second Sunday of Advent</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> Mary Uphill RIP FM Margaret Martindale RIP Phil Talbot RIP Leszek Kuras RIP
Mon 5th Dec	9.30am	Holy Cross	Fraternity of St Charles Annama RIP Gualtero Family FM
Tues 6th Dec	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Deceased Members of the Atterbury, O'Grady, Griffin & O'Connell families RIP
Wed 7th <i>St Ambrose</i>	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross OLOA St Edward	Baby RIP Keith Small RIP
Thurs 8th <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	9.30am 11.00am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross Holy Cross OLOA St Joseph	Ellen Lane RIP FM Funeral Service: James Vincent Quinn RIP Margaret Martindale RIP
Fri 9th Dec	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	OLOA St Joseph St Edward	Kate Prendergast RIP Mrs Edward Christian FM
Sat 10th Morning Mass: St Swithun Wells	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOA St Joseph St Edward	Sunny RIP Catherine Pearson RIP 10th Anniversary Margaret Martindale RIP Atterbury Family (Special Intention)
Sunday 11th Dec <i>Third Sunday of Advent</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> Enid Scappaticci RIP Anniversary People of the Parish Anand Moodley RIP Jesus Ocaya RIP Anniversary

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: rcosa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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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)