



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

**15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023: TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**HELLO!**

Dear parishioners,

I am Mario Toma, the new priest, who belongs to the Fraternity of Saint Charles Borromeo, and who joined the English mission in St Swithun Wells Parish in August of this year. Because of this, Father Raffaele asked me to write briefly about who I am and my vocation.

When I was young I lived in Caorle, that is a village near Venice, by the sea, in the North-East of Italy. After secondary school, I began a University of Padova engineering electronics course, but did not finish it because I found a very good and well paid job instead. So, I had a good job, good friends, a good car, I lived in a good flat; I was almost satisfied with my life, however I felt there was something missing, I wanted to start a family.

During the summer of 1996 I saw one exhibition about the life of Saint Terese of Lisieux. It was the first time that I had heard about her, but the life of this "little saint" was striking for me. A couple of things struck me the most. Firstly, the fact that she suffered because of the bad behaviour of some of the nuns that lived with her, and because of the difficulty of the life of seclusion. Despite this she never complained, on the contrary, she accepted suffering and offered those sacrifices for the conversion of the sinners. In other words she transformed her sufferings into an instrument for doing good, for the glory of Jesus. The other thing that moved me, was that when she died, she was only 24 years old, but she died with a kind of plenitude of life, that although short, gave her prompt entry to Heaven.

When I saw that exhibition, I was 24 years old as well, therefore I began to ask myself: if I die now, what have I done in my life? This was the very beginning of my vocation, because after that, I asked a friend of mine, who was a priest, to help me, and through a path, that sometimes was not linear, at the end I understood the calling of God to be a priest. I entered the seminary of the Fraternity of Saint Charles Borromeo and in 2006 I became a missionary priest.

Now I am involved in a struggle to obtain a work visa and stay here. In any case thanks to Jesus I am here, and if He finds it good that I should stay here, he will help me to go on and overcome the bureaucracy.

Before coming to England I was a missionary in Hungary and in the Czech Republic, and now I am very glad to be here, and to deepen my knowledge about the English culture and traditions. I am sure you will help me in this beautiful journey. God bless you all!

**Fr Mario**

## **GEM OF THE WEEK**



This week's GEM is "The Synod and the Gaze of Jesus" by Pope Francis  
- 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 Tuesday 17th October 2023**, please email your messages/notices to: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

# LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 15th October 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 4

PSALM RESPONSE: IN THE LORD'S OWN HOUSE SHALL I DWELL FOR EVER AND EVER.

1<sup>st</sup> reading Isaiah 25:6-10a Psalm 22 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Philippians 4:12-14,19-20 Gospel Matthew 22:1-14

Sunday 22nd October 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 1

PSALM RESPONSE: GIVE THE LORD GLORY AND POWER.

1<sup>st</sup> reading Isaiah 45:1,4-6 Psalm 95 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Thessalonians 1:1-5b Gospel Matthew 22:15-21

## PARISH GROUPS



### Youth Groups (including First Holy Communion & Confirmation)

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

Tues, 4.00pm-5.30pm in St Edward's Cloister;

Sat, 10.30am-Noon in Holy Cross Resource Centre.

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9) & Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

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.

Our Youth Groups are also the path we propose to those who want to be prepared to receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Registrations for the year 2023/2024 are still open on our website.

### Growing In Faith Together Group

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

Fellowship Group - Wednesdays from 7pm-9pm, St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. This week, 18th October, will be a Harvest Liturgy with 'Bring & Share' supper. For a link to Zoom contact Peter Baggott at: peterbaggott@aol.com Please note, there will be no Fellowship on Wed 25th October due to Half Term, nor on Wed 1st November as it is All Saints.

### Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community meet weekly:

Holy Cross, Wednesdays at 8pm;

St Edward's, Thursdays 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

Thursdays at 10am in St Edward the Confessor Church. 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, contact: Emmanuel Chituh (chiati2002@yahoo.com or 07915 379686) or Dcn Paul Owen (02380 254806 or powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

### 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

### 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

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!

60 Club - meets every fortnight on a Monday from 2pm-4pm at Holy Cross Resource Centre. Our next meeting is on Monday 16th October. All are welcome!

## MESSAGES

### Upcoming Second Collections

Sunday 22nd October for World Missions

Please do not use our yellow gift aid envelopes for this collection, Missio have provided their own, these are available to pick up in church welcome areas.

### Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA) in English & Cantonese - Wednesdays at 8pm in

St Edward the Confessor Church, Chandler's Ford.

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 Wedding - Please pray for Washington Muringayi and Tandiwe Jenje who celebrate their wedding at St Edward's on Fri 20th October. May the Lord bless their marriage with longevity, happiness and joy.

### Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Pasqualina Marucci and for her family. Pasqualina's Funeral Mass takes place on Tuesday 24th October at 12 Noon in Holy Cross Church.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Clare Ashcroft and for her family. Clare's Funeral takes place on Wednesday 8th November at 11.30am in St Edward's Church.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Maria Houghton and for her family. Maria's Funeral Mass takes place on Tuesday 14th November at 2pm in Holy Cross Church.

Rosary at Holy Cross - We will pray the Rosary every Thursday during October at 9am (before Mass).



## MESSAGES CONTINUED



### Cultural Friday - 20th October, 7pm at St Edward's

We are going to listen to Daniele Magazzeni, PhD, AI Research Director, about the **threats and potential of Artificial Intelligence**. Daniele Magazzeni is a Research Director at J.P. Morgan AI Research and is Head of the firmwide Explainable AI Center of Excellence. He is also the current President of the International Conference on Automated Planning and Scheduling (ICAPS). Daniele is Associate Professor at King's College London and a catholic consecrated lay person. Cheese and wine from 7pm, talk starts at 7.30pm.

### Come & See Half Term Club (ages 7 yrs to 14 yrs)

St Edward's Church, 8.30am to 3.30pm

Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October 2023

Daily cost: £10 for the first child, £5 per additional child (siblings). For more info and to register please go to: <https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/comeandsee> Volunteers will open the venue and welcome children from 8.30am (activities start at 9am) and will close it at 3.30pm (activities finish at 3pm). Please note that every day the Club is on we are offering a **Club Extension** where children can stay at the venue from 3.30pm until (maximum) 5.30pm. The Club Extension costs £10 per day per child.

### Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 5th November, 1-4pm 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. 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. Please can you bring your own cups/plates/cutlery. To book your place please go to our parish website and click the link.

### Parish Pilgrimage to Siena, Assisi & Rome

Tuesday 18th June - Sunday 23rd June 2024

We are jointly planning a Pilgrimage to Siena, Assisi and Rome with Tangney Tours on the occasion of the Ordination (God willing) of Matteo as a Priest.

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

#### 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

#### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tues: St Edward (6.30pm-7.30pm)  
Wednesday: Holy Cross - 10.00am-11.00am  
Thursday: St Joseph - before Mass (5.30pm-6.00pm)

Estimated cost is £1,105 per person based on two people sharing. For more details including the itinerary please go to our website. There will be a meeting to explain the itinerary and to answer questions on **Tuesday 17th October, 7.45pm in St Edward's**. The pilgrimage will be led by Fr Raffaele.

### Reminder from The Knitting Group

**Sunday 15th October, Holy Cross Resource Centre after the 11.00am Mass:** Display of knitted blankets and hats before they are donated. There will be a raffle to raise money to buy more wool for the group.

Parish Office - will be closed on Thurs 19th October due to staff attending an annual Diocesan meeting, therefore **newsletter items by Tues 17th October please.**

### St Swithun Wells Parish requires a Part-Time Housekeeper for the clergy in Eastleigh

The position involves housekeeping support to the parish clergy; dealing with house cleaning, laundry for the clergy and house; grocery shopping and cooking of some meals. The job is part-time (5 hours per week ideally to be worked Tuesday 09.30am to 1.30pm and Friday 9.30am to 10.30am, but we are flexible) with a salary of £10.73 per hour. For more details and an application form please see the parish website [www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](http://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

Or pick up an application form from the Parish Office. **The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Friday 27th October.** Interviews will then be held the following week with the intention that the successful applicant will start as soon as possible once references have been received.

Communication Group - If you have are having difficulties with Communication, maybe following a Stroke or Parkinson's or because of Dementia we would be interested in hearing from you. We are looking at setting up a group to support people and their spouses or carers with these issues. Once we know whether there is a need for such a group we can decide on a time and frequency and the most appropriate venue. We would also be looking for people to help with the group should it be required. I am usually at the 5pm Mass at Swithun Wells to give more information or phone me on 01962 849943 or 07928 050948, or email: [kathyeast361@gmail.com](mailto:kathyeast361@gmail.com)

I look forward to hearing from you. *Kathy East*

## SCHOOL NOTICES

### St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School

We're delighted to invite parents & their children to come together & visit us when considering a place for their child. See the school in action during the following mornings from **9.30am-10.30am:**

**Tues 7th & Wed 8th November 2023**

We also have a **Parents' Information Evening** on:

**Thursday 19th October at 6.30pm**

For further information visit the school website: <https://www.st-swithunwells.org.uk/admissions/>

# MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 14th Oct	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Allan Barltrop RIP Maria Jacobs RIP (10th Anniversary)  Peter Allan RIP Layzell Family Intentions
Sunday 15th Oct <i>Twenty-Eighth Sunday In Ordinary Time</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> Ian Warwick FM People of the Parish  Everton Lopez & Family (Special Intention) John Marsh RIP
Monday 16th Oct	9.30am	Holy Cross	Christy Coughlan RIP 1st Anniversary
Tuesday 17th Oct <i>St Ignatius of Antioch</i>	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Peace in Israel
Wed 18th Oct <i>St Luke</i>	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross OLQA St Edward	Michael Lane RIP FM  Peace in Israel
Thurs 19th Oct	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Peace in Israel  For Victoria & Richard (Wellbeing)
Friday 20th Oct	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Alice Neary RIP People of the Parish
Saturday 21st Oct	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Thanksgiving Jackie Callow RIP  Nigel Tait RIP Anniversary Florentina Boucher RIP 1st Anniversary
Sunday 22nd Oct <i>Twenty-Ninth Sunday In Ordinary Time</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> Catherine La Rooy RIP Monica Carrasco RIP Anniversary  Paul O'Brian RIP Michael Hayden (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 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 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