



## *Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ* 16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2025: SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING

The other day I washed some jumpers, as soon as they were dry I went to the laundry room (it's a small shed in our backyard), folded them nicely and went out; it was evening and someone had turned off the light in the yard thinking that no one was there. So I found myself having to go from the laundry shed to the kitchen in total darkness. I took a step, it was fine, I took another step, it was fine, at the third step there was a step to take, I climbed up the step, but my foot slipped off, because the step leads to a kind of pavement made of wooden boards that if they are a bit damp become very slippery! In short, I fell to the ground on my knee and sank a few centimetres into the mud. I started saying bad words, because in slipping my washed and nicely folded jumpers had fallen to the ground. I went to the kitchen, turned on the light and my trousers were completely muddy. I have to be honest: I said too many bad words... but at least it was in Hungarian, so if anyone was listening they wouldn't understand... but God hears and understands everything!

I was angry because my trousers got muddy and even some of my jumpers got dirty. So when I went to bed, I tried to thank Jesus for that day and to apologise for the bad words that had come out of my mouth because of that incident, but I was still very angry. The next day I went into the backyard and saw the hole made by my knee: it was 2 cm from the concrete edge of the pavement; just two centimetres further and I would have broken my knee! At that instant I realised the grace I had received: a dirty trouser instead of a broken knee. I thanked Jesus - this time much more sincerely and pacified - for the grace of not having hurt myself.

Often unforeseen things happen and we get angry because they create distress for us, because we would like to be perfect, but we are not, and our inabilities win out.

The real problem is that we tend to look at reality only from our point of view, having our own idea of how things should be, and we do not realise that despite our infirmities, or rather, precisely through our infirmities and mistakes, it is Jesus who acts, both for our good and for the good of the people around us. So, it is important to widen our mind and recognise the presence of Jesus beside us, also when things go wrong.

Paying attention to what happened to me has helped me to remember that there is a good God who loves me; this is also what the problems the gospel speaks of on this Sunday are for: poverty, hunger, crying, people who hate you... these are all seemingly unfavourable circumstances, but those who experience them are called blessed. The reason is simple: in those conditions one is much better able to recognise where the true good comes from and therefore to whom to entrust oneself, thus changing complaint and anger into praise and thanksgiving.

*Fr Mario*

### GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "Praying for vocations to Priesthood and religious life" by Pope Francis. 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 19th February 2025**, please email your messages/notices to: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto: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 16th February 2025: Year C - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 2

PSALM RESPONSE: BLESSED THE MAN WHO HAS PLACED HIS TRUST IN THE LORD.

1<sup>st</sup> reading Jeremiah 17:5-8 Psalm 1 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 1 Corinthians 15:12,16-20 Gospel Luke 6:17,20-26

Sunday 23rd February 2025: Year C - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 3

PSALM RESPONSE: THE LORD IS COMPASSIONATE AND GRACIOUS.

1<sup>st</sup> reading 1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23 Psalm 103 (102) 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Gospel Luke 6:27-38

## PARISH GROUPS



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

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

Tuesdays 4pm-5.30pm, St Edward's

Fridays 4.30pm-5.45pm, St Andrew's

Saturdays 10.30am-12pm, Holy Cross R/Centre

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9)

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

Fridays 6.30pm-8.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre

For more information about the groups please go to

our website: [www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/parishlife](http://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/parishlife)

(scroll down to Youth Groups).

### Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community meet weekly at:

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.

Fellowship Group - No meeting during Half Term. The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 26th February** at **St Swithun Wells Church, 7.30pm-9pm.**

Growing In Faith Together Group (GIFT) - every **Tuesdays at 10.15am** for coffee followed by bible study at 10.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. All are welcome!

### Ark of Fellowship - Group for learning disabilities or learning difficulties, their families and friends

Thursdays at 6.30pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre. Interested in volunteering or know some young adults who would like to join the group?

Contact: [arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com](mailto: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! Next Meeting: Tuesday 18th February

## MESSAGES



### Mass at St Joseph's - On Saturday 15th

February there will be an additional Mass at 12 Noon at St Joseph's Church, Romsey. At this Mass, Samantha Harris of St Joseph's and Andrea Hurry of St Boniface, Shirley will make their First Promises as Secular Carmelites. The Mass will be led by Fr Matt Blake a Carmelite Friar from Kensington Priory. All parishioners are invited and would be most welcome at this Mass.

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

Mon 17th to Friday 21st February, 8.30am-3.30pm

For more information including costs, times and to register please go to:

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

Laugh off the winter blues - Come to an afternoon of Call My Bluff plus a light hearted quiz, in Romsey Parish Centre, Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February, from 2-4pm. No charge but, as space is limited, if you intend to come please give your name to either Ann Heslop, Sr Catherine or Rosemary Peacock.

### Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 2nd March, 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. 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: 6th April

### Cultural Friday - 7th March from 7pm in St Edward's

We will listen to a talk entitled, "The Enigma of Sexuality - Sex, gender and sexual orientation: What is it all about?" by Fr Alberto Frigerio, Assistant Professor of Ethics of Life at the Higher Institute of Religious Sciences in Milan. He graduated in Medicine and Surgery and obtained a Masters in Integrative Neuroscience at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Cheese, wine and nibbles from 7pm, suggested donation of £1, the talk starts at 7.30pm.

Parish Office - please note the office will be closed on Friday 21st February.

## MESSAGES CONTINUED



**Happy Monday Club** - Hello and a Happy New Year! We have a birthday and a jury service summons in February so our first event of the year will be on **Monday 10th March at 2pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre** in Eastleigh. We will be showing a film, "Shamrock Spitfire". The film is a true story based on the life of Brendan "Paddy" Finucane, a fighter pilot who became the youngest Wing Commander in the history of the Royal Air Force, at the age of 21. Suggested donation of £2 to include refreshments. If you need to know anything please contact Karen or Peter on 07809596831 or [jakeman1966@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jakeman1966@hotmail.co.uk) and we hope to see you there.

**Lent Parish Retreat** - We will hold a Parish Retreat for Lent, led by Fr Raffaele on **Saturday 15th March, 2.30pm-4.30pm at St Edward**. Open to everyone. There will be a talk about Lent, some time for private prayer in the church and a time for questions and sharing of thoughts.

**St Patrick's Day Musical Evening - Save the date!** **Saturday 22nd March at OLOA**. All are welcome. Tickets £7 each. Start at **7.15pm**. More details to follow. *Marie Kemp on 07760 809640*

**Parish Pilgrimage to Lisieux, France**  
**Friday 23rd - Monday 26th May 2025**  
Bookings for our parish pilgrimage have been very encouraging, and there are only a few places left. If you are considering joining us to learn more about St Therese and visit the place of her birth, convent and surrounding area, please visit the parish website for more information and booking form. If you have any questions or would like more help, please email: Anne Monaghan at [anne.monaghan@outlook.com](mailto:anne.monaghan@outlook.com)

### **Grail Seekers The Promise - 15th & 16th February, Isle of Wight**

The Promise is a special celebration that we will hold annually (this year is it in Quarr Abbey), inviting the young people who are part of Grail Seekers to freely and consciously respond to God's love. During this celebration, they will promise before Him to remain faithful to the Church by following the Rule of Grail Seekers. The Promise offers children an opportunity to make a personal decision, deepening their experience of the Church as their home and fostering a sense of belonging to God. Please pray for our young people as they take this important step.

**Upcoming Funeral** - Please pray for the repose of the soul of Norma McCarthy and for her family. Norma's Funeral Mass will take place on **Friday 28th February at 11.30am in St Joseph's church**.

**Seniors Afternoon Tea Thank you Message** - My sister and I wish to convey a big thank you to Pat Baggot and her wonderful team who put in a lot of work for the Parish Seniors Afternoon Tea. All the food: an assortment of tasty sandwiches, sausage rolls, cheese scones and a lovely selection of cakes and scones, all home made, plus jam and cream were delicious and plentiful. We also enjoyed entertainment including a musical quiz to which, if we wished, we sang along to. A really lovely time was had by all. Thank you once again.  
*Glenda & Pam*

**Eastleigh & Fair Oak Street Pastors - Volunteers Needed!** Could you spare one Friday night a month, to spread the love of Jesus in Eastleigh or Fair Oak? There is a choice of shifts from 8pm to around midnight, or from 11.30pm to around 3am, on a Friday night. You are invited to come out as an observer. If you then wish to join a team, there is an application form and training to be completed.

For more info and details of the training dates and times please go to the Street Pastors website. **Applications by end of Sunday 23rd February 2025.** <http://www.eastleigh.streetpastors.org.uk/> or email [eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk) or phone Eric Hyom on 07736967921

To view our latest newsletter please go to: [https://streetpastors.org/locations/eastleigh/wp-content/uploads/sites/67/2025/01/newsletter\\_Edition\\_30.pdf](https://streetpastors.org/locations/eastleigh/wp-content/uploads/sites/67/2025/01/newsletter_Edition_30.pdf)

**Mass Intentions** - if you would like to have a Mass offered in one of our six churches, please complete one of the white envelopes (available in the welcome areas of our churches). If you would like a particular date please speak to Sarah in the Eastleigh Parish Office who will be able to arrange Mass Intentions at Holy Cross, St Edward & St Swithun Wells. Please speak to Dcn John for arranging Mass Intentions at St Andrew's & St Joseph's and speak to Fr Mario at OLOA. The donation that you make goes directly to the priest who offers the Mass Intention, it does not go to the parish, therefore the donation cannot be gift aided. Please either place cash or a cheque (made payable to CDP St Swithun Wells) in the envelope and hand to a member of the clergy who will bring it down to the parish office in Eastleigh.

Alternatively you can make a **bank transfer** to the main parish account:

CDP ST SWITHUN WELLS, with sort code 30-93-04 and account number 01786599.

Please indicate that the transfer is for a Mass intention by putting MI in the reference.

Please do not use the DONA machines at Holy Cross, St Edward or OLOA to make a donation for a Mass Intention. If you have ever made an offering to the parish through the DONA and signed up to gift aid on the machine it will automatically add gift aid.

**Times a priest will be available to meet** - due to Half Term there will be no priest surgeries this week.

### **ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

**Tues:** St Edward - after Mass (6.30pm-7.30pm)  
**Wednesday:** Holy Cross - after Mass (10am-11am)  
**Thursday:** OLOA - after Mass (12.30pm-1pm)  
**Thursday:** St Joseph - before Mass (5pm-6pm)

### **At a Glance - List of Upcoming Parish Events**

**17th-21th Feb:** Come & See Half Term Club  
**18th Feb:** Call My Bluff & Quiz afternoon  
**18th Feb:** Knitting Club at Holy Cross restarts  
**2nd Mar:** Parish Get2Gether  
**7th Mar:** Cultural Friday  
**10th Mar:** Happy Monday Club Event  
**15th Mar:** Lent Parish Retreat  
**22nd Mar:** St Patrick's Day Musical Evening

## MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 15th Feb	9.30am	Holy Cross	<b>Carmelites Mass</b> Agnes Carter RIP & All Deceased Members of the Sullivan Family  Teresa Savage RIP Roy Haslam RIP
	<b>12 Noon</b>	<b>St Joseph</b>	
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	
	6.00pm	OLQA	
Sunday 16th February  <i>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> People of the Parish Jeanette Butcher RIP Anniversary  Baby Thomas RIP Max Cockings RIP Assad Bshara Hayek RIP
	9.00am	St Edward	
	9.00am	St Andrew	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	Holy Cross (also livestreamed)	
	11.00am	St Joseph	
5.30pm	Holy Cross		
Monday 17th Feb	9.30am	Holy Cross	
Tuesday 18th Feb	10.00am	St Andrew	Pamela Macadini (Wellbeing)
	6.00pm	St Edward	
Wed 19th Feb	9.30am	Holy Cross	Baker Family RIP Anniversary
	10.00am	St Edward	
Thursday 20th Feb	9.30am	Holy Cross	Pat Carmody (Wellbeing)
	12 Noon	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	
Friday 21st Feb	10.00am	St Joseph	Sr Anne Goodman (Jubilee 80 years) Phyllis Altman RIP Anniversary
	10.00am	St Edward	
	12 Noon	OLQA	
Saturday 22nd Feb <i>Morning Mass: The Chair of St Peter</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross	People of the Parish Helena & Jan Ferenc RIP Teresa Rogers RIP Mary & Thomas Connolly (Special Intention)
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	
	6.00pm	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	
	6.30pm	St Edward	
Sunday 23rd February  <i>Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> George Sandhu (Birthday Intentions) Helen Armshaw RIP  Ray Harrison RIP Eric Clarke RIP Anniversary Milad-Joseph Kreiker RIP
	9.00am	St Edward	
	9.00am	St Andrew	
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	Holy Cross (also livestreamed)	
	11.00am	St Joseph	
	5.30pm	Holy Cross	

## CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)  
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: [rcossa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:rcossa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)  
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: [lspeziale@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lspeziale@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Fr Mario Toma (Assistant Priest)  
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: [mtoma@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:mtoma@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Fr Matteo Pagani (Assistant Priest)  
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Fr Pietro Paiusco (Assistant Priest)  
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Deacon John di Meo  
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Deacon Paul Wilson  
Tel: 023 8061 6618; E: [pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:accounts@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

**Parish Secretary:** Sarah Goodfellow  
Email: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

**Website Contact:** [website.sswp@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:rattfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)