



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

18th SEPTEMBER 2022: TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Holy Cross and Our Lady

Two important feasts are celebrated by the Church in September. They are the *Exaltation of the Holy Cross*, on 14th September, and *Our Lady of Sorrow*, on the following day.

The first feast is solemnly celebrated in our Holy Cross church in Eastleigh. Saint Helena, the mother of the Roman emperor Constantine, went to the Holy Land at the beginning of the 4th century to find the True Cross where Jesus was hanged. Tradition says that she managed to spot the cross, in the mount of Calvary. She wanted to erect two churches there, which comprised Constantine's Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre. Between 13th and 14th September 335 the two churches of the Martyrion and the Anastasis (Resurrection) were inaugurated.

The relics of the True Cross were already scattered throughout the Christian world at the time of the Catecheses (348-350) of St Cyril of Jerusalem. In 614 the relic of the True Cross had been taken as spoils of war by the Persians. However, in 628 it was recovered thanks to the victory of the Emperor Heraclius, who on his return to Constantinople celebrated his triumph on 14th September of that year and then returned the relic to the Holy Sepulchre.

This feast helps us to remember that eternity in glory and the salvation of the human race pass through the cross, through which Our Lord conquered sin and death, against all the world's expectations. There can be no Christianity without the cross, which is the premise of the Resurrection and which has made the faithful of all times discover the meaning of suffering on earth. We read in the Catechism, 'Suffering can now configure us to Him and unite us with His redemptive Passion' (CCC 1505).

The second feast helps us to remember the seven sorrows of our Blessed Mother, St Mary: the prophecy of Simeon, the flight into Egypt, the loss of the holy child at Jerusalem for three days, meeting with Jesus on his way to Calvary, standing at the foot of the cross, Jesus being taken from the cross, and the burial of Christ.

St Mary always knew that Jesus would die and hoped he would rise again. She kept this hope with great fidelity. Despite this, she still mourned the crucifixion and cried deeper than we have ever cried. St Mary's sorrow was a deep sorrow. In the Gospel we can read that Simeon compares this sorrow to a sword that pierces the soul. St Mary was a perfect creature because she never sinned, and because of her perfection, she loved more deeply than us. Because of this love, she felt the sorrow of loss more acutely than we did.

We can only imagine how Jesus felt when he saw his grieving mother. It certainly caused him some pain, but it was also a great support. The rest of the world might be cruel and selfish, but his mother's face was the only place his eyes could rest.

St Mary's sorrow was not a hopeless sorrow. She knew with some hope that Jesus would rise from the dead. Her hope did not stop her from experiencing acute pain, nor did the pain prevent her from expecting his resurrection. We can put all our sorrows in Our Lady's hands, because she is really able to suffer with us and to accompany us in our trials.

Fr Marco

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is, "The Loss of a Faithful Queen" by Bishop Philip - 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 21st September**, please email your messages/notices to: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 18th September 2022: Year C - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 1

PSALM RESPONSE: PRAISE THE LORD, WHO RAISES THE POOR.

READINGS: 1st reading Amos 8:4-7 Psalm 112 2nd reading 1 Timothy 2:1-8 Gospel Luke 16:1-13

Sunday 25th September 2022: Year C - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 2

PSALM RESPONSE: MY SOUL, GIVE PRAISE TO THE LORD.

READINGS: 1st reading Amos 6:1a,4-7 Psalm 145 2nd reading 1 Timothy 6:11-16 Gospel Luke 16:19-31

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)

Our Youth Groups for children in primary school and young people in secondary school will restart at the end of September 2022. Registrations for the year 2022/2023 are now open on our website:

www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

We would like to remind you that if a child or a teenager wants to be prepared to receive First Holy Communion (and is at least in school year 3) or Confirmation (and is at least in school year 9) we will ask them to come regularly to one of the three groups according to their age. They will receive First Holy Communion or Confirmation when they are ready (usually after one year).

There will be a meeting on **Saturday 17th September 2022 at 11am** in St Edward's cloister for all the parents and guardians where we will present the **2022/2023 Stars of Abraham programme**. The Stars of Abraham groups start week commencing 19th September.

There will be a meeting on **Sunday 18th September 2022 at 4pm** in the Holy Cross Resource Centre for all the parents and guardians where we will present the **2022/2023 Grail Seekers programme**.

With Student Youth and Grail Seekers groups we will have our **first meeting on Saturday 24th September**. It will be a day trip, for more information and to register please go to our website.

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!

Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

Starts on Wed 5th October at 8pm in St Edward's

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.

PARISH GROUPS



Fellowship Group - Wed 21st September at

7.30pm in SSW church, Fair Oak. We will be looking at the significant legacy of Pope John Paul I. If you would like to join us on Zoom please contact peterbaggott@aol.com

Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) Group

Tuesdays at 10.15am to approx. 11.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. On 20th Sept we will be looking at the life and works of St Vincent de Paul. All welcome!

The Little Flowers Baby & Toddler Groups

Holy Cross Group resume their meetings on **Wed 21st Sept at 10am** in the Resource Centre, Eastleigh; **St Joseph's Group** meet on **Thursdays from 10.30am - 12 Noon** in the Parish 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

OASIS is Back! Monday 26th September, 7.30pm in **St Edward's Cloister, finish at 9pm**. As a welcome back for old friends and any new ladies who would like to find out more about us, we're having a **Wine and Cheese** social. Come along for a relaxing evening, to catch up and share ideas for future meetings. **ALL LADIES WARMLY WELCOMED!** Future Meetings: Mondays once a month, dates to be agreed.

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.

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!

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Margaret French would like to invite you to her annual Macmillan coffee morning at **St Andrew's on Fri 23rd September from 10.30am to 12.30pm**. We always manage to raise a good amount of money for this very

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worthy cause. Macmillan were a lifeline for us when we nursed my husband for six weeks until he died of cancer in 2004, so this charity is very close to our hearts.



MESSAGES CONTINUED



Upcoming Second Collection

Home Mission - 17th/18th September, on what has recently been renamed *Evangelii Gaudium Sunday* (Sunday of the Joy of the Gospel). This Second Collection will support those who work within the Bishops' Conference Mission Team, alongside our bishops and dioceses. You can also donate online at: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/home-mission-sunday>

St Edward's - Confessions on Sundays

From 25th September there will be Confessions in St Edward's at 8.30am (before Mass) every Sunday.

Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Vincenzina Peluso and for her family. Vincenzina's Funeral Mass takes place at **Holy Cross on Wed 21st September at 11am.**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Eileen Buckingham and for her family. Eileen's Funeral Service takes place at **Holy Cross on Wed 28th September at 12.30pm.**

OLOA Quiz

Join us on Saturday 8th October at 7.15pm
£5 per person to include drink & cheese/charcuterie. Bring or join a team of up to six people. Tickets on sale after weekend Masses or prebook on 07760 809640.

Going Deeper

Are you wanting to go deeper into your faith and prayer life? A new monthly meeting in the Romsey Parish Centre (26a Abbey Water SO51 8EJ) will provide an opportunity for that. It will centre on the spiritual guidance offered by the great Carmelite saints like St Teresa of Avila, St John of the Cross, and St Thérèse of Lisieux. Although discussion of their texts will form part of the meeting, the focus will be very much on the help we can give each other to grow our prayer lives. The first meeting will begin at **10.30am on Saturday 22nd October**. It will include the Morning Prayer of the Church, discussion of a Carmelite text, lunch (please bring your own), and a period of silent prayer. This meeting is sponsored by the Secular Carmelites (OCDS), who constitute a lay branch of the Discalced Carmelite Order (OCD), and it will be open to all Catholics from the Portsmouth and neighbouring Dioceses.

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
	5.30pm-6.00pm	OLQA
	5.30pm-6.00pm	St Joseph
Sunday:	8.30am-9.00am	St Andrew
	9.00am-9.30am	OLQA

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday: St Edward's - after Mass (6.30pm-7.30pm)
Wednesday: Holy Cross - after Mass (10.00am-11.00am)
Thursday: St Joseph - before Mass (5.00pm-6.00pm)

For further information contact Cyprian Blamires (OCDS Regional Representative) on 01858 468224 or 07714 651756 (cpblamires@aol.com) or Samantha Harris (parish organiser) 01794 503716.

Mass to Celebrate Bishop Philip's 10th

Anniversary, Thurs 29th Sept at 12:00 in Portsmouth Cathedral. 10 years ago, Pope Benedict XVI appointed Msgr Cn Philip Egan as Bishop of our Diocese. The Cathedral Chapter of Canons would like to organise a Mass in his honour followed by a reception (of drinks and nibble) in the Cathedral Centre. Do try and come.

The Digital Collection Plate

We are very grateful to parishioners for their generosity to the parish, especially in these recent uncertain and difficult times. Thank you also to the many who have kindly responded to the invitation to consider setting up a Standing Order and if possible, Gift Aid their donation.

Over the next few weeks, a card reader will be installed in the church foyers at Holy Cross, St Edward & St Andrew, to start with. Contactless payments are touch-free. There is no need to type in your PIN (unless your card requires it) or hand over your card. Simply select the amount you wish to give from the options on the screen. When the screen prompts for payment, hold your card over the reader, listen for the beep, and your payment is done.

Gift Aiding your contactless donations: You only need to register to Gift Aid once per card. Once registered, the card reader in the church will recognise it the next time you make a gift aided payment. When you donate using your contactless card without Gift Aid, no personal information is collected.

Alternatively, please scan in this QR code which will take you directly to the online giving page.



SCHOOL NOTICES



St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School

School Mass - We are holding a Mass at St Swithun Wells School on **Thursday 22nd September at 2pm** to give thanks for the New School Year. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Vacancies - We are currently recruiting for a Higher Level Teaching Assistant & a Midday Supervisory Assistant. For more info and to apply please go to: <https://www.st-swithunwells.org.uk/vacancies/>

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Tuesdays: Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh
Wednesdays: Fr Luca, 4.30pm-6.30pm, 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 17th Sept	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	John-Paul Anthraper (Thanksgiving) Barry Sidley RIP Queen Elizabeth II RIP Christopher Gibbons RIP
Sunday 18th Sept <i>Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA (also live streamed) Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Amala Joshy (Special Intention) Eileen Joyce RIP People of the Parish Gail Patrick RIP Anniversary
Mon 19th	9.30am	Holy Cross	Queen Elizabeth II RIP
Tues 20th <i>St Andrew Kim Taegon, St Paul Chong Hasang & Companions</i>	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Michelle Sant-Fournier RIP Margaret Martindale RIP
Wed 21st <i>St Matthew</i>	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am <u>11.00am</u>	Holy Cross OLQA St Edward <u>Holy Cross</u>	Regina Turl (Special Intention) In Thanksgiving <u>Funeral Mass: Vincenzina Peluso RIP</u>
Thurs 22nd Sept	9.30am 12 Noon <u>2.00pm</u> 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA <u>St Swithun Wells School Mass</u> St Joseph	Molly George RIP Martin & Desmond Pond
Fri 23rd <i>St Pio of Pietrelcina</i>	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	OLQA St Joseph St Edward	
Sat 24th Sept <i>Morning Mass: Our Lady of Walsingham</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Pat Freemantle FM People of the Parish Ann Wood RIP
Sunday 25th Sept <i>Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA (also live streamed) Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Folco Scappaticci RIP Anniversary Newton Carrasco RIP Anniversary Jackie Higgins RIP (Birthday Intention)

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 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)