



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ 29th JANUARY 2023: FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"I DO NOT BELIEVE IT !!!"

as Richard Wilson would say in the - *One Foot in the Grave*, TV series

There are some in society who want you to believe "Governance" and "Religion" are separate and should *not be mixed*. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT – and neither SHOULD YOU, in fact, we should challenge any move towards Secularisation!!

We have just had Christmas, an event which celebrates the first coming of Christ [*Why!! are people trying to have Christmas without Christ?*]. This happened over 2000 years ago, our calendar is based on the birth of Christ i.e. BC and AD [*Why!! try to change it?*], but we also look toward his second coming. [*Why!! do we ignore this?*].

But, moving on, as I come out of Christmas, my attention moves towards Lent. What I found (or I should say re-found) was the perfect reply to those who suggest the separation of Religion from Governance. It was the Gospel for the First Sunday in Lent, Matthew 4:1-11, about the temptation of Christ, it is also about the response of Christ to the devil, which is a lesson we must all learn. This is the Gospel: [*with my comments added in italics in brackets*]

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: *Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*' [*comment: lobbyists try to "feed" MP's*]

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God' he said 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: *He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.*' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: *You must not put the Lord your God to the test.*' [*comment: political parties claim they support MP's*]

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: *You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.*' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him. [*comment: ministers offer MP's the earth for their support*]

The devil, via others, puts temptation in the mind of politicians, and some regurgitate this "Trust in us and we will give you everything you ever dreamed of." Sadly this is not true. Our world is in chaos, with wars, injustice, and inhumanity. I remember a recent cartoon which showed Piglet and Winnie-the-Pooh, walking together and Piglet says to Winnie, "*Do all fairy tales start with – 'Once upon a time'*", Winnie's answer is, "*not always – sometimes they begin with 'if you elect me I will' ...*" But that aside, the majority of MP's, come with good intentions. However, once inside parliament, they have many challenges, by Lobbyists and those who think that the rich deserve to be richer, and who cares about the rest.

God created the world, and we; our Government; and others; are tasked with its upkeep for all peoples (not some – all). We have a responsibility to help our representatives not to get distracted by others, including the devil. Finally, Governance of God's world is religious work, and to those who disagree the answer is simple "Get behind me Satan."

The bottom line is how can religious people (you) best influence their representatives in government.

For more simple ideas on how to do this, email me at pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Paul Wilson

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is 'Cardinal Nichols on Pope Benedict and the legacy of his visit to the UK' - 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 1st February 2023**, please email your messages/notices to: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 29th January 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Psalter Week 4

PSALM RESPONSE: HOW HAPPY ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT: THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

READINGS: 1st reading Zephaniah 2:3,3:12-13 Psalm 145 2nd reading 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 Gospel Matthew 5:1-12a

Sunday 5th February 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Psalter Week 1

PSALM RESPONSE: THE GOOD MAN IS A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS FOR THE UPRIGHT.

READINGS: 1st reading Isaiah 58:7-10 Psalm 111 2nd reading 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 Gospel Matthew 5:13-16

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)

Please check the parish website for the calendar of meetings, times and venues.

www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

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!

Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) Group

Tuesday 31st January at 10.15am to approx.

11.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. We will be continuing our DVD series on Prayer called 'Strength to Strength'. All are welcome!

Fellowship Group - Wed 1st February, 7.30pm in St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. We are continuing with our final session of "Sacred Spaces - Religious buildings that have touched our lives". Everyone is welcome. If you cannot come in person, join us on Zoom. For information or the Zoom link please contact Peter on peterbaggott@aol.com

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. Come and join us for tea, games and good fun. All welcome! **Next Meeting: 2pm on 7th February.**

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 (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

MESSAGES



St Swithun Wells Parish Financial Summary 2021/22

A summary of the Parish Finances covering the period 1st September 2021 to 31st August 2022 has been produced and is available in all of our churches, please pick up your copy or see our website: <https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/financesdonations>

Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Sr Theresa McAnelly and for her family. Sr Theresa's Funeral Mass takes place in St Joseph's on Tuesday 31st January at 1.30pm.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Florence McNally and for her family. Florence's funeral service takes place at Test Valley Crematorium on Thursday 2nd February.

Parish Get2Gether - 5th February, 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 on the topic of 'Education of the children in their faith'. 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. *Future Get2Gether date for your diaries: 5th March*

Parish Lunch at the Hunters Inn, Romsey on Thursday 9th February, 12.30pm. All are welcome. Menus are on the noticeboards. Please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know your choice of meal before Wednesday 1st February as we have to pre-order. Thank you.

MESSAGES CONTINUED

Beat The Winter Blues

Come to a light-hearted quiz in Romsey Parish Centre, 26 Abbey Water, on **Tuesday 14th February, starting at 2.30pm**. No charge but, due to limited space, we need to know numbers. If you intend to come, please let Margaret French (01794 278151), Jean Prescott (prescott@waitrose.com) or Rosemary Peacock (01794 522411) know by **Tuesday 7th Feb**.

Come & See Spring Half Term Club (7-14yrs)

Monday 13th - Friday 17th February, 9am-3pm

St Edward's Cloister Cost: £5 per day.

Spaces are limited. For any enquiries please contact

Fr Luca/Fr Marco at: comeandsee.sswp@gmail.com

For more information and to book your child's place

please go to the parish website. **Please only book if you are sure your child is going to attend, thank you.**

Payment to be made by 10th February.

The Parish Youth Group is planning to have a day trip to Salisbury on **Saturday 4th February**. We will leave in the morning from Eastleigh and return late afternoon. It is open for students in Years 7 to Sixth Form. For more information and online registration please go to our website under Grail Seeker & Student Youth pages. Online registration is necessary to join.

Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham (30th June -2nd July 2023)

We have now secured accommodation for those wishing to join our parish pilgrimage/retreat to Walsingham. **To book please go to our website and complete the NEW FORM by Sunday 5th February.**

The cost per person will be £250. Payments can be made by bank transfer, cheque, or cash. Bank transfers should be made to 'CDP St Swithun Wells' with Sort Code:30-93-04, Account No:01786599 with beneficiary reference *WALS_yoursurname* (e.g. *WALS_Smith*).

Cheques should be made payable to *CDP St Swithun Wells* and posted or handed into the Parish Office. If you wish to pay by cash, payments can be made Mon-Thurs 9.30am-5.30pm in the parish office.

All payments to be received by Sunday 5th February.

Holy Cross CCTV - The existing CCTV system at Holy Cross Church is being upgraded and extended week commencing **Monday 6th February** with additional cameras being installed inside the Church. This course of action has been made necessary because of a number of unsocial incidents that have occurred during the week when the Church is unoccupied but open for

worship. Please be aware that the cameras inside the Church will not be activated whilst Mass is taking place.

St Andrew's Car Park - We are looking to rent out 10 car parking spaces at St Andrew's to Clover Dental Practice during the week, except Tuesday mornings when there is Mass. This will be on a trial basis which will run from 1st February to 1st June. A feedback form will be available at St Andrew's from this weekend where parishioners can lodge their comments/concerns. This will be available throughout the trial period.

FLAME - it's only 40 days until the biggest Catholic Youth Event in the country takes place at Wembley Arena, on **Sat 4th March 2023**. All young people in school year 9 or above are welcome! There will be loud music, bright lights, and moments of stillness. To join the Diocesan group, you can get your tickets, hoodies and transportation or more info about the event by contacting: youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Romsey Relay Marathon (21st May 2023) - Runners required!

A few years ago, a group of us joined together to run this event. I thought we could do it again this year. If you are interested to take part to run/jog/walk 2.6 miles (4.2 km), I'd like to hear from you. It works like this, as a team of 10, we will need to run collectively 26 miles and 385 yards (42.2 km). Each of us will run 2.6 miles (4.2 km) to complete our leg of the course before handing the baton to the next teammate. This will also be a great opportunity to raise money for CAFOD. A Just Giving page will be set up in due course. I'd like to recruit eight more runners plus two reserves runners. As this is a very popular local event, I'd like to register a team from our church as soon as possible. No training is required and you don't need to be an elite runner. It will be great fun. For more information, go to: www.romseymarathon.co.uk Please contact me, Carrie at cklfung@btconnect.com if you are interested.

St Swithun Wells Parish Online Giving

If you would like to give directly online please use your phone to scan in this QR code.



SCHOOL NOTICES

Warm Room - St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School are holding a Warm Room every **Thursday between 1-3pm**. This will provide somewhere for parishioners to enjoy the company of others in a warm and welcoming environment.

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

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)

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 28th <i>Morning Mass: St Thomas Aquinas</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Sylvester McMahon RIP FM Sam & Sheila Sanders RIP Margaret Martindale RIP Florentina Boucher RIP
Sunday 29th Jan <i>Fourth 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> Mrs Edward Christian FM Calvin Nel RIP Anniversary People of the Parish Marianne Copp RIP
Monday 30th Jan	9.30am	Holy Cross	Mary McMahon RIP FM Margaret McElhinney RIP Anniversary Royston Kenneth Steele RIP
Tues 31st <i>St John Bosco</i>	10.00am <u>1.30pm</u> 6.00pm	St Andrew <u>St Joseph</u> St Edward	Sr Eileen (Wellbeing) <u>Funeral Mass: Sr Theresa McAnelly RIP</u> Marjorie Harris & Benji Roberts RIP FM
Wed 1st Feb	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross OLQA St Edward	Frances Griffin RIP Keith Small RIP
Thurs 2nd <i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Ted & Monica Dunne (Special Intention) Monica Keating RIP
Friday 3rd Feb	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Ronan Noone (Wellbeing) Mrs Edward Christian FM
Saturday 4th Feb	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Special Intention to Our Lady & St Joseph People of the Parish Anne O'Keefe RIP Deceased Members of the Wyman & Uphill Families FM
Sunday 5th Feb <i>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> Angela Frances Adams FM Margaret Martindale RIP William & Isabella Regan FM Monica Keating RIP

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

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)