



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

**15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023: SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

## A Giant In The Faith

I am sure that everyone of us received with great sadness the news about the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

I would like to share a few memories that I have about him.

I met him twice, the first time in Genoa (the city where I was born), when he made his apostolic visit to the diocese, and the second time in Rome, when he celebrated a Holy Mass for some priests and seminarians of the Fraternity of Saint Charles.

On both the occasions I had the experience of meeting a man of great humility and tenderness. To summarize, I had the impression of being in front of a saint. I think that many people had the same experience, and this is why many priests shouted "subito santo" ("immediately saint") at the end of his Funeral Mass at St Peter's Square on Thursday 5th January. I had the privilege of being there, and to concelebrate the Mass with Pope Francis. I was impressed to see so many young priests filling the Square, and I am sure they were present because of a debt of gratitude towards Pope Ratzinger.

A few days ago, I read his spiritual testament. I would like to quote a few lines from this text, which I found so uplifting and moving.

*When, at this late hour of my life, I look back on the decades I have wandered through, I see first of all how much reason I have to give thanks. Above all, I thank God Himself, the giver of all good gifts, who has given me life and guided me through all kinds of confusion; who has always picked me up when I began to slip, who has always given me anew the light of his countenance. In retrospect, I see and understand that even the dark and arduous stretches of this path were for my salvation and that He guided me well in those very stretches.*

*I thank my parents, who gave me life in difficult times and prepared a wonderful home for me with their love, which shines through all my days as a bright light until today. My father's clear-sighted faith taught us children to believe (...), my mother's heartfelt piety and great kindness remain a legacy for which I cannot thank her enough.*

Pope Benedict thanks his siblings, friends, teachers, and students too. I am so admired to see this clear attitude of gratitude, which is something we are called to as Christian.

Then he thanks his homeland (and his second homeland, Italy), and asks his compatriots to stand firm in the faith. It is impressive to see his humility in the words: *I ask for forgiveness from the bottom of my heart from all those whom I have wronged in some way.*

The last words of the testament are really his legacy.

*I have seen, and see, how, out of the tangle of hypotheses, the reasonableness of faith has emerged and is emerging anew. Jesus Christ is truly the Way, the Truth, and the Life - and the Church, in all her shortcomings, is truly His Body.*

*Finally, I humbly ask: pray for me, so that the Lord may admit me to the eternal dwellings, despite all my sins and shortcomings. For all those entrusted to me, my heartfelt prayer goes out day after day.*

**Father Marco**

## **GEM OF THE WEEK**



This week's GEM is Bishop Philip's Pastoral Letter about Pope Benedict XVI - 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 Wednesday 18th January 2023**, please email your messages/notices to: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

## LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



**Sunday 15th January 2023:** Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Psalter Week 2

**PSALM RESPONSE:** HERE I AM LORD! I COME TO DO YOUR WILL.

**READINGS:** 1<sup>st</sup> reading Isaiah 49:3. 5-6 Psalm 39 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 Gospel John 1:29-34

**Sunday 22nd January 2023:** Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Psalter Week 3

**PSALM RESPONSE:** THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND MY HELP.

**READINGS:** 1<sup>st</sup> reading Isaiah 8:23-9:3 Psalm 26 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17 Gospel Matthew 4:12-23

### 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](http://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

### Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) Group

Tuesday 17th 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 18th January, 7.30pm in St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. This week we are looking at "Sacred Spaces" - a look at how religious buildings touch our lives. Everyone is welcome. For queries or information on joining by Zoom please contact 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.**

## PARISH GROUPS



Going Deeper - a meeting for Catholics wanting to grow spiritually. This is a group run by the Carmelites. **Third Saturday in the month from 10.30am to 3pm in the St Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water.** Contact Samantha Harris on 01794 503716 for details.

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](mailto: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](mailto:arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com)

### Message from the Diocese

The Diocese have been looking to simplify their Charity Status, which they have now done. From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023, the Diocese is called 'Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth' (previously it was Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust), with registered Charity number 1199568. Our registered address remains the same. What does this mean for our Parish?

There is no change to our parish bank account number and sort code, however our bank account name has changed to: CDP St Swithun Wells, therefore please can you ensure that any cheques written out to the Parish of St Swithun Wells have CDP St Swithun Wells as the Payee. We have been advised that all existing standing orders and direct debits will not be impacted by the new charity name change. Standing Order/ Direct Debit forms and Gift Aid Declaration Forms with the new charity number will be issued by the Diocesan Finance department in due course. We have ordered new Gift Aid yellow envelopes but in the interim please ignore the back of the envelope

## MESSAGES



where it asks for cheques to be made payable to PRCDTR, this is now CDP St Swithun Wells.

Upcoming Second Collection - Next weekend (21st/22nd Jan) for our Cathedral in Portsmouth.

### Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Victor Webb and for his family. Victor's Funeral Service takes place in **St Edward's on Wed 18th January at 1.30pm.**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jonathan Hayward and for his family. Jonathan's Funeral Service takes place in **St Edward's on Thurs 19th January at 11am.**

### Cultural Friday

**20th January, 7pm at St Edward's**

The topic will be Pope Benedict's Life and Legacy. Cheese, wine and nibbles will be available from 7pm, suggested donation of £1.

## MESSAGES CONTINUED



**Good Companions** - will next meet at **12 Noon on Friday 20th January 2023** in St Edward's Cloister, Chandlers Ford. Please note the earlier start time. If you live alone or are lonely you will be very welcome. Please ring Tony Wilson on 023 80266617 if you would like to join us.

**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.

**Churches Together in Chandler's Ford** - The annual church swaps in Chandler's Ford takes place on **Sunday 15th January.** Members of St Edward's are invited to visit the Chandler's Ford Methodist Church on that date (service starts at 11am). It's a great opportunity to meet and be with others who share our faith.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th-22nd Jan)** Next **Wednesday, 18th January,** sees the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Bishop Philip asks you to "consider on a personal level whether you have ever thought of "the ecumenical cause" as being a "non-optional dimension" of being a Catholic. If you haven't, I want to encourage you to think again, for we have it from the very highest authority that unity is central to the very nature of the Church."

**Churches Together in Chandlers Ford** - As part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, at **4pm on Sunday 22nd January 2023** there will be an Ecumenical Songs of Praise Service at the **Methodist Church in Chandlers Ford.** All are welcome.

Romsey - The Service for Christian Unity Week takes place on **Sunday 22nd January at 6pm in Romsey Abbey.** All are welcome.

Eastleigh - There is a **Service at Eastleigh Parish Church (All Saints) on Sunday 22nd January from 6.30pm to 8pm.** This is an annual service of prayer for unity. All are welcome.

**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](mailto: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.

**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.**

### **Pilgrimage to Lourdes - July 2023**

ACROSS (a charity who specialises in supporting people who find travel difficult any other way and offer transport on the Jumbulance) are planning a Pilgrimage to Lourdes from the Winchester/Southampton area, on **13th to 22nd July 2023.** Cost is c. £990 for 10 days including all travel, accommodation in a 4 star hotel and food. For more information, either to travel as a VIP (person needing assistance) or as a Helper, please contact Marianne Wanstall at: [mwanstall@btinternet.com](mailto:mwanstall@btinternet.com)

### **Latest Diocesan Job Vacancies**

Head of Communications (£50,000-£55,000 per annum)  
Head of Fund Raising (£50,000-£55,000 per annum)  
Please go to the Diocesan website for more info and how to apply (deadline for both roles is 27/01/23):  
<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs/>

### **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

**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. We look forward to seeing you there.

### **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)**

<b>Tuesday:</b>	6.30pm-7.30pm	St Edward
<b>Tuesday:</b>	9.30am-10.00am	St Andrew
<b>Saturday:</b>	10.00am-10.30am	Holy Cross
	10am or by appointment	OLQA
	5.30pm-6.00pm	St Joseph
<b>Sunday:</b>	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 14th Jan	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOA St Joseph St Edward	Gualteri Smyth FM Rocio Bates (Thanksgiving)  Colette Tait (Wellbeing) Joan Applin RIP
Sunday 15th Jan  <i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</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> Rita Theodorou RIP People of the Parish  Pasquale Marucci RIP Sr Shirley (Wellbeing)
Mon 16th	9.30am	Holy Cross	Catherine Mary Robinson FM
Tues 17th <i>St Anthony of Egypt</i>	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Dora Pond RIP
Wed 18th	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am 1.30pm	Holy Cross OLOA St Edward <b>St Edward</b>	Nick Silvester RIP Anniversary  Carla Ward RIP <b>Funeral Service: Victor Webb RIP</b>
Thurs 19th Jan	9.30am 11.00am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross <b>St Edward</b> OLOA St Joseph	Margaret Martindale RIP <b>Funeral Service: Jonathan Hayward RIP</b>  Sr Paschal Rose (Wellbeing)
Fri 20th Jan	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	OLOA St Joseph St Edward	Sr Ancilla (Wellbeing) Michael & Phyllis Doyle RIP
Sat 21st Jan  <i>Morning Mass: St Agnes</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOA St Joseph St Edward	Hazel Freda Jurd FM Harry Long & Joan Long RIP  Sr Agnes (Wellbeing) People of the Parish
Sunday 22nd Jan  <i>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</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> Keith Small RIP Anniversary FM Stella & Peter Bowerman RIP Anniversary  Ronald Walter Russ RIP FM Sr Rosaleen (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 (OLOA 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)