



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ
4th FEBRUARY 2024: FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Capernaum and Peter's Mother-in-Law

Anyone who has ever been to Capernaum will listen with particular attention to this weekend's Gospel. The old fishing village on the shore of Lake Gennesaret was discovered by archaeological digs and has always been a popular destination for pilgrims. I visited the place twenty years ago when I went to the Holy Land as a new priest. Capernaum is where Jesus stayed after leaving his home village of Nazareth, it is where he began his new work of bringing the message of the coming Kingdom of God to everyone. Capernaum is where the house of Simon Peter and his brother Andrew was, the men that Jesus called to follow him.

Among the excavations in Capernaum, the remains of the beautiful Synagogue stand out. It was in this Synagogue that Jesus preached. Here he healed the sick and cast out demons. It was here that he spoke the words about the "Bread of Heaven", the Eucharist.

It makes a deep impression to read these extracts from the Gospel there, in the place where they happened. Leaving the Synagogue, you can follow a short path between the ruins of houses to the place where Peter's house stood; today a modern church has been built over the place, but it is still possible to see the ruins of Peter's house.

Why am I telling you this? Because the Gospel does not tell a fairy tale, but a story that really happened, in that place, at that time. The excavations in the Holy Land bear witness to these events.

The day of which this weekend's gospel speaks of was a Sabbath. Everyone went to worship in the Synagogue. Only Peter's mother-in-law could not go because she was ill. After the service, Peter and Jesus went straight to Peter's house. There Jesus met his friend's mother-in-law and healed her.

This simple episode made me think that those who follow the Saviour always bring the presence of the Saviour with them. An unexpected result of following Jesus is that he always follows us, so that we unintentionally benefit others simply by being faithful to Jesus. By seeking him, we make him present to others.

After being healed, Peter's mother-in-law gets up to serve Jesus. The text says: "He went to her and took her by the hand and helped her up, and she began to serve them". The fourth verb is particularly eloquent and teaches us that Christian life is about serving Christ and serving others.

Fr Raffaele

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "Against Toxic Relationships by Pope Francis" - 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 **10am on Wednesday 7th February**, please email your messages/notices to: 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 4th February 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 1

PSALM RESPONSE: PRAISE THE LORD WHO HEALS THE BROKEN-HEARTED.

1st reading Job 7:1-4,6-7 **Psalm 146** **2nd reading** 1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23 **Gospel** Mark 1:29-39

Sunday 11th February 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 2

PSALM RESPONSE: YOU ARE MY REFUGE, O LORD; YOU FILL ME WITH THE JOY OF SALVATION.

1st reading Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46 **Psalm 31** **2nd reading** 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 **Gospel** Mark 1:40-45

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)

For Grail Seekers & Student Youth 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.

To register for these groups please go to our website: <https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/parishlife>

Growing In Faith Together Group

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

Fellowship Group - Wednesday 7th February, 7pm-9pm in St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak.

This week we will have the second of our occasional series of evenings, "Understanding World Religions". We will continue to look at "Abrahamic faiths" and this week our focus will be on Islam. Everyone is welcome. If you wish to join us on Zoom, please contact Peter Baggott on Peterbaggott@aol.com for the link. Please note there will be no Fellowship on 14th February as it is Ash Wednesday.

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!

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.

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

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.

60s Club - meets every fortnight on a Monday from 2pm-4pm at Holy Cross Resource Centre. Our next meeting is on Monday 5th February. All are welcome!

MESSAGES



Upcoming Readers Retreat - Saturday 3rd February

For Readers at St Andrew's & St Joseph the retreat is at St Andrew's from 2.30pm to 4.30pm, whereas Readers at Holy Cross, St Swithun Wells and St Edward's the retreat is at Holy Cross from 2.30pm-4.30pm.

Fr Raffaele's 50th Birthday Party

We are organizing a party to celebrate Fr Raffaele's 50th Birthday. It will be on **Monday 12th February 2024, 6pm** at St Swithun Wells Primary School. Please bring cake and snacks just enough for you and your family for the evening. We will provide coffee, tea and beverages. We also ask you to bring a donation for his present. Looking forward to seeing as many people as possible.

Parish Lunch at the Hunters Inn, Romsey on **Monday 12th February at 12.30pm**. All are welcome.

Menus are on church notice boards. Please let Rosemary (tel: 01794 522411) know your choice of meal by Sunday 4th Feb as we have to pre-order.

Parish Get2Gether - Sun 4th February, 1pm-4pm

Pavillion on the Park, 1 Kingfisher Road, SO50 9LH 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, along with 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 date for your diary: 3rd March

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

Monday 12th to Friday 16th February

Registrations are now open. For more information including costs, times, the Club extension and to register please go to:

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

Fr Raffaele's Book Recommendation

The Bridge of San Luis Rey by Thornton Wilder.

MESSAGES CONTINUED

CL Diocesan Day

The CL (Communion and Liberation) group in the Parish invites you to join in a special CL day, to be held on **11th February at St Edward the Confessor Catholic Church, 191-193 Winchester Rd, SO53 2DU. Please arrive at 12.30pm.** Programme for the day:

- 12.30pm: Arrival and bring & share lunch
- 2.30pm: Games and Songs
- 3.15pm: Witness and Conversation about Married life (children activities simultaneously)
- 4.30pm: Mass

Please bring some food to share. We will provide drinks, pudding and plates and cutlery. Please bring a donation for the venue. This is a great opportunity to invite any family or friends, **make sure you register by Sunday 4th February** using the link you find on the "Next main parish events" section on our website, so that we know how many people are coming.

Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Kevin Coen and for his family. Kevin's Funeral Mass takes place in **St Edward's on Tuesday 6th February at 1pm.**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mark Herbich and for his family. Mark's Funeral Mass takes place in **St Edward's on Wed 7th February at 11.30am.**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Beppie Marsh and for her family. Beppie's Funeral Mass takes place in **St Joseph's on Monday 12th February at 4pm.**

What does it mean to be Human? Medical Ethics and Social Care Today - Saturday 16th March 10am-4.15pm, The Arc, Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8SB. Tickets cost £20.

See poster on church noticeboards for more info.

Scam Alert - We have been made aware of parishioners in our parish being contacted by text or email by someone pretending to be Fr Raffaele asking for help with an 'urgent but discreet' matter. The scammer asks that you buy vouchers, for example Apple or Amazon gift cards, or goods which are needed urgently (as gifts to volunteers/staff hence the need for secrecy) and makes up an excuse as to why they won't be able to take calls. Parishioners are reminded that Fr Raffaele would **NEVER** email or text you asking for vouchers/goods in this way. None of our priests would do this. Scammers in the past have used a Gmail address and not Fr Raffaele's diocesan email. If you are in anyway unsure please speak to Fr Raffaele and do not respond to the email/text message.

Do you need help in your marriage? Retrouvaille has helped many couples find new hope, nourishment and

growth in their marriages. There is no group therapy or group work. Our next programme commences with a Virtual weekend on 8th-11th February or there is a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14th-16th June. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, Email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or visit www.retrouvaille.org

Dollar Exchange - If any one is imminently travelling and able to use American dollars, the office has accumulated about \$70. We could do an exchange for British pounds, rate as on day and no transaction fee. Please ring Fiona in the Parish Office (02380 273882).

SCHOOL NOTICES

St Swithun Wells Primary School Message

We are reviewing our school minibus service and where we pick up & drop off. We currently stop at the Cricketers on Chestnut Avenue, Co-op Leigh Road, Eastleigh College, Sainsburys, Bosville, North Baddesley and Knightwood.

Is this a service you would use if there was a stop closer to your home?

Is Bishopstoke or another area somewhere that you would like the bus to collect from?

Is there a family you know that would be interested in a place at our school if there was transport from their area?

If so please complete the survey below and let us know your thoughts.

<https://forms.gle/fXkS5iPu4vTUWJ3q9>

OFSTED Report - St Swithun Wells Primary School had an OFSTED Inspection which took place on 21st & 22nd November 2023. To view the report please go to our parish website. Some of our favourite quotes from the report are:

'Great environment, fantastic staff and great values taught to the pupils.'

'The school is very welcoming to all, and the diversity of pupils and families in the school gives all children broader insight and knowledge. Pupils develop a healthy respect for difference.'

'The school is a supportive environment, and it cares about the whole child, not just ticking the boxes.'

The inspectors concluded that St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School continues to be a 'Good' school. We are all very proud of this and consider this an excellent achievement for the School and we are extremely proud of all Staff and Pupils for their efforts during this inspection, the time leading up to the inspection, and the ongoing performance of the School.

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
	1.30pm-2.30pm (not on 3rd Feb)	St Joseph
	5.30pm-6pm	St Joseph
Sunday:	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Edward
	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew

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
Saturdays:	Fr Mario not 3rd Feb, 2.30pm-4.30pm, Romsey Parish Office (26A Abbey Water)

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 3rd February	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Regina Turl (Special Intention) People of the Parish Maureen Clewlow (Wellbeing) Tom Connolly (Wellbeing)
Sunday 4th February <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 Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Deceased Members of the Wyman & Uphill Families FM Stella & Peter Bowerman RIP Anniversary George Hendrikse (Thanksgiving) Eric Clarke RIP Anniversary
Mon 5th February <i>St Agatha</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross	Fraternity of St Charles William & Isabella Regan FM
Tues 6th February <i>St Paul Miki & Companions</i>	10.00am <u>1.00pm</u> 6.00pm	St Andrew <u>St Edward</u> St Edward	<u>Funeral Mass: Kevin Coen RIP</u> Angela Frances Adams FM
Wed 7th February	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am <u>11.30am</u>	Holy Cross OLQA St Edward <u>St Edward</u>	Albert & Violet Harrington FM Keith Small RIP <u>Funeral Mass: Mark Herbich RIP</u>
Thurs 8th February	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	 Sr Eileen Adams (Wellbeing)
Fri 9th February	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	OLQA St Joseph St Edward	 Sr Eileen Farrell (Wellbeing)
Saturday 10th February <i>Morning Mass: St Scholastica</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Doreen Townsend RIP Muriel Matthias (Wellbeing) Tom Connolly (Wellbeing)
Sunday 11th February <i>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 Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Catherine & Thomas McVeigh RIP Jeanette Butcher RIP Anniversary People of the Parish Patrick Duffey RIP

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: rcosa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)
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Fr Mario Toma (Assistant Priest)
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Fr Bruce Barnes (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 01489 890947 (OLQA Office)

Deacon Bob Birtles
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Deacon John di Meo
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Deacon Matteo Pagani
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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 Atfield rattfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk