



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

11th DECEMBER 2022: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ('GAUDETE')

Don't Forget the Baby

Although we live in a modern society, that seems to look at customs and habits of the past as something boring, there are certain traditions we find hard to give up during Christmas: having dinner at the pub with colleagues and friends, filling up our houses with Christmas decorations, singing Carols and obviously... watching Christmas movies.

One of my favourite is *Home Alone*. It is the story of the McCallister family who is preparing to spend Christmas in Paris and gathered the night before their departure in a big house in Chicago. From the very beginning of the movie you can sense an hectic atmosphere. Some people run up and down the stairs concerned about missing something for the journey, others hastily pack their bags, others are busy ordering pizza...

During the night, heavy winds create a power outage, disabling the alarm clocks and causing the family to oversleep. When they wake up, in the confusion and rush to get to the airport, Kevin, one of the children, a funny eight-year-old boy, is accidentally left behind.

This movie reminds me that at Christmas, like the McCallister family, we are so busy with preparations and sticking to traditions that we can leave the child behind! You can do a lot of holy things, like singing carols, going to Mass, giving to charity... but still forget the Child, the One who is the reason why we do what we do.

Becoming aware of our forgetfulness and distraction is already a grace from God: it can be an opportunity to refocus on the one who needs our care and attention. The baby Jesus was needy: he needed his mother, to be fed and assisted. Even today, the baby Jesus needs our care.

This Sunday is *Gaudete Sunday*. Gaudete means "rejoice". We have one reason to be joyful today, in the midst of our financial and emotional troubles: the Creator of the universe, the One who created me and loves me, doesn't live in a distant world, but becomes a baby, a human being, needy like us. Today we can encounter him, feed him with our love, like Mary fed Him, every time we pay attention to those who are in need in our community.

This Christmas, please, let's not forget the baby!

Fr Luca

GEM OF THE WEEK

This week's GEM is "Closer to Christ Campaign Thanksgiving Video from our Diocesan Seminarians" - 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 14th December, please email your messages/notices to: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 11th December 2022: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 3

PSALM RESPONSE: COME, LORD, AND SAVE US.

READINGS: 1st reading Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 Psalm 145 2nd reading St James 5:7-10 Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

Sunday 18th December 2022: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 4

PSALM RESPONSE: LET THE LORD ENTER! HE IS THE KING OF GLORY.

READINGS: 1st reading Isaiah 7:10-14 Psalm 23 2nd reading Romans 1:1-7 Gospel Matthew 1:18-24

PARISH GROUPS



Fellowship Group - Wed 7th December, 7.30pm at St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. Advent Bible Study using the carol *Hark the Glad Sound* to look at the promise of, and the birth and life of Jesus, our Saviour and Prince of Peace. Join us at St Swithun Wells or by Zoom. To join us on Zoom contact peterbaggott@aol.com for the link.

Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) Group Tuesdays at 10.15am to approx. 11.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. On 13th December, Deacon John will give a talk on the O Antiphons. Please arrive promptly for a 10.15am start. All are welcome!

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 at 2pm. Our next games afternoon will be held on Tuesday 3rd January 2023 commencing at 2pm when we will be celebrating the New Year with, once again, Bingo, prizes, a free raffle and a cream tea. Please contact Elizabeth Gare on 01794 515265 if you are intending to come along, as space will be limited to 30.

Knitting Club - There will be no Knitting Club in December.

MESSAGES



Solemnity of St Swithun Wells

10th December - On this day we celebrate the Solemnity of our Patron, St Swithun Wells. We will celebrate this during our morning Mass at Holy Cross, please try and attend and pray for our parish.

After the 5pm Mass at St Swithun Wells Church we will be having a little celebration of refreshments and mince pies. Please stay behind and join us.

Upcoming Funeral

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Roni Bown and for her family. Roni's funeral Mass takes place at St Joseph's church on Wed 14th December at 11.15am.

Advent & Christmas 2022 Sheet - see our website or pick up your copy from the church welcome area.

Looking At Revelation In Advent: An Ecumenical Course From Christians Together in Bishop's Waltham

A series of talks given by the Clergy and Ministers of the Churches in Bishop's Waltham. See the poster on church noticeboards.

Advent Adoration at OLOA

Fridays during Advent at 11.15am-12Noon followed by soup and rolls in the Hall.

Advent Penitential Services

These will be held across our parish, with the opportunity for individual confession:

Thursday 15th December, 7.30pm – OLOA

Friday 16th December, 7.30pm – St Andrew

Saturday 17th December, 11am – Holy Cross

A number of priests will be available on each occasion.

St Andrew's - Children's Nativity

We are planning a short children's nativity at the beginning of the 7pm Christmas Eve Mass. If you have a child who would like to narrate a few lines please text Imogen Jones on 07590 270743. All children are invited to dress up as either an angel, a shepherd, a king or a stable animal and will be invited to join in on the night.

Christmas Collection

Our Christmas Collection celebrates and gives thanks to our Parish priests and all the dedication, guidance and care they give across our Parish. For your convenience there are several ways to make an offering:

- Loose cash or cheques in the collection basket;
- Cheques made out to PRCDTR St Swithun Wells with Christmas on the back;
- Bank transfer into the main parish account sort code 30-93-04; a/c 01786599 using the reference Christmas;
- Click on the green 'donate' button on the homepage of our website and then click 'Online Christmas Collection'. This will take you to a Give as You live page: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/st-swithun-wells-catholic-parish-christmas-collection-2022>
- If you are a tax payer and wish to gift aid your offering you can use the yellow envelopes provided in the reception area of each church. Ensure all relevant information is included so we can reclaim the gift aid on your behalf. Please write "Christmas Offering" on the envelope - this can be placed in any collection between now and Christmas.

MESSAGES CONTINUED



St Swithun Wells, Fair Oak, Christmas Card CAFOD Collection - we are encouraging everyone to send one Christmas Card to church friends, and place it on our special noticeboard in St Swithun Wells Church. You can donate what you would have spent on cards and postage to CAFOD World Gifts, by placing your contribution in the CAFOD collecting box by the notice board where the cards are. Trisha (02380 693669)

Christmas Gifts for Poitiers and Two Saints
Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th December
Suggested donations are cakes, biscuits, sweets, chocolates, mince pies etc for Poitiers and hats, gloves, scarves, socks, toiletries etc for Two Saints. Please wrap your gifts and label them with the name of the Charity and bring them to Mass so that they can be taken up at the Offertory.

CAFOD Annual Christmas Fayre will be held in **St Edward's Cloisters on Sat 10th & Sun 11th of December after both Masses.** Donations of cakes and other festive fayre will be gratefully received. Any unwanted gifts which you have would also be welcome. All proceeds to CAFOD food crisis.

Parish Christmas Party - Sun 11th Dec, 1pm-4.30pm, **St Swithun Wells Primary School.** **Admission by ticket only.** Please bring your drinks & cups. Christmas jumpers and fancy dress actively encouraged!

Coffee Stop Christmas Special
Holy Cross Resource Centre, **Thurs 15th December, 10am-11.30am.** Coffee/tea and a Mince Pie £1.50. There will be the popular Raffle during the morning. If you can bring a prize for the raffle we would be very grateful. Many thanks.

Advent Carol Service at OLOA - 6pm, **Saturday 17th December** (followed by social in the hall). Please note the **Vigil Mass will be at 5pm on this day.**

Churches Together in North Baddesley - Carols
You are invited to join North Baddesley Churches Together for Community Christmas Carols at All Saints Church on **Saturday 17th December at 4pm.** All ages welcome. If weather permits it will be an outdoor service so wrap up warm. St Andrew's church will be doing two readings. If you are planning to attend the event and would like to be a reader please contact Cath Szymanski on 07846 438224.

Candle Light Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at the United Reform Church in the Market Place Romsey on **Sunday 18th December at 6.30pm.** All parishioners are warmly invited.

Christmas Crib Offerings 2022 - In the Diocese, our annual Christmas Crib offerings are given alternately one year to the Friends of the Holy Land and one year to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. This year our Christmas Crib offerings will go to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre (KHS). They fund many works that support the Christians living in the Holy Land, thus ensuring that they survive and that the holy sites are still populated by Christians and do not become museums. Thank you in advance for your generosity! Monies can also be sent directly to the Diocesan Finance Office marked 'Knights of the Holy Sepulchre'.

MISSIO - Red Boxes

Please collect a Missio Calendar from the shelf in the lobby (St Edward's). Please empty your red boxes into a named sandwich bag or such like. Bring it to St Edward's at either weekend Masses and give it to myself or Teresa in the repository. Alternatively post it through my letter box: **65 Pine Crescent, Chandler's Ford.** Many thanks, Mary Vokes (Chandler's Ford Only)

Holy Cross Right of Way

Annually we have to bar access through our car park for at least 24 hours to prevent it becoming a public right of way. The main Leigh road gate will be closed after Mass on **Monday 26th December and it will re-open at 8.30am on Wednesday 28th December.** The barrier and pedestrian gate will remain operational.

New Year Afternoon Tea for all our Senior Parishioners across the whole Parish on **Sunday 15th January, 2.30pm-4.30pm at St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak.** If you consider yourself to be a Senior Citizen then come along and enjoy delicious food, free raffle and entertainment. Places are limited and need to be booked. To book a place contact Pat Baggott by phone/text on 07801 454400 or email: baggott.pm@gmail.com

We would welcome donations of homemade scones and cakes. If you can help with this please contact Pat.

The Parish Office will be open from 10am until 2.30pm on **Friday 16th December.**

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.



TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Tuesdays: Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh
Wednesdays: **Not available on 14th December**
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	OLOA
	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 10th <i>Morning Mass: St Swithun Wells</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOA St Joseph St Edward	Sunny RIP Catherine Pearson RIP 10th Anniversary Margaret Martindale RIP Atterbury Family (Special Intention)
Sunday 11th Dec <i>Third Sunday of Advent</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> Enid Scappaticci RIP Anniversary People of the Parish Anand Moodley RIP Jesus Ocaya RIP Anniversary
Mon 12th Dec	9.30am	Holy Cross	Luis Castro RIP FM Gerard Carr RIP FM
Tues 13th <i>St Lucy</i>	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	George, Gertrude & Mary Lawton RIP Anniversary
Wed 14th <i>St John of the Cross</i>	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am 11.15am	Holy Cross OLOA St Edward St Joseph	Ron Reynolds FM Atterbury Family (Special Intention) Funeral Mass: Roni Bown RIP
Thurs 15th	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm 7.30pm	Holy Cross OLOA St Joseph OLOA	Agnes, Wilhemina & Calliope RIP Norma & Tax (Silver Wedding Anniversary) Advent Penitential Service
Fri 16th Dec	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am 7.30pm	OLOA St Joseph St Edward St Andrew	Margaret Malcolm RIP Atterbury Family (Special Intention) Advent Penitential Service
Sat 17th	9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOA St Joseph St Edward	Margaret Martindale RIP Advent Penitential Service Noeline & Hugh Ormerod RIP Herbert Howie RIP Anniversary Atterbury Family (Special Intention)
Sunday 18th Dec <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</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> Patrick & Mary Burke FM Michael Jeffery RIP Anniversary Paddy McMahon RIP FM People of the Parish

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)