



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

25th DECEMBER 2022: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

This Newsletter Covers Sunday 25th December 2022 and Sunday 1st January 2023

JESUS AND BRUSSEL SPROUTS - A Christmas Special

Don't get me wrong but I have always preferred Christmas to any other Feast in the Church's Calendar! I love the "bling" of the lights and the colour and the excitement engendered by the Festival; I love the food and the culture which surrounds the celebrations. I suppose I must even confess that from a personal work load perspective, I have fewer complicated services to cope with as happens with Holy Week and Easter. Supremely, I love the message of Christmas; the hope and joy that it brings in the message that we have a Saviour born for us who is going to save us from our sins and bring us with Him to eternal life in a place called Heaven. Here is where we shall enjoy the most momentous experience of being in the presence of the One who created us and who wants us to be in perfect happiness forever with Him. Such momentous news should be shouted from the housetops and proclaimed by our media. Unfortunately, the bling of Christmas has obscured the message and we hear very little about the reason and consequences of the Incarnation from the press. Instead, we have the momentous news from the majority of the papers that, ***Brussel sprouts will be smaller this year because of the summer drought!!*** What an anti-climax to Christmas - what a missed opportunity. We never seem to hear of the essential teaching of Christmas in terms of its doctrinal implications.

The press seem to compound the misery of a secular Christmas - or should one start calling it the Winter Festival! (We do, to be fair, have our annual Christmas Carol Service and Midnight Mass on the TV). I am so pleased that the Knights of St Columba issue the yearly posters to **Keep Christ in Christmas**. At least we can proclaim that truth as long as the title exists. If I were reporting the earth shattering events of the Birth of Jesus I would use the words of the great writer and theologian Romano Guardini, who says:

The young creature in the stall of Bethlehem was a human being with human brains and limbs and heart and soul. And it was God. Its life was to manifest the will of the Father; to proclaim the sacred tidings, to stir mankind with the power of God, to establish the Covenant, and shoulder the sin of the world, expiating it with love and leading humankind through the destruction of sacrifice and the victory of the Resurrection into the new existence of Grace. (The Lord. p 19)

So much more newsworthy than the size of sprouts and ultimately more satisfying.

A Blessed Christmas filled with the wonder of the miracle given to us in Jesus be with you all.

Fr Bruce

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is the Christmas Video poster by Communion & Liberation - 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 4th January 2023**, please email your messages/notices to: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 25th December 2022: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Office Proper

PSALM RESPONSE: ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH HAVE SEEN THE SALVATION OF OUR GOD.

READINGS: 1st reading Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 97 2nd reading Hebrews 1:1-6 Gospel John 1:1-18

Sunday 1st January 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Office Proper

PSALM RESPONSE: O GOD, BE GRACIOUS AND BLESS US.

READINGS: 1st reading Numbers 6:22-27 Psalm 66 2nd reading Galatians 4:4-7 Gospel Luke 2:16-21

Sunday 8th January 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Office Proper

PSALM RESPONSE: THE LORD WILL BLESS HIS PEOPLE WITH PEACE.

READINGS: 1st reading Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7 Psalm 28 2nd reading Acts 10:34-38 Gospel Matthew 3:13-17

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. All of our Youth Groups restart week commencing **9th January 2023**.

Youth Group Registrations for the year 2022/23 are still open on our website: www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Fellowship Group - Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak.

We are now on our Christmas Break. Meetings will resume in the New Year, dates to be announced.

Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) Group

Tuesday 3rd January at 10.15am to approx. 11.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. We will be commencing a DVD series on Prayer called 'Strength to Strength'. 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.

Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

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.

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.

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/stswithun-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



Christmas Crib Offerings 2022

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'.

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.



Holy Cross Shop - will be closed during the holiday period and re-opens on Thursday 5th January. More volunteers are urgently needed to facilitate the opening of the shop on Sundays. Please see Lynette after Mass or phone Angela Fletcher on 02380 647042 if you are able to help. Many thanks.

MESSAGES CONTINUED



Street Carols for AVSI - Saturday 24th December

We are very happy to announce a new initiative to reach out to people during this time of Christmas. We want to bring them the joy that springs from receiving the good news that God is not indifferent to our lives, but He is with us. With "Street Carols for Avsi" we want to sing classic Carols in the main square of Eastleigh and raise money for Avsi, an international charity that this year is supporting people in Ukraine. We invite everyone to join the choir - children, parents, young people, seniors, people who enjoy singing - everyone! Here is the morning programme:

10.00am we meet at the Holy Cross Resource Centre to practise some Christmas Carols;

11.00am we will go to Eastleigh main square and sing. The event will finish at 12 Noon (at the very latest). It is a wonderful occasion to grow together in faith as a community, sharing Christ's desire to be known. Please do your best to come along.

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**. Join us for delicious food, free raffle and entertainment. **Last date to book your place is 8th January**. There are only a few places left. If you have booked a place and find you cannot attend, please let Pat know for Catering purposes. Contact details below. We would welcome donations of homemade scones and cakes. If you can help with this please contact Pat Baggott by phone/text on 07801 454400 or email: baggott.pm@gmail.com

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.

The Parish Office will be closed from **Monday 26th December** and will reopen on **Tuesday 3rd January 2023**. Any urgent issues during this time please phone the Presbytery number (see priest contacts on the back page of the newsletter). The Parish Newsletter for **Sunday 25th December** will therefore cover **two weeks**. After this, the next newsletter to be produced will be for **Sunday 8th January 2023**.

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)

Warm Room

From **January 5th 2023**, **St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School** will be 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.

Benefits & Support Available

Please go to the home page of our website where there is a guide, (prepared by the Catenians), that summarises certain schemes and benefits currently available to help parishioners when their finances are under significant pressure. www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Message from the Office - We would like to wish all of our parishioners peace, joy, health & happiness over the Christmas period and throughout 2023!
Best wishes, Fiona & Sarah



CLERGY

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: rcossa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: lspeziale@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Fr Marco Vignolo (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 Paul Owen
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Deacon Paul Wilson
Tel: 023 8061 6618; E: pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Deacon Andrew Lee
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: alee@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Not available to meet from 26th Dec to 1st Jan

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

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	DATE	TIME	CHURCH	INTENTION
Sat 24th Dec <i>The Nativity of the Lord (Vigil)</i>	9.30am	HC	No Mass	Sunday 1st Jan <i>Mary, The Holy Mother of God</i>	8.30am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	6.00pm	SSW	Thanksgiving		9.00am	St Ed	Mrs Edward Christian FM
	6.00pm (carols from 5.30pm)	St Ed	People of the Parish		9.00am	St A	Harry Roydon RIP Anniv
	7.00pm	St A	Jesus Ocaya & Francisco Villaver RIP		9.30am	OLQA*	Past & Present Priests of the Parish
	8.00pm	OLQA			11.00am	HC*	People of the Parish
	11.00pm (carols from 10.30pm)	St J	Fr Louis Catterall RIP		11.00am	St J	Margaret Martindale RIP
	12.00am (carols from 11.30pm)	Holy Cross	Kitty O'Brien RIP Anniversary	Mon 2nd Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen	9.30am	HC	Fraternity of St Charles Canon John Doran FM
Sunday 25th Dec <i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>	8.30am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>	Tues 3rd	10.00am 6.00pm	St A St Ed	Sr Norbert (Wellbeing) Samuel Anthraper (Thanksgiving)
	9.00am	St Ed	Mrs Edward Christian FM	Wed 4th	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am	HC OLQA St Ed	Keith Small RIP
	9.00am	St A	Sr Maureen Seddon (Wellbeing)	Thurs 5th	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm (Vigil)	HC OLQA St J	Sr Eileen (Wellbeing)
	9.30am	OLQA*	Andrew Breen RIP Anniv	Fri 6th <i>The Epiphany of the Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)</i>	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	HC*	John Gare RIP		9.30am	HC	Mike Walsh RIP Birthday Anniversary
	11.00am	St J			10.00am	St J	Family & Friends of Rebecca
Mon 26th St Stephen	9.30am	HC	Margarita, Cedric & Charles Harris FM		2.00pm 7.00pm 7.00pm 7.00pm	School St A St Ed OLQA	SSW Primary School Mass Albert James Boaden FM
	10.00am	OLQA	Special Intention for Servers	Sat 7th	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	HC SSW OLQA St J St Ed	Smyth Family FM People of the Parish Jean Prescott's Family Living & Deceased Mrs Edward Christian FM
Tues 27th St John	10.00am 6.00pm	St A St Ed	Joan Seddon (Wellbeing) Bridget Gowran RIP	Sunday 8th Jan <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	8.30am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
Wed 28th The Holy Innocents	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	HC OLQA St Ed	Elizabeth Nash (Thanksgiving) George, Gertrude & Mary Lawton RIP Anniversary		9.00am	St Ed	Eamonn O'Rourke Jnr RIP
Thurs 29th St Thomas of Canterbury	9.30am 10.00am 6.00pm	HC OLQA St J	Keith Clark & Raymond Harrison RIP Sr Margaret Morris & Sr Joseph Ward (Wellbeing)		9.00am	St A	Margaret Martindale RIP
Fri 30th The Holy Family	10.00am 10.00am 10.00am	OLQA St J St Ed	Henry Glassett RIP Anthraper Family (Thanksgiving)	9.30am	OLQA*		
Sat 31st	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	HC SSW OLQA St J St Ed	Rita Warrington RIP Robert Twigg RIP Anniv Eric, Roslyn Lasker & Family RIP Anniversary	11.00am	HC*	Florentina Boucher RIP	
				11.00am	St J	The Murphy Family (Special Intention)	

St Ed - St Edward, 191-193, Winchester Rd, Chandlers Ford
 OLQA - Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Martin Street, Bishop's Waltham, SO32 1DN
 HC - Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF
 SSW - St Swithun Wells, Allington Lane, Fair Oak SO50 7DB
 St A - St Andrew, Fleming Avenue, North, Baddesley SO52 9EP
 St J - St Joseph, Abbey House Drive, Romsey, SO51 8YB

* Denotes Live Streamed Masses - please go to our website