



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

13TH DECEMBER 2020: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ('GAUDETE')

What do we really wait for?

To prepare myself and the kids of the Grail Seekers group of our Parish for Advent, I found a very interesting story that I now share with you because I think it could be of help to live with the right attitude between now and Christmas.

It is a story taken from the diary of father Augusto Gianola, a missionary priest who went to Amazonia and died there in 1990.

*I'm writing at the end of my birthday,
a day that has been really wonderful!
I knew someone important was coming.
I was thinking of my friend Father Armando Rizza.
I also wanted to confess and celebrate Mass with him.*

*I got up early and started preparing my heart.
I knew friends were coming,
so I wanted to offer them something good to eat.
So I spent most of the morning fishing,
trying to catch a nice big fish.*

*As the hours went by, my happiness increased.
I prayed and worked:
I prepared my rocado well,
to show friends a job well done,
I planted sugar cane, pumpkins, watermelons.*

*Then I began to prepare the house,
cleaning the entire courtyard
and even the path leading to the port:
it is still flanked by beautiful lilies
as to receive friends worthily.
Finally I prepared the chapel for Mass.*

*As evening approached, happiness increased.
When darkness fell and I realized that no one,
no one was coming,
my heart was now full, full, full of happiness:
I had done all that work only for You, oh Lord.
And You have arrived.*

This short story helped me to realize what I am asked to wait for during this time of Advent. Advent is not an empty or confusing expectation. It is about the waiting for the coming of Christ. We are asked to wait for nothing less than the Lord himself and if we stick to that, even if in a way which is different from what we had imagined, He will certainly come, as the story of father Augusto shows us.

Father Luca

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is a video by Bishop Philip entitled, "O Emmanuel" - you can find this on our homepage. If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact website.sswp@gmail.com

Newsletter items should be received into the Parish Office by **Wednesday 9:30am**

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 13th December 2020: Year B - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 3

PSALM RESPONSE: MY SOUL REJOICES IN MY GOD.

1st reading: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11 **Psalm:** Lk1 **2nd reading:** 1st Letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 5:16-24 **Gospel:** John 1:6-8, 19-28

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER (FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT):

1st reading: 2nd Book of Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 **Psalm:** 88 **2nd reading:** Letter of St Paul to the Romans 16:25-27 **Gospel:** Luke 1:26-38

PARISH GROUPS



Stars of Abraham (school years 3, 4, 5 & 6)

Tues, 4.00pm-5.30pm in St Edward's Cloister;
Tues, 4.00pm-5.30pm in St Andrew;
Sat 10.30am-Noon in Holy Cross Resource Centre.
To join Stars of Abraham please click the link on our website.

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9) - our next and last meeting before the Christmas break will be on **Saturday 12th December, 2-4pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre**. To join the group and for more information please click the Grail Seekers Icon on our homepage.

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form) meet weekly on a **Friday evening at 6.30pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre**. If you would like to attend please book your place on our website by clicking on the Student Youth Icon on our homepage.

Communion & Liberation Group

(with Fr Luca) is meeting every **Wednesday**, for more information please click the link on the homepage of our website.

Communion & Liberation Group

(with Fr Raffaele) is meeting every **Thursday at 8pm** in St Edward's cloister.

Fellowship Group by Zoom - Advent Bible Study on the theme of Hope continues on **Wednesday 16th December at 7.30pm** with Week 4 'Hope for the Future'. If you would like to join the Zoom meeting please contact Bob and Marion Birtles for the link on: bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

If you would like to be baptised, confirmed or received into the Catholic Church please speak to a priest or email Deacon Paul Owen at powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

MESSAGES



Parish Get2Together

Saturday 19th December, 1-4pm

Pavillion on the Park, 1 Kingfisher Road, SO50 9LH
An event for all the parish. We begin at 1pm, sharing a meal together, in tables of six and then we'll have some entertainment until 4pm (games and activities for all the families). Each table has a maximum of six people belonging to the same household or support bubble.

Cost: we ask you to give a contribution of £10 per table to be paid on the day to cover expenses.

Please bring your own food, beverage, cups/plates/cutlery (it is like a picnic), and remember to wear a mask (except when you are at your table).

To book a table please go to our parish website and click the link you will need to give the 6 names filling the table. There are a maximum of 15 tables.

Upcoming Funeral

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jean Reavey and for her family. Jean's funeral Mass will be celebrated at **10am on 15th December at St Andrew**.

Carols by Zoom Update

The link for the Zoom Advent to Christmas Carol Service has now been sent out. If you have not received it, or would like to join us, please email (address below). As congregational singing is not allowed at the moment this is an opportunity to sing along to the carols at home (you will be muted so no one will hear you!) or you can just listen to the music and readings. **The Service will be this Sunday 13th December at 4.30pm.** marionbirtles@gmail.com

Advent Penitential Services will be held across our parish, with the opportunity for individual confession:
Thursday 17th December, 7.30pm – OLQA
Friday 18th December, 7.30pm – St Andrew
Saturday 19th December, 11am – Holy Cross
A number of priests will be available on each occasion.

Holy Cross Shop

We are **open after Mass on Wednesdays** and by appointment with Lynette (02380 618542) during office hours. *Lynette & Angela*

MESSAGES CONTINUED



Booking System for Christmas Masses

Due to the current situation we have put in place a booking system for Christmas Eve Masses, Midnight Masses and Christmas Day Masses for all of our churches. If you do not have access to the internet please ask friends/family to assist you in reserving a seat.

For more information and to book please go to: <https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/christmasbooking>

For OLQA only, please book your place through the usual church booking system by emailing: olqamassbook@gmail.com

Message from Bishop Philip about the Diocesan Survey of People and Parishioners

We want to better understand what you the people and parishioners of our Diocese think and what you consider is important as we journey in faith together. This will help us all to develop plans and priorities for the Diocese so that we can truly be faithful missionary people in a flourishing and vibrant Diocese that brings the joy and hope of the Gospel message to our communities and the wider world. The online questionnaire will run over Christmas and into the New Year. Already we have had several hundred replies. The survey takes between 10 and 20 minutes of your time as there are a few areas to

cover and I would like as much detail as you are happy to give. We will publish the results in the Spring and as I said earlier it will inform my thinking about our priorities for the next few years. The survey link is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2XRKQDS> and there is a paper version for those unable to access the digital version: please leave a message with name and address for Chris Smith our Director of Communications on 02394 216496.

Let us Dream - Pope Francis has just published a new book called *Let us Dream: The Path to a Better Future* (London, Simon and Schuster UK: 2020 [ISBN: 978-1-3985-0220-8]) which Bishop Philip highly recommends and suggests would make good Advent/Christmas Reading.

SCHOOL NOTICES



St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School

If your child is starting school in September 2021, applications are open **until 15th January 2021**. A video tour of the school is available on our website (www.st-swithunwells.org.uk), please contact the school office for more information 02380 266210.

MASS (STREAMING & BOOKING SYSTEM) & CONFESSION

Live Streamed Mass

Mass at Holy Cross on Thursday, 9.30am and Sunday, 11am is streamed. To join please go to our parish website www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

To reserve a seat at Mass in St Joseph's & OLQA

St Joseph's, Romsey:

- **Thursday 6.00pm** (no booking required)
- **Friday 10am** (no booking required)
- **Saturday Vigil Mass 6.00pm** the church will close after Mass). To reserve a seat for the Mass please contact Teresa Rayment from Wednesday through to Friday (Tel: 01794 513528 / teresarayment@tiscali.co.uk).
- **Sunday 11.00am** (the church will close after Mass). To reserve a seat for the Mass please contact Joanna Russell from Wednesday through to Friday (Tel: 07917 802814/ joanna@silvasmiths.co.uk).

Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Bishop's Waltham:

- **Thursday 12pm (Midday) & Sunday 9.30am** (the church will close after Mass). To reserve a seat please email: olqamassbook@gmail.com

Private Prayer - The following churches will remain open **after Mass until 11.30am** for private prayer (see back page for Mass times):

Tuesday: St Andrew's

Wednesday: St Edward's

Thursday: Holy Cross

CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Tuesdays:	6.30pm-7.30pm	St Edward's
Saturdays:	10.00am-10.30am	Holy Cross
	5.30pm-6.00pm	St Joseph's
Sundays:	8.30am-9.00am	St Andrew's

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesdays: St Edward's - after Mass (6.30-7.30pm)
Thursday: St Joseph's - before Mass (5.00-6.00pm)

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Wednesdays: Fr Luca, 4.30pm-6.30pm, Parish Office, Holy Cross, Eastleigh.
Fridays: Fr Raffaele, 11.30am-12.30pm, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey
Saturdays: Fr Marco, 9.30am-12.30pm, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water) Romsey

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 12th Dec	9.30am 5.00pm* 6.00pm* 6.30pm*	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells St Joseph St Edward	Luis Castro FM For those having a difficult Christmas Richard Bradley RIP (1st Anniversary)
Sun 13th Dec <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 10.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA St Edward Holy Cross (Also Streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Sr Mary Cunningham (90th Birthday) George, Gertrude & Mary Lawton RIP Ron Reynolds FM Sean Kelly RIP (Anniversary)
Mon 14th Dec <i>St John of the Cross</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross	Gerard Carr FM
Tues 15th Dec	<u>10.00am</u> 6.00pm	<u>St Andrew</u> St Edward	<u>Funeral Mass: Jean Reavey RIP</u> Deceased Members of the Baker & Bowman Families RIP
Wed 16th Dec	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	John Quinn RIP Lorenzo Cossa RIP
Thurs 17th Dec <i>St Swithun Wells</i>	9.30am 12.00pm 6.00pm	Holy Cross (Also Streamed) OLQA St Joseph	Paddy McMahon FM John Firhurst RIP, recently deceased
Fri 18th Dec	10.00am 10.00am	St Joseph (Church not AH) St Edward	The Firhurst family's intentions Patrick & Mary Burke FM
Sat 19th Dec	9.30am 5.00pm* 6.00pm* 6.30pm*	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells St Joseph St Edward	Flora Kelly FM Terri Wardner (Sick) Diana Schimmer (Wellbeing) In thanksgiving for Wellbeing (Special Intention)
Sun 20th Dec <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 10.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA St Edward Holy Cross (Also Streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Dudley Roberts FM Lorenzo Cossa RIP Josephine Fernandez RIP Special Intention

CLERGY

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

Father 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 80254806; E: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Paul Wilson
Tel: 02380 616618; E: pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

PARISH OFFICE

Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh SO50 9DF
Tel: 02380 273882

Office Hours:
Monday-Wednesday: 9.30am-5.30pm (closed for an hour over lunchtime on Monday & Tuesday)
Thursday-Friday: 9.30am-2.30pm

Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance
Admin: Linda Roberts (works full day Mon-Wed, half day Thursday but working from home)
lroberts@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Sarah Goodfellow (works Wed-Fri from 9.30am-2.30pm)
stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website Contact: website.sswp@gmail.com