



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ 12th MARCH 2023: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

My Father Sings To Me

The time we are living is full of challenges. Cost of living crisis, family crisis, mental health crisis, war crisis... Someone has called it *permacrisis*. There are several ways to face a crisis, coming from different visions of the history of the world.

The first is the vision who sees history as the battlefield where men fight one against the other. The winners make history, the losers don't and have to wait until their time comes. Everything is seen through the lens of politics: liberals against conservatives, traditionalists against progressives...

There is also another vision of the history of the world, like the one preached by the eastern religions: man has to escape from history if he wants to find what he longs for.

The thing is that both visions are not historical at all. They take out of the equation one decisive factor: the divine element. If you zoom out for a moment from the issues and problems we are stuck in, and look carefully, with openness and without prejudice at the story of your life but also at the history of the world, you cannot but recognize the fact that you didn't make the world and not even yourself. Why is there something rather than nothing? What was there before the big bang? Who caused that explosion? Who is making me now? There is a divine factor, a voice continually speaking and calling things into being.

There is a voice in everything, calling me, sending me messages, like a verse of one of my favourite song says:

"In the world there is a voice and it sings with a mission. In my life there is a choice and I've chosen to listen. My Father sings to me, in endless elation. He sings my existence, He sings my salvation" (Richard Veras, *My Father sings to me*).

There is a voice, but there is also a choice: to listen to this voice or not. Silence the voice of the Father with our scepticism and doubts or stay silent and open the ears of the heart to listen to Him. But our God is not a *wireless God* whose voice floats through the air. He now speaks through human flesh, in Jesus of Nazareth whose presence we can meet today through the embrace of our mother Church.

Therefore the best way to face the *permacrisis* we are going through today, is to open the ears of our heart and listen to the voice of the Father who didn't abandon us, but speaks through the voice of the Church, especially through the liturgy. This time of Lent is a great occasion for each one of us to let God speak through the daily readings and prayers we hear during Mass. In those words we will find the right answers to all our needs and questions.

Fr Luca

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "The Passion of Evangelizing" 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 9.30am on Wednesday 15th March 2023, please email your messages/notices to: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 12th March 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Psalter Week 3

PSALM RESPONSE: O THAT TODAY YOU WOULD LISTEN TO HIS VOICE! "HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS."

READINGS: 1st reading Exodus 17:3-7 Psalm 94 2nd reading Romans 5:1-2,5-8 Gospel John 4:5-42

Sunday 19th March 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Psalter Week 4

PSALM RESPONSE: THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; THERE IS NOTHING I SHALL WANT.

READINGS: 1st reading 1 Samuel 16:1b,6-7,10-13a Psalm 22 2nd reading Ephesians 5:8-14 Gospel John 9:1-41

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.

www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

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!

Growing In Faith Together Group

Tues 14th March at 10.15am to approx. 11.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. We will be reflecting on the life and ministry of St Patrick. All are welcome!

Fellowship Group - St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. We are holding a Lenten Supper at 7pm every Wednesday during Lent followed by a Fellowship Lenten Study: **Belong and Believe** starting at 7.45pm. We will be following this CaFE course exploring how our Celtic past can help us in refreshing our communities and renewing our mission.

Week 3: 15th March - the theme is 'Renewed in the Holy Spirit'. For the Zoom link contact Peter at peterbaggott@aol.com

Anyone is welcome to come along just to the Lenten

Supper or just to the Lenten Study or to both.

For more details about the Supper please see the main messages section of the newsletter.

Romsey Prayer Group - Every Wednesday morning at 11am in the St Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water. All will be made very welcome.

Going Deeper - a meeting for Catholics wanting to follow the Carmelite spirituality. **Third Saturday in the month from 10.30am-3pm in St Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water.**

Contact Samantha Harris on 01794 503716 for details.

Afternoon Club - St. Joseph's Parish Centre (26 Abbey Water), first Tuesday in the month at 2pm. Come and join us for tea, games and good fun. All are welcome!

Oasis Women's Group - Wow! What a great evening we had listening to the experiences of Marianne Wanstall with the group 'Across' who take people on pilgrimage to Lourdes. We are delighted to welcome Clare Lasker this month, **13th March**, to speak to us about the incredible work being done by CAFOD. Come and find out how CAFOD is responding to the earthquake disaster in Syria and Turkey; the crisis in Ukraine and their ongoing work throughout the world, especially in Bangladesh. All women are warmly welcomed, come and enjoy our companionship, **7.30pm, Monday 13th March at St Edward the Confessor Church.**

Changes to Mass during Lent

The Friday Mass at OLOA will be celebrated at 10.30am (instead of 9.30am), followed by Stations of the Cross at 11am and soup lunch at Midday.

This year the St Edward's Friday Mass will remain at 10am preceded by Stations of the Cross at 9.30am. There will be a soup lunch at Midday.

Stations of the Cross During Lent

St Andrew: Tuesdays at 9.30am (before Mass);
St Swithun Wells: Tuesdays at 10am with coffee available afterwards;

Holy Cross: Thursdays at 9am (before Mass);

St Joseph: Fridays at 9.30am (before Mass);

St Edward: Fridays at 9.30am (before Mass);

St Edward: Friday 17th March at 6.15pm Stations of the Cross run by Stars of Abraham, all are welcome;
OLOA: Fridays at 11am (after Mass).

Lent Ecumenical Study Group in Romsey Parish

MESSAGES



Centre, 26 Abbey Water, Romsey, on Tuesday evenings 6.30pm-8pm. Please bring a bible if you can.

Lent Parish Retreat - We will hold a Parish Retreat for Lent on Sunday 12th March, 2.30pm-4.30pm at St Edward. Open to everyone. There will be a talk about Lent, some time for private prayer in the church and a time for questions and sharing thoughts.

Penitential Services

Saturday 25th March, 11am at Holy Cross

Thursday 30th March, 7.30pm at OLOA

Friday 31st March, 7.30pm at St Andrew

A number of priests will be available during these times.

Upcoming Second Collections

18th/19th March: Clergy Assistance Fund

25th/26th March: The Parish is running an Easter Camp (3rd-5th April). Donations are very welcome to allow more teenagers to join us.

MESSAGES CONTINUED



Lunches & Suppers being held across the Parish during Lent

St Swithun Wells, Fair Oak - at 7pm on Wednesdays, the Fellowship Group will be hosting Lenten Suppers of soup, bread and cheese in aid of the CAFOD Disaster Emergencies Fund.

St Edward's - Soup lunches will take place on **Fridays** during Lent from **12-1.30pm**. Donations greatly received, all proceeds will go to CAFOD.

OLQA - Soup lunches will take place on **Fridays at Midday** (after Mass), donations will go to CAFOD.

Upcoming Funeral

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Robert Crane and for his family. Robert's Funeral Mass takes place at **St Joseph's on Wednesday 15th March at 2pm**.

OLQA St Patrick's Day Social

17th March at 7pm in the Church hall in Bishop's Waltham - OLQA Social Group would like to invite members of the Parish to a musical evening with a local group called 'Shantyhead'. Tickets £5 a head, byo nibbles and drinks. Please contact Marie Kemp on 07760 809640 for more info/to reserve your tickets.

Ordination to the Priesthood of Edward Hauschild

Edward lived in Chandlers Ford for 22 years and was a server for many years at St Edward's. He is being ordained to the priesthood at 11am on Saturday 25th March in St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth. He has invited parishioners to come to his ordination and he will say his first Mass at St Edward's at 9am on Sunday 26th March. This is an occasion of great joy for both Edward and for the parish and we would like to mark it by a collection for him. If you would like to make a donation for Edward please either put cash or a cheque (made payable to CDP St Swithun Wells) in an envelope and hand this to the clergy or take the envelope down to the parish office. If you would like to contribute to the collection please do so by **Sunday 19th March**. You can also make a transfer to the parish account. The account details are as follows:

Account Holder: CDP ST SWITHUN WELLS

Account number: 01786599

Sort Code: 30-93-04

Reference: please indicate "EDHH_yoursurname" (for example: EDHH_Smith)

Cultural Friday - 7pm on 24th March at St Edward the Confessor

We will be listening to Greg Valerio MBE who is an ethical jeweler and radical campaigner for environment and social justice. Greg has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of some of the poorest people involved in the dangerous, back-breaking and ill-paid world of artisanal mining for precious metals. Greg also runs a 23 acres arable and livestock small holding in Sussex where, through work and prayer, he engages in caring for our environment. Cheese and wine will be available from 7pm, the talk will start at 7.30pm.

Easter Camp (Grail Seekers - School years 7, 8, 9 and Student Youth - School years 10, 11 & Sixth Form)

Mon 3rd April - Wed 5th April £110 (all inclusive)

St Joseph's House - 8 Lyndhurst Rd, Southampton

For more info & to book your space/your child's space please go to our website and complete the form as soon as possible. Part bursaries may be available on application. **Full payment by bank transfer must be received by Friday 31st March** (account details are on the booking form on our website). For any enquiries please email either: grailseekers.sswp@gmail.com or studentyouth.sswp@gmail.com

Message from Ted & Monica - We would like to thank you for all the cards, messages and kindness following our spate of ill-health. We are slowly on the mend. The church community have been a great comfort and support at this difficult time. Thank you so much.

Eastleigh Basics Bank - are currently open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, but would like to open on Fridays as well. **They need to recruit Two Volunteer Shop Managers** to work on alternate Fridays. If you are a Christian with a heart for your community, please read the job description on church noticeboards. If you are interested in applying for this role, please contact Hazel on hazel.bateman@eastleighbasicsbank.co.uk for more info. Volunteers are also needed to work in the shop under the direction of the shop manager, and possibly another stock management assistant to work in the shop and the warehouse.

SCHOOL NOTICES

St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School Vacancy

KS2 Teacher required for September 2023. Please see church noticeboards for the Job Description and how to apply. Closing date is 22nd March 2023. <https://www.st-swithunwells.org.uk/vacancies/>

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)

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: 9.30am-12.30pm, Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 11th March	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Margaret Martindale RIP The Harfield Family (Wellbeing) Peter Allan RIP Patricia Charleton RIP
Sunday 12th March <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Marie Goodman RIP Winnie Fung RIP Anniversary Joseph & Najat Shaanine RIP People of the Parish
Mon 13th	9.30am	Holy Cross	
Tues 14th March	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	The Pinnock Family (Wellbeing) Patrick Burke RIP FM
Wed 15th March	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am 2.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Edward St Joseph	May McGushin RIP <u>Funeral Mass: Robert Crane RIP</u>
Thurs 16th March	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Ellen Lane RIP FM Margaret Martindale RIP
Fri 17th <i>St Patrick</i>	10.00am 10.00am 10.30am	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	John Carmody RIP Anniversary Agnes Budd RIP
Saturday 18th March	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	People of the Parish The Villaver Family (Thanksgiving) Mary Uphill RIP FM
Sunday 19th March <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Patricia Bradley RIP FM Karen Elizabeth Rumens RIP Robert Benedict Harris RIP Anniversary

HC - Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF
 SSW - St Swithun Wells, Allington Lane, Fair Oak SO50 7DB
 OLQA - Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Martin Street, Bishop's Waltham, SO32 1DN

St Ed - St Edward, 191-193, Winchester Rd, Chandlers Ford, SO53 2DU
 St A - St Andrew, Fleming Avenue, North, Baddesley SO52 9EP
 St J - St Joseph, Abbey House Drive, Romsey, SO51 8YB

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 (OLQA Office)
 Deacon Bob Birtles
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 Deacon John di Meo
 Tel: 01794 515688; E: jdimeo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
 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

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)