



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ
11th AUGUST 2024: Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
This triple newsletter covers Sunday 11th, 18th & 25th August

The Bread of Life

In the Gospel for today's Liturgy, Jesus continues preaching to the people who had seen the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves. And he invites those people to make a qualitative leap: after having recalled the manna with which God had fed the forefathers in the long journey through the desert, he now applies the symbol of the bread to himself. He states clearly: "I am the bread of life" (Jn 6:48).

What does bread of life mean? We need bread to live. Those who are hungry do not ask for refined and expensive food, they ask for bread. Those who are unemployed do not ask for enormous wages, but the "bread" of employment. Jesus reveals himself as bread, that is, the essential, what is necessary for everyday life; without Him it does not work. Not one bread among many others, but the bread of life. In other words, without him, rather than living, we get by: because he alone nourishes the soul; he alone forgives us from that evil that we cannot overcome on our own; he alone makes us feel loved even if everyone else disappoints us; he alone gives us the strength to love and, he alone gives us the strength to forgive in difficulties; he alone gives that peace to the heart that it is searching for; he alone gives eternal life when life here on earth ends. He is the essential bread of life.

I am the bread of life, He says. Let us pause on this beautiful image of Jesus. He could have offered a rationale, a demonstration, but – we know – Jesus speaks in parables, and in this expression: "I am the bread of life", he truly sums up his entire being and mission. This will be seen completely at the end, at the Last Supper. Jesus knows that the Father is asking him not only to give food to people, but to give himself, to break himself, his own life, his own flesh, his own heart so that we might have life. These words of the Lord reawaken in us our amazement for the gift of the Eucharist. No one in this world, as much as they might love another person, can make themselves become food for them. God did so, and does so, for us. Let us renew this amazement. Let us do so as we adore the Bread of Life, because adoration fills life with amazement.

In the Gospel, however, rather than being amazed, the people are scandalized, they rend their clothing. They think: "We know this Jesus, we know his family. How can he say, 'I am the bread which came down from heaven?'" (cf. vv. 41-42). Perhaps we too might be scandalized: it might make us more comfortable to have a God who stays in heaven without getting involved in our life, while we can manage matters here on earth. Instead, God became man to enter into the concrete reality of this world; to enter into our concrete reality, God became man for me, for you, for all of us, in order to enter into our life. And He is interested in every aspect of our life. We can tell him about what we are feeling, our work, our day, our heartache, our anguish, so many things. We can tell Him everything because Jesus wants this intimacy with us. What does he not want? To be relegated to being considered a side dish – he who is Bread – to be overlooked and set aside, or called on only when we need him.

I am the bread of life. At least once a day we find ourselves eating together; perhaps in the evening with our family, after a day of work or study. It would be lovely, before breaking bread, to invite Jesus, the bread of Life, to ask him simply to bless what we have done and what we have failed to do. Let us invite him into our home; let us pray at home. Jesus will be at the table with us and we will be fed by a greater love.

Pope Francis

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is the **Trailer of Takashi and Midori Nagai Exhibition** - 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 **10.00am on Wednesday 28th August 2024**, 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 11th August 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 3

PSALM RESPONSE: TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD.

1st reading Kings 19:4-8 Psalm 33 2nd reading Ephesians 4:30-5:2 Gospel John 6:41-51

Sunday 18th August 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 4

PSALM RESPONSE: TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD.

1st reading Proverbs 9:1-6 Psalm 33 2nd reading Ephesians 5:15-20 Gospel John 6:51-58

Sunday 25th August 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 1

PSALM RESPONSE: TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD.

1st reading Joshua 24:1-2a,15-17,18b Psalm 33 2nd reading Ephesians 5:21-32 Gospel John 6:60-69

Sunday 1st September 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 2

PSALM RESPONSE: THE JUST WILL LIVE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD.

1st reading Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8 Psalm 14 2nd reading James 1:17-18,21-22,27 Gospel Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

MESSAGES



The Parish Office will be closed on Friday 16th & 23rd August, Bank Holiday Monday (26th August) and Tuesday 27th August.

Parish Barbeque - The Knights of St Columba and the CAFOD group invite you to a Parish barbecue at St Edward's on Saturday 17th August from 1pm. Food including desserts and a free first drink all for £12. Children under 12 are free.

BBQ, dessert and raffle contributions gratefully received and there will be a CAFOD produce stall. Enquiries to Neil Hendricks (02380 266324).

Tickets on sale after weekend Masses. Places are limited so don't delay!

The Annual BBQ for St Joseph's and St Andrew's churches will be held at 12.30pm on Sunday 25th August at St Andrew's church, N. Baddesley. Tickets will be £7.50 and as last year there will be a choice of fish or meat, along with salads etc and a dessert. Children are welcome. Tickets will be on sale outside St Joseph & St Andrew's churches on the weekends from 10th/11th August.

Invitation from St Joseph's Flower Arranging team to all church flower arrangers and those interested in arranging flowers within our parish, to attend the Celebration of The Feast Day of St Rosa of Lima in Romsey on Friday 23rd August.

We will commence the morning with Mass at 10am in St Joseph's Church, followed by refreshments in the Romsey Parish Centre (26A Abbey Water). At 12 Noon there will be an interactive talk for those interested to learn more about church flower arranging and/or are interested in considering being part of our churches flower arranging teams. Please contact Jean Viola (jeanviola@yahoo.co.uk) or Elizabeth Gare on 01794 515265 for more details. If you are intending to join us on the day we would be most grateful if you could let one of us know, just so we have an idea of numbers.

Holy Cross Coffee Stop

Please note the last Coffee Stop will be on Thursday 22nd August and will not be reopening until the works have been completed in the Resource Centre.

Pilgrimage to Douai Abbey - Sunday 8th Sept 2024

The Catholic Movement of Communion and Liberation is organising a Pilgrimage to Douai Abbey to offer to God the beginning of this social year.

Programme for the day:

11.30am we meet at the Upper Bucklebury Memorial Hall, 57 Broad Ln, Upper Bucklebury, Reading RG7 6QH.

We will have a picnic (please bring your own food and drink), and we will then walk to the Abbey together. The walk is approximately 5 Km/3 miles long and, while suitable for sturdy pushchairs we recommend child carriers instead. It is mainly on flat terrain, and good walking shoes are advised.

Once we get to the Abbey, we will celebrate Mass and then one of the monks will give us a talk about their community and life together.

At the end of the pilgrimage, we will either drive you (or who drives your car) back to the hall by minibus, or you are welcome to walk back if you prefer.

We estimate the pilgrimage to **end by 5pm**.

On the day, please remember to bring some cash to pay for the hall hire and for the monastic community. If you intend to come please sign up using the form on our parish website.

A reminder about the upcoming refurbishment of the Holy Cross Resource Centre

It has been agreed, to use some of the funds we hold in parish reserves, to reconfigure and refurbish the Resource Centre at Holy Cross. The changes will include dividing the upper office and loft into three separate offices, upgrading the kitchen and toilets as well as renewing the floors, main door, rendering and plastering the walls and decorating throughout. The Resource Centre is our most popular community space, and we hope that internal parish groups, external groups and individuals hosting private functions will be encouraged to hire/use it more and more often. The refurbishment has been agreed by the Parish Finance Committee and approved by the Diocese as part of the St Swithun Wells Parish Mission. **Work will start to clear the Resource Centre from Monday 26th August, with the actual building work starting on Monday 9th September 2024.**

MESSAGES CONTINUED



The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Thursday 15th August 2024

As this is a Holy Day of Obligation Masses will be celebrated across the parish on this day. Please see the back page of the newsletter for details.

Changes to Mass - there will be no Mass at OLQA on Friday 16th August.

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)

Our Youth Groups for children in primary school and young people in secondary school will restart at the end of September 2024. They are also the path we propose to those who want to be prepared to receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Registrations for the year 2024/2025 are now open on our website: www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/parishlife (scroll down to Youth Groups).

We would like to remind you that if a child or a teenager wants to be prepared to receive First Holy Communion (and is at least in school year 3) or Confirmation (and is at least in school year 9) we will ask them to come regularly to one of the three groups according to their age. They will receive First Holy Communion or Confirmation when they are ready (usually after one year).

There will be a meeting on **Saturday 21st September 2024 at 11am in St Edward's cloister** for all the parents and guardians where we will present the **2024/2025 Stars of Abraham programme**.

Another meeting to present the Stars of Abraham programme in the Romsey & North Baddesley area will be held at **St Andrew's Church, North Baddesley on Saturday 28th September at 2pm**.

The first event of Grail Seekers and Student Youth will be a weekend away from Friday 20th September to Sunday 22nd September. For more information about these groups and events please go to our website.

Sunday Parking at Holy Cross Church

A polite reminder for people who park down the middle of the car park, blocking other parishioners from leaving, to please move your vehicles as soon as possible after Mass.

Message from Right to Life - Please ask your MP to protect life in the new Parliament. We are likely to face threats in the new Parliament on both beginning and end-of-life fronts. Ask your local MP to protect the most vulnerable. Please email your MP today by visiting: righttolife.org.uk/newparliament

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET DURING AUGUST

If you need to arrange a time to speak to one of our priests during the month of August please either send them an email (their email addresses are on the back page of the newsletter) or catch them after Mass.

CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Tuesday:	9.30am-10.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew
Tuesday:	6.30pm-7.30pm (after Mass)	St Edward
Saturday:	10.00am-10.30am (after Mass)	Holy Cross
	5.30pm-6.00pm (before Mass)	St Joseph
Sunday:	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Edward
	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tues:	St Edward - after Mass (6.30pm to 7.30pm)
Wednesday:	Holy Cross - after Mass (10am to 11am)
Thursday:	St Joseph - 5pm to 6pm, <u>not on 15th Aug</u>

OUR CHURCHES

St Ed - St Edward the Confessor
191-193, Winchester Rd, Chandlers Ford, SO53 2DU

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

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: rcossa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)

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Fr Matteo Pagani (Assistant Priest)

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Fr Pietro Paiusco (Assistant Priest)

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Deacon Bob Birtles

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Deacon Paul Owen

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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 Attfield (rattfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION	DATE	TIME	CHURCH	INTENTION
Sat 10th August	9.30am	HC	Living & Deceased Members of the Davis & Lengyel Families FM	Thurs 22nd August	9.30am	HC	Raymond Kelly RIP 3rd Anniversary
<i>Morning Mass: St Laurence</i>	5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	SSW OLQA St J St Ed	Kathleen & Ivor Stroud RIP Ed & Mary Vokes (Silver Wedding Anniversary)	<i>Queen-ship of Mary</i>	6.00pm	St J	Thomas Hamilton RIP
Sunday 11th Aug	8.30am 9.00am	HC St Ed	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Living & Deceased Members of the Johns Family FM	Fri 23rd August	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	OLQA St J St Ed	Janet Cooke RIP Harry & Cavanagh Families Living & Dead FM
<i>19th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	St A OLQA HC* St J	Alan French RIP Anniv People of the Parish Crispina Fuentes & Audie Ariola RIP	Sat 24th August	9.30am	HC	Frederick John Johnson FM
Mon 12th	9.30am	HC	Douglas Hammerton RIP	<i>St Bartholomew</i>	5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	SSW OLQA St J St Ed	Andrew Bates RIP Anniv John & Beppie Marsh RIP Marie Hendricks RIP
Tues 13th	10.00am 6.00pm	St A St Ed	Evelyn McKay (Wellbeing) Mary Marjorie Haslam RIP	Sunday 25th August	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am	HC St Ed St A OLQA HC*	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> People of the Parish Mike Walsh RIP Anniversary John Marlow RIP Anniversary
Wed 14th St Maximilian Maria Kolbe	9.30am 10.00am	HC St Ed	Private Intention	<i>21st Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	11.00am	St J	
Thurs 15th The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.30am 10.00am 12.00pm 7.00pm 7.00pm	HC St J OLQA St A St Ed	Rev Paul Beaumont FM Elzbieta Flaherty RIP Anniversary Michael Anderson RIP Mrs Edward Christian FM	Mon 26th Blessed Dominic Barberi	9.30am	HC	Ron & Collette Reynolds FM
Fri 16th August	<u>9.30am</u> 10.00am 10.00am	<u>OLQA</u> St J St Ed	<u>No Mass</u> Bridie Firhurst (Wellbeing) Shanika & Alix (Health & Wellbeing)	Tues 27th St Monica	10.00am 6.00pm	St A St Ed	
Sat 17th August	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	HC SSW OLQA St J St Ed	Michael Lane RIP FM Colin Firhurst RIP Skipton Leonard & Mary Marjorie Haslam RIP	Wed 28th St Augustine of Hippo	9.30am 10.00am	HC St Ed	Thomas Charles Robinson FM
Sunday 18th Aug	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	HC St Ed St A OLQA HC* St J	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Christian Vernoy RIP People of the Parish Children of Palestine Devassy Devassy RIP	Thurs 29th Aug Passion of St John the Baptist	9.30am 6.00pm	HC St J	David & Ruth Spencer (Diamond Wedding Anniversary)
Mon 19th August	9.30am	HC	Kathleen Reynolds FM; Intentions of the Layzell Family	Fri 30th August	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	OLQA St J St Ed	Thomas Hamilton RIP
Tues 20th St Bernard	10.00am 6.00pm	St A St Ed		Sat 31st August	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	HC SSW OLQA St J St Ed	Sue Bettosi RIP
Wed 21st St Pius X	9.30am 10.00am	HC St Ed	Tony & Maureen Magee (Wellbeing)	Sunday 1st Sept	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am	HC St Ed St A OLQA HC*	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> People of the Parish Susan Butcher RIP Anniv Eric Hyom (Special Intention) Sr Joseph (70th Jubilee of Profession)

* also livestreamed, please go to the parish website