



## Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ 25th June 2023: TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### NEWSLETTER: A WORTHY CAUSE

A few years ago I was travelling on the underground in London and found myself sitting opposite a young man who had a tattooed face. It was extremely distracting because his whole face was a spider's web and on his nose, which was the centre of the web, was a large spider; his hair was pink and in a Mohican cut, and his clothes were leather embellished with many metal studs which also decorated his ears. I, for my part, was in my clerical collar and black suit. There was a moment when I was looking at him and thinking how strange he looked and he was looking at me thinking the same thing. At that moment we both smiled as we read each others thoughts. I must say that I admired the person for having the courage to proclaim himself to the world even though I had my doubts that such an art form would be acceptable for a priest at the altar!!

However, it takes a lot of courage to be yourself, and the Gospel for today asks us to not be afraid to proclaim our Faith as Christians to those around us. In a similar way to the man in the train, but not in the physical sense, we are asked to spiritually tattoo our bodies with Christian signs of our Faith so that others may see them and perhaps at the centre, not on our nose, but on our forehead, we should see the sign of the cross and the word Christian.

The tattooed man on the train, whether he knew it or not, was a radical; he was making a statement about the place of the individual in society. We may have doubts about the method of mutilating the face as a means to express this individuality, but we would certainly agree that the individual is precious and affirmed as an unique child of God. Out of the darkness we are asked to step into the light. Our Christianity has to be lived in Community - in Society. We are encouraged to witness to our Faith whether we are articulate or not; whether we seem strange or not by the standards of society. I am encouraged by the Orthodox tradition of *The Holy Fool*. These were eccentric men and women, acclaimed as Saints, who did the most odd things to bring to people's attention the Christian message that the Gospel is for **all** people. It seems that in our so called "*enlightened*" Western Culture, Christians are being more and more side-lined as *holy fools* with no relevant message to proclaim. NOT SO! Never more so, has the world been in need of the Christian message. It needs messengers to come out from behind the cobwebs and announce with joy what the Lord has done for them in their lives. I suppose that my main criticism of the man on the train with the tattooed face is that I would have liked to have seen his real God given face and I would have liked to have been given the opportunity to say to him, that, just as he is, he is precious in the sight of the Lord. God thinks that he and we are the best thing that he has ever made. He is indiscriminate. He does not need artificiality and he does not need us to hide behind the reality of who we are.

I am reminded of the joke of the bald man who went into the tattoo shop and asked that his bald head be tattooed with rabbits! "Why rabbits?" replied the tattoo artist, "because", said the man, "at a distance they look like hares." (hairs)!!! - Believe me when I say there is no artificiality with God.

Fr Bruce

### GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "Forty Martyrs of England and Wales" an interesting TV Series - you can find this on our homepage. If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact [website.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:website.sswp@gmail.com)

For the next Newsletter, items should be received into the Parish Office by **9.30am on Wednesday 28th June 2023**, please email your messages/notices to: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

## LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



**Sunday 25th June 2023:** Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 4

**PSALM RESPONSE: (14C) IN YOUR GREAT LOVE, ANSWER ME, O GOD.**

**READINGS:** 1<sup>st</sup> reading Jeremiah 20:10-13 Psalm 68 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Romans 5:12-15 Gospel Matthew 10:26-33

**Sunday 2nd July 2023:** Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 1

**PSALM RESPONSE: (2A) I WILL SING FOR EVER OF YOU LOVE, O LORD.**

**READINGS:** 1<sup>st</sup> reading 2 Kings 4:8-11,14-16a Psalm 88 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Romans 6:3-4,8-11 Gospel Matthew 10:37-42

## PARISH GROUPS



**Youth Groups (including First Holy Communion & Confirmation)** - Please check the parish website for the calendar of meetings, times and venues.  
[www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](http://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**

**Tuesdays 10.15am to approx. 11.45am** in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. All are welcome!

### **Fellowship Group - Wednesday 28th June**

We continue our scripture based discussions about how God still speaks to us through scripture and how we respond. For more details email Dcn Bob: [bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Join us in person at St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak (at 7.30pm) or by Zoom. For the Zoom link contact: Peter at [peterbaggott@aol.com](mailto:peterbaggott@aol.com)

**Knitting Club** - Third Tuesday of the month, from 2pm-4pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. If you would like to join us for a knit and cup of tea please come along, all levels of knitting ability 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. Come and join us for tea, games and good fun.

### **Sunday Boules Group OLOA**

**Meet in the car park at 11am**, all welcome! If you have a set of boules please bring them along.

### **Upcoming Second Collection**

**Peter's Pence second collection will now take place on 2nd July.**

The faithful's offerings to the Holy Father are destined to Church needs, humanitarian initiatives and social promotion projects, as well as to the support of the Holy See. Parishioners may also use the yellow gift aid envelopes or donate online at <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/peters-pence-second-collection-2023>.

The collection will be open from 23rd June until 11th July. Thank you.

### **Solemnity of Ss Peter & Paul on Thursday 29th June**

Please remember this is a Holy Day of Obligation, a number of Masses will be held across the Parish on this day, please see the back page for details.

### **Upcoming Funerals**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Anne Josephine Hooper and for her family. Anne's Funeral Mass will take place at **St Andrew's on Tuesday 4th June at 11am.**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of John McGhee and for his family. John's Funeral Mass will take place at **Holy Cross on Tuesday 11th July at Midday.**

### **Come & See Summer Club (ages 7yrs to 14 yrs)**

**St Edward's Church, 8.30am to 3.30pm**

**Mon 7th to Fri 11th August 2023**

**Mon 14th to Fri 18th August 2023**

## MESSAGES



Daily cost: £10 for the first child, £5 per additional child (siblings). For more information and to register please go to:

<https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/comeandsee>  
Volunteers will open the venue and welcome children from 8.30am (activities start at 9am) and will close it at 3.30pm. Please note that every day the Summer Club is on we are offering a **Club Extension** where children can stay at the venue from 3.30pm until (maximum) 5.30pm. The Club extension costs £10 per day per child. In order to join the Summer Club please complete the registration form on our website and **pay the whole amount by bank transfer by Friday 4th August 2023.** Please also include the cost of the Club Extension (3.30pm-5.30pm) if your child is going to attend.

### **Weddings 2023**

This year many couples from our parish are preparing or have already celebrated their weddings:

Kelly Painter & Aleks Gross

Emma Polden & Daniel West

Keira Hassim & Jordan Dennis

Sally Phillips & Joseph Benson

Kate Lewis & Jonathan Preston

Cheyrinne Udeagbala & Roman Kwiaton

Jordan Skellon & Matthieu Gelot

Katie Murray & Jared Hayward

Tandiwe Jenje & Francis Muringayi

Please pray for them.

# MESSAGES CONTINUED



## Cultural Friday

### 23rd June, 7pm at St Edward's

We will be watching 'A Man Called Otto', an American comedy-drama film starring Tom Hanks, directed by Marc Forster, about a grumpy widower whose only joy comes from criticising and judging his exasperated neighbours. A very moving film about the power of friendship and community. Film Certification 15. Cheese and wine from 7pm, the film starts at 7.30pm.

## Parish Party in the Park

On **Sunday 9th July from 1pm-6pm** there will be a Parish Party in the field behind Fleming Park Leisure Centre, Eastleigh (as we did last year). Please see the map of the exact location on our website. Please use the car park of the Leisure Centre, we can also use their toilet facilities during the event.

We will provide standard BBQ food (burgers, sausages, bread, vegetarian option) however please bring your own drinks, plates, cutlery, chairs/picnic blankets and some salad/cakes to share. There is a booking system in place on our website, please book your place/food by **Thursday 6th July. Price £5 per person, for children 10 years and under it will be free.** Payment by cash or card reader on the day.

### Event Programme:

- 1pm** - we eat lunch, BBQ food will be available;
- 2.15pm** - entertainment for children (magic show by Clumsy Entertainment);
- 3.30pm** - games in the park and craft activities (for children and adults);
- 4.30pm** - talk by Fr Andrew Lee, we will then present him the gift which we are currently collecting for;
- 5pm** - live music by Stomping Boondocks (Irish/Folk music & dance);
- 6pm** - event ends.

## Ordination to the Priesthood of Andrew Lee

As you know Andrew will be ordained to the priesthood on **3pm, Saturday 24th June in St Paul outside the Walls in Rome.** This is an occasion of great joy for both Andrew and for our parish and we would like to present him with a gift to mark this momentous occasion. If you would like to make a donation for Andrew's gift 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 **Monday 3rd July 2023.**

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 "ALEE\_yoururname" (for example: ALEE\_Smith).

Fr Andrew will be celebrating his first parish Masses at St Andrew & St Joseph on Sunday 2nd July and St Edward's & Holy Cross on 9th July. He will be presented with the gift during the Parish Party in the Park on 9th July.

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As you may have heard the previous weekend, Andrew will be heading off to a new mission in August. He will join a parish in Budapest, Hungary, please pray for his new adventure.

Matteo (one of our previous Seminarians) will be ordained a Deacon (on the same day as Andrew) and will re-join our parish from August.

Another priest, Fr Mario, will join our mission too from August. We are sure that our parish will welcome them with joy.

**Banana Triathlon Crowd Funding** - Inspired by the example of Carrie and the parishioners who ran the Romsey Relay Marathon, we would like to propose a crowd funding initiative connected with the Banana Triathlon (1st July 2023). Some parishioners will be participating in this event with the intention of raising money for the Parish Youth Groups. If you would like to support them please go to: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/sswp-banana-triathlon>

**Walsingham Pilgrimage** - As you know, a number of our parishioners will be attending the pilgrimage to Walsingham on Friday 30th June until Sunday 2nd July. It will be an amazing opportunity to spend time together, to visit the place where Our Lady appeared in a vision and to pray for the parish and all our intentions. Please keep the pilgrims in your prayers.

**Catholic Schools Inspection Report May 2023: Catholic Life & Mission of Saint George Catholic College** - Overall the school is graded Good, and the Catholic Life and Mission of the College is Outstanding. The report also recognises our inclusive approach, empowering students of all backgrounds and abilities to actively contribute to our vibrant community and our commitment to religious education and impactful liturgical events. Please read the full report on our website at [www.stgcc.co.uk](http://www.stgcc.co.uk)

## 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

Tues: St Edward after Mass (6.30pm-7.30pm)  
 Wednesday: Holy Cross - after Mass (10.00am-11.00am)  
 Thursday: St Joseph - before Mass (Not on 29th June)

## TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Tuesdays: Fr Raffaele isn't available on 27th June  
 Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh  
 Wednesdays: Fr Luca isn't available on 28th June  
 Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh  
 Fridays: Fr Raffaele isn't available on 30th June,  
 Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water)  
 Saturdays: Fr Marco isn't available on 1st July  
 Romsey, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water),  
 Romsey

# MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 24th June <i>Morning Mass:</i> <i>The Nativity of St John the Baptist</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Dcn Andrew Lee on the day of his Ordination Mary Walsh RIP  Fr Marco (on the Anniversary of his Ordination) Living & Deceased Members of the Bonetti & Wilson Family FM
Sunday 25th June <i>Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Teresa & Richard Layzell (60th Wedding Anniversary) Stanisław & Władysława Olearnik RIP  Bill Murphy's 80th Birthday Intentions Special Intention for Emma & Lucy
Monday 26th June	9.30am	Holy Cross	People of the Parish
Tuesday 27th June	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Catherine Hinds RIP 29th Anniversary
Wed 28th June <i>St Irenaeus</i>  <i>Vigil Mass</i>	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am 7.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Edward OLQA	Gavin & Louisa Lockhart (20th Wedding Anniversary)  Leo Feord RIP <b>Solemnity of Ss Peter &amp; Paul</b>
Thurs 29th June <i>Ss Peter &amp; Paul</i>	<u>9.30am</u> <u>10.00am</u> <u>12 Noon</u> <u>7.00pm</u> <u>7.00pm</u>	<u>Holy Cross</u> <u>St Joseph</u> <u>OLQA</u> <u>St Andrew</u> <u>St Edward</u>	Sr Shirley RIP
Friday 30th June	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Ita O'Grady RIP
Sat 1st July	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Rita McCann RIP  Roy Russell-Smith RIP Birthday Anniversary John Milles FM
Sunday 2nd July <i>Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Geoff Bird RIP  People of the Parish Gloria Colman RIP

## CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

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)  
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 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)