



*Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ*

**22nd SEPTEMBER 2024: TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

## A Summer Full of Grace

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> June I was ordained a priest! There are not many words to describe something so great and beautiful. The one that comes closest, I think, is gratitude: gratitude for an immense and undeserved gift. What I remember most about that day, three months ago this Sunday, is the joy and serenity. In particular, I remember the moment of prostration when we lay down and the Saints were invoked. The tradition of the Church says that at that moment God grants to those who are to be ordained whatever they ask of Him (and I have already received graces for what I have asked of Him). That is why, last year, for my diaconal ordination, I had begun this moment by trying to remember all the intentions for which I wanted to ask for grace, but then, little by little, I had essentialised my prayer more and more, until it became "Lord, you know everything, you know that I love you!". This year, on the other hand, it was a moment of pure entrustment: entrusting to the Lord my life, my vocation and all the intentions I had in my heart (and written down on a piece of paper in my pocket), supported by the prayers of the people there (including some of you!) and of the Saints whose intercession we were asking for.

Another really moving moment was when, after the Bishop had laid his hands on our heads (the moment of ordination), all the priests present, about a hundred of them, also laid their hands on our heads. This moment is meant to signify that the priests welcome you into the priesthood. But I think in our case, as priests of the Fraternity of St Charles, it had another meaning for me (this is my own interpretation, so take it with a grain of salt). Many of the priests present at the laying on of hands were priests of the Fraternity, among them Fr Luca, Fr Raffaele and Fr Pietro (Fr Mario had stayed here to preside over the parish and celebrate the Masses). For me, it was as if at that moment I was welcomed again into the Fraternity, my home, now welcomed as a priest, and at that moment my brothers, with that gesture, were saying to me: "You are not alone in this journey, I am also here to accompany you". In this regard, there was an episode that filled me with tenderness. While the priests were laying their hands on me, I could not see them because I had my head bowed and my eyes closed, but at a certain point I recognised one of them. It was Fr Gerry, one of the first seminarians and priests of the Fraternity, who has been in Rome for many years and who now suffers from Parkinson's disease in a very advanced stage. I recognised him because his hand was trembling. What moved me, however, was that after laying his hands, before moving on to the next person, he stroked my face (as he did with all the other ordained). It was this gesture of tenderness that made me realise what I had been trying to say before.

Finally, I would like to thank again all of you who were able to come to my ordination and all those who helped and attended my first Masses here in England, especially for the party, the wonderful welcome you gave my parents and also the wonderful gift of the Icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa (that it should be ready before Christmas!). You have been for me a tangible instrument of God's love in my life. It was as if God was saying to me through you: "Do you see how much I love you?".

*Fr Matteo*

## GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "The Tunnel of Friendship" by Pope Francis - 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 **10am on Wednesday 25th September**, please email your messages/notices to: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto: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 22nd September 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 1

PSALM RESPONSE: THE LORD UPHOLDS MY LIFE.

1<sup>st</sup> reading Wisdom 2:12,17-20 Psalm 53 2<sup>nd</sup> reading James 3:16-4:3 Gospel Mark 9:30-37

Sunday 29th September 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 2

PSALM RESPONSE: THE PRECEPTS OF THE LORD GLADDEN THE HEART.

1<sup>st</sup> reading Numbers 11:25-29 Psalm 18 2<sup>nd</sup> reading James 5:1-6 Gospel Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48

## PARISH GROUPS



**Growing In Faith Together Group (GIFT)** - The GIFT Group will be meeting in the Balcony of Holy Cross Church every Tuesday at 10.30am whilst the Resource Centre is being re-furbished.

**Fellowship Meeting** - Wednesdays at St Swithun Wells Church, 7.30pm-9.30pm (note new time!). The topic for Wed 25th is "Sharing our Favourite Prayers". Everyone is welcome. To join by zoom please email Peter Baggott for the link on [Peterbaggott@aol.com](mailto:Peterbaggott@aol.com).

**Learn to Pray with the Weekly Scripture Readings** Wednesdays at 11am in St Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water, Romsey.

Please come along if you would like to grow in your life of prayer by praying with the following Sunday's Mass readings. All are welcome.

**Afternoon Club** - St. Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water. Come and join us for tea, games and good fun. Please note the next games afternoon will be held on Tuesday 1st October at 2pm.

**Communion & Liberation Groups**

School of Community meet weekly at:

**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!

**The Little Flowers Baby & Toddler Group**

Meet on Wednesdays during term time from

10.30am to 12 Noon in St Edward's Cloister.

The group is for 0-4 years and their families.

More information is on the website or you can

email: [littleflowers.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:littleflowers.sswp@gmail.com).

**Ark of Fellowship - Group for learning disabilities or learning difficulties, their families and friends**

Thursdays at 6.30pm in St Swithun Wells Church,

Fair Oak SO50 7DB. Interested in volunteering or

know some young adults who would like to join the

group? If yes, please contact:

[arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com)

## MESSAGES



**Changes to Mass**

Starting Thursday 26th September the 12 Noon Mass will resume at OLQA.

Starting Sunday 29th September there will be a new Mass every Sunday at 5.30pm in Holy Cross Church (this is in addition to the 11am Mass).

**Request for Readers for the new 5.30pm Mass on Sundays at Holy Cross Church** - If anyone is interested, please contact Jenny on 07787 532642.

**Upcoming Second Collection**

6th October 2024: CAFOD Harvest Appeal

CAFOD's Family Fast Day is on Friday 4th October

Please do not use our yellow gift aid envelopes for this collection, CAFOD have provided their own envelopes. These will be made available next weekend in preparation for the Family Fast Day on 4th October, please pick up an envelope. You will then be able to hand in the CAFOD envelopes during the second collection on the 5th/6th October. Alternatively please give online at [cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope).

**Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)**

Wednesdays at 8pm in St Edward the Confessor Church, Chandler's Ford. Starting Wednesday 2nd October. If you, or someone you know, would like to be baptised, confirmed or received into the Catholic Church (or know more about the Catholic faith) please speak to a priest or email Deacon Paul Owen: [powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Macmillan Coffee Morning** - Margaret French is holding her annual Macmillan Coffee Morning at St Andrew's on Friday 27th September from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Please come along for a chat and coffee and cake, and support this very worthy cause.

**Parish Get2Gether** - Sunday 6th October, 1-4pm Pavillion on the Park, 1 Kingfisher Road, SO50 9LH An event for all of the parish, especially families. We begin at 1pm, sharing a meal together followed by some activities and a discussion, the topic will be 'Love between Husband and Wife'. No cost, however we kindly ask you to give a donation to cover the hire of the Pavillion. Please bring some food, beverages or cakes to share with others. We would be grateful if you could please write down the main ingredients and allergens on a piece of paper so people can make an informed decision as to whether the food is suitable for them. Please can you bring your own cups/plates/cutlery. To book your place please go to our parish website and use the link you find on the "Next Main Parish Events" section.

*Next Get2Gether date for your diary: 3rd November.*

**Stella Maris Message of Thanks** - Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your kind support of the work of Stella Maris through our Sea Sunday 2024 appeal. We are most grateful for your parish's generous donation of £739.17.

## MESSAGES CONTINUED



### Youth Groups (including First Holy Communion & Confirmation)

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

Tuesdays 4pm-5.30pm, St Edward's

Saturdays 10.30am-12pm, St Edward's until Christmas

#### **Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9)**

#### **Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)**

Fridays 6.30pm-8.30pm, St Edward's until Christmas

Our Youth Groups 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 open on our website: [www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/parishlife](http://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** for those interested in joining the groups based in Eastleigh or Chandler's Ford.

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.**

For more information about the youth groups and events please go to our website.

**Parish Lunch at the Hunters Inn, Romsey on Monday 30th September at 12.30pm.** Menus are on the notice boards, All are welcome. Please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know your choice of meal no later than Sunday 22nd September as we have to pre-order. Thank you.

**Canon Peter Wilkie** who died earlier this year, was a much loved parish priest of St Edward the Confessor Church, from 1985 to 1993. During that time the extension of the church was undertaken and this was made possible through the faith and generosity of the people of the parish. A Foundation Mass will be celebrated for Canon Peter in **St Edward's on Tuesday 8th October at 6pm.** All are welcome.

**St Anne's Catholic School Open Morning & Evening** - Parents can visit us on **Wednesday 25th September** during our Open Morning (9am-11am) and/or our Open Evening (6pm-8pm). Parents can book a free ticket via Eventbrite (see poster on church noticeboards). Open morning gives parents the opportunity to see the school on a normal working day and talk to their student guides as they tour the school. Open evening gives families the opportunity to talk to a range of staff, hear a talk from the Headteacher, Head girls and some Year 7 pupils and to tour the school with student guides. <https://st-annes.uk.com>

### Retirement of Fr Bruce

We wish to acknowledge the Ministry of Fr Bruce at OLQA, the Parish and Diocese. If you would like to contribute to a gift for his retirement, please place this in a clearly marked envelope and hand in to the Parish Office or at OLQA in the collection bag during Mass.

**Mary's Meals** – a little known but truly remarkable charity named after the mother of Jesus, is giving hope to nearly 2.5 million hungry children living in poverty in 17 countries around the world, by providing one hot, nutritious, free school meal, every day the children attend. 67,000,000 children are out of school trying to survive poverty and hunger. The prospect of a good meal, brings them off the streets and toxic rubbish dumps into a place of safety and into education and gives those children already in school, the energy and focus to learn.

Mary's Meals believes that SCHOOL + FOOD = HOPE of a life beyond poverty and hunger. It costs just 10p a day to feed a child; £19.15p for a whole school year. 93p of every £1 donated goes directly towards the charitable activities. Volunteers are the backbone of Mary's Meals, and the charity is supported by people of all colours, ages and beliefs who have one thing in common, love in their hearts and a desire to share what they can, with those who have nothing.

For more info and to donate online please go to: <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk>

If you would like to send a donation (however please do not send cash through the post) the address is: Mary's Meals, Craig Lodge, Dalmally, Argyll, PA33 1AR

### Latest Diocesan Job Vacancies

For more information please go to:

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/people/careers/>

### 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	OLQA
	5.30pm-6.00pm	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-7.30pm)
Wednesday:	Holy Cross - after Mass (10am-11am)
Thursday:	St Joseph - before Mass (5pm-6pm)

### TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Tuesdays:	Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Church, Eastleigh;
Wednesdays:	Fr Luca, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Church, Eastleigh;
Fridays:	Fr Mario, 10am-12 Noon, OLQA, Bishop's Waltham;
Fridays:	Fr Pietro, 11am-12.45pm, 26A Abbey Water, Romsey.

## MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 21st Sept <i>Morning Mass: St Matthew</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOA St Joseph St Edward	Angeline (Special Intention) Mary Quinn RIP Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP Aine Gaftney & Family (Wellbeing) Ann Wood RIP
Sunday 22nd Sept <i>Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLOA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Richard Whelan RIP Newton Carrasco RIP Anniversary Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP Paul Penson RIP People of the Parish
Monday 23rd Sept <i>St Pio of Pietrelcina</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross	Holy Souls In Purgatory RIP
Tuesday 24th Sept <i>Our Lady of Walsingham</i>	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Daniel D Smith RIP
Wed 25th Sept	9.30am 9.30am	Holy Cross St Edward	Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP
Thurs 26th Sept	9.30am <u>12 Noon</u> 6.00pm	Holy Cross <u>OLOA</u> St Joseph	Tom Cronin RIP  Deceased Members of the Hamilton Family RIP
Friday 27th Sept <i>St Vincent de Paul</i>	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLOA	Sr Joseph (Thanksgiving) Mrs Edward Christian FM Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP
Saturday 28th September	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLOA St Joseph St Edward	Ellen Lane RIP FM Pat Freemantle FM Mike Hooper RIP People of the Parish Maria Szczetnikowicz RIP Anniversary
Sunday 29th Sept <i>Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8.30am 9.00am  9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am <u>5.30pm</u>	Holy Cross St Edward  St Andrew OLOA Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph <u>Holy Cross</u>	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Living & Deceased Members of the Murphy and Lucas Families FM Jesus Ocaya & Francisco Villaver RIP  James & Kathleen Ryder RIP Elvira Golez RIP Holy Souls in Purgatory RIP

## CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)

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

Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)

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Fr Mario Toma (Assistant Priest)

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Fr Matteo Pagani (Assistant Priest)

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Fr Pietro Paiusco (Assistant Priest)

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

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

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