



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

**12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023: THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

## Making The Church More Attractive

At the beginning of his visit to the United Kingdom, on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2010, Pope Benedict XVI granted an interview to a journalist. One of the first questions was particularly interesting. I believe it is still relevant today, given a recent survey that said that less than the half of the UK population consider themselves as Christians. It is also relevant in terms of how Anglicans and Catholics can work together. Here is the journalist's question and the Pope's answer.

**Journalist:** The United Kingdom, like many other Western countries is considered a secular nation, with a strong atheistic movement associated with cultural influences; however there are also signs that religious faith, in particular in Jesus Christ, is still vibrant at the personal level. What might this mean for Catholics and Anglicans? Can one do something to make the Church as an institution more credible and attractive to all?

**Pope Benedict:** One might say that a Church which seeks above all to be attractive would already be on the wrong path, because the Church does not work for itself, does not work to increase its numbers so as to have more power.

The Church is at the service of Another; it does not serve itself, seeking to be a strong body, but it strives to make the Gospel of Jesus Christ accessible, the great truths, the great powers of love and of reconciliation that appeared in this figure and that come always from the presence of Jesus Christ. In this sense, **the Church does not seek to be attractive, but rather to make herself transparent for Jesus Christ.** And in the measure in which the Church is not for herself, as a strong and powerful body in the world, that wishes to have power, but simply is herself the voice of Another, she becomes truly transparent to the great figure of Jesus Christ and the great truths that he has brought to humanity, the power of love; it is then when the Church is heard and accepted. She should not consider herself, but assist in considering the Other, and should herself see and speak of the Other and for the Other.

In this sense it seems to me also that Anglicans and Catholics have the simple task, the same task, the same direction to take. **If Anglicans and Catholics see that both are not there for themselves, but are rather instruments of Christ, 'friends of the Bridegroom,' as Saint John says; if both follow together the priority of Christ and not themselves, they draw closer together, because the priority of Christ brings them together, they are no longer in competition, each one seeking greater numbers, but are united in commitment to the truth of Christ who comes into this world, and so they find themselves also placed reciprocally in a true and fruitful ecumenism.**

*Fr Luca*

## GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is **"Why Does the Righteous Suffer?"** by Cardinal Pizzaballa - 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 15th November 2023**, please email your messages/notices to: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

# LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 12th November 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 4

PSALM RESPONSE: FOR YOU MY SOUL IS THIRSTING, O GOD, MY GOD.

1<sup>st</sup> reading Wisdom 6:12-16 Psalm 62 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Thessalonians 4:13-18 Gospel Matthew 25:1-13

Sunday 19th November 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 1

PSALM RESPONSE: O BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO FEAR THE LORD.

1<sup>st</sup> reading Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31 Psalm 127 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Thessalonians 5:1-6

Gospel Matthew 25:14-30

## PARISH GROUPS



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

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

Tues, 4.00pm-5.30pm in St Edward's Cloister;

Sat, 10.30am-Noon in Holy Cross Resource Centre.

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

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

We usually meet on Friday evenings in the Holy Cross Resource Centre at 6.30pm. Please check the parish website for the calendar of meetings, times and venues.

### Growing In Faith Together Group

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

Fellowship Group - Wednesday 15th November, 7pm at St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. This week we will be looking at The Early Fathers. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to join us by Zoom, contact Peterbaggott@aol.com for the link.

### Learn to Pray with the Weekly Scripture Readings

Wednesdays at 11am in St Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water, Romsey;

Thursdays at 10am in St Edward the Confessor Church, Chandler's Ford.

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. For more info please contact Emmanuel Chituh (chiati2002@yahoo.com or 07915 379686) or Dcn Paul Owen (02380 254806 or powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) for the St Edward's group or Marilyn on 07909 127027 for the Romsey group.

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

Thursdays at 6.30pm in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. Interested in volunteering or know some young adults who would like to join the group? If yes, please contact: arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.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!

60 Club - meets every fortnight on a Monday from 2pm-4pm at Holy Cross Resource Centre. Our next meeting is on Monday 13th November. All are welcome!

### Remembrance Sunday (12th November)

**Holy Cross** - Mass will start at 11.30am following the civil commemoration in the park.

**St Joseph's** - Mass will be at 11.30am following the civil commemoration in the park.

**St Swithun Wells Church Community** will be laying a wreath at the Memorial in Fair Oak Village Square at 11am on Sunday 12th November. Please come and join us in this Service of Remembrance.

### Blessing of the Graves

**12th November (Remembrance Sunday)**

Romsey Cemetery 2pm

Woodley 2.30pm

Bishopstoke Cemetery 2pm

Eastleigh Cemetery 3pm

Fair Oak Cemetery 2pm

Ramalley Cemetery 3pm

**14th November** - North Baddesley 10.30am

Upcoming Funeral - Please pray for the repose of the soul of Maria Houghton and for her family.

Maria's Funeral Mass takes place on Tuesday 14th November at 2pm in Holy Cross Church.

## MESSAGES



### Second Collection Next Weekend -18th/19th Nov Missions of the Fraternity of St Charles Borromeo

Cultural Friday - 17th Nov at 7pm in St Edward's We will be watching a film, "Sully: A Miracle on the Hudson", directed by Clint Eastwood. On 15th January 2009, the world witnessed the "Miracle on the Hudson" when Captain "Sully" Sullenberger (played by Tom Hanks) glided his disabled plane onto the frigid waters of the Hudson River, saving the lives of all 155 aboard. However, an investigation was unfolding that threatened to destroy his reputation and his career. A film about the contrast between numbers/theories and a "human factor" that no calculation can erase. Cheese and wine from 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm. Suggested donation £1.

Date for your diary - On Tuesday 21st November at 7.30pm, in Holy Cross Church, we are hosting an ecumenical service. It will be on the theme of Listening. (Part of the "Bells" initiative - information cards in Welcoming Area). It would be great if our Catholic community was to be well represented as we are the hosts. All are welcome.

## MESSAGES CONTINUED



**Good Companions** - Our next get-together for those who live alone or are lonely will be at **12 Noon on Friday 24th November in St Edward's Cloister**. Please note the EARLIER START TIME due to the daylight factor. Please join us. Contact Tony Wilson on 023 80266617.

**Parish Retreat for Advent on Sat 2nd December, 2.30pm-4.30pm at St Edward's**. Open to everyone. There will be a talk about Advent, some time for private prayer in the church and a time for questions and sharing thoughts.

**Parish Lunch on Wednesday 6th December, 12.30pm** at the Hunters Inn, Romsey. Menus are on the notice boards. All are welcome. Please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know your choice of meal **by Tues 28th Nov** as we have to pre-order. Thank you.

### **CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal**

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at [cafod.org.uk/ipc](http://cafod.org.uk/ipc) or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.

### **Parish Pilgrimage to Siena, Assisi & Rome**

**Tuesday 18th June - Sunday 23rd June 2024**

Please note that completed booking forms (forms are available on our website or in church welcome areas) and deposit payments needed to be made to **Tangney Tours by 9th November, if you haven't sent yours already please do so as soon as possible**.

**Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024** - A group from the Hampshire area will be going to Lourdes with the charity Across, 13-22 June 2024. Across organises pilgrimages using specialist transport, for people with life-limiting illness, disability or complex care needs, who cannot travel by conventional means. The group will comprise 24 people including up to 10 "VIPs" (those needing care), helpers, a medical team and a chaplain. Travel is by Jumbulance, an adapted coach with beds, lift and assistance for all care needs,

### **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 Luca, 10.30am-11.30am, Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey

### **CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)**

<b>Tuesday:</b>	6.30pm-7.30pm (after Mass)	St Edward
<b>Tuesday:</b>	9.30am-10.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew
<b>Saturday:</b>	10.00am-10.30am (after Mass)	Holy Cross
	10am or by appointment	OLQA
	5.30pm-6.00pm (before Mass)	St Joseph
<b>Sunday:</b>	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Edward
	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew

plus 7 nights in a 4 star hotel in Lourdes. Price will be confirmed shortly but likely to be c. £995 including all travel, meals and accommodation. Anyone who is interested in travelling please contact Marianne Wanstall by email: [mwanstall@btinternet.com](mailto:mwanstall@btinternet.com)  
We especially need helpers and nurses - no prior experience necessary, just a willingness to help. All those travelling need to self-fund their place, so we are also planning to do some fundraising in the next few months, to sponsor those who might struggle financially but would really benefit from time in Lourdes. If you can't or prefer not to join the pilgrimage, but would like to support others in our community to do so, donations can be made directly to Across by bank transfer, sort code 80-08-64, account number 00101485 - please put "Hampshire" in the payment reference so the Across team can allocate it to our group and also let Marianne know. Thank you so much for your interest and support.

### **Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)**

If you would like to be baptised, confirmed or received into the Catholic Church (or know more about the Catholic faith) please email Deacon Paul Owen: [powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or alternatively please speak to a priest.

**Help required** - An elderly parishioner living in Surrey Court, Chandler's Ford, with limited mobility is eager to attend 11am Sunday Mass at Holy Cross. She needs someone to give her a lift. Can you help? If so please email [svp@st-boniface.org.uk](mailto:svp@st-boniface.org.uk) for details.

**Leaving a gift in your will** - Legacy giving is an important form of stewardship, as it offers donors the opportunity to leave a lasting impact on the Church, and to ensure the continuation of the Catholic faith for generations still to come.

You can choose to leave a gift to your parish. However, you should ensure that the gift is made via the diocese, because the diocese is a registered charity and can benefit from charity tax exemptions. If you wish your parish to benefit, you can ask your will-writer to use particular wording to enable this. Indeed, it is important that you use a will-writing professional to ensure your final wishes are clear.

For more information contact the parish office on 02380 273882 or write to: [legacygiving@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:legacygiving@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### **Parish Financial Summary Sept 2022-Aug 2023**

This weekend you will receive with the newsletter a summary of St Swithun Wells parish finances for 2022/2023, please read this carefully and if you have any questions please contact Fr Raffaele.

## SCHOOL NOTICES

### **St Swithun Wells Primary School Vacancy**

We are looking for an LSA, full or part time, hours negotiable. Please contact the school or visit our website for more details:

<https://www.st-swithunwells.org.uk/vacancies>

## MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 11th Nov <i>Morning Mass: St Martin of Tours</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Maureen Westwood RIP People of the Parish  Rosemary Oxby RIP Anniversary
Remembrance Sunday 12th Nov  <i>Thirty-Second Sunday In Ordinary Time</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am <u>11.30am</u> <u>11.30am</u>	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA <u>Holy Cross</u> (also livestreamed) <u>St Joseph</u>	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Terry Lennon (Wellbeing) Norman Joyce RIP  Florence Bohan FM
Monday 13th Nov	9.30am	Holy Cross	Tharayil Family RIP Regina Turl (Special Intention)
Tuesday 14th Nov	10.00am <u>2.00pm</u> 6.00pm	St Andrew <u>Holy Cross</u> St Edward	Tony Armshaw RIP Anniversary <u>Funeral Mass: Maria Houghton RIP</u>
Wed 15th Nov	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross OLQA St Edward	Cowling & Tierney Families RIP FM  Marjorie Molloy (Birthday Intentions)
Thurs 16th Nov <i>St Edmund of Abingdon</i>	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Keith Clark RIP  Brenda Pinto (Wellbeing)
Friday 17th Nov	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	OLQA St Joseph St Edward	  Daniel Connolly RIP Anniversary
Saturday 18th Nov	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Mr Pappachan RIP Allan Kennedy RIP  Constance Brixey FM
Sunday 19th Nov  <i>Thirty-Third 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> People of the Parish Denis Keefe RIP Anniversary  Jim O'Mara RIP

### 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  
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 Matteo Pagani  
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: mpagani@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