



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

**26th DECEMBER 2021: THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH**  
**This Newsletter Covers Sunday 26th December and Sunday 2nd January**

## A WAY IN A MANGER

The majority of the narrative concerning the birth of Jesus during the Christmas Season will come from St Luke's Gospel. It is a familiar narrative whose main participants are represented in the umpteen Crib scenes we see in our churches; Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, the Kings, and, of course, the Baby Jesus. So it was with complete surprise that this familiar narrative revealed to me something which I had not expected to find. I was suddenly struck by the amount of travel that takes place in the narrative; Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, the Shepherds travel from their far off fields to the place of birth and the Kings arrive from their traditional homeland of Persia. Indeed, even after the birth of Jesus the Holy Family are asked to travel to Egypt for safe keeping. In each of these events it is the Lord God who guides the way to the Holy Child and what is more He keeps each person safe under His guidance. Inspired by this fact, I was drawn to this word Guidance and came to the conclusion that the reason for their travels was that they were drawn through uncertainty to discover The Way - and that Way is with Jesus! Here is the one who brings a light to lighten the path through life and a clear purpose for our travelling through life. The call to follow the voice of God is a universal call to all people and for all time. It prompts us to set out on a journey of discovery which ends with a coming into the presence of Jesus and a laying before him all that is precious and meaningful in our life. Perhaps the miracle is in what one poet says:-

*I can never stop wondering  
How he turns wanderers into wonderers  
(Seunlá Oyekola)*

There is something attractive and adventurous in the quest to find Jesus which stimulates and excites me. In St Luke's account of the birth of Jesus I find that spirit of adventure and I see in both the Shepherds and Kings that nothing else has such an effect, or, offers ultimate satisfaction, than to follow the path to find the Son of God. The crooked pathway offered by our secular society has nothing to offer in comparison which can satisfy and fulfil my desire and purpose in life than the Word made flesh - the Child Jesus. This came home forcibly to me when a friend sent a card which showed what seemed to be a typing error to the title of a well-known Christmas Carol, it read... A WAY IN A MANGER instead of Away in a Manger. It was a Divinely inspired error because A WAY is certainly given to us in the manger. It is not distant or unobtainable. For with God's guidance we shall arrive at that manger even though the way be dark and at times dangerous. This for me is cause for great joy and happiness and allows me to say - a very Happy and Blessed Christmas to you all and keep travelling on the road that leads to Christ.

*Fr Bruce*

## **GEM OF THE WEEK**



This week's GEM is a short video by Communion & Liberation, 'Christmas 2021' - 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 5th January, please email your messages/notices to: [stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)**

# LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



**Sunday 26th December 2021:** Year C - Year 2 - Psalter Week: Office Proper

**PSALM RESPONSE:** THEY ARE HAPPY WHO DWELL IN YOUR HOUSE, O LORD.

**READINGS:** 1<sup>st</sup> reading Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28 Psalm 83 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 1 St John 3:1-2, 21-24 Gospel Luke 2:41-52

**Sunday 2nd January 2022:** Year C - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 2

**PSALM RESPONSE:** THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH AND LIVED AMONG US.

**READINGS:** 1<sup>st</sup> reading Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2, 8-12 Psalm 147 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18 Gospel John 1:1-18

**Sunday 9th January 2022:** Year C - Year 2 - Psalter Week: Office Proper

**READINGS:** 1<sup>st</sup> reading Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11 Psalm 103 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7 Gospel Luke 3:15-16,21-22

## PARISH GROUPS



### Youth Groups

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

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9)

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

These groups meet regularly in person. For more details and how to join please go to the parish website [www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](http://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

### Communion & Liberation Groups

**School of Community in Holy Cross** meets every **Wednesday**, for more information please click the link on the homepage of our website. All are welcome!

**School of Community in St Edward** meets every **Thursday at 8pm** in St Edward's cloister. All are welcome!

### 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.

### Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) Group

**Tuesdays 10.15am to approx. 11.30am** in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. We break for Christmas returning on Tuesday 4th Jan where we will be discussing the Synodial Questionnaire. On Tuesday 11th Jan we start a series of eight studies, the first being 'Mysteries of the Bible'. All are welcome!

**Fellowship Group** - Is now on a Christmas break. Meetings will resume in the New Year, date to be announced.

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

### The Little Flowers Baby & Toddler Group

Will start on **Wednesday 12th January, 10am**, at Holy Cross Resource Centre and each **Wednesday** thereafter. 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) More volunteers are always welcome.

## MESSAGES



### Christmas Collection

Our Christmas Collection celebrates and gives thanks to our Parish priests and all the dedication, guidance and care they give across our Parish. For your convenience there are several ways to make an offering:

- Loose cash or cheques in the collection basket;
- Cheques made out to **PRCDTR St Swithun Wells** with Christmas on the back;
- Bank transfer into the main parish account sort code **30-93-04**; a/c **01786599** using the reference **Christmas**;
- Click on the green 'donate' button on the homepage of our website and then click 'clergy Christmas offering'.
- If you are a tax payer and wish to gift aid your offering you can use the yellow envelopes provided in the reception area of each church. Ensure all relevant information is included so we can reclaim the gift aid on your behalf. **Please write "Christmas Offering" on the envelope** - this can be placed in any collection between now and Christmas.

**St Joseph's Church Private Prayer times** - the church will be open for private prayer every **Thursday (10am-6.30pm)** and **Sunday (10am-12noon)**.

**Changes to Mass** - Please be aware there will be no morning Masses celebrated on Friday 24th December, nor will there be Vigil Masses celebrated on the evening of Sat 25th December. Please see the back page of the newsletter for Mass times.

**Parish Office Closure & Newsletter** - The office will be closed on Christmas Eve and will reopen on **Tuesday 4th January 2022**. The next newsletter to be produced is the 9th Jan 2022; submissions need to reach the office by 9.30am on Wed 5th Jan.

**Coffee Stop** - We would like to thank everyone who came to the Christmas Special Coffee Morning and to those who brought prizes for the raffle. It was a great fun morning and the raffle brought in **£106**. We will share this between CAFOD and The Salvation Army. Look forward to seeing you all when we reopen on **6th January 10am** - Covid restrictions permitting!

## Feast of Mary Mother of God

# MESSAGES CONTINUED



**A Mass of healing (with anointing and the laying on of hands) at OLQA, Saturday 1st January at 6pm**

This is a wonderful opportunity to begin the New Year asking for health and wholeness. For those with physical and mental disabilities we ask for relief of suffering and pain and a courage to bear the problems of life with the help of God. This service is open to any denomination and this is an invitation which you can pass onto your friends and family. You will be surprised by the way in which this healing ministry has a profound effect upon people of faith.

## Meeting for Parish Eucharistic Ministers

**Sunday 16th January, 3pm-4.30pm at St Edward's**

In our Parish we are blessed with many Eucharistic Ministers and this meeting is an opportunity to thank you all. During the afternoon there will be a formation and follow-up discussion. We hope that you can all attend. Refreshments will be available.

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

We would like to create a new group to accommodate young adults with learning disabilities or learning difficulties, their families and friends. We will meet regularly on **Thursday at 6.30pm at Holy Cross Resource Centre for a couple of hours, commencing Thursday 27th January**. We will have fun and games and meals together. We are open to suggestions to make this group an inclusive and enjoyable one. It is important that we build a good community spirit which recognises that there is value in every individual, no matter their strengths or perceived weaknesses and certainly that there is value to be found in the bonds created within such a group. We are looking for volunteers to help run the group. If you would be interested in volunteering or you know some young adults who would like to join the group, please contact Fr Luca at: [arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com)

**New to the Parish?** A very warm welcome to our Parish; we are delighted that you have joined us. If you are looking to regularly attend one of our churches and join our vibrant community please complete one of the 'New to the Parish Registration Forms' available on our parish website: [www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](http://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk). All families are welcome at **ALL** Masses, however we

have specific Children's Liturgies on Sundays. Please ask one of the Welcomers for details of the times at your Church.

**Poitiers Care Food Bank for Christmas** would be grateful for the following items: tinned food, tea, coffee, or biscuits. Collection baskets are at St Edward's, St Andrew's and St Joseph's churches. **Please do not wrap the items**. Or if preferred, cheques can be sent to Poitiers Care c/o Mr. V Clemas (Treasurer), Cornerways House, School Lane, Ringwood, BH24 14G

**Eastleigh Street Pastors** - Urgently need more volunteers. Can you spare one Friday night a month; there is a choice of shifts, from 8pm to Midnight, or 11pm to around 3.30am. Our training programme starts on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and equips you for everything you need to join one of our patrols. You can also come out as an observer with one of our patrols. No Street Pastors have been hurt since we started in 2009. Our newsletter can be found at - [https://streetpastors.org/locations/eastleigh/wp-content/uploads/sites/67/2021/12/newsletter\\_Edition\\_24.pdf](https://streetpastors.org/locations/eastleigh/wp-content/uploads/sites/67/2021/12/newsletter_Edition_24.pdf) Contact Eric Hyom at [erichyom@sky.com](mailto:erichyom@sky.com) or phone 07736967921 for an informal chat, or email [eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk)

## Message from the Office

We would like to wish all of our parishioners peace, joy, health & happiness over the Christmas period and throughout 2022!  
*Best wishes, Linda & Sarah*



## TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Except from the week 27th Dec to 1st Jan

<b>Tuesdays:</b>	3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church), Eastleigh
<b>Wednesdays:</b>	Fr Luca, 4.00pm-6.00pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre (back of Holy Cross Church), Eastleigh
<b>Fridays:</b>	Fr Raffaele, 10.30am-11.30am, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey
<b>Saturdays:</b>	Fr Marco, 9.30am-12.30pm, Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey

## CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

**Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)**

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: [rcossa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:rcossa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)**

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: [lspeziale@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lspeziale@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Fr Marco Vignolo (Assistant Priest)**

Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: [mvgignolo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:mvgignolo@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](mailto:bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Deacon John di Meo**

Tel: 01794 515688; E: [jdimeo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:jdimeo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Deacon Paul Owen**

Tel: 023 8025 4806; E: [powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Deacon Paul Wilson**

Tel: 023 8061 6618; E: [pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Parish Office:** Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF  
Tel: 02380 273882

**Holy Cross Resource Centre & Finance Admin:** Linda Roberts  
Email: [lroberts@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lroberts@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Parish Secretary:** Sarah Goodfellow

Email: [stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stswparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Website Contact:** [website.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:website.sswp@gmail.com)

# MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 25th Dec  <i>Christmas Day</i>	8.30am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	Mrs Edward Christian FM
	9.00am	St A	The People of the Parish
	9.30am	OLQA*	
	11.00am	HC*	Palmira Mesquita RIP
	11.00am	St J	John Gare RIP
Sunday 26th Dec  <i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph</i>	8.30am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	Mrs Edward Christian FM
	9.00am	St A	Michael Jeffery RIP Anniv
	9.30am	OLQA*	
	11.00am	HC*	Catherine O'Brien & Andrew Breen (Anniv)
	11.00am	St J	Robert Twigg RIP Anniv
Mon 27th Dec <i>St John</i>	9.30am	HC*	Margarita, Cedric & Charles Harris FM
Tues 28th Dec <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	10.00am	St A	Margaret Martindale RIP
	6.00pm	St Ed	Peter Williamson RIP
Wed 29th Dec <i>St Thomas of Canterbury</i>	9.30am	HC*	Anthraper Family (Thanksgiving)
	9.30am	OLQA	
	10.00am	St Ed	George, Gertrude & Mary Lawton RIP Anniversary
Thurs 30th Dec	9.30am	HC*	Raymond Harrison & Keith Clarke RIP
	12 Noon	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St J	Mike Tipton RIP
Friday 31st Dec	9.30am	OLQA	
	10.00am	St J	
	10.00am	St Ed	Eric & Roslyn Lasker and Family
Saturday 1st Jan  <i>Mary, The Holy Mother of God</i>	9.30am	HC*	Gualtero Family FM
	5.00pm	SSW	Tony Tunstall RIP Anniv
	6.00pm	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St J	The People of the Parish
	6.30pm	St Ed	Deceased Members of the Bennett Family RIP
Sunday 2nd Jan  <i>Second Sunday of Christmas</i>	8.30am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	Samuel Anthraper (Thanksgiving)
	9.00am	St A	Margaret Martindale RIP
	9.30am	OLQA*	
	11.00am	HC*	Canon John Doran FM
	11.00am	St J	Barbara Cooke RIP
			* Also Live Streamed

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	INTENTION
Mon 3rd Jan	9.30am	HC*	Fraternity of St Charles
Tues 4th Jan	10.00am	St A	Audrey Orgill RIP
	6.00pm	St Ed	
Wed 5th Jan	9.30am	HC*	Smyth Family FM
	9.30am	OLQA	Keith Small RIP
	10.00am	St Ed	
Thurs 6th Jan  <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	9.30am	HC*	Mike Walsh RIP
	10.00am	St J	Deceased Members of the Roddy Family RIP FM
	12 Noon 7.00pm 7.00pm	OLQA St A St Ed	Albert James Boaden FM
Friday 7th Jan	9.30am	OLQA	Margaret Martindale RIP Mrs Edward Christian FM
	10.00am	St J	
	10.00am	St Ed	
Sat 8th Jan	9.30am	HC*	Alex Hill (Birthday) Living & Deceased Members of the Dwyer & Breen Families  Fr George Ngwa
	5.00pm	SSW	
	6.00pm	OLQA	
	6.00pm 6.30pm	St J St Ed	
Sunday 9th Jan  <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	8.30am	HC	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Ed	The People of the Parish
	9.00am	St A	Harry Roydon RIP Anniv
	9.30am	OLQA*	Deceased Members of the Knights of St Columba (Eastleigh) RIP
	11.00am	HC*	
	11.00am	St J	

## 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
	5.30pm-6.00pm	OLQA
	5.30pm-6.00pm	St Joseph
Sunday:	8.30am-9.00am	St Andrew
	9.00am-9.30am	OLQA

## 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