



## *Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ* 14th May 2023: SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### What Makes a Human Human?

We are living in a society where AI (Artificial Intelligence) is becoming more and more invasive. Let's take CHAT GPT, for example. It is an extraordinary technological instrument that writes refined essays and answers complicated questions. Faced with the challenges of these new technologies, lots of questions arise: What do I have more than AI? What makes me different from a machine? What is a human being?

Funnily enough I asked CHAT GPT the question: What makes a human human? Here is the answer:

*What makes humans human is our ability to reason, think critically, and reflect on our own existence. We have consciousness, emotions, and self-awareness, which allows us to ponder questions of morality, meaning, and purpose.*

I quite agree with this definition. What makes me human is my ability to reason and reflect on my own existence (something CHAT GPT can't do!). In a world where we struggle to understand what means to be human, we should start from this.

In these days, all around the world, groups of Communion and Liberation (a catholic movement in the Church open to everyone) are starting to read *The Religious Sense*, the most famous book of fr Luigi Giussani. In the book Giussani helps the reader to look at his own existence to rediscover what the Church calls "heart", that mysterious place within each one of us, where all the most important needs and questions burn.

Giussani wrote this book not just as a book of self-analysis, but because he wanted to find a way for people to rediscover that Christ is the truth. Why is it so important today to start from the religious sense, rather than just announcing the truths of the Catechism? Because, as Pope Francis says in his introduction for the new edition of the *Religious Sense*: «For man and woman who have forgotten or censored their fundamental "whys" and the burning desire of their hearts, talking to them about God ends up being something abstract or esoteric or a push toward a devotion that has no effect on their lives».

Over the next few months the two groups of Communion and Liberation in our parish are starting to work on the *Religious Sense* during their weekly meetings called *School of Community*. The books of Giussani can bear fruit in those who read them alone, but they can bear much more fruit in those who read them together with other people. I invite you to take the chance to come and see, and join if you like one of our groups.

Fr Luca

### GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "Roots & Bridges" 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 9.30am on Wednesday 17th May 2023, please email your messages/notices to: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

## LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 14th May 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 2

PSALM RESPONSE: CRY OUT WITH JOY TO GOD ALL THE EARTH.

READINGS: 1<sup>st</sup> reading Acts 8:5-8,14-17 Psalm 65 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 1 Peter 3:15-18 Gospel John 14:15-21

Sunday 21st May 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 3

PSALM RESPONSE: I AM SURE I SHALL SEE THE LORD'S GOODNESS IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING.

READINGS: 1<sup>st</sup> reading Acts 1:12-14 Psalm 26 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 1 Peter 4:13-16 Gospel John 17:1-11a

## PARISH GROUPS



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

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

Tuesdays, 4pm-5.30pm in St Edward's Cloister;

Wednesdays, 4.15pm-5.45pm in St Andrew;

Saturdays, 10.30am-Noon in Holy Cross R/Centre.

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

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

Usually Fridays 6.30pm-8.30pm in Holy Cross R/Centre.

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. 11.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. On 16th May we will be exploring the Sycamore Course 5th Session, "The Holy Spirit and the Church." All are welcome!

Fellowship Group - St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. We will not be meeting during the month of May. Meetings will resume on Wednesday 7th June at 7.30pm.

Romsey Prayer Group - Every Wednesday

morning at 11am in the St Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water. All will be made very welcome.

### The Little Flowers Baby & Toddler Groups

Holy Cross Group meet on Wednesdays from 10am in the Resource Centre, Eastleigh;

St Joseph's Group meet on Thursdays from 10.30am -12 Noon in the Hall (26 Abbey Water, Romsey).

The groups are 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 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](mailto:arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com)

### Afternoon Club - St. Joseph's Parish Centre

(26 Abbey Water), first Tuesday in the month at 2pm. Come and join us for tea, games and good fun. All are welcome!

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!

## MESSAGES

### The Rosary will be prayed in Holy Cross

every Thursday at 9.00am (before Mass) during May.

### Ascension - Holy Day of Obligation

The Ascension of the Lord takes place on **Thursday 18th May**, therefore additional Masses will take place across the parish on this day. There will also be a Mass at St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School with procession to the Statue of Our Lady after Mass. Please see details of Mass times on the back page of the newsletter.

### Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Peter William Sweet and for his family. Peter's Funeral Mass takes place on **Friday 19th May at 12 Noon in Holy Cross Church.**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Helen Barrass and for her family. Helen's Funeral Mass takes place on **Wednesday 24th May at 12 Noon in Holy Cross Church.**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Brian Croughan who recently died in our parish. Details of Fr Brian's funeral are still to be confirmed.

### Upcoming Second Collections

20th/21st May for **Catholic Communications Network**

### St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School & Mass

The children of St Swithun Wells Primary School will actively be involved in our Sunday Masses by assisting with the readings, singing and offertory: at Holy Cross on 14th May, 11am Mass; at St Edward's on 21st May, 9am Mass. It will be lovely to have the children actively participate in the Masses.

CAFOD Message - There will be a sale of cakes, produce and plants after morning coffee at **St Edward's on Wednesday 17th May**. Donations of any of the above items will be gratefully accepted. All proceeds to CAFOD to support their work in war torn countries.



# MESSAGES CONTINUED

## Come & See Summer Half Term Club (7-14yrs)

**Tuesday 30th May - Friday 2nd June, 9am-3pm**  
**St Edward's Cloister** Cost: £5 per day.  
Spaces are limited. For any enquiries please contact fr Luca/fr Marco at: [comeandsee.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:comeandsee.sswp@gmail.com)  
For more information and to book your child's place please go to the parish website. **Please only book if you are sure your child is going to attend, thank you.**  
**Completion of the registration form and payment (to be made by bank transfer) is required by Friday 26th May 2023.**

**Holy Cross Shop** - Please come and visit the shop after Mass on Sundays and Thursdays. We have gifts and cards for First Holy Communion as well as books, gifts and cards for other occasions. We would like to say thank you to Diana and Jo who have volunteered to help run the shop on Sundays. *Lynette & Angela*

## The Rosary - Free Download

A while ago Bishop Philip recorded a CD of the Rosary, an audio recording of this has been made available that can be downloaded, please go to:  
<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/the-rosary-free-download>

**Candlelight Prayer** - Following on from the Zoom meetings during the pandemic, Candlelight Prayer continues, once a fortnight on Monday evenings on Zoom. This enables people from all over our parish to "attend". Please contact Bob and Marion if you would like more details. [marionbirtles@gmail.com](mailto:marionbirtles@gmail.com)

**Prayer Link** - A "Prayer Requests" is being prepared to circulate shortly. Please send Marion any requests that you have. Please remember the prayers will be "anonymous" unless we have express permission to use names. [marionbirtles@gmail.com](mailto:marionbirtles@gmail.com)

## St Swithun Wells Parish Online Giving

If you would like to give directly online please use your phone to scan in this QR code which will take you to our online giving page.



## St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School

Are recruiting for a Teacher and an Administration Assistant. Application closing dates for both are Noon on Thursday 18th May. For more info please see church noticeboards or go to the school website:  
<https://www.st-swithunwells.org.uk/vacancies/>

## Job Vacancy - Catholic Home Care Co-ordinator

We're looking for a self-motivated, and resourceful individual to take over the role of co-ordinating the activities of the Catholic Home Care. This is a demanding but rewarding post which offers the opportunity to lead a team of caring people who make a significant social impact providing domestic support, to enable elderly people to safely remain in their own homes for longer. You will be making an important contribution to your community and helping local people.  
The position is part-time, flexible 20 hours per week. Days and times to be agreed, based in Southampton. This post will require a full DBS check.  
For an application form or more details, please call Anne Monaghan or Marina Joyce 023 8017 0498 or email: [catholichomecare@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:catholichomecare@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)  
Closing date for applications is **22nd May with interviews on 26th May 2023.**

## St Joseph's and St Edmund's Parish,

### Part time Assistant Parish Administrator

Flexible, 15 hours per week, Salary of £12 per hour  
A role has arisen for an Assistant Parish Administrator to support life in a busy parish office, helping with secretarial services for the clergy, supporting day-to-day administration of the parish, sacramental registrations, phone and email correspondence.  
We're looking for someone with office experience, confident in use of MS Office 365, self-motivated, diplomatic, approachable, with good timekeeping and telephone manner. Closing date for applications: **Wed 29th May 2023** Interviews: **Friday 2nd June 2023**  
For a job description, more information and an application, please go to:  
<https://forms.office.com/e/VwQifW9Vie>  
Or click the QR code.



**Eastleigh & Fair Oak Street Pastors** - Could you spare one Friday night a month to listen, care and help make our community a kinder and more caring place to live in? We go out either between 8-12pm, or from 11pm-about 3.30am. We have celebrated 15 years of service, with support from local churches the police and council. Our training programme equips you for everything you need to join one of our patrols, and aims to set the tone for continued learning while you are out on the streets. Provisional training dates have been arranged for October & November 2023. For more details please see posters on church notice boards, or go to:  
<https://streetpastors.org/locations/eastleigh/> or email Eric on [erichyom@hotmail.com](mailto:erichyom@hotmail.com) Tel: 07736 967921

### 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 Raffaele, 10.30am-11.30am, Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey  
**Saturdays:** Fr Marco, not available on 20th May 9.30am-12.30pm, Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey

### 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 (5.00pm-6.00pm)

# MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

| DATE  | TIME  | CHURCH  | MASS INTENTION  |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sat 13th<br>May   | 9.30am<br>5.00pm<br>6.00pm<br>6.00pm<br>6.30pm  | Holy Cross<br>St Swithun Wells<br>OLQA<br>St Joseph<br>St Edward  | Sheila Starrs RIP FM<br>Jenny Wheeler (Wellbeing)<br><br>People of the Parish<br>Thomas William Mason RIP FM  |
| Sunday<br>14th May<br><br><i>Sixth<br/>Sunday of<br/>Easter</i>                       | 8.30am<br>9.00am<br>9.00am<br>9.30am<br>11.00am<br>11.00am  | Holy Cross<br>St Edward<br>St Andrew<br>OLQA<br>Holy Cross (also livestreamed)<br>St Joseph   | <i>Polska Msza Święta</i><br>Phyllis & Georg Roman RIP FM<br>Doris Bonello RIP Anniversary<br><br>Marie Hanna Hayek RIP 50th Anniversary<br>John Crowther RIP Anniversary |
| Mon 15th  | 9.30am  | Holy Cross  | Anu & Esther (Special Intention)  |
| Tues 16th<br>May  | 10.00am<br>6.00pm   | St Andrew<br>St Edward  | John & Beppie Marsh (Wellbeing)<br>Layzell Family Intentions  |
| Wed 17th<br>May   | 9.30am<br>9.30am<br>10.00am   | Holy Cross<br>OLQA<br>St Edward   | <br><br>Eric and Roslyn Lasker & Family RIP   |
| Thurs 18th<br><br><i>The<br/>Ascension of<br/>the Lord</i>                            | <u>9.30am</u><br><u>10.00am</u><br><u>12 Noon</u><br><u>2.00pm</u><br><u>7.00pm</u><br><u>7.00pm</u><br><u>7.00pm</u> | <u>Holy Cross</u><br><u>St Joseph</u><br><u>OLQA</u><br><u>SSW School Mass</u><br><u>St Andrew</u><br><u>St Edward</u><br><u>OLQA</u> | Francesco Papallo RIP FM<br>John Gare RIP<br><br><br>Geoffrey Lanham RIP  |
| Fri 19th May<br><i>Dedication of<br/>the Cathedral<br/>of St John,<br/>Portsmouth</i> | 9.30am<br>10.00am<br>10.00am<br><u>12 Noon</u>  | OLQA<br>St Joseph<br>St Edward<br><u>Holy Cross</u>   | Sr Marie Turner (Diamond Jubilee)<br>Rita Carter RIP<br><b>Funeral Mass: Peter Sweet RIP</b>  |
| Sat 20th<br>May   | 9.30am<br>5.00pm<br>6.00pm<br>6.00pm<br>6.30pm  | Holy Cross<br>St Swithun Wells<br>OLQA<br>St Joseph<br>St Edward  | Bryan Hobbs RIP FM<br>Stanisława and Jozef Szczotka RIP<br><br>In Thanksgiving  |
| Sunday<br>21st May<br><br><i>Seventh<br/>Sunday of<br/>Easter</i>                     | 8.30am<br>9.00am<br>9.00am<br>9.30am<br>11.00am<br>11.00am  | Holy Cross<br>St Edward<br>St Andrew<br>OLQA<br>Holy Cross (also livestreamed)<br>St Joseph   | <i>Polska Msza Święta</i><br>Phil & Sarah (Wedding Anniversary)<br>People of the Parish<br><br>Bogdan Jakubaszek RIP<br>Antonio Foca 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)