



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ 21st JANUARY 2024: THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Our Time Is Growing Short

"Brothers: our time is growing short", St Paul tells us this Sunday, reminding us of the importance of time, of the fact that time is short, so we are called to a wise and therefore correct use of it.

But what is time? Time can basically be thought of in two ways: as time that passes, that flows (seconds, hours, days, years), or as favourable time, opportune time.

There is no need to talk much about the passing of time, we are all too familiar with it. Who has never missed the train? Who has never arrived too early for an appointment (at the dentist's, the doctor's...) and had to wait a little before their turn? In short, the flowing time is closely linked to our clock, linked to the timing of the events in which we are involved, so from sunrise to sunset we all experience the flow of time.

What, on the other hand, is favourable time? It is the time that is given to us to live well, to be happier, it is the opportunities that are given to us to be holier. But when does this favourable time come? Yesterday has already passed, and we probably missed the opportunity to be holier; tomorrow we do not know what will be waiting for us, we may already no longer be on this earth, so the favourable time is today, it is now, it is exactly this instant!

The favourable time to love Jesus is now! Are you washing the dishes? Wash them for Jesus! Are you doing the laundry? Do it for Jesus! You are writing a computer program, do it with the awareness that it is for the glory of God... I could go on and on by listing the possibilities and actions that a person can do, but the crux of what I want to emphasise is that we can always offer up to God what we are doing, what we are living, and thus do what we are doing for His glory, for the conversion of sinners, for the sanctification of ourselves and of God's people.

Nowadays people, especially young people, spend hours, many hours a day on social media, watching trivial videos or posting their own photos and comments. Actually, even the use of social media can be useful for the glory of God, but if done *cum grano salis*, that is, in an intelligent way. Wasting a lot of time watching videos or looking at photos that are perhaps even funny, but serve no purpose, is literally just a waste of time.

In short, time is given to us to live it to the full, not to waste it, and the best way to do this is to use it appropriately, that is, to do what is asked of us by living it as if we were doing it for Jesus. Even rest itself can be done for Jesus, so that we can recover our strength and be able to resume work with grit for the glory of God the Father.

We often think we have no time for anything, least of all for Jesus, for prayer, but my experience tells me that when we really want something, we always find time for that thing.

We priests often have many commitments, especially at Christmas and Easter, yet every day we do at least 1.5 hours of prayer with even a quarter of an hour of Eucharistic Adoration. One might object: how many things, how much good you could do in that hour and a half, instead of sitting in your room or in church praying? I am convinced that that time of prayer is by far the best used time of the day, because it is a time in which we are with Jesus: without that time, everything else can become a boastful doing. Instead, by being with Jesus, it is He whom we can then bring to people, and not ourselves with our weaknesses.

So my invitation in this new year to everyone, because our time is growing short, is to dedicate a little time each day just to Jesus with prayer and then live all the rest in His company, working as if we were His employees. In this way every moment of our lives will be used as a favourable time for our sanctification and for our happiness.

Fr Mario

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is the "Artificial Intelligence and Peace - message of Pope Francis" - you can find this on our homepage. If anyone has suggestions for GEMs please contact website.sswp@gmail.com

For the next Newsletter, items should be received into the parish office by **10am on Wednesday 24th January**, please email your messages/notices to: 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 21st January 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 3

PSALM RESPONSE: LORD, MAKE ME KNOW YOUR WAYS.

1st reading Jonah 3:1-5,10 **Psalm 24** **2nd reading** 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 **Gospel** Mark 1:14-20

Sunday 28th January 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 4

PSALM RESPONSE: O THAT TODAY YOU WOULD LISTEN TO HIS VOICE! HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS.

1st reading Deuteronomy 18:15-20 **Psalm 94** **2nd reading** 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 **Gospel** Mark 1:21-28

PARISH GROUPS



Youth Groups (including First Holy Communion & Confirmation)

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

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

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

For Grail Seekers & Student Youth 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.

To register for these groups please go to our website: <https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/parishlife>

Growing In Faith Together Group

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

Fellowship Group - Wednesday 24th January, 7pm-9pm in St Swithun Wells Church. This week we will all be sharing our favourite Psalms. Everyone is welcome. If you wish to join us on Zoom, please contact Peter Baggott on Peterbaggott@aol.com for the link.

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!

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.

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.

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!

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 (26A 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

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

60s Club - meets every fortnight on a Monday from **2pm-4pm** at Holy Cross Resource Centre. Our next meeting is on **Monday 22nd January.** All are welcome!

MESSAGES



Second Collection This Weekend: 20th/21st Jan for our Cathedral in Portsmouth. If you are able to gift aid please use the yellow envelopes for this collection.

Upcoming Readers Retreat - Saturday 3rd February

For Readers at St Andrew's & St Joseph the retreat is at **St Andrew's** from 2.30pm to 4.30pm

Whereas, **Readers at Holy Cross, St Swithun Wells and St Edward's** the retreat is at **Holy Cross** from 2.30pm-4.30pm.

Good Companions - Our next get-together for those who live alone or are lonely is at 12 noon on **Friday 26th January** in the Cloister of St Edward's. Please note the start time. If you would like to join us call Tony Wilson on 023 80266617.

Cultural Event on Artificial Intelligence - Sunday

28th January, 3.30pm in **St Edward's:** We have managed to reschedule the AI talk that was due to take place last October but had to be cancelled at short notice. We are going to listen to Daniele Magazzeni, PhD, who is an AI Expert. The topic of his talk will be the **Potential and Threats of Artificial Intelligence.** Tea, coffee and cakes will be available from 3.30pm suggested donation of £1, the talk starts at 4pm.

Parish Lunch at the Hunters Inn, Romsey on **Monday 12th February at 12.30pm.** All are welcome. Menus are on the churches notice boards. Please let Rosemary (tel: 01794 522411) know your choice of meal by **Sunday 4th Feb** as we have to pre-order.



Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Domenico Bibbo and for his family. Domenico's Funeral Mass takes place in **Holy Cross Church on Tuesday 30th January at 12.30pm.**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Kevin Coen and for his family. Kevin's Funeral takes place in **St Edward's on Tuesday 6th February at 1pm.**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mark Herbich and for his family. Mark's Funeral takes place in **St Edward's on Wed 7th February at 11.30am.**

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th-25th Jan)

In Romsey: Christian Unity Week joint service in **Romsey Abbey at 6.30pm on Sunday 21st Jan.** There will also be a **Bible Study meeting in the U.R.C. Hall on Wed 24th Jan at 1.30pm.** Please contact Angela Bevan: andybevan1@btinternet.com if you wish to attend this meeting.

Churches Together in Chandler's Ford: This year the church swaps take place on **Sunday 21st January. Members of St Edward's are invited to visit the Velmore Church on that date (service starts at 10.30am).** Members of the Methodist Church will be visiting St Edward's.

In Eastleigh: The Christian Unity Week event will be the last BELLS event on the subject "be Sent" at **Junction Church** (not the Baptist Church as the BELLS leaflet says) on **Sunday 21st from 7.30pm-9pm.**

Parish Get2Gether Sunday 4th Feb, 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 'Our Home as a Place of Memory'. 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 click the link.

Come & See Spring Half Term Club (for children 7yrs -14yrs) at St Edward the Confessor Church Mon 12th to Friday 16th February

Registrations are now open. For more information including costs, times, the Club extension and to register please go to:
<https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/comeandsee>

Parish Book Recommendation

The book is called *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* by Thornton Wilder. You can easily buy a copy online on Amazon or download it. This short novel is a real shining star which won the Pulitzer Prize. It helps us to understand how important it is to ask the right questions in life. I hope you will find the time to read this small masterpiece. *Fr Raffaele*

What does it mean to be Human? Medical Ethics and Social Care Today - Sat 16th March

10am-4.15pm, The Arc, Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8SB. The aim of the Symposium is to bring the Christian Tradition and its values into a constructive and fruitful dialogue with those of other viewpoints. It is open to people of all faiths and none, specialist and lay, to students and to anyone with an interest in medical and social care. **Tickets cost £20,** including sandwiches and refreshments, and are available on-line via Eventbrite: <http://what-does-it-mean-to-be-human-symposium.eventbrite.co.uk>
See poster on church noticeboards for more info.

Latest Diocesan Vacancies

Operations Manager - St Peters & the Winchester Martyrs Parish, Winchester
Full Time: 37.5hrs per week Salary: £40-45k
Closing date for applications: Friday 9th Feb at 12 Noon (Interviews: Friday 1st March)
More info on church noticeboards, or go to: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs/>

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 8pm to around Midnight, or from 11pm to around 3am. Our training programme equips you for everything you need to join one of our patrols out on the streets. Training dates have been arranged for March & April 2024.

For more details and dates please go to:
<https://streetpastors.org/locations/eastleigh/about-us/newsletters/>
Contact Eric Hyom on erichyom@hotmail.com or tel: 07736 967921
Contact for Fair Oak is Mike Pritchard: M2rprtc@aol.com
Closing date for applications: Sunday 3rd March 2024.

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)

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
Saturdays: Fr Mario, 2.30pm-4.30pm, Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey

CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Tuesday: 6.30pm-7.30pm (after Mass)	St Edward
Tuesday: 9.30am-10.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew
Saturday: 10.00am-10.30am (after Mass)	Holy Cross
10am or by appointment	OLQA
1.30pm-2.30pm & 5.30pm-6pm	St Joseph
Sunday: 8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Edward
8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 20th January	9.30am	Holy Cross	Hazel Freda Jurd FM
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	Harry Long & Joan Long RIP
	6.00pm	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	Arthur & Constance Allan RIP
	6.30pm	St Edward	Jane Barber RIP
Sunday 21st January <i>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Edward	Giovanni Girimonte RIP
	9.00am	St Andrew	Veronica & Marian Kostek RIP
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	Holy Cross (also livestreamed)	People of the Parish
	11.00am	St Joseph	Elvira Golez & Hilario Ceballos RIP
Monday 22nd Jan	9.30am	Holy Cross	Ronald Walter Russ RIP FM
Tuesday 23rd January	10.00am	St Andrew	Adimora & Raymond Anakwenze (Birthday Intentions)
	6.00pm	St Edward	Keith Small RIP Anniversary FM
Wed 24th January <i>St Francis de Sales</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross	Tom Connolly (Wellbeing)
	9.30am	OLQA	
	10.00am	St Edward	Danny Munro RIP
Thurs 25th January <i>The Conversion of St Paul</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross	Tom Connolly (Wellbeing)
	12 Noon	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	Sr Ancilla (Wellbeing)
Friday 26th Jan <i>St Timothy & St Titus</i>	9.30am	OLQA	
	10.00am	St Joseph	Sr Agnes (Wellbeing)
	10.00am	St Edward	
Saturday 27th January	9.30am	Holy Cross	Maria Smyth FM
	5.00pm	St Swithun Wells	Sam & Sheila Sanders RIP
	6.00pm	OLQA	
	6.00pm	St Joseph	Michael Wiston RIP
	6.30pm	St Edward	Joan Applin RIP Anniversary
Sunday 28th January <i>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Edward	People of the Parish
	9.00am	St Andrew	Calvin Nel RIP Anniversary
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	Holy Cross (also livestreamed)	Sylvester McMahon RIP FM
	11.00am	St Joseph	John Gare 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 Mario Toma (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: mtoma@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