



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

**11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022: TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

## Our Church Needs Light

A few weeks ago we changed the lighting system at Holy Cross Church. We now have new lights which are more cost effective and definitely brighter than before.

The first time I celebrated Mass after the works were finished I was astonished. Everything seemed transfigured: the big Crucifix behind the altar and the apse (the space in between the altar and the end of the Church) shined in a new light. The colours are now more luminous, along with the statues and the flowers.

This transformation made me think. Sometimes we complain that the Church (now I mean the body, not the building) is not as we would like her to be: unattractive, unwelcoming, unpopular... And maybe we are right. There is always space for improvement in every human society. But is the Church just a human enterprise?

A few days ago Erik Varden, Bishop of Trondheim in Norway, wrote a letter to the General Chapter of the Order of Cistercians of the Stricter Observance, that is currently convened in general chapter in Assisi. In his letter he says:

*The Church is a divine mystery and must be understood as such. When the human element outweighs the divine, the Church does not flourish. Anthropocentrism kills the Church and its life.*

*These are hard words, but words we need to hear, for we live in a self-centred world. I do not mean thereby that our world is wickeder or vainer than before; only, it has so far distanced itself from any notion of transcendence that the only reference available to it in existential matters is subjective.*

*It is often assumed that what puts the Church at odds with contemporary society is its ethical teaching. Many cry out for change in this area. Quite apart from the merit of considering what might be a Catholic response to particular, perhaps new problems in ethics (something each age is called upon to do), I consider the assumption false. I do not think the principal scandal is ethical. I think it is metaphysical. The holiness of God! The splendour of his glory, made manifest in Christ through infinitely gracious condescension!*

Many times in the last two millennia the Church went through hard times. Every time this has been an opportunity for a renewal. If we look carefully at what really happened, such renewals didn't spring from a change of structures, ethical teachings or organization, but from a change of heart. Renewals were born in the hearts of those who let the light of God and the *splendour of His glory* come in. They didn't change the Church (as we didn't change the crucifix, the altar or the flowers in Holy Cross Church), but they just let the light of the Spirit come in. The Church is already a Holy place, rich in gifts and treasures to discover. We just need to allow the light of the Spirit to come in and illumine them, through our prayer and communion with those who have the same interest.

Fr Luca

## GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is, "The Risk of Education", a talk by Hans von Broekman - 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 14th September**, please email your messages/notices to: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

# LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



**Sunday 11th September 2022:** Year C - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 4

**PSALM RESPONSE:** I WILL LEAVE THIS PLACE AND GO TO MY FATHER.

**READINGS:** 1<sup>st</sup> reading Exodus 32:7-11,13-14 Psalm 50 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Gospel Luke 15:1-32

**Sunday 18th September 2022:** Year C - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 1

**PSALM RESPONSE:** PRAISE THE LORD, WHO RAISES THE POOR.

**READINGS:** 1<sup>st</sup> reading Amos 8:4-7 Psalm 112 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 1 Timothy 2:1-8 Gospel Luke 16:1-13

## 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)**

Our Youth Groups for children in primary school and young people in secondary school will restart at the end of September 2022. They are also the path we propose to those who want to be prepared to receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Registrations for the year 2022/2023 are now open on our website: [www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](http://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

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 17th September 2022 at 11am** in St Edward's cloister for all the parents and guardians where we will present the **2022/2023 Stars of Abraham programme**.

There will be a meeting on **Sunday 18th September 2022 at 4pm** in the Holy Cross Resource Centre for all the parents and guardians where we will present the **2022/2023 Grail Seekers programme**.

With Student Youth and Grail Seekers groups we will have our **first meeting on Saturday 24th September**. It will be a day trip, for more information and to register please go to our website.

### Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community are currently on their summer break. For more information please click the link on the homepage of our website.

### Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

**Starts on Wed 5th October at 8pm** in St Edward's

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.

**Fellowship Group** - will restart on **Wednesday 14th September at 7.30pm** in SSW church, Fair Oak. We will begin with a liturgy then discussion on ideas for the coming months. If you would like to join us on Zoom please contact [peterbaggott@aol.com](mailto:peterbaggott@aol.com)

**Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) Group** **Tuesdays at 10.15am to approx. 11.30am** in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. On 13th Sept we will be looking at the life of St Ignatius of Loyola. All are welcome!

**The Little Flowers Baby & Toddler Groups** **Holy Cross Group** resume their meetings on **Wed 21st Sept at 10am** in the Resource Centre, Eastleigh; **St Joseph's Group** meet on **Thursdays from 10.30am - 12 Noon** in the Parish 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 Fr Luca at: [arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com)

**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!

## MESSAGES

### Upcoming Funerals

**Doreen Lawless RIP:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Doreen Lawless and for her family. Doreen's Funeral Mass takes place at **St Edward's on Wednesday 14th September at 11am**.

**Tony Harwood RIP:** Many parishioners at St Edward's will remember Tony who regularly attended the 6.30pm Mass and was active in the parish. Please pray for the repose of his soul and for his

family. **Tony's funeral service is at 11.30am on Thurs 15th September** at Test Valley Crematorium and the family extend a warm invitation to any parishioners who wish to attend.

**Vincenzina Peluso RIP:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Vincenzina and for her family. Vincenzina's Funeral Mass takes place at **Holy Cross on Wed 21st September at 11am**.



## MESSAGES CONTINUED



### Communion & Liberation Day

On **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September** the Communion and Liberation (CL) groups of our Parish and the diocese of Portsmouth will meet to begin this new social year together. The event is open to everyone (kids, parents, adults...), and those who are interested to know more about this group. We will meet at **1pm at St Joseph's House in Ashurst** (8 Lyndhurst Rd - SO40 7DU), share a lunch together, sing some songs and have some activities, followed by a conversation. We'll finish our day celebrating Mass. If you would like to participate please go to our parish website and book your place.

### Macmillan Coffee Morning

Margaret French would like to invite you to her annual Macmillan coffee morning at **St Andrew's on Friday 23rd September from 10.30am to 12.30pm**. We always manage to raise a good amount of money for this very worthy cause. Macmillan were a lifeline for us when we nursed my husband for six weeks until he died of cancer in 2004, so this charity is very close to our hearts.

### Upcoming Second Collection

**Home Mission - 17th/18th September**, on what has recently been renamed *Evangelii Gaudium Sunday* (Sunday of the Joy of the Gospel). *Evangelii Gaudium Sunday* has been named after Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation on the Joy of the Gospel, and offers the Catholic community across England and Wales the opportunity to celebrate the beauty of our faith, and our commitment to witness to the fullness of life in Christ. This Second Collection will support those who work within the Bishops' Conference Mission Team, alongside our bishops and dioceses. You can also donate online at: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/home-mission-sunday>

### Message from CAFOD

#### **DEC Pakistan Flood Appeal**

Devastating floods have hit Pakistan, leaving millions in urgent need of help to survive. A third of the country is now underwater (that's an area almost the size of Great Britain). Your donation will help CAFOD's local partners support communities with clean drinking water, food, emergency medical assistance and shelter. Please pray for those affected and donate at [cafod.org.uk/give](http://cafod.org.uk/give)

### Message of Thanks

A belated thank you from St Swithun Wells School and the Parish to the Knights of St Columba for their generous donations in helping with their end of year school trip and Summer Camp respectively. For their part the Knights were pleased to be of assistance on both occasions.

### Mind Solent - Free Course on using Phones, Tablets & Computers

Starts **Wed 14th September at Eastleigh Wellbeing Centre (111 Leigh Road, Eastleigh)**. Brush up on: Google, Emails, Social Media, Online Shopping & Zoom. It has been designed from the ground up to be accessible and open to everyone. If you would like to know more please contact Simon Walters on 07966 474188.

## SCHOOL NOTICES



### St George's Catholic College

#### **BEST EXAM RESULTS YET FOR OUR LOCAL CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL!**

**Well done to all the staff and students at St George Catholic College.** All subjects achieved 80% grades 9-4 or above and 70% grades 9-5 or above. *"These results represent a huge milestone in our recovery from the COVID 19 pandemic and are testament to the hard work, positive attitude and resilience of the class of 2022 and our amazing staff. There are many successful stories from the class of 2022, those that have improved significantly, those that have surprised us and the students that have achieved the very highest grades. Our Mission statement "We ASPIRE to be all that God has created us to be" is being lived out. Well done Class of 2022."*

**The Governing Body of the school is looking for a new Foundation Governor.** More information about the role is on the school website:

<https://www.stgcc.co.uk/blog/?pid=10&nid=2>

If you think this could be of interest, please get in touch with Anna McCormack, the Chair of Governors, at [amccormack@stgcc.co.uk](mailto:amccormack@stgcc.co.uk) or Tel 07880682503.

### St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School

Are currently recruiting for a Higher Level Teaching Assistant & a Midday Supervisory Assistant.

For more information and to apply please go to: <https://www.st-swithunwells.org.uk/vacancies/>

### CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

<b>Tuesday:</b>	6.30pm-7.30pm	St Edward
<b>Tuesday:</b>	9.30am-10.00am	St Andrew
<b>Saturday:</b>	10.00am-10.30am	Holy Cross
	5.30pm-6.00pm	OLQA
	5.30pm-6.00pm	St Joseph
<b>Sunday:</b>	8.30am-9.00am	St Andrew
	9.00am-9.30am	OLQA

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**Tuesday:** St Edward's - 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, 4.30pm-6.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh  
**Fridays:** Fr Raffaele, 10.30am-11.30am, Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey  
**Saturdays:** Fr Marco, 9.30am-12.30pm, Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey

# MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 10th Sept	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Amala Joshy (Special Intention) For the Intentions of the Calverley Family  Jane Roberts RIP Anniversary Maria Szczetnikowicz RIP Anniversary
Sunday 11th Sept <i>Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA (also live streamed) Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Roger Candler (Special Intention) People of the Parish  Alec & Kay Downs RIP Special Intention
Mon 12th	9.30am	Holy Cross	Layzell Family Intentions
Tues 13th <i>St John Chrysostom</i>	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Marjorie Harris RIP FM
Wed 14th <i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am <u>11.00am</u>	Holy Cross OLQA St Edward <u>St Edward</u>	Margaret Martindale RIP  Mrs Edward Christian FM <u>Funeral Mass: Doreen Lawless RIP</u>
Thurs 15th Sept <i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Ludwick Kolacz & Deceased Members of the Killick Family  Sr Maureen (Wellbeing)
Fri 16th Sept <i>Ss Cornelius &amp; Cyprian</i>	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Deceased Members of the Lillie & Greenall Families RIP
Sat 17th Sept	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	John-Paul Anthraper (Thanksgiving) Barry Sidley RIP  Christopher Gibbons RIP
Sunday 18th 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 OLQA (also live streamed) Holy Cross (also live streamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Amala Joshy (Special Intention) Eileen Joyce RIP  People of the Parish Gail Patrick RIP Anniversary

## 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

**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**