



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

**17th SEPTEMBER 2023: TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

## Sound of Freedom

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, the movie *Sound of Freedom* was finally released in the United States. A few days ago, it was released in the United Kingdom too, and last Monday I went to watch it in the Eastleigh cinema with Fr Luca, Fr Raffaele, and Fr Mario. All of us were shocked by what this movie described.

The movie is based on the true story of Tim Ballard, the former Homeland Security special agent who dedicated himself to fighting child trafficking and who took his crusade private when he founded Operation Underground Railroad, with the support of Glenn Beck.

The director, of Mexican origins, Alejandro Monteverde directed Jim Caviezel, former protagonist of *The Passion of the Christ* by Mel Gibson, to play Tim Ballard.

*Sound of Freedom* is made by Utah-based media company Angel Studios, which crowdfunds movies and television shows that "amplify light". Angel Studios is founded by The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints (Mormons) brothers but claims no formal church affiliation.

You can notice a strong Christian tension throughout the plot of the movie. Exemplary is the scene in which Tim (or Timoteo, in Spanish) explains why he is so passionate in fighting against the crime of child trafficking, "Because God's children are not for sale". Or when Tim quoted Luke 17:2 to blame a child trafficker, "It would be better for them to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck than to cause one of these little ones to stumble".

*Sound of Freedom* is a compelling movie that sheds light on one of the crucial criminal horrors of our time, a topic that Hollywood has mostly avoided. On one hand, how many movies and TV shows have we seen about drug trafficking? Too many. Child trafficking, on the other hand, is not a topic that lends itself to "fun".

At the end of the movie, it is reported that child trafficking is the fastest growing international criminal network the world has ever seen. A closing headline states that there are more people enslaved now than there were when slavery was legal.

We cannot take for granted that this movie will be able to shake the consciences of Americans and Europeans. I would like to suggest to everyone to watch this movie (and to stay in the cinema until the end of the credits roll, for an important message of the main actor, Jim Caviezel, who is a practising Catholic).

*Fr Marco*

## GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is "God Does Exist" a talk by Professor John Lennox at Oxford Union  
- 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 20th September 2023**, please email your messages/notices to: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

## LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



**Sunday 17th September 2023:** Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 4

**PSALM RESPONSE:** THE LORD IS COMPASSION AND LOVE, SLOW TO ANGER AND RICH IN MERCY.

**1<sup>st</sup> reading** Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7 **Psalms** 102 **2<sup>nd</sup> reading** Romans 14:7-9 **Gospel** Matthew 18:21-35

**Sunday 24th September 2023:** Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: 1

**PSALM RESPONSE:** THE LORD IS CLOSE TO ALL WHO CALL HIM.

**1<sup>st</sup> reading** Isaiah 55:6-9 **Psalms** 144 **2<sup>nd</sup> reading** Philippians 1:20c-24,27a **Gospel** Matthew 20:1-16a

## 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;

Wed, 4.15pm-5.45pm in St Andrew;

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

Stars of Abraham groups start week commencing 18th September

**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. Please check the parish website for the calendar of meetings, times and venues.

Our Youth Groups are also the path we propose to those who want to be prepared to receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Registrations for the year 2023/2024 are still open on our website:

[www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/parishlife](http://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/parishlife) (scroll down to Youth Groups).

There will be a meeting on **Saturday 16th September 2023 at 11am** in St Edward's cloister for all the parents and guardians where we will present the **2023/2024 Stars of Abraham** programme.

The first meeting of Grail Seekers and Student Youth will be on **Friday 29th September, 6.30pm-8.30pm** in Holy Cross Resource Centre with a meeting for the parents afterwards.

For more information about these groups please go to our website.

### Communion & Liberation Groups

**Restarts at the end of September**

School of Community usually 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. 11.45am** in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. All are welcome!

Fellowship Group - Wed 20th September,

7.00pm at St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak or by Zoom. There will be a talk by Deacon Bob entitled, "5 Hebrew words every Christian should know" based on a book of the same name by Lois Tverberg. All are welcome! **Please note the new time for Fellowship, 7.00pm.** If you would like to join us on Zoom, please email: [peterbaggott@aol.com](mailto:peterbaggott@aol.com)

Romsey Prayer Group - Every Wednesday morning at **11am** in the St Joseph's Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water. All will be made very 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.

The Little Flowers Baby & Toddler Groups

Holy Cross Group will restart on Wednesday 20th September 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

Restarts on Thursday 28th September 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)

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 18th September**. All welcome!

## Second Collection This Weekend

**Sunday 17th September 2023** is for Home Mission. Evangelisation is an essential work of the Church. The Home Mission Office helps the local Church to share the joy of the Gospel. If you would like donate online please go to:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/home-mission-sunday-second-collection>

## MESSAGES



Please do not use our yellow gift aid envelopes for this collection.

After Sunday Mass at St Joseph - Tea & coffee will be available after the 11am Mass on Sundays in the Romsey Parish Centre (26A Abbey Water) **starting 17th September**.

# MESSAGES CONTINUED



## Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Doreen Baker and for her family. Doreen's Funeral Mass will be held on **Tuesday 26th September at 1.30pm in St Edward's Church**. Trish & Tony would welcome parishioners who wish to attend the funeral.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Catherine La Rooy Head and for her family. Catherine's Funeral Mass will be held on **Friday 29th September at 11am in St Edward's Church**.

## Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

If you, or someone you know, 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 or alternatively please speak to a priest.

**RCIA will start at the end of September.**

## St Swithun Wells Parish Quiz Night

**Saturday 16th September, meet at 7pm for a 7.30pm start in Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh**

Join us for a fun quiz evening (you don't have to be a Mastermind!). Cost £1 per person, pay on the night. Please bring your own food and drink. Please ring Val Talbot on 07766 056488 so she has an idea of numbers. This will be the opportunity to celebrate the solemnity of the Holy Cross which took place this past week.

## Parish Get2Gether - 1st October, 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. 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.

Good Companions - Our next get-together for those who live alone or are lonely will be at **3pm on Friday 22nd September in the Cloister of St. Edward's**. If you would like to join us, please ring Tony Wilson on 023 80266617. We look forward to seeing you.

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

Margaret French is holding her annual Macmillan Coffee Morning in the hall at St Andrew's on **Friday 29th September from 10.30am-12.30pm**. Please come along for a chat and coffee and cake, and support this very worthy cause. Queries to Margaret: 01794 278151 or 07534 214937 or email: mpf46@icloud.com

## Ethnic Mass - 23rd September, 1.30pm

**St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth, PO1 3HQ**

In honour of San Lorenzo Ruiz (1st Filipino-Chinese Saint). Please see posters on church noticeboards.

## CAFOD Family Fast Day

**Will take place on Friday 6th October 2023**, Fast Day posters and envelopes will be made available in our churches in the coming weeks.

There will be a **Fast Day Lunch held at St Edward's on Friday 6th October from 12 Noon - 1.30pm**, no cost but donations gratefully received.

# SCHOOL NOTICES

St George Catholic College - Following a graded inspection by OFSTED on Tues 27<sup>th</sup> & Wed 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023, **St George Catholic College has been judged OUTSTANDING in all areas**. Thank you so much for your support. We would be delighted to show you round our Outstanding school on the evening of **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 5pm-8pm**. External validations are fantastic to receive but I would really encourage you to visit St George Catholic College to decide for yourselves. *James Habberley, Headteacher*

St Anne's Catholic School - Parents with daughters in Years 4, 5 and 6 can visit us on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023 for our Open Morning (9am-11am) and/or our Open Evening (6pm-8pm)**. Parents can book free tickets via Eventbrite (see posters on church noticeboards). We ask that parents arrive at 9am and 10am for open morning tours.

## St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School

We're delighted to invite parents & their children to come together & visit us when considering a place for their child. See the school in action during the following mornings from **9.30am-10.30am**:

**Tues 3rd, Wed 4th & Thurs 5th October 2023**  
**Tues 7th & Wed 8th November 2023**

We also have a **Parents' Information Evening on: Thursday 19th October at 6.30pm**

For further information visit the school website: <https://www.st-swithunwells.org.uk/admissions/>

## 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

## TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

<b>Tuesdays:</b>	Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh
<b>Wednesdays:</b>	Fr Luca, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh
<b>Saturdays:</b>	Fr Marco, not available on 23rd Sept 9.30am-12.30pm, Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey

## ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

<b>Tues:</b>	St Edward (6.30pm-7.30pm)
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Holy Cross - 10.00am-11.00am
<b>Thursday:</b>	St Joseph - before Mass (5.30pm-6.00pm)

## MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 16th Sept <i>Morning Mass: Ss Cornelius &amp; Cyprian</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	People of the Parish  John Marsh RIP Ian & Teresa Rivers (40th Wedding Anniversary)
Sunday 17th 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 Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Tony Brosnan RIP Kathleen & Albert Harrison RIP Anniversary  Charmaine Ebanks RIP Special Intention for Brenda & Paul
Monday 18th Sept	9.30am	Holy Cross	Special Intention
Tuesday 19th Sept	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Patrick & Amy Griffin RIP
Wed 20th Sept <i>St Andrew Kim Taegon, St Paul Chong Hasang &amp; Companions</i>	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross OLQA St Edward	Dominic Kieran RIP  Bruce Tremlett RIP
Thurs 21st Sept <i>St Matthew</i>	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	
Friday 22nd Sept <i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	OLQA St Joseph St Edward	John Marsh RIP
Sat 23rd Sept <i>Morning Mass: St Pio of Pietrelcina</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	People of the Parish Pat Freemantle FM  John Marsh RIP Ann Wood RIP Anniversary
Sunday 24th 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 Holy Cross (also livestreamed) St Joseph	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Folco Scappaticci RIP Newton Carrasco RIP Anniversary  Raymond Awad RIP John Marsh 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 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