



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

14th JANUARY 2024: SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Christmas is not over...and it will never be

It might seem strange to write a Frontpage about Christmas in the middle of January, when the Christmas atmosphere has vanished. I think we all agree that the month of January is a particular one: we are "back to normal", the weather is not really luminous or warm (sorry... now it is the Italian in me who is speaking).

But there is something that encouraged me to look at these weeks from another perspective. It was the homily on Christmas Eve of Cardinal Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem. Here some extracts:

Today it seems to me that each of us is entrapped by his own pain. Hatred, resentment, and the spirit of revenge occupy all the space in our hearts and leave no room for the presence of others. Yet, we need others. Christmas is precisely about this: God making Himself present in a human way and opening our hearts to a new way of looking at the world.

Let us ask ourselves then: where is Christmas this year? Where can we look for the Saviour? Where can the Child be born when there seems to be no place for Him in this world of ours?

The place of Christmas is first and foremost God. Christmas, the Nativity of Christ, is in the beginning, within the merciful Heart of the Father. His infinite and endless love eternally generates the Son and gives Him to us in Time, even in this time.

If we want it to be Christmas, even in times of war, we all need to increase our actions that speak of brotherhood, peace, acceptance, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Allow me to add: we must all commit ourselves, beginning with me and those who, like myself, have a responsibility to lead and direct the social, political, and religious spheres, to develop "yes" based mindsets rather than "no" based strategies. Saying yes to what is good, yes to peace, yes to dialogue, and yes to others. It should not be a rhetorical exercise but a responsible commitment. It should make room, not occupy it; find a place for others and not deny them one. Christmas was made possible by the space that Mary and Joseph offered to God and the Child who came from Him. It will not be different for Justice and Peace. There will not be justice and peace unless we make room for them through our open and generous "yes."

It would not be Christmas without the shepherds. Their staying awake in the night is also a part of the Gospel. They are the first to find the Child. Luke the Evangelist does not dwell on their social condition but focuses rather on their inner disposition. That night, the shepherds, found themselves alert and down to earth as always, ready to act and openminded. They did not overthink or make excessive calculations and were thus ready for Christmas. In a time inevitably marked by resignation, hatred, anger and depression, we need Christians to be like the shepherds so that there may be room for Christmas!

Fr Luca

GEM OF THE WEEK

This week's GEM is the "Christmas Videoposter by Communion and Liberation" - 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 17th 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 14th January 2024: Year B - Year 2 - Psalter Week: 2

PSALM RESPONSE: HERE I AM, LORD! I COME TO DO YOUR WILL.

1st reading Samuel 3:3b-10,19 **Psalm 39** **2nd reading** 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20 **Gospel** John 1:35-42

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

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 17th January, 7pm in St Swithun Wells Church. We will be continuing with our second session on 'The Early Church Fathers' looking at Ignatius of Antioch, one of the Apostolic Fathers. 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.

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

Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Maureen Clark and for her family. Maureen's Funeral Service takes place in Holy Cross Church on Friday 19th January at 11.30am.

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 Fr Clement Marshall, former priest-in-charge of St Andrew's, North Baddesley (1985-1989) who died recently in West Belfast. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

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

Thank you to everyone for your Christmas greetings, prayers, cards and thoughts expressed in so many different ways. We are also very grateful for your

MESSAGES



generosity shown through the Christmas Offerings which we do appreciate.

Frs Raffaele, Luca, Mario & Bruce and Dcn Matteo

Upcoming Parish Retreats

There will be a Eucharistic Minister Retreat on Saturday 13th January, 2.30pm-4.30pm in St Edward the Confessor, Chandler's Ford for all Eucharistic Ministers of the Parish.

There will be a Readers Retreat on Sat 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.

New Years Afternoon Tea - 14th January 2.30pm at St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. We now have some spare spaces for this event. If you would like to come along please contact Pat Baggott on 07801 454400 or email: baggott.pm@gmail.com

MESSAGES CONTINUED



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Thursday 18th - Thursday 25th January

In Romsey there will be Bible Study Group meetings on Thursday 18th at 2.30pm in St Joseph's Parish Centre and on Wed 24th at 1.30pm in the URC Hall. If you would like to attend either or both, please contact Rosemary on 01794 522411. The Unity Week joint service will be in Romsey Abbey on Sun 21st at 6.30pm. All are welcome to all of these events.

Churches Together in Chandler's Ford: suggest to members of local congregations that they visit a different church service. The aim is to experience different types of worship and to appreciate a little of what is happening in other churches, as well as meeting other local Christians. 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).**

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-9.00pm.**

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. All are welcome!

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>

DONA - It has been decided to trial our DONA digital plates at some of our other churches to assess their potential before investing in any new devices. Initially we will move the device at St Andrew's to Our Lady Queen of the Apostles for a trial period of up to six months. *Fr Raffaele*

Help Needed - can you spare 2.5 hours once every 6/8 weeks? We need helpers at Coffee Stop on Thursday mornings between 9.15am-11.45am in Holy Cross Resource Centre. Please contact Pat Baggott 07801 454400 or 02380 694060 to discuss.

CAFOD 2023 Christmas Card collection at St Swithun Wells Church - an amazing £300 was donated for a CAFOD Medical Outreach Team. Well done and thanks to all who contributed.

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>

Latest Diocesan Vacancies

Operations Manager - St Peters & the Winchester Martyrs Parish, Winchester

Full Time: 37.5hrs per week Mon-Fri, but with flexibility to allow at least one Sunday morning per month (approx. 4 hours) and occasional evenings and weekends. **Salary: £40-45k**

Closing date for applications: Friday 9th February 2024, 12 Noon Interviews: Friday 1st March

For more information please see vacancy details on our church noticeboards, or go to: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs/>

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

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 not on 13th Jan*, 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 13th January | 9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm | Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward | Fr Paul Chavasse RIP Rocio Bates (Thanksgiving) Joseph Fernandez RIP Anniversary People of the Parish |
| Sunday 14th January <i>Second 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> Jozef Dembski RIP Eileen & Norman Joyce RIP Gualteri Smyth FM Beppie Marsh RIP |
| Monday 15th Jan | 9.30am | Holy Cross | Tom Connolly (Wellbeing) |
| Tuesday 16th January | 10.00am 6.00pm | St Andrew St Edward | Daniel Smith RIP & his family |
| Wed 17th January <i>St Anthony of Egypt</i> | 9.30am 9.30am 10.00am | Holy Cross OLQA St Edward | Catherine Mary Robinson FM June Bonetti RIP |
| Thurs 18th January | 9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm | Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph | Agnes Martin RIP Anniversary |
| Friday 19th January | 9.30am 10.00am 10.00am 11.30am | OLQA St Joseph St Edward <u>Holy Cross</u> | Joan Seddon (Wellbeing) <u>Funeral Service: Maureen Clark RIP</u> |
| Saturday 20th January | 9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm | Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward | Hazel Freda Jurd FM Harry Long & Joan Long RIP Arthur & Constance Allan RIP Jane Barber RIP |
| Sunday 21st January <i>Third 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> Giovanni Girimonte RIP Veronica & Marian Kostek RIP People of the Parish Elvira Golez & Hilario Ceballos 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