



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ 5th FEBRUARY 2023: FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saint John Bosco

During the month of January, I had the opportunity to teach the story of St John Bosco to the children of Stars of Abraham. In this way I could call to mind all the details of the life of a saint that I have always admired. I was happy when I realised that the month of January finishes with the liturgical memorial of St John Bosco, this gave me another opportunity to celebrate this important saint.

John Bosco was born in August 1815 close to Turin in north Italy. John's father died when he was two years old, but he drew strength from his mother Margherita's deep faith in God. Margherita taught her son the importance of charity, using portions of her own poor means to support those in even greater need. At age nine, John had a dream in which a number of rebellious young boys were saying bad words. Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary appeared to him in the dream, saying he would bring such youths to God through the virtues of humility and charity. Later on, this dream would help John to discern his calling as a priest. But he also sought to follow the advice of Jesus and Mary while still a boy: he would entertain his friends with juggling, acrobatics, and magic tricks, before explaining a sermon he had heard, or teaching them to pray.

In 1841, John Bosco was ordained a priest. In the city of Turin, he began ministering to boys and young men who lived on the streets, many of whom were without work or education. The priest was determined to save as many young people as he could from a life of degradation. He established a group known as the Oratory and became a kindly spiritual father for boys in need. His aging mother helped to support the project in its early years.

John's boyhood dream came true: he became a spiritual guide and provider along with his fellow Salesian priests and brothers, giving boys religious instruction, a place to live, education, and work opportunities. This success did not come easily, as the priest struggled to find reliable accommodation and support for his ambitious plan. But the difficulties did not stop the Salesians from expanding in Europe and beyond. They were helping 130,000 children in 250 houses by the end of Don Bosco's life. "I have done nothing by myself," he stated, saying it was "Our Lady who has done everything" through her intercession with God.

St John Bosco died in the early hours of the 31st January 1888, after conveying a message: "Tell the boys that I shall be waiting for them all in Paradise." He was canonized on Easter Sunday of 1934, and is a patron saint of young people.

The story of St John Bosco is always very inspiring for me because, in a certain way, the vision of our Parish is similar to what he wanted to achieve. John Bosco created the oratories as places where his boys could be welcomed and find a true home, where they could learn to love God, where they could find adults to orient them, and finally places where they could learn how to be useful for the wider society.

I am sure that as a Parish we are still very far from what St John Bosco achieved. Nevertheless, I would like to have him as an example to follow so that our Parish may become for everyone a true home, a place of friendship, joy, love for God and for others.

Fr Raffaele

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is 'How Do We Trust In Church Authority' - by fr Mike Schmitz from Catechism In A Year series. 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 **9.30am on Wednesday 8th February 2023**, please email your messages/notices to: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 5th February 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Psalter Week 1

PSALM RESPONSE: THE GOOD MAN IS A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS FOR THE UPRIGHT.

READINGS: 1st reading Isaiah 58:7-10 Psalm 111 2nd reading 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 Gospel Matthew 5:13-16

Sunday 12th February 2023: Year A - Year 1 - Psalter Week: Psalter Week 2

PSALM RESPONSE: THEY ARE HAPPY WHO FOLLOW GOD'S LAW!

READINGS: 1st reading Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20 Psalm 118 2nd reading 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 Gospel Matthew 5:17-37

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)

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

www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) Group

Tuesday 7th February at 10.15am to approx.

11.30am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. We will be continuing our DVD series on Prayer called 'Strength to Strength'. All are welcome!

Fellowship Group - Wed 8th February, 7.30pm in

St Swithun Wells Church, Fair Oak. We will be having an evening of 21st Century Folk Music led by Mike and Pippa. Everyone is most welcome, or you can join us on Zoom. For the Zoom link contact Peter on peterbaggott@aol.com

Afternoon Club - St. Joseph's Parish Centre

(26 Abbey Water), first Tuesday in the month. Come and join us for tea, games and good fun. All welcome! Next Meeting: 2pm on 7th Feb.

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!

OASIS Women's Group - On Mon 13th February we are looking forward to welcoming Marianne Wanstall who will share her experiences of recent pilgrimages to Lourdes and the history of pilgrimage. This is a warm welcome to all women. Bring a friend, meet new ones. It is wonderful to be able to gather again and have these opportunities to share with one another. We will be meeting at 7:30pm, in the cloister of St Edward the Confessor. We look forward to seeing you there.

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

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

Parish Get2Gether - 5th Feb, 1-4pm

Pavillion on the Park, 1 Kingfisher Road, SO50 9LH
An event for all of the parish, especially families. We begin by sharing a meal together followed by some activities and a discussion on the topic of 'Education of the children in their faith'. 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. Please can you bring your own cups/plates/cutlery. To book your place please go to our parish website and click the link.
Future Get2Gether date for your diaries: 5th March

Parish Lunch at the Hunters Inn, Romsey on Thurs 9th Feb, 12.30pm. Menus are on the notice-boards. Please phone Rosemary (01794 522411) if you would like to go as food had to pre-ordered by 1st Feb.

Beat The Winter Blues

Come to a light-hearted quiz in Romsey Parish Centre, 26 Abbey Water, on Tuesday 14th February, starting at 2.30pm. No charge but, due to limited space, we

MESSAGES



need to know numbers. If you intend to come, please let Margaret French (01794 278151), Jean Prescott (prescott@waitrose.com) or Rosemary Peacock (01794 522411) know by Tuesday 7th Feb.

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

Monday 13th - Friday 17th February, 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

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.** Payment to be made by 10th February.

Upcoming Funerals

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ann Brockway and for her family. Ann's Funeral Mass takes place on **Tues 14th February at 11am in Holy Cross Church.**

MESSAGES CONTINUED

Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham

(30th Jun - 2nd Jul) - To book please go to our website and complete the **NEW FORM** by Sunday 5th Feb. All payments will also need to be received by this date.

Holy Cross CCTV - The existing CCTV system at Holy Cross Church is being upgraded and extended **week commencing Mon 6th Feb** with additional cameras being installed inside the church. This has been made necessary because of a number of unsocial incidents inside the church when it's unoccupied but open for worship. Please be aware that the cameras inside the church will not be activated whilst Mass is taking place.

Car Parking Spaces at Holy Cross Church, Eastleigh

The car park at Holy Cross has some spaces available for weekly parking. The fee is £100 per month for parking from Monday to Friday. If you, your family, friends, or colleagues would be interested please phone the Parish Office on 02380 273882 or email: accounts@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

St Andrew's Car Park - We are renting out 10 car parking spaces at St Andrew's to Clover Dental Practice during the week, except Tuesday mornings when there is Mass. This will be on a trial basis which will run from 1st February to 1st June. Feedback forms are available at St Andrew's where parishioners can lodge their comments/concerns. The forms will be available throughout the trial period.

Parish Office - due to staff holiday the revised office opening hours will be as follows:

Mon 6th Feb: Midday - 5.30pm, Fiona will be in
Tues 7th Feb: 9.30am - 5.30pm, Fiona will be in
Wed 8th Feb: 9.45am - 2.30pm, Sarah will be in
Thurs 9th Feb: 9.30am - 2.30pm, Sarah will be in
Fri 10th Feb: 10am-2.30pm, neither Fiona nor Sarah will be in - phone cover only during these times.

Coffee Stop at Holy Cross - the Coffee Stop team would like to thank everyone who supports us on Thursday Mornings. In 2022 we donated **£859** to the Parish. Well done everyone and please continue to support us in 2023. Why not bring a friend along too?

Holy Cross Church Shop - A volunteer is urgently needed to help in the Church Shop on Sundays. If you are able to help please contact Lynette on 02380 618542 or speak to her after Mass.

Church Contact Lists - you will now find a list in the welcoming area of Holy Cross, St Swithun Wells, St Edward's, St Joseph & St Andrew's churches containing the names and contact details for the different leaders of various church ministries/groups. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer for certain activities please use the list to contact the key person named.

FLAME - Wembley Arena, on Sat 4th March 2023.

All young people in school year 9 or above are welcome! To join the Diocesan group, you can get your tickets, hoodies and transportation or more info about the event by contacting: youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Romsey Churches Lenten Lunch - As is traditional in Romsey, the churches take it in turn to organise lunch on the Fridays during Lent and this year the Catholic community will be providing lunch on **10th March, 12 - 1.30pm, in the Parish Centre, 26A Abbey Water**. As a change from the usual fare, lunch will consist of sandwiches, cakes, fruit, tea and coffee, including gluten free, vegan and dairy free options. If you can offer to bake a cake or help on the day, please contact Teresa Rayment (01794 513528). It will be much appreciated.

Romsey Relay Marathon (21st May 2023) - Runners required!

It works like this, as a team of 10, we will need to run collectively 26 miles and 385 yards (42.2 km). Each of us will run/jog/walk 2.6 miles (4.2 km) to complete our leg of the course before handing the baton to the next teammate. This will also be a great opportunity to raise money for CAFOD. A Just Giving page will be set up in due course. As this is a very popular local event, I'd like to register a team from our church as soon as possible. No training is required and you don't need to be an elite runner. It will be great fun. See www.romseymarathon.co.uk for more info, please contact me, Carrie at cklfung@btconnect.com if you are interested.

St Swithun Wells Parish Online Giving - If you would like to give directly online please scan in this QR code.



SCHOOL NOTICES

Warm Room - St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School are holding a Warm Room every Thursday between 1-3pm. This will provide somewhere for parishioners to enjoy the company of others in a warm and welcoming environment.

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 is not available on 10th Feb 10.30am-11.30am, Romsey Parish Office (26 Abbey Water), Romsey
Saturdays: Fr Marco is not available on 11th Feb 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

Tuesday: 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
Saturday 4th Feb	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Special Intention to Our Lady & St Joseph People of the Parish Anne O'Keefe RIP Deceased Members of the Wyman & Uphill Families FM
Sunday 5th Feb <i>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> Angela Frances Adams FM Margaret Martindale RIP William & Isabella Regan FM Monica Keating RIP
Mon 6th <i>St Paul Miki & Compan- ions</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross	Albert & Violet Harrington FM Fraternity of St Charles
Tues 7th Feb	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Monica Keating RIP Jeffrey Tuppein RIP
Wed 8th Feb	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross OLQA St Edward	Robert Durent RIP Helen Gallagher RIP
Thurs 9th Feb	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	George Hendrikse (Thanksgiving) Patsy & Roy Calne (Wellbeing)
Fri 10th <i>St Scholastica</i>	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Monica Keating RIP Margaret Martindale RIP
Saturday 11th Feb	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	People of the Parish Alain Hunt RIP Anniversary Magdalene Peto RIP Anniversary Real Olivier & Florentina Boucher RIP
Sunday 12th Feb <i>Sixth 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> Kathleen Ditte RIP & Deceased Family Members FM Jeanette Butcher RIP Anniversary Peter Singleton RIP Gillian Meaney (Wellbeing)

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)