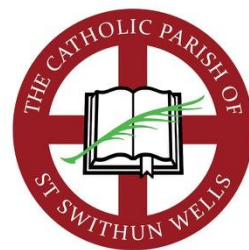


NEWSLETTER



3rd May 2026: FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity N. 1199568

A CALL TO PRAYER AND CONVERSION: FATIMA

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells us: *"Do not let your hearts be troubled... there are many rooms in my Father's house."* These words remind us that our true home is with God, a place prepared for us where there is peace and joy.

Yet this promise is not only about heaven. God's house is already among us. As St Peter says, we are "living stones" making up a spiritual house. Whenever we gather for Mass, pray together, or live in love within our families, we become that house where God dwells.

This call to live close to God, trusting Him and building our lives on prayer, is beautifully reflected in the message of the Our Lady of Fátima apparitions.

In 1916 and 1917, in the small village of Fatima in Portugal, three young shepherd children—Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta—were chosen in a very special way. Before Our Lady appeared, they were visited by an Angel who taught them how to pray and encouraged them to offer sacrifices for others. The Angel said: *"Pray, pray as much as you can... make everything you do a sacrifice to God."*

The children began to take this seriously. Though they were young, they started to pray more deeply and to offer small sacrifices, learning that love of God is shown in simple, everyday actions.

Then, on 13 May 1917, Our Lady appeared to them. She was *"a beautiful Lady... shining brighter than the sun,"* holding a rosary in her hand. She told them not to be afraid and asked them to come back each month. Her message was clear and simple: *pray the Rosary every day, offer sacrifices, and trust in God.*

She also asked them: *"Are you willing to offer yourselves to God and bear all the sufferings He would send you... for the conversion of sinners?"* and the children generously replied, *"Oh yes, we will."*

Over the following months, the children remained faithful, even when they were mocked, questioned, and even imprisoned for telling the truth. They continued to pray and to trust, becoming living examples of what it means to belong to God's house.

Our Lady repeatedly asked for the Rosary, saying it would bring peace to the world and an end to war. She also taught them a prayer that is still said today: *"O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, and lead all souls to heaven, especially those most in need of Thy mercy."*

Finally, in October, a great miracle took place before thousands of people—the "dance of the sun"—confirming that the message was true. Many who witnessed it turned back to God, rediscovering faith and hope.

The message of Fatima connects deeply with today's Gospel. Jesus tells us not to let our hearts be troubled, and Our Lady shows us how: through prayer, trust, and conversion. By praying, loving, and offering our daily lives to God, we begin to live already in the Father's house.

This Sunday, we are especially united with 30 parishioners who are on pilgrimage to Fatima. As they pray at that holy place, may their journey renew their faith and bring blessings to our whole parish.

Fr Raffaele



GEM OF THE WEEK

read on our website: Building Up The Good
by Pope Leo

For the next Newsletter, items should be received into the Parish Office by 10am on Tuesday
5th May 2026, please email your messages/notices to: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

If you wish to make a donation to our parish please go to: stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/financesdonations

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 3rd May 2026 YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK 1

PSALM RESPONSE: MAY YOUR MERCIFUL LOVE BE UPON US, AS WE HOPE IN YOU, O LORD.

1st Reading Act 6:1-7 **Psalm** 33(32) **2nd Reading** 1st Peter 2:4-9 **Gospel** John 14:1-12

Sunday 10th May 2026 YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK 2

PSALM RESPONSE: CRY OUT WITH JOY TO GOD, ALL THE EARTH.

1st Reading Act 8:5-8,14-17 **Psalm** 66(65) **2nd Reading** 1st Peter 3:15-18 **Gospel** John 14:15-21

PARISH GROUPS



Voice of Praise - Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group

Join us every **Thursday evening, 7.45pm, at the Holy Cross Church** for an hour of lively prayer, music, Scripture, and fellowship. Our charism is evangelisation: sharing the joy of the Gospel and the power of the Holy Spirit. Whether you are new or experienced in charismatic prayer, all are warmly welcome! For info please email: voiceofpraise.sswp@gmail.com

Youth Groups (including First Holy Communion & Confirmation)

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

Holy Cross Saturdays 10.30am to 12 noon; St Edward Tuesdays 4pm to 5.30pm; St Andrews Fridays 4.30pm to 6pm

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9) *Sundays 6.30pm to 8.30pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre.*

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

Fridays 6.30pm to 8.30pm Holy Cross Resource Centre.

For more information about the groups please go to our website:

<https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/our-groups>

Awake My Soul - A group for young adults (aged 18-25) in the parish. We meet every other **Wednesday from 7pm to 9.30pm in the presbytery of Holy Cross** (53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh - the house next to the church). We start with dinner together, followed by a discussion on how our faith relates to our daily lives. Next meeting: **Wednesday 13th May**. If you would like to participate, please email Fr Matteo:

mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community meet weekly at:

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!

Ark of Fellowship - Group for learning disabilities or learning difficulties, their families and friends

Thursdays at 6.30pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre. Interested in volunteering or know some young adults who would like to join the group?

Contact: arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com

The Little Flowers Baby & Toddler Group

Meet on **Wednesdays** during term time from **10am in Holy Cross Resource Centre**. The group is for 0-4 years and their grown ups are welcome.

School of Christianity in Bishop's Waltham - A course about the basis of the faith using the Catechism of the Catholic Church. **Every 2nd and 4th Friday** of each month at **6pm** in the hall of **Our Lady Queen of Apostles church**.

Knitting Group - Next meeting **Tuesday 19th May 2.00pm to 4.00pm** in the **Resource Centre**. We knit hats and scarves for the homeless. Everyone welcome.

Growing In Faith Together Group (GIFT) - every Tuesday at 10.15am in the **H/Cross Resource Centre**.

MESSAGES



Stewardship Campaign - Next weekend we will start a parish stewardship campaign during which we will be asking all parishioners to reflect prayerfully on their commitment to our parish. As a parish and individuals, we have been blessed with many varied gifts. Biblical stewardship calls us to share our gifts of time, talent and treasure with our parish, community and the world. Over the next 3 weekends, we will be hearing more about stewardship and the needs of our parish. Please give prayerful consideration to this appeal.
Fr Raffaele

Portugal Pilgrimage - This weekend around 30 pilgrims from our Parish are travelling to Portugal on a Pilgrimage to Lisbon & Fatima. Please keep them in your prayers for safe travel and an joyful experience. We will share photos from the journey on our social media!

Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 10th May 1-4pm in Pavilion on the Park. 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 Pavilion. Please bring some food, beverages or cakes to share with others. Please can you bring your own cups/plates/cutlery. Please include a list of ingredients so those with allergies can make an informed decision. To book your place please go to our parish website.

Fryern Funtasia - at **Fryern recreation ground Monday 4th May 12 Noon - 4.30pm**. Churches together in Chandlers Ford attend this event with a gazebo with children activities as well as promoting groups of our Parish. Please go over and say hello to show your support.

MESSAGES CONTINUED



Please note the opening hours for the office at Holy Cross this week

Monday: closed
Tuesday: 9.30 - 5.30 Wednesday: 9.30 - 2.30
Thursday: 9.30 - 2.30 Friday: 9.30 - 2.30

Mass for the Sick & Housebound

Friday 15th May at 10am at St Edward's Church, 12Noon at OLQA Church. Friday 22nd May 10am at St Joseph Church.. There will be three special Masses in which we will pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish. During Mass it will be possible to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. All who are sick, elderly, facing surgery, or seeking the gift of God's healing are welcome to participate. The whole Parish will be invited to join in prayer for those who are sick and for their caregivers.

Cultural Friday - Will take place on **15th May at 7pm at St Edwards**. The topic is "Is it possible to be Christian and work in a hospital?". With guests **Laura Iannuzzi**: Lecturer in Midwifery at Bournemouth University and **Cormac Rowe**: Doctor at the Southampton Hospital, sharing their personal experiences. This meeting is particularly relevant for anyone working in the NHS, including doctors, nurses and staff. Cheese and wine at **7pm** and talk at **7.30pm**. Suggested donation £3.

Parish Lunch - **Wednesday 20th May, 12.30pm, at The Wheatsheaf, Braishfield**. Menus can be found on your church notice board. All are welcome. Please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know your choice of meal before Monday 11th May as we have to pre-order.

Confirmation and First Holy Communion - On **Sunday 31st May** there will be Confirmations at **3pm at Holy Cross Church**. Bishop Phillip will preside over the celebration and confirm our teenagers. (For this reason there will be no Mass at 5.30pm on that day). While on **Sunday 7th June**, there will be First Holy Communions in the morning at **St Edward, Holy Cross & St Andrew**.

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

Tuesday 26th - Friday 29th May, 8.30am-3.30pm St Edward's Cloister. Registrations are now open. Cost: £10 per child per day. £5 for additional siblings. Spaces are limited. For any enquiries, please contact comeandsee@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk
For more information and to book your child's place please go to the parish website.

St Swithun Wells School Casual Minibus Driver

Vacancy - We need your help! The future of our school minibus service depends on it. St Swithun Wells is seeking to appoint a minibus driver to start as soon as possible. We're open to **flexible, part-time options** to suit different lifestyles – mornings only, afternoons only, or even just a couple of days a week. There will be the opportunity to help with school trips. More details and the application procedure can be found on our website <https://www.st-swithunwells.org.uk/Casual-Minibus-Driver/> or you can phone the school on; 02380 266210.

Parish Registration - Please make sure that you register yourself and your children to our Parish using the online form that you can find on our website.

Are you celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or more Wedding Anniversary? If so, Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of celebration. This will take place at **St Bede's church in Basingstoke** on **Saturday 20th June at 11am**. This will be followed by a buffet lunch. Please contact your parish secretary if you would like to attend and they will send you a form for you to complete and return to Kirsten McGuire (kmcguire@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) in Bishop's Office. Thank you.

Upcoming Parish Festival - Sunday 5th July at Pavillion on the Park. If you know anyone with children's entertainment experience or equipment such as bouncy castle, please email Faye at events@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Volunteer Property Manager(s) Needed

Our parish is seeking volunteers who may be interested in serving as a Property Manager for one of our churches. This important role involves helping to oversee the care and maintenance of church buildings and grounds, liaising with contractors where necessary, and ensuring that our properties are kept safe and well maintained. If you are interested please speak to Fr Raffaele or contact the parish office: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Chair of Property Managers Committee Needed

Our parish is seeking a volunteer to serve as Chair of the Property Managers Committee. This important role involves coordinating and supporting the work of the Property Managers of the different churches, helping to ensure good communication, shared planning, and the careful stewardship of our parish properties. Support and guidance will be provided. If you are interested please speak to Fr Raffaele or contact the parish office: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

We are looking for photos - from events, groups and activities connected to the parish, to share on our website and social media. If you have any photos, send them to events@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk or whatsapp them to 07356318616, with a brief explanation of the photo. Please ask permission to share online from those in the photos, and do not send any photos of children.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tues:	6.30pm - 7.30pm (after Mass)	St Edward
Wed:	10am - 11am (after Mass)	Holy Cross
Thurs:	12.30pm - 1pm (after Mass)	OLQA
Thurs:	5pm - 6pm (before Mass)	St Joseph

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Tuesdays:	9.30am-10.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew
Tuesdays:	6.30pm-7.30pm (after Mass)	St Edward
Saturdays:	10.00am-10.30am (after Mass)	Holy Cross
	4.30pm-5.00pm (before Mass)	OLQA
	5.30pm-6.00pm (before Mass)	St Joseph
Sundays:	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Edward
	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

* Livestreamed

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 2nd May St Athanasius	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Hubert De Mornay RIP Anniversary People of the Parish Pauline Wilson RIP
Sun 3rd May Fifth Sunday of Easter	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 5.30pm	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA Holy Cross * St Joseph Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Mrs Edward Christian FM Evelyn McKay RIP Heather Pollard RIP Giuseppe Ermanno Guzzetta RIP Anniversary Holly Harris RIP Anniversary Holy Souls in Purgatory
Mon 4th May The English Martyrs	9.30am	Holy Cross	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Tue 5th May	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Irene Dornan RIP Monica Meaney (Birthday Intention)
Wed 6th May	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Holy Souls in Purgatory Bridget Griffiths RIP
Thur 7th May	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Peter Walsh RIP Eileen Murphy (Birthday Intention)
Fri 8th May	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	Kathleen Mary Boaden FM
Sat 9th May	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Siobhan Waters FM People of the Parish Rosemary Oxby RIP
Sun 10th May Sixth Sunday of Easter	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 5.30pm	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA Holy Cross * St Joseph Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Helena & Jan Gaca RIP Anniversary Doris Bonello RIP Anniversary The Turner family (Wellbeing) Kathleen McKenna RIP

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; rcossa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; lspeziale@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Mario Toma (Assistant Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; mtoma@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Matteo Pagani (Assistant Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Pietro Paiusco (Assistant Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; ppaiusco@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Bob Birtles

Tel: 023 8069 2416; bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon John di Meo

Tel: 01794 515688; jdimeo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Paul Owen

Tel: 023 8025 4806; powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Paul Wilson

Tel: 023 8061 6618; pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Emmanuel Chituh

Tel: 07915 379686; echituh@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Office Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh
SO50 9DF Tel: 02380 273882

Open on: Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri 9.30am - 5.30pm
Wed 9.30am-2.30pm

Parish Administrator: Sabrina Gardner

office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Finance Administrator: Christina Geleji

accounts@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Events & Communications Coordinator: Faye Harris

events@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Website Contact: website.sswp@gmail.com

Parish Safeguarding: please see Safeguarding posters in each of our churches for details of the Parish Safeguarding Reps.

Diocesan Safeguarding: rattfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk