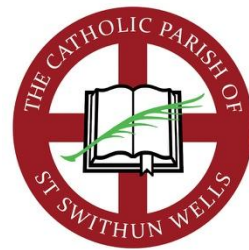


NEWSLETTER

23rd August 2026: TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity N. 1199568



THE BEAUTY OF CHRIST

With a new academic year approaching, my thoughts are a mosaic of plans for our missionary activities: proposals for our youth groups and families, refurbishments to our halls, inviting more altar servers, finding new collaborators, printing leaflets to publicise our activities, organising music bands, booking youth camps, and more!

But what is always more important to me in August is refreshing the motive behind all my actions and passions.

When I was in Italy, I used to spend some of my holidays on pilgrimages with friends. We walked to Assisi, Monte Cassino, Monte Sant'Angelo and Oropa to visit St Francis, St Benedict, St Michael the Archangel and Our Lady.

I love pilgrimages because they represent life as it should be: a clear goal towards which all energies are oriented, with even sleeping and eating being done to gain energy for walking towards the final goal. Even more beautiful is the fact that the final goal is not just your own personal achievement, but that of your friends too, and you will enjoy the achievement together!

Since I'm in the UK, having not yet planned a local pilgrimage, I prepared my soul in a different way: by reading.

Two years ago, I read the story of the Forty English Martyrs who were canonised by Pope Paul VI. Most of them were priests, like me, and they risked their lives just to celebrate the Eucharist. Most of them were in their twenties and knew that their mission would last no more than three years before they were caught and executed.

Last year, I read "The Rock" by T.S. Eliot, which speaks of the Church and its glorious mission:

"And the Church must be forever building, for it is forever decaying within and attacked from without. [...] In the vacant places we will build with new bricks. There are hands and machines and clay for new brick and lime for new mortar. Where the bricks are fallen, we will build with new stone. Where the beams are rotten, we will build with new timbers. Where the Word is unspoken, we will build with new speech".

This summer, I am reading about Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, arguably the greatest missionary of the 19th and 20th centuries. Starting with seven sisters in a small Italian town, she devoted her life to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In 37 years, they opened 67 schools, orphanages and hospitals in Europe, the USA and Central and South America, with 1,300 sisters by the time of her death. Her order of nuns is still active today across the world.

As any sportsman know enduring his hard training, the effort required by life, whether big or small, is not a problem; the problem is not knowing why to do it or enduring it for the wrong reason.

So every August, I look to find out more about what motivated eleven fishermen, tax collectors and Zealots to face Roman persecution, what motivated St Benedict to live in a monastery and be the first of millions, what motivated St Francis to live with his friends owning nothing, what motivated millions of pilgrims to visit shrines dedicated to Our Lady or St Michael, what motivated martyrs to shed their blood, what motivated saints to rebuild the Church, and what motivated a young, poor nun who was afraid of water to cross the Atlantic twenty-eight times to support immigrants.

I want to find out more about the beauty of Jesus Christ.

Fr Pietro



GEM OF THE WEEK
NO GREATER LOVE TALK
Watch via our website

For the next Newsletter, items should be received into the Parish Office by 10am on Tuesday
1st September 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 23rd August 2026 YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK 1

PSALM RESPONSE: O LORD, YOUR MERCIFUL LOVE IS ETERNAL; DISCARD NOT THE WORK OF YOUR HANDS.

1st Reading Isaiah 22:19-23 **Psalm** 138(137) **2nd Reading** Romans 11:33-36 **Gospel** Matthew 16:13-20

Sunday 30th August 2026 YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK 2

PSALM RESPONSE: FOR YOU MY SOUL IS THIRSTING, O LORD MY GOD.

1st Reading Jeremiah 20:7-9 **Psalm** 63(62) **2nd Reading** Romans 12:1-2 **Gospel** Matthew 16:21-27

MESSAGES



Message from Mike Moran – Mike Moran and family would like to thank the parishioners for the many messages of condolence following the funeral for Brenda Ann Moran who used to work at the nursery at St Joseph's church and was well known by many. Your thoughts and prayers would have meant a lot to her.

Upcoming funerals – Funeral Mass for Kathleen Docherty will take place on **Tuesday 1st September** at **11.30am** at **St Edward church**. Funeral Mass for Susan Adams will take place on **Thursday 3rd September** at **11.00am** at the **St Joseph church**. Funeral Mass for Sonny Long will take place on **Friday 4th September** at **11.30am** at **Holy Cross church**. Funeral Mass for Sarah Margaret Prince will take place on **Tuesday 8th September** at **11.30am** at the **St Edward church**. Funeral Mass for Deborah Elliott will take place on **Thursday 10th September** at **11.00am** at the **St Edward church**. Please pray for the repose of their souls and for their families.

Office Closure – Please note that the Parish office in Holy Cross will be closed **Friday 28th August**.

Charismatic Adoration with Voice of Praise **Thursday 3rd September** at **7.45pm**, **Holy Cross Church**. Everyone is warmly invited to join us for an evening of Charismatic Adoration. Theme: "Return to your first love." Come and rediscover the love you had at first for the Lord, spending time in His presence through praise, worship and Adoration.

A new Contemplative prayer group – called Tuning into God will start to meet on the first Thursday morning of every month from **Thursday 3rd September** at **St Joseph's Church Hall**. We will start at **10.30am** with Morning Prayer/Intercessory Prayer, have some coffee/social time and then have a time for Lectio Divina and Silent Prayer. We will finish at about **12Noon**. Please email samanthaharris218@gmail.com if you would like to attend.

Suggested readings and films for the summer
August is always a wonderful month to take the time for a good book or a film. You will find some suggestions on our website:

<https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/books-and-movies>

OLQA Save the date! – Fundraiser Quiz **Saturday 19th September** at **6.30pm**. Raising money to help support a young parishoner on his trip to the European Scout Jamboree. More details to follow. Marie Kemp.

Youth Groups (including First Holy Communion & Confirmation)

Stars of Abraham (school years 3, 4, 5 & 6) *Holy Cross Saturdays 10.30am to 12Noon; St Edward Tuesdays 4pm to 5.30pm; St Andrews Fridays 4.30pm to 6pm*

Grail Seekers (school years 7, 8, 9)
Holy Cross Sundays 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

Holy Cross Fridays 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Our Youth Groups for children in primary school and young people in secondary school will restart at the end of September 2026. 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 2026/2027 are now open on our website: www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk (scroll down to Youth Groups).

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 19th September 2026 at 11am in St Edward's cloister** for all the parents and guardians where we will present the **2026/2027 Stars of Abraham programme**.

Another meeting to present the Stars of Abraham programme in the Romsey & North Baddesley area will be held at **St Andrew's Church, North Baddesley** on **Friday 25th September at 6pm**.

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.

Health and Safety Rep OLQA & Safeguarding Rep St Joseph/St Andrew Needed

Our parish is seeking volunteers who may be interested in serving as a Health and Safety Rep for OLQA church and Safeguarding Rep for St Joseph and St Andrew churches. These are essential roles that are required for the running of our churches and communities. If you are interested please speak to Fr Raffaele, Fr Pietro and Fr Mario or contact the parish office: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

MESSAGES CONTINUED



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 Dcn Paul Owen: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or alternatively please speak to a priest.

Please contact your MP to oppose assisted suicide

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is back in the House of Commons and seeks to legalise assisted suicide. It will have its Second Reading and vote on Friday, 11 September 2026. Please write to your MP to make your voice heard and oppose the Bill. "This bill is wrong in principle," says Archbishop Richard Moth, President of the Bishops' Conference, "It is also deeply flawed and, if passed, could lead to vulnerable people feeling pressured into ending their lives. The Bill has a serious lack of protection for health and social care staff and risks putting many wonderful hospices and care homes in the position of no longer being able to operate. I urge you to write to your Members of Parliament to petition them to vote against the Bill at Second Reading." You can support the Archbishop's call and contact your MP now as a matter of urgency. Even if you have already done so in the past, please speak up and voice your opposition. The charity Right to Life UK has a simple online mechanism to do this. It takes little more than a few minutes to enter your postcode, make sure the suggested text suits your viewpoint and submit your message to ask your MP to stop this flawed Bill progressing through parliament. For more information and resources, visit: cbcw.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide and righttolife.org.uk/Sept11vote

Times to Meet a Priest - Our priests will not be holding their regular sessions until September, but remain available to meet you. Please either see them after Mass or email them.

Street Pastors - Could you spare one Friday night per month to listen, care and help in our community. We need more volunteers! Street Pastors have faithfully been spreading the love of our Lord in Eastleigh for the last 17 years. In that time, we have seen a young generation grow into adults with families. Our next training is **Friday eve 7pm - 9.30pm, Saturday 9.30am-4.30pm, Sunday 9.30am-4.30pm** All timings and subjects are provisional. Weekend 1: **9-11th October 2026** Weekend 2: **23-25th October 2026** Weekend 3: **13-15th November 2026**.

We need your help! The future of our school minibuss service depends on it - One of our wonderful drivers retired in July, and despite advertising for the past two years, we still haven't been able to recruit a replacement. If we can't fill the role before September, we may only be able to run **one** daily bus service – something we really want to avoid. **Do you know someone who might be interested?** We're open to **flexible, part-time options** to suit different lifestyles. Any enquiries please contact the school.

Wanting to get married? - If you are recently engaged or planning to get married, please contact one of our priests and we will be happy to support and help you. The Sacrament of Marriage is a wonderful gift and a joyful vocation. Marriage Preparation will start in October. If you are already living in a committed relationship we can also help you to receive the Sacrament of Marriage. Please speak with a priest.

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

*** Livestreamed**

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 22nd Aug The Queenship of Mary	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Anthraper Family (Thanksgiving) Victor & Gina Sullivan RIP Living & Deceased of Harry & Cavanagh Families FM
Sun 23rd Aug Twent-first Sunday in Ordinary Time	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> People of the Parish Steven Laferla RIP Anniversary John Marlow RIP Anniversary
Mon 24th Aug St Batholomew	9.30am	Holy Cross	Frederick John Johnson FM Mary Quinn RIP
Tue 25th Aug	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	
Wed 26th Aug	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Raymond Kelly RIP (5yr Anniversary) Marie Duggan (Birthday Intention)
Thur 27th Aug	9.30am	Holy Cross	Ron & Collette Reynolds FM

St Monica Thur 27th Aug	12 Noon 6.00pm	OLQA St Joseph	Geoffrey David Hurst RIP
Fri 28th Aug St Augustine of Hippo	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	Martina Jacobs RIP & Family Anne Widdecombe RIP
Sat 29th Aug The Passion of St John the Baptist	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Thomas Charles Robinson FM John Marsh RIP Anniversary Jocelyn Halfpenny (Thanksgiving)
Sun 30th Aug Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time	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> Kathleen Docherty RIP Susan Butcher RIP Anniversary Joseph Lee (Health & Wellbeing) People of the Parish
Mon 31st Aug	9.30am	Holy Cross	
Tue 1st Sept	10.00am 11.30am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward St Edward	<u>Funeral Mass for Kathleen Docherty RIP</u>
Wed 2nd Sept	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Rodel Limbaga RIP
Thur 3rd Sept St Gregory the Great	9.30am 11.00am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross St Joseph OLQA St Joseph	<u>Funeral Mass for Susan Adams RIP???</u>
Fri 4th Sept	10.00am 10.00am 11.30am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward Holy Cross OLQA	Nelita Hechanova RIP Anniversary <u>Funeral Mass for Sonny Long RIP</u>
Sat 5th Sept	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Moira Kerr RIP Trish Cassidy RIP
Sun 6th Sept Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time	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> In loving memory of Skipton Leonard & Mary Marjorie Haslam RIP People of the Parish Dudley Roberts RIP FM Jerry McDonnell RIP FM Sr Maisie Nevin RIP (Sister of Our Lady of Charity)

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

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

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Finance Administrator: Dexter De Couto

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