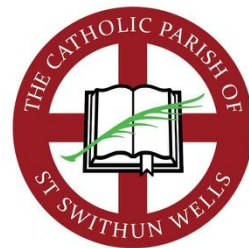


NEWSLETTER



26th July 2026: SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity N. 1199568

TIME OF FREEDOM

It was June of my first year at Italian secondary school, which meant that I was 15. The school year was drawing to a close. The Italian school system is actually quite different from the British one. There are no half-term breaks during the year and there are very few holidays – about two weeks at Christmas and one at Easter. However, the school year ends in early June and starts again in September. That's about three months of school holidays... wonderful! After that first year, in which I had started so many new subjects, studied hard and taken exams, I couldn't wait to go on holiday and finally relax!

Before the end of the year, I attended an assembly led by a few teachers. We were given a leaflet entitled "Holidays: Time of Freedom". Intrigued, I began to read it. It was an article by the Servant of God Fr Luigi Giussani, who founded the Catholic movement Communion and Liberation. At one point, a particular sentence struck me: "I understand what a person – whether young or adult – truly wants, not from their work or studies, that is what they are obliged to do, nor from social conventions or necessities, but from how they spend their free time. If a young person or an adult wastes their free time, they do not love life; they are foolish. Holidays are the classic time when almost everyone becomes foolish. On the contrary, a holiday is the noblest time of the year because it is the moment when one can devote oneself to the value one recognises as paramount in one's life – or not devote oneself to anything at all, in which case one is a fool".

Twenty years have passed since I first read this sentence, and today, as then, it strikes a chord with me because it reminds me that I still have a long way to go. But, at the same time, the prospect remains fascinating! The prospect of being able to spend this time discovering who we really are. Indeed, the article went on to say: "Man's greatest value, his virtue, his courage, his energy – that which makes life worth living – lies in gratuitousness, in the capacity for gratuitousness. And it is precisely in one's free time that gratuitousness emerges and asserts itself in an astonishing way. The way one prays, faithfulness to prayer, the truth of relationships, self-sacrifice, appreciation of things, modesty in dealing with reality, and compassion towards others – all of these things are much more noticeable on holiday than during the rest of the year. On holiday, one is free, and if one is free, one does as one pleases. This means that holidays are important. Above all, this implies careful consideration when choosing one's company and destination. Above all else, it is about the way one lives: if a holiday does not remind you of what you would most like to remember, if it does not make you kinder towards others, if it makes you more impulsive, if it does not teach you to observe nature deeply, if it does not inspire you to make a joyful sacrifice, then this time of rest has failed to fulfil its purpose. [...] The whole point of a holiday is to breathe – if possible, to breathe to the full".

In the coming weeks, many of us will be going on holiday. This time can be special and blessed because it can be a time when we use our freedom to discover who we really are and what our lives are based on. For it is only by knowing what we are rooted in that we can find true rest – the kind of rest that allows us to breathe "to the full".

Fr Matteo



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
4th August 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 26th July 2026 YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK 1

PSALM RESPONSE: O LORD, HOW I LOVE YOUR LAW!

1st Reading Kings 3:5, 7-12 **Psalm** 119(118) **2nd Reading** Romans 8:28-30 **Gospel** Matthew 13:44-52

Sunday 2nd August 2026 YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK 2

PSALM RESPONSE: YOU OPEN YOUR HAND AND FULFIL US, O LORD.

1st Reading Isaiah 55:1-3 **Psalm** 145(144) **2nd Reading** Romans 8:35, 37-39 **Gospel** Matthew 14:13-21

MESSAGES



'Renewing Our Parish Commitment' Stewardship Campaign

- a massive thank you to everyone who has supported our Campaign in recent weeks. Your financial support will make a real and lasting difference to our parish and we are very grateful. The Campaign will end this coming weekend, 25th and 26th July. However, the boxes for your forms will continue to be available until the end of August as we know some parishioners' personal circumstances mean they haven't yet been able to return their forms. We don't yet have a final figure of how much we have raised but in September we will be able to announce it. There is a small group of parishioners we haven't been able to contact by phone. If you are one of these and have any queries about the parish finances or would like assistance with options for giving and gift aid, please contact Patricia, a member of our Parish Finance Committee, who will help you. Her number is 07932 970376.

Fr Raffaele, Fr Luca, Fr Matteo, Fr Pietro and Fr Mario

Upcoming funerals - Funeral Mass for Margaret Davey will take place on **Wednesday 5th August at 1pm at St Andrew's church**. Funeral Mass for Leonora Scappaticci will take place on **Thursday 13th August at 11.30am at St Edward's church**. Please pray for the repose of their souls and for their families.

OLQA Strawberries & Cream - Everyone is welcome to join us in the church on **Sunday 26th July 2026** from **2.30pm-4pm** for Strawberries & Cream tea. Please contact Marie Kemp 07760 809640

Changes to Mass in July - Frs Raffaele, Luca, Mario, Matteo & Pietro will be at their formation during part of July (Tue 28th July - Sat 1st Aug). For this reason, on that week there will be some changes to the Masses. Please see the back page for Mass times and Liturgy of the Word and Distribution of Communion.

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.

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>

Sunday 26th July is the World Day of Prayer

for Grandparents and the Elderly. This is the sixth World Day, which always takes place on the Memoria of SS. Joachim and Anne, the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary and grandparents of Jesus. The theme chosen by Pope Leo XIV for this year is: "I will never forget you" (Is 49:15). It reminds us that God's unwavering love is the ultimate answer to the isolation and neglect so often experienced by the elderly. It brings comfort and hope, assuring us that the Lord knows each of us personally, forgets no one, and loves us unconditionally, even through the frailties of old age. Since its creation in 2021, the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly has grown into a cherished tradition that teaches our communities to truly value the elderly, not through occasional gestures, but as a permanent, central part of our lives. This celebration helps us appreciate older generations as vital keepers of our history, witnesses to our faith, and teachers for our lives.

Let this Day be a tangible opportunity for everyone – especially young people – to spend time with their grandparents, the elderly in their families, and most importantly, those who are completely isolated.

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

Monday 3rd - Friday 7th August, 8.30am-3.30pm St Edward's Cloister. Registrations are now open on our website. For any enquiries, please contact comeandsee@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.

Office Closure - Please note that the Parish office in Holy Cross will be closed **Friday 31st August**.

Youth Groups (including First Holy Communion & Confirmation)

- Our Youth Groups for primary and secondary school children will restart at the end of September. They are the path we propose for those who want to receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Registrations for the next year 2026/2027 will open shortly on our website.

MESSAGES CONTINUED



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

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.

Help Shape the Future of Catholic Education

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust is seeking committed volunteers to join its Board of Trustees. This is an opportunity to support and strengthen Catholic education across our schools as the Trust continues to grow. Bishop Philip has asked all Catholic schools under the trusteeship of the Diocese to become part of one of the two established Catholic Academy Trusts. Trustees play a vital role in setting the Trust's vision and ensuring high standards of education, safeguarding, financial stewardship, and Catholic mission. The role is voluntary, with induction, training, and reasonable expenses provided. We welcome applications from practising Catholics and others who support the Catholic ethos. Experience in education, finance, HR, legal services, IT, safeguarding, estates, or community engagement would be particularly valuable, although previous trustee experience is not essential. For more information and details on how to apply, visit www.escat.org.uk or email g.rennicks@escat.co.uk.

We need your help! The future of our school minibs service depends on it – One of our wonderful drivers is retiring 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 – mornings only, afternoons only, or even just a couple of days a week. Ideally, we'd love to build a small bank of staff to help keep the service running smoothly. More details can be found on our school website, please share with anyone who might be a good fit. It would be such a shame to reduce the service, and your help could make all the difference. Any enquiries please call the school: 02380 266210

CAFOD-DEC Venezuela Earthquake Appeal

You can help our neighbours affected by the 24 June earthquakes in Venezuela with emergency shelter, water and food. CAFOD is already working with local Church partners to support people who have lost their homes, but we need your support to help more survivors. Your donation will provide essential supplies and help families rebuild their lives. Donate to the CAFOD-DEC Venezuela Earthquake Appeal today: cafod.org.uk/Venezuela or call 0300 999 0030 or scan the QR code. Please keep our neighbours in Venezuela in your prayers.



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

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

*** Livestreamed**

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 25th July St James	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Edward	People of the Parish Max and Cary (Wellbeing) Ron and Sheila Rhymer RIP (Wedding Anniversary) Edward Fenwick RIP FM
Sun 26th July Seventeenth 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> Clare Ashcroft RIP FM Arthur Heslop RIP anniversary Anna Zebrowska (Thanksgiving & Wellbeing) Deirdre Quinn Schmidt RIP Beatrice & George White, Laura, David & Eduardo Fernandes FM
Mon 27th July	9.30am	Holy Cross	
Tue 28th July	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	No Mass Liturgy of the Word & Distribution of Holy Communion
Wed 29th July	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Liturgy of the Word & Distribution of Holy Communion Mass: Intention Stephanie Van Willigenburg (Health & Wellbeing)

Thur 30th July	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Mass: Intention Janet Burton RIP FM No Mass <u>Liturgy of the Word & Distribution of Holy Communion</u>
Fri 31st July St Ignatius of Loyola	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	<u>Liturgy of the Word & Distribution of Holy Communion</u> <u>Liturgy of the Word & Distribution of Holy Communion</u> No Mass
Sat 1st Aug	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Aung San Suu Kyi (81 st Birthday Intention) Anna Maria Ryan RIP Anniversary
Sun 2nd Aug Eighteenth 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> Wendy Whitcher RIP People of the Parish Matthew Thomson RIP Tony Porter RIP Anniversary
Mon 3rd Aug	9.30am	Holy Cross	Fraternity of St Charles
Tue 4th Aug St John Vianney	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	
Wed 5th Aug	9.30am 10.00am 1.00pm	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew	Patricia Cowling RIP FM <u>Funeral Mass for Margaret Davey RIP</u>
Thur 6th Aug Transfiguration of The Lord	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	
Fri 7th Aug	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	Living & Deceased of Layzell Family FM
Sat 8th Aug St Dominic	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Edward	People of the Parish Special Intention Eric Rozenski RIP
Sun 9th Aug Nineteenth 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> Helena & Jan Gaca RIP Anniversary John Gare RIP Anniversary

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

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Deacon Emmanuel Chituh

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SO50 9DF Tel: 02380 273882

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

Parish Administrator: Sabrina Gardner

office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

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