



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

23rd November 2025: OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

HOW BEAUTIFUL IT IS TO GO TOWARDS HEAVEN TOGETHER

10:40 am. After a joyful Mass and a few moments spent chatting over a black coffee, I start my car in the St Andrew's Church car park. On the journey to St Joseph's Church in Romsey, I try to picture the people I am going to meet soon and entrust them to the Lord. I park the car and climb the steps leading to the sacristy of St Joseph's Church, where some smiling parishioners on their way to church greet me with 'Good morning'. I respond courteously. Behind the door, the MC, fully dressed in an alb and red belt, welcomes me with perfect English humour. I am late, as usual, so I quickly put on my sacred vestments, trying to open my mind to God. Meanwhile, three young altar servers sneak into the sacristy. The deacon and the MC instruct them for the Mass while they search for their vestments in the wardrobe. 'Will they remember everything?' I wonder, guessing at their thoughts. Today is not just any Sunday, though. It is All Saints' Day! Along with the candles, the liturgy also provides incense.

At 11:00 sharp, a few moments of silence and a prayer are offered to focus our minds on our service to the majesty of the Lord, and the procession starts outside the church. I look at the sky, smell the incense-scented air and hear the wind in the trees. The ringing of a bell announces our entry through the church's main door. The congregation, filling every pew, stands up and begins to sing to the Lord, accompanied by the glorious chords of the organ. My voice fills the air with the best wishes ever: 'The Lord be with you'. The answer is confident and certain, recalling to my mind the words of St Paul: 'If God is with us, who can be against us?' While the congregation sings the hymn of praise 'Gloria in excelsis Deo' with one voice, lively children leave the church for the Children's Liturgy. This hymn is sung by Catholics everywhere today. The proclamation of the Scriptures is welcomed in silence, with everyone paying close attention. The mighty words of God reach many hearts, shaping them in his image. The firmly professed creed of the congregation is an answer to what we have just received. In other words: 'I believe in you proudly and will follow you'. During the Offertory, everyone bows their heads as they are incensed and agree to be a living offering to God. The solemn hymn of the Sanctus is followed by a great silence before the mystery of God coming in the form of bread and wine. Songs, bells, the scent of incense and the light of candles accompany the words of the Lord, which transform the fruits of the earth and the work of men into his body and blood. The climax is reached when we offer our lives, united with Jesus' sacrifice, to the Father: 'Through him, with him, and in him, all glory and honour is yours, now and forever. Amen'.

When I give Holy Communion, I see many peaceful faces and smile, thinking: 'How beautiful it is to go towards heaven together'. During the notices, there is room for laughter and jokes about the ever-present crying toddlers who want to take part in the Mass in their own way. The solemn blessing invites everyone to bring the peace of the Lord to those who have not yet experienced it. Everyone is joyful and spends some time chatting outside the church. As I undress, I talk with the deacon about what we have to do the following days and thank the Lord for being close to us through the Liturgy. Then I prepare myself for the day's events: Tea and Coffee, a meeting with the families at the Parish GetTogether, and an evening meeting with the young people of the Grail Seekers.

At night, tired but happy about the day, I receive an email while chatting with my fellow priests. It says: 'I was very moved by this morning's service. How can I become a Catholic?' I went to sleep in peace, smiling, thinking: 'How great you are, Lord, you who are constantly winning souls to you'. How beautiful and powerful your presence is in the liturgy!

Fr Pietro

GEM OF THE WEEK

'Plenary Reflection' by Cardinal Vincent Nichols

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 26th November 2025**, 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 23rd November 2025 YEAR C - YEAR 1 - PSALTER WEEK 2

PSALM RESPONSE: LET US GO REJOICING TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.

1st Reading 2 Samuel 5:1-3 Psalm 122 (121) 2nd Reading Colossians 1:12-20 Gospel Luke 23:35-43

Sunday 30th November 2025 YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK 1

PSALM RESPONSE: LET US GO REJOICING TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.

1st Reading Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 (121) 2nd Reading Romans 13:11-14 Gospel Matthew 24:37-44

PARISH GROUPS



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

Ark of Fellowship - for people with learning disabilities or learning difficulties, their families and friends. **Thursdays at 6pm - 8pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre.** Interested in volunteering or know some adults who would like to join the group?
Contact: arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com

Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community meets weekly at Holy Cross every **Wednesday at 8pm** (contact Fr Pietro) and **St Edward's every Thursday at 8pm** (contact Fr Raffaele). For more information please click the link on the homepage of our website. All 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**. Next date: **Friday 28th November**.

Voice of Praise - Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group

Join us every **Thursday evening, 8.15pm - 9.15pm**, at the **Holy Cross Resource Centre** 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

Little Saints - St Andrews Church, North Baddesley every other Wednesday, 1pm-3pm.

A community group for families who want to educate their children by looking to Jesus Christ as the source of all that is true, beautiful, just and good. We aim to come together, connect and build lasting friendships. Next date: **Wednesday 3rd December**.

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 3rd December**. If you would like to participate, please email Fr Matteo:

mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

MESSAGES



40th Anniversary of The Fraternity of St Charles - to celebrate the 40th anniversary of The Fraternity of our priests you are invited to **Holy Cross** for a talk by one of the Superiors, Fr Donato Contuzzi (Former missionary for 10 years in Taiwan), next **Sunday 30th November**. There will be tea & coffee at 3.30pm in the Resource Centre, the talk at 4pm and Mass at 5.30pm.

OLOA Missio Red boxes - this is the end of year call up for your boxes to be brought to church by the end of November please. A huge thank you from Marie Kemp.

CAFOD - Annual Christmas Fayre, **Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December after Masses, in St Edward's Cloister**. There will be a hamper, raffle and sales of seasonal cakes and gifts. All proceeds will go directly to

CAFOD, to support the needy in all areas of the world. For more details phone Clare Lasker 02380 252138.

OLOA Children's Christmas Party - We will be holding a party in the hall, for the children on **Sunday 7th December from 3pm to 4.30pm**. There will be dancing, games and prizes and a visit from a very special visitor! If your children/grandchildren would like to attend please sign up as soon as possible.

Do you own a drone? - We are looking to create a video banner featuring our beautiful churches, to put on our parish website, and would love to collaborate with a parishioner for this project. If you own a drone and are interested in helping, please contact events@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

MESSAGES CONTINUED



Parish Advent Retreat on Saturday 29th November 2.30pm to 4.30pm at St Edwards. Open to everyone. There will be a talk about Advent by Fr Raffaele, some time for private prayer in the church and a time for questions and sharing thoughts.

Christmas Wreath Workshop - OLQA will be holding a Christmas Fair and wreath making workshop from 10am to 12 noon on Saturday 29th November. Cost £30 per person, which will include all materials, payable at time of booking, to the following bank account: Santander, Sorting code: 09-01-31, Account name: P. Watson, Account number: 97370403, Payment reference: ACROSS2911 There are 12 places which will be allocated on a 1st come/1st served basis. Proceeds will go to the ACROSS charity which organises pilgrimages for the sick to Lourdes. To book your place, please contact paulinestmargaret@gmail.com Any queries 07917 407361.

Christmas Fair - come and enjoy the festive season at OLQA from 10am to 2pm on Saturday 29th November. Home made preserves, candles and cards, plus a range of pre-loved gifts and clothes for sale - lots of stocking fillers available! Local ukelele group playing your Christmas favourites, refreshments and cakes available. Free entry to the fair! All proceeds supporting a group from the local area going on pilgrimage to Lourdes with the charity Across in June 2026.

Parish Lunch at the Wheatsheaf, Braishfield - Tuesday 2nd December at 12.30pm. The Main Meal, Lunch and 'Kids' menus are all available to us and can be found on the Wheatsheaf website or ask Rosemary for details. Please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know your choice of meal **before Sunday 23rd November** as we have to pre-order. Thank you.

St Swithun Wells Church Carol Service - everyone is very welcome to our annual Carol Service at 3pm on Sunday 21st December. Please put the date in your diary. Come and have a good sing and enjoy mulled wine, mince pies and other festive refreshments!

The Knights of St Columba - are raising money for Mary's Meals who provide food to attract children to education. We need your old foreign or UK coins and notes, any and all of them please!! A box will be available after Mass in our churches on Sundays in November. Pick up a Mary's Meals envelope or just put your notes & coins in the collection box. We will announce how much money we raise.

St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School - is organising a Christmas Raffle to raise funds for our PTFA, and we would be very grateful if you could donate a prize. Your support would be truly appreciated. Alongside the raffle, we are hosting a Christmas Fayre at the school from 3.30pm to 6.30pm on Friday 5th December, where our children will have the chance to sell festive crafts they've created

in school. This promises to be a joyful afternoon for the children and a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together and enjoy the holiday spirit. If you are a local business and happy to donate we will arrange collection at your convenience. Please contact adminoffice@st-swithunwells.hants.sch.uk Any donations would be warmly received.

Invitation from St Swithun Wells School - you are invited to the school from 1.30pm until 3pm on Tuesday 25th November to join children to help them make Christmas cards to send to Bamenda as part of their CST project. Refreshments will be provided during the afternoon. We look forward to seeing you.

Parish Christmas Party - Sunday 14th December, 1pm-4pm at St Swithun Wells Primary School
Menu: Main - Chicken with vegetables, a vegetarian option will be available and a Dessert. Please bring your own drinks.

Price £10 per person, children 10 and under free. If you are able to pay more, please do so.

Tickets can be bought for cash in our churches (in the welcoming areas) from this weekend. In Holy Cross, St Edward's and OLQA you can pay by contactless if you would prefer. A limited number of tickets is available. **The deadline for purchasing tickets is Sunday 7th December. Admission by ticket only.** Christmas jumpers and fancy dress actively encouraged!

Pilgrimage to Portugal (Lisbon and Fatima)

This will be from Thursday 30th April to Monday 4th May 2026. We will visit Lisbon, the birthplace of St Anthony, the site of the Apparitions of Our Lady in Fatima and Tomar. There will Mass every day and procession of candles in Fatima. The new price will be £995 per person based on shared accommodation. Breakfast and dinner included. Three-star hotel accommodation for two nights in Lisbon and two nights at Fatima. A coach will be booked to take pilgrims from Eastleigh to Heathrow with return, for an additional cost. For more information, visit our website or take a leaflet from the Welcome Area or please email caroline.bubien@gmail.com We already have 30 people booked and we would like to reach 40. Please come along. **The new deadline for booking is 15th January 2026.**

Voices from the Parish - We are looking for parish volunteers to share a few words and photos and perhaps a story or anecdote, about the wonderful work they do in the parish, to be shared on our social media and website, with a different volunteer being featured each week. If you would like to share your experiences and encourage others to get involved, please send no more than 100 words describing your role/a story or anecdote, and at least one photo to: events@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk or send a Whatsapp to Faye at 07356318616

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 22nd Nov <i>St Cecilia</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Angela Mary Thompson RIP (Birthday Anniversary) Justine Power RIP People of the Parish Nuns of St Cecilia's Abbey, Ryde Patrick Burke RIP FM
Sun 23rd Nov <i>Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of The Universe</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 5.30pm	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA Holy Cross (& livestreamed) St Joseph Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Angela Thompson RIP Harold Butcher RIP Anniversary Keith Small RIP The deceased family members of Shina Hero Roy RIP
Mon 24th Nov <i>St Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross	Paul Carey (Wellbeing)
Tues 25th Nov	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Gabriel Sylvester (Special Intention on his 5th Birthday)
Weds 26th Nov	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Charlie & Rita Kelly FM Barney and Peggy Rice RIP FM
Thurs 27th Nov	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Linda Murphy (Birthday Intention) Pauline Twigg (Wellbeing)
Fri 28th Nov	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	Marthe & Brigitte Vitoria RIP
Sat 29th Nov	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Antonio Cicu RIP FM Souls of Purgatory Dr Clare Fearon RIP Jessie Regan (Anniversary)
Sun 30th Nov <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 5.30pm	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA Holy Cross (& livestreamed) St Joseph Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Anna Biczko RIP People of the Parish Elizabeth Beatrice Hardinge RIP Kenneth Sweet FM Kathleen Ward (Wellbeing) Adelaide Jones (Wellbeing)

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

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Parish Office Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF Tel: 02380 273882
Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri 9.30am - 5.30pm; Wed 9.30am - 2.30pm

Parish Administrator: vacancy
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Finance Administrator: Christina Geleji
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Events & Communications Co-ordinator: Faye Harris
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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