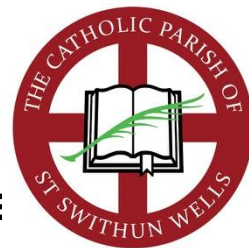


NEWSLETTER



6th September 2026: TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity N. 1199568

OUR VISION FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

As we begin a new pastoral year, I would like to offer some priorities that, as a parish community, we are all called to embrace and grow in together. They are the fruit of reflecting on the past few years and of our desire to grow more deeply as a Christian community.

To begin with, we want to focus on a simple principle: **the person comes before the organisation**. Everything we do as a parish should begin with attention to the person. For this reason, this year, rather than creating new activities and groups, we want to invest more deeply in the people and relationships already present in our parish. Many people already come into contact with our parish, form friendships here and are connected with our community in different ways. Our priority is to deepen these relationships, growing through them ourselves and helping one another to grow.

We want to do this together in four particular areas:

PRAYER & SACRAMENTAL LIFE. We are all called to grow in prayer and to help one another to pray, entering more deeply into the sacramental life of the Church and especially into the great stream of the Liturgy.

Each of us can participate more consciously in the Church's prayer, care for our celebrations and help others discover their beauty. The Liturgy is one of the greatest means the Church gives us for our Christian formation: through it, Christ continually forms His people.

CHARITY. We are all called to grow in giving ourselves and to help one another discover the joy of self-giving.

Christian life draws us out of ourselves. Each of us is called to grow in generosity, service and attention to others. By giving our time, gifts and ourselves, we encourage others to do the same, so that our parish increasingly becomes a community in which we care for and spend ourselves for one another.

CULTURE. We are all called to grow in looking at reality through the eyes of faith.

Faith helps us to judge the concrete circumstances of our lives, our world and our history. It gives direction to our lives and helps us to make concrete decisions. Therefore, we want to help one another not only to deepen our understanding of the great truths of the faith, but also to address the real and practical questions that arise from the lives we are actually living.

MISSION. We are all called to recognise that we are at the service of the Kingdom of God and that each of us has a part to play in the Church's mission.

The Kingdom of God grows as our parish reaches further and becomes a better and more truly Christian community. Mission is not something carried out only by priests or by a few particularly committed people. Every one of us is called to reach others, through our friendships, our families, our work, our service and the witness of our lives.

Our vision for this year is therefore simple: to invest more deeply in the people and relationships already present in our parish, and for each of us to grow in prayer, charity, culture and mission. In this way, together, we can become more deeply the Christian community Christ calls us to be.

Fr Raffaele



GEM OF THE WEEK

PAIN, FRIENDSHIP AND HOPE

Watch via our website

For the next Newsletter, items should be received into the Parish Office by 10am on Tuesday
8th 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 6th September 2026 YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK 3

PSALM RESPONSE: O THAT TODAY YOU WOULD LISTEN TO HIS VOICE! "HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS."

1st Reading Ezekiel 33:7-9 **Psalm** 95(94) **2nd Reading** Romans 13:8-10 **Gospel** Matthew 18:15-20

Sunday 13th September 2026 YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK 4

PSALM RESPONSE: THE LORD IS COMPASSIONATE AND GRACIOUS, SLOW TO ANGER AND RICH IN MERCY.

1st Reading Sirach 27:30-28:7 **Psalm** 103(102) **2nd Reading** Romans 14:7-9 **Gospel** Matthew 18:21-35

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!

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

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. The group will restart on **Wednesday 16th September**.

MESSAGES



Upcoming funerals - 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**. Funeral Mass for George Sandhu will take place on **Friday 11th September at 3.30pm** at the **St Edward church**. Funeral Mass for Colin Atterbury will take place on **Friday 18th September at 12Noon** at the **St Edward church**. Please pray for the repose of their souls and for their families. Please also pray for the repose of the soul and for the family of Moira Kerr who has recently passed away.

OLQA Fundraiser Quiz - Saturday 19th September at 6.30pm. £15 entry includes a charcuterie board and a drink. Under 12 free, teams of 6 to 8 can be arranged. Raising money to help support a young parishoner on his trip to the European Scout Jamboree. Please contact Marie Kemp 07760 809640 or Coralie 07468 869913.

CL Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Caversham - Organised by the Communion and Liberation communities in the Diocese of Portsmouth. On **Sunday 20th September 2026** there will be a pilgrim walk from Sonning to Caversham with meditations, the praying of the Rosary, singing, confessions, and Mass. It is open to adults and children of any age. The event will start at **10.30am and finish at 4.30pm**. For more information and registration, please see our website.

The next Good Companions lunch - will be held on **Friday 25th September** in the **Cloister at St Edward Church**. Lunch is served **12Noon - 2pm**. Everyone is welcome. Any queries, please contact Louise 07931 251111 or Clare 07538 347299.

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**. The meetings for the children will start the following week.

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**. The meetings for the children will start the following week.

A meeting with the parents of Grail Seekers will be held on **Friday 18th September at 6.30pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre**.

Student Youth Group will start on **Friday 25th September**.



A prayer for schools and students – As our schools, colleges, and universities begin a new academic year, let us keep all students, teachers, and staff in our prayers. Lord, bless them with wisdom, courage, and joy in learning. Protect them throughout the year, help them to grow in their gifts, and guide them in all they do.

Following the funeral of Kathleen Docherty – Steve and his family would like to thank Fr Raffaele and all who made the Mass so uplifting, and also for the support and many messages of condolence and fond remembrance of Kathleen.

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.

成人聖事準備 (RCIA)

如果你，或你認識的人希望接受洗禮、堅振聖事，或加入天主教會（或想了解更多天主教信仰），請電郵聯絡 Paul Owen 執事：powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk 或者也可以向神父了解。堂區正在考慮以廣東話舉行新的慕道班。

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.

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: bccew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide and righttolife.org.uk/Sept11vote

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 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.

A new Contemplative prayer group – called *Tuning into God* meets on the first Thursday morning of every month at **St Joseph's Church Hall**. We 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 – It is always nice to take the time for a good book or a film. You will find new suggestions on our website:

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

Eastleigh Basics Bank - Needs You!

The Basics Bank is looking for a volunteer to be secretary to the management committee. Key tasks are booking, agenda and minutes for bi-monthly management meeting, and correspondence, predominantly with supporting organisations. Some experience of administration including use of computer e.g. Microsoft word required. This is a great opportunity to help if you are not suited to a more physical role in the shop or warehouse. Please, consider joining us in helping our neighbours in need. For more information, please email Marina Joyce at volunteering@eastleighbasicsbank.co.uk

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 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 memory of Skipton Leonard & Mary Marjorie Haslam RIP People of the Parish Dudley Roberts RIP FM Jerry McDonnell RIP FM Sr Maisie Nevin (Our Lady of Charity) RIP
Mon 7th Sept	9.30am	Holy Cross	Fraternity of St Charles
Tue 8th Sept The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	10.00am 11.30am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward St Edward	Funeral Mass for Sarah Margaret Prince RIP Layzell Family (Special Intention)
Wed 9th Sept	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Reverend Murphy O'Connor FM
Thur 10th Sept	9.30am 11.00am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross St Edward OLQA St Joseph	Funeral Mass for Deborah Elliott RIP
Fri 11th Sept	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon 3.30pm	St Joseph St Edward OLQA St Edward	Fr John (Special Intention) Funeral Mass for George Sandhu RIP
Sat 12th Sept	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Edward	People of the Parish Anne Widdecombe RIP
Sun 13th Sept Twenty-fourth 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> The Layzell Family (Special Intention) Kathleen & Abert Harrison RIP Anniversary Majorie Harris RIP Monica Dunne 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, 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