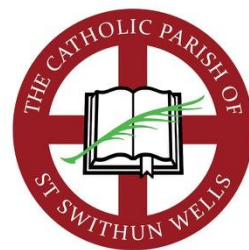


NEWSLETTER



21st June 2026: TWELFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity N. 1199568

LIFE IS WORTH MORE THAN A MOBILE PHONE

On Thursday afternoon, I got home after celebrating Mass at Our Lady Queen of Apostles; I didn't have much time, so I didn't eat, I just jumped straight on my bike and headed to Southampton for my English lesson. Once I got there, I looked for my phone... I couldn't find it! I thought, 'I must have left it at home.' After the lesson, I went back home and looked everywhere: it wasn't there! I thought, 'I must have left it in the sacristy.' The next morning, I arrived at the church to celebrate Mass and went into the sacristy: the phone wasn't there! A moment of panic: I'd lost my phone! Probably in my haste the day before, I'd put the phone in my jacket pocket without zipping it up, so on the way to Southampton it must have fallen out somewhere and someone might have picked it up.

After an initial moment of great distress, I thought, 'I'll have to buy another phone, reinstall everything, and so on.' However, as Google's tracker told me the phone was somewhere in Eastleigh, and the phone case contained a card with the address of the church of Our Lady Queen of Apostles, I thought I'd wait a while; perhaps some kind soul had found my phone and might hand it in at Bishop's Waltham or at Holy Cross in Eastleigh.

I waited for three days, but nothing happened.

During this time, I experienced the thrill of living without a mobile phone: something incredible! We don't realise it, but we are truly addicted to it. On the first day, I kept instinctively reaching into my pocket for my mobile, because I wanted to check the weather forecast, my to-do list, see if my friends had done any running, check my fitness stats, read my WhatsApp messages, catch up on the news, and so on. In short, I realised just how central my mobile is to my life and my daily routine. I thought that if my focus on Christ were as frequent and intense as my usual use of my mobile, then I'd already have a glowing halo on my head!

It was a dramatic but useful realisation. Clearly, these days it's practically impossible to live without a mobile phone, yet we can manage without having it in our hands every three seconds. Partly because the way we use it is, in most cases, pointless; having the phone constantly in our hands is a need that has been drummed into us, but in reality, we have absolutely no need for it. Over the last few days I've enjoyed the fact that, paradoxically, I've had more free time; I've been able to read more, pray more, and do more things that screen time used to prevent me from doing.

In short, through the misfortune of losing my mobile, Jesus has made me realise that I must shift my focus to more important and useful things. The time of life I have been given is limited, so it is foolish to waste it by constantly staring at my phone.

Let us learn to use our mobile phones as an aid to living - in other words, let them be our servants, not us their slaves; let us not throw our lives away for them!

You can lose a mobile phone, and you have to buy a new one; it's a nuisance, but it's fairly easy to do. Time wasted needlessly, on the other hand, is time lost forever; you can never get it back. Anyone who has ears should listen!

Fr Mario



GEM OF THE WEEK

Pope Leo's First Encyclical Magnifica Humanitas
read on our website

For the next Newsletter, items should be received into the Parish Office by 10am on Tuesday
23rd June 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 21st June 2026 YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK 4

PSALM RESPONSE: IN YOUR GREAT MERCY, ANSWER ME, O LORD.

1st Reading Jeremiah 20:10-13 **Psalm** 69(68) **2nd Reading** Romans 5:12-15 **Gospel** Matthew 10:26-33

Sunday 28th June 2026 YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK 1

PSALM RESPONSE: FROM ALL MY TERRORS THE LORD SET ME FREE.

1st Reading Acts 12:1-11 **Psalm** 34(33) **2nd Reading** 2nd Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18 **Gospel** Matthew 16:13-19

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! On

Thursday 2nd July at 7.45pm, we will lead a charismatic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, held on the first Thursday of every month. You are all warmly invited! For info please email:

voiceofpraise.sswp@gmail.com

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 Holy Cross Resource Centre**. We start with dinner together, followed by a discussion on how our faith relates to our daily lives. Our next & last meeting: **Wednesday 24th June**. If you would like to participate, please email Fr Matteo:

mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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

MESSAGES



Stewardship Campaign - A massive thank you to everyone who has supported and contributed to our 'Renewing Our Parish Commitment' campaign over the last weeks. Your contributions make a real and lasting difference to our parish and we are so grateful. If you have not yet returned your pledge, please do so as soon as possible, using the boxes in the welcome area. If you are a UK taxpayer, please remember to Gift Aid your donation, for every £4 you donate, the parish receives £1 extra.

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

Father's Day - This Sunday we give thanks to God for all fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, and spiritual fathers who guide us in faith and love. May St Joseph, the foster father of Jesus, inspire our fathers to lead with humility, courage, and compassion. We pray for those who are with us and those who have gone before us into God's eternal embrace.

Upcoming Funeral - Please pray for the repose of the soul of Stanislaw Kosniowska and for her family. Funeral Mass takes place on **Tuesday 23rd June at 12Noon at Holy Cross Church**, followed by burial at **Eastleigh Cemetery at 1pm**.

Upcoming Second Collections - This weekend there is a second collection for Day of Life, there will be another second collection the following weekend on **27th/28th June** for Peter's Pence.

Safeguarding training meeting - Saturday 27th June 1pm to 4pm at Holy Cross church. Training is mandatory for all those working in a role with children and/or vulnerable groups. Please see poster in welcome area for further details. This training in person is for all those who are unable to complete online.

New Gift Aid Coordinator for Holy Cross & OLQA

If you have any queries regarding Gift Aid, Direct Debits and Standing Orders, please contact the following: Eastleigh Holy Cross - Joseph Bright - email: giftaid.hc@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk OLQA Bishops Waltham - Patricia Mitchell - email: giftaid.olqa@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Upcoming Parish Festival - Sunday 5th July at Pavilion on the Park

If you know anyone with children's entertainment experience, please email Faye at events@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk If you wish to donate towards the silent auction, or know of local businesses willing to contribute prizes, please also contact Faye. Any support, big or small, would be hugely appreciated.

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.

Teenagers Weekend Away - We will conclude the Student Youth and Grail Seekers sessions with a Weekend Away. It will take place at **St Joseph's Centre in Ashurst** from **Friday 26th June to Sunday 28th June**.

If you would like your child to attend, please register them on our website by Sunday 21st June. The cost is £110 for the first child and £90 for each additional sibling. Bursaries are available if the cost is an issue.

Parish Safeguarding Minister in Holy Cross

Welcome to Prasanth Augustine, our new safeguarding rep for Holy Cross. If you need to contact him please email: safeguarding.hc@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk



Parish Get2Gether Walk and Picnic

Saturday 20th June, 10.30am-4pm

An event outdoors for all of the parish, especially families. **We will start at 10.30am at Knightwood Leisure Centre, Valley Park, Skys Wood Road, Chandlers Ford, SO53 4SJ.** You can leave your car in the car park of the leisure centre, or surrounding residential roads. There are skate ramps suitable for bikes and scooters if you would like to bring them along for your children to enjoy.

11am: We start a 1 hour circular walk in the woods on Chandlers Ford. The walk is suitable for both adults and children. Please bring suitable shoes and clothes, hat, water, rucksack and sun cream. There is the option of an easier walk suitable for pushchairs in Valley Park woodlands.

12.30pm: Picnic in the field next to the leisure centre. Please bring your own food/beverage/plates/blanket. Toilets are available. Free time for children to play in the playground next to the field and among themselves.

3pm: Music and games for everyone.

4pm: End

To book your place please go to our parish website. There you will find a map and some photos.

OLQA Family social evening - Saturday 27th June

from **6.15pm.** Magician Nikki and Charles comedy act. Followed by ukulele group. £8 a ticket, under 12's free, includes a drink. Bring your own nibbles. All welcome! For more information contact Marie Kemp 07760809640.

Upcoming Parish Festival (30th June - 5th July)

Tuesday 30th June at St Edward's: 6pm Mass for Vocations, followed by a talk on our Parish Festival Theme of 'Called to be Peacemakers'.

Friday 3rd July at Pavilion on the Park: 7pm - Cheese and wine, **7.30pm** - Presentation of the exhibition "No Greater Love": The Story of Franz and Franziska Jägerstätter.

Saturday 4th July at Pavilion on the Park:

3pm to 6pm - football tournament for children (age 7-11) and youths (age 12-18).

4.30pm to 6pm - football tournament for adults.

Please book ahead for the tournaments via the parish website.

6.30pm - Live music from our parish bands.

Food will be available throughout the day.

Sunday 5th July, at Pavilion on the Park:

1pm - Family fun day with lunch, £7pp (£2 for children 10 years and under);

1pm to 4pm facepainting, drawing classes, silent auction, kids activities and bouncy castle.

Please book ahead for food via the parish website. Cash and card payment accepted on the day. Please bring your own drinks, cutlery, plates & picnic blankets and some salad/cakes to share.

Parish Lunch at The Wheatsheaf, Braishfield - at

12.30pm on Monday 6th July. All welcome. Please let Rosemary (01794522411) know your choice of meal before Saturday Saturday 27th June as we have to pre order.

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. 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.

The car park at Holy Cross - continues to be very busy, especially on a Wednesday and Thursday. If you are using the car park and have to block in other cars, please ensure that you leave a note on your dashboard with your phone number and where to find you, so that we can clear the car park as quickly and efficiently as possible. Please also park considerately within the bays so that we can fit as many cars as possible.

Mass Intentions - Please ensure that you complete the white envelope clearly when requesting a Mass Intention, including your contact details incase we need to ask any further information. We kindly ask that your donations are given in cash, cheque or bank transfer (with intention and date as reference). Please do not make payment via the card machines in church as it is very hard to assign this way. Many thanks for your intentions and donations. *Sabrina*

Lourdes Pilgrimage - A small group of parishioners, along with others from Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, are headed on pilgrimage to Lourdes next Friday June 26th. Please keep us in your prayers, we will offer prayers for our parish at the Grotto. If anyone has any prayer intentions they would like us to take or requests for candle lighting, please email Marianne at mwanstall@btinternet.com. Our pilgrimage has been supported by the local Knights of St Columba, who have kindly donated funds for equipment to assist any pilgrims needing support whilst away, we are very grateful to them for help over the past few years, which has provided sponsorship for pilgrims and more.

Vacancy for St Swithun Wells Parish Housekeeper

Part-time 5h 30mins per week ideally Tuesday & Friday mornings. **Salary £3,635.06 per annum** (£12.71 per hour). Working at the Parish House, Holy Cross Church, Eastleigh and reporting to the parish priest. **Role purpose:** To provide cleaning and catering to the priests. No formal qualifications are required but general housekeeping experience and ability to prepare and cook food hygienically. A full job description can be found on our parish website. Please send a CV and covering letter outlining your relevant experience and reasons for applying to HR at recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Please state Parish Housekeeper in the headline of your email. **Closing date: Thursday 2nd July 2026 at 10pm.**

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

* Livestreamed

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 20th June	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Jack & Chris Molloy FM Kathleen and Ivor Stroud RIP Tom, Rose & Paul Murray RIP
Sun 21st June Twelfth 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> Betty Clowse (Special Intention) Augustine (Gus) Reynolds (For Recovery) People of the Parish
Mon 22nd June Ss John Fisher & Thomas More	9.30am	Holy Cross	Fr Matteo Priestly Ordination Anniversary
Tue 23rd June	10.00am 12Noon 6.00pm	St Andrew Holy Cross St Edward	For Yalga Asemro Akalu and her family Funeral Mass for Stanisława Kosniowska RIP Mrs Edward Christian FM
Wed 24th June The Nativity of St John the Baptist	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Living & Deceased of Bonetti & Wilson Family FM
Thur 25th June	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Sabrina & Nick (10 th Wedding Anniversary) Sr Joseph (Wellbeing)
Fri 26th June	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	Frances Weaver RIP Audrey Mihelic (Birthday Blessing)
Sat 27th June	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Luciano Rodrigues Lima RIP (10 th Anniversary) Susan Bettosi RIP Roy Haslam in fond memory (RIP Birthday)
Sun 28st June Ss Peter & Paul	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> Past & present Priests & Deacons St Swithun Wells Parish FM People of the Parish Michael Weeks (Healing) Fr John Carroll (Wellbeing)

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 Pausco (Assistant Priest)

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Deacon John di Meo

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Deacon Paul Owen

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Deacon Paul Wilson

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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: 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