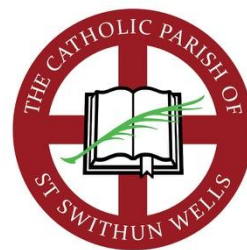


# NEWSLETTER



**19<sup>th</sup> April 2026: THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity N. 1199568

## PIZZA, SWORDFISH AND LIMONCELLO

It's 1.30 in the morning and the alarm goes off. We drag ourselves out of bed, load our suitcases into the car and set off for the airport. We board the flight to Naples and within a few hours we're on the Neapolitan coast, with a blazing sun and a warmth that isn't quite summery, but certainly very pleasant. We're finally on holiday!

The convent where we were staying was very close to Sorrento, so we were far from the chaos of Naples, in a beautiful spot on a cliff overlooking the sea.

Being by the sea, it was easy to find excellent fish in the restaurants. Among the delicacies on offer, on the last day I had a lovely slice of grilled swordfish, which is hard to find elsewhere. Others had seafood pizza or sea bream. Throughout the week, every meal ended with limoncello, a liqueur made from local lemons - very delicious and a world away from the fake limoncello you find in supermarkets!

Visiting Pompeii, we were struck by the local culture and how certain superstitions have persisted for generations right up to the present day such as a lucky little horn. We learnt that one of the foods of the time was *garum*, a sort of sauce made from fish guts mixed with spices and left to ferment for up to three months. It was considered a delicacy and was used in countless dishes... thank goodness that, unlike the superstition, this concoction hasn't been passed down through the centuries!

Naples is a city full of contradictions; one moves from deep faith, evident in the works of great local saints such as Giuseppe Moscati, a saintly doctor, to the most overt paganism, where Diego Maradona is worshipped as an idol, simply because in times past he led the Napoli football team to the league title.

The tone of each day, in any case, was set by the daily Mass we celebrated together in the nuns' little chapel. It was a daily opportunity to recognise, in the breaking of Bread, the source of the wonders we saw, just as it had been for the disciples of Emmaus an opportunity to recognise the presence of Jesus among them.

Our holiday, although it began at night and was therefore not particularly comfortable, turned out to be a lovely week of sunshine, excellent food and culture. Among the many beautiful things we saw and experienced, one of the most important was certainly our visit to Naples Cathedral on the last day: on that occasion, we said a prayer to Saint Januarius, whose relic is kept in that church, for our dear parishioners and then returned to our English mission and rain.

**Fr Mario**



### GEM OF THE WEEK

read on our website: "No More War" Pope Leo

For the next Newsletter, items should be received into the Parish Office by 10am on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026, please email your messages/notices to: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

**If you wish to make a donation to our parish please go to:** [stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/financesdonations](http://stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/financesdonations)

## LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026** YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK 3

**PSALM RESPONSE:** O LORD, YOU WILL SHOW ME THE PATH OF LIFE.

**1st Reading** Acts 2:14, 22-33 **Psalm** 16(15) **2nd Reading** 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:17-21 **Gospel** Luke 24:13-35

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026** YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK 4

**PSALM RESPONSE:** THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; THERE IS NOTHING I SHALL WANT.

**1st Reading** Acts 2:14a, 36-41 **Psalm** 23(22) **2nd Reading** 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:20b-25 **Gospel** John 10:1-10

## 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! For info please email: [voiceofpraise.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:voiceofpraise.sswp@gmail.com)

### **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.*

For more information about the groups please go to our website:

<https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/our-groups>

**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 29th April**. If you would like to participate, please email Fr Matteo:

[mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### **Communion & Liberation Groups**

School of Community meet weekly at:

**Holy Cross every Wednesday at 8pm;**  
**St Edward's every Thursday at 8pm.**

For more information please click the link on the homepage of our website. All are welcome!

### **Ark of Fellowship - Group for learning disabilities or learning difficulties, their families and friends**

**Thursdays at 6.30pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre.** Interested in volunteering or know some young adults who would like to join the group?

Contact: [arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com)

### **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.

**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**.

**Knitting Group** - Next meeting **Tuesday 21st April 2.00pm to 4.00pm** in the **Resource Centre**. We knit hats and scarves for the homeless. Everyone welcome.

**Growing In Faith Together Group (GIFT) - every Tuesday at 10.30am** in the **H/Cross Resource Centre**.

## MESSAGES



### **Congratulations to those who received Baptism, Reception into the Church and Confirmation -**

Please pray for Alex, Ivan, Vania, Callum, Kai, Rhiann, Ross, Sasha and Vita who were baptised and for Conor, Emma Faith, Emma Jayne, Ethan, Jamie, Jonathan, Louis, Rebekah, Abel, Diana, Enrico, Peter, Samson and Valentino who were received into Full Communion with the Church or Confirmed in our Parish this Easter.

**Cultural Friday - Save the date** for the next Cultural Friday, which will take place on **15th May at 7 pm at St Edwards**. The topic is "Is it possible to be Christian and work in a hospital?". We will invite some guests to share their personal experiences. This meeting is particularly relevant for anyone working in the NHS, including doctors, nurses and staff.

**Thank you** - to everyone for your Easter greetings, prayers, cards and thoughts expressed in so many different ways. We are also very grateful for your generosity shown through the Easter offerings which we really do appreciate. Thank you to all the many people who helped ensure our Easter liturgies were well prepared and joyfully celebrated. *Frs Raffaele, Luca, Mario, Matteo and Pietro.*

**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, please send them to [events@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto: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.



**St Swithun Wells School Casual Minibus Driver**

**Vacancy** - We need your help! The future of our school minibus 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. St Swithun Wells are seeking to appoint a minibus driver to start as soon as possible. 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. Please share our job advert 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. The successful candidate will work as required, Monday to Friday. There will be the opportunity to help with school trips. More details and the application procedure can be found on our website <https://www.st-swithunwells.org.uk/Casual-Minibus-Driver/> or you can phone the school on; 02380 266210.

**Upcoming Second Collections: Clergy Training Fund**  
Next weekend on **25th/26th April**.

**Parish Registration** - Please make sure that you register yourself and your children to our Parish using the online form that you can find on our website. There is one form for adults and a separate one for children.

**Gift Aid Co-ordinator for OLQA Needed**

Our Lady Queen of the Apostles is seeking a volunteer to co-ordinate Gift Aid claims. This is a very important role which last year claimed £4,974.38. If you are interested, please speak to Fr Mario or contact the parish office: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

**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. This important role involves helping to oversee the care and maintenance of church buildings and grounds, liaising with contractors where necessary, and ensuring that our properties are kept safe and well maintained. If you feel you may be able to help, we would be very pleased to speak with you about which church and what the role would involve. If you are interested please speak to Fr Raffaele or contact the parish office: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

**Chair of Property Managers Committee Needed**

Our parish is seeking a volunteer to serve as Chair of the Property Managers Committee. This important role involves coordinating and supporting the work of the Property Managers of the different churches, helping to ensure good communication, shared planning, and the careful stewardship of our parish properties. Support and guidance will be provided. If you are interested, or would like to find out more about what the role involves, please speak to Fr Raffaele or contact the parish office: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

**Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 1-4pm in**

**Pavilion on the Park.** An event for all of the parish, especially families. We begin at 1pm, sharing a meal together followed by some activities and a discussion. No cost, however we kindly ask you to give a donation to cover the hire of the Pavilion. Please bring some food, beverages or cakes to share with others. Please can you bring your own cups/plates/cutlery. Please include a list of ingredients so those with allergies can make an informed decision. To book your place please go to our parish website.

**Upcoming Parish Festival - Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July at**

**Pavillion on the Park.** If you know anyone with children's entertainment experience or equipment such as bouncy castle, please email Faye at [events@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:events@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

**The Liturgy Project Formation Days** - Talks and reflection, bring your own sandwich, tea & coffee provided. **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 9.00am - 1.30pm at**

**Winchester Pastoral Centre.** A day for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. RSVP: [liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**The 30hr adoration was a great success!** - A big thank you to Fr Pietro, Deacon John Di Meo and to everyone who volunteered to watch and stay with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament - you helped make this possible. As Fr Pietro said, I too hope it can become a tradition in our church and I am certain it will bear much fruit for our parish. *Jesteena Tennyson*

**TIME A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET**

- Tuesdays:** Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm  
Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh
- Wednesdays:** Fr Luca, 3.30pm-5.30pm  
*by appointment*  
Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh
- Fridays:** Fr Mario 10am-12noon  
OLQA, Bishop's Waltham
- Fridays:** Fr Pietro, 11am-12.45pm  
26A Abbey Water, Romsey
- Fridays:** Fr Matteo 11am-12.45pm  
Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh

**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

**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
<b>Sat 18<sup>th</sup> April</b>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Liam Haugh RIP Sr Monica Tywang (Wellbeing) Ollie RIP & Laura
<b>Sun 19<sup>th</sup> April</b> Third Sunday of Easter	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 Ann Brockway RIP FM John Gare RIP Jon Davies RIP
<b>Mon 20<sup>th</sup> April</b>	9.30am	Holy Cross	Michael Lowe RIP Anniversary
<b>Tue 21<sup>st</sup> April</b>	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Gillian Reynolds RIP
<b>Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Emmanuel Altman RIP
<b>Thur 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b> St George	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Deceased members of the Bibbo family RIP
<b>Fri 24<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	Thanksgiving for Dian Seb Mrs Edward Christian FM
<b>Sat 25<sup>th</sup> April</b> St Mark	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Holy Souls in Purgatory  Angie & Felino Cagampang (In Thanksgiving)
<b>Sun 26<sup>th</sup> April</b> Fourth Sunday of Easter	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> Gerald Reynolds RIP Christine Watson & Charlie Godding RIP Anniversary People of the Parish Derek Stuart Smith RIP Birthday

## CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

**Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)**

Tel: 023 8061 2430; [rcossa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:rcossa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)**

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**Fr Mario Toma (Assistant Priest)**

Tel: 023 8061 2430; [mtoma@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:mtoma@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Fr Matteo Pagani (Assistant Priest)**

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**Fr Pietro Paiusco (Assistant Priest)**

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**Deacon Bob Birtles**

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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](mailto: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](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

**Finance Administrator: Christina Geleji**

[accounts@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:accounts@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

**Events & Communications Coordinator: Faye Harris**

[events@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:events@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

**Website Contact:** [website.sswp@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:rattfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)