



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

5th October 2025: TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE VIRTUE OF FAITH

This Sunday's readings were chosen to lead us to reflect on the virtue of faith: to ask ourselves what faith really is, and how we can increase our faith.

The first reading, from the prophet Habakkuk, introduces us to this idea. Habakkuk was sent to preach to the Jewish people at a difficult time, when they were tempted to lose faith because they were being persecuted by neighboring governments. God sent him to speak His word to them. In the same way, God sends Habakkuk into our lives today, asking us to listen to what He is saying.

Habakkuk begins by representing the people before God: "How long, O Lord, am I to cry for help while you do not listen? I cry out to you 'Oppression!' but you do not intervene." This was the mood of the people then, and it may also be our mood when we bring our own anxieties and concerns before God. Like the people of Israel, we may sometimes feel God is not answering.

But God replies with words of hope: "Write the vision down, inscribe it on tablets to be easily read, since this vision is for its own time only: eager for its own fulfilment, it does not deceive; if it comes slowly, wait, for come it will, without fail. And the just man will live by his faith."

God tells the Jews, and us today, that what He asks of us is faith. Faith means having a trusting attitude toward God no matter what is happening in our lives. In moments of personal disappointment or disaster—in struggles such as divorce, the loss of a job, or other hardships—God still wants us to know He is with us. Faith is confidence in God, even in those times. So we must ask: are we men and women of faith? Do we trust God in all circumstances? Habakkuk reminds us that "the just one lives by his faith." More than anything else, the Christian life is a matter of faith.

With that in mind, we turn to this Sunday's Gospel, where Jesus speaks directly about faith. The apostles said to Him: "Increase our faith!" Jesus answers with an image: "If you have the faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you." Jesus often spoke with hyperbole, or exaggerated language. Here He is telling us that even the tiniest amount of faith can lead to miraculous things in our lives.

How can we increase our trust in God? I suggest three ways:

1. **Prayer** – To grow in faith, we must pray. Prayer is spending time in God's presence, building a relationship with Him. Just as a husband and wife come to trust one another by spending time together, so we come to trust God by being with Him in prayer.
2. **Scripture** – Reading the Word of God strengthens faith, helping us to hear His voice and see His faithfulness.
3. **Practice** – To become stronger in faith, we must practice it. Trust grows by being lived; if we never practice trusting God, we will not learn to rely on Him.

Later in the Gospel, Jesus also warns that too often we want to use God for our own purposes. Instead of being His servants, we want Him to be ours. But discipleship means the opposite: we are God's servants. Jesus teaches that, like the servant returning from the fields, we should say: "We are merely servants; we have done no more than our duty."

This is the true attitude of faith. God does not owe us anything; rather, we owe everything to Him. We trust in Him, we follow Him, and we live as His disciples—not because He must reward us, but because He loves us. Faith is living with this awareness.

Fr Raffaele

GEM OF THE WEEK

"From fatherless child to son of God", by Fr Paolo Prosperi
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 8th October 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 5th October 2025: YEAR C - YEAR 1 - PSALTER WEEK 3

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

1st Reading Habakkuk 1:2 - 3; 2:2 - 4 Psalm 95 (94) 2nd reading Timothy 1:6 - 8, 13 -14 Gospel Luke 17: 5 -10

Sunday 12th October 2025 YEAR C - YEAR 1 - PSALTER WEEK 4

PSALM RESPONSE: THE LORD HAS SHOWN HIS SALVATION TO THE NATIONS

1st Reading Second Book of Kings 5:14 -17 Psalm 98 (97) 2nd Reading Timothy 2:8 -13 Gospel Luke 17:11-19

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.

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 6pm-8pm 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

Growing In Faith Together Group (GIFT) - every Tuesday at 10.15am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. We will be studying Luke's Gospel.

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 families. More information is on the website or you can email: littleflowers.sswp@gmail.com

MESSAGES



Awake My Soul - a group for young adults (aged 18 to 25) in the parish. We will meet every other Wednesday from 7pm until around 9.30pm in the presbytery of Holy Cross (53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh - the house next to the church). We will start with dinner together, followed by a discussion on how our faith relates to our daily lives. If you would like to participate, please email Fr Matteo: mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 8th October

Pilgrimage to Portugal - after the success of last year's pilgrimage we are organising another parish pilgrimage to Portugal (Lisbon and Fatima). It will be from Thursday 30th April to Monday 4th May 2026.

The price will be approximately between £800 -£900 on the basis of shared accommodation. There will be a meeting on Saturday 18th October at 2.30pm at St Edward to present the itinerary and the opportunity to ask any questions. If you are interested, please attend so we can gauge demand.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

A huge "thank you" to everyone who supported my Macmillan coffee morning at St Andrew's last weekend. You all raised an amazing £550.60 for this wonderful charity. You will still be able to donate through me (if desired) for a few weeks. Margaret

Vacancy for St Swithun Wells Parish Administrator Part-time 15 hours per week to be split over three days - working pattern to be agreed at interview. Salary £9,523.80. Are you an experienced Administrator with secretarial, bookkeeping and accounts knowledge, looking for a role where your skills can make a real difference? St Swithun Wells Parish is seeking a Parish Secretary to be working in the Parish office, Holy Cross Church, Eastleigh and reporting to the Parish Priest.

Role purpose: A full job description and application pack can be found on our parish website. Please send a CV and covering letter outlining your relevant experience and reasons for applying for the role to HR at: recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Please state Parish Administrator SSW in the headline of your email. Closing date for applications: Sunday 19th October 2025 at 10pm.

Cultural Friday - 17th October, 7pm at St Edwards. Exhibition: The Wonder of Reality: a dialogue with Scientists and their discoveries. During the evening Marco Pisa (one of the curators) will present the Exhibition which invites you to rediscover your sense of wonder through the stories of contemporary scientists and their groundbreaking discoveries. Cheese and wine from 7pm, the talk starts at 7.30pm. Suggested donation of £1.

MESSAGES CONTINUED



Upcoming Second Collection

5th October 2025: CAFOD Harvest Appeal

Please do not use our yellow gift aid envelopes for this collection, CAFOD have provided their own envelopes which are available in our churches, please do pick up an envelope. Alternatively please give online at cafod.org.uk/envelope.

Voice of Praise - Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group

Join us every **Thursday evening, 8.30 - 9.30pm, 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!

OLQA Exhibition - There will be a unique display of some of the miracles from across the world researched by St. Carlos Acutis. **Saturdays and Sundays 18th, 19th and Saturday 25th October from 11am - 6pm. Sunday 26th October 11am - 12.30pm.** There will also be an opportunity for private prayer with The Blessed Sacrament. Further information from Kornelia on 077380 13097. All are welcome.

Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 5th October 1-4pm Pavilion on the Park, 1 Kingfisher Road, SO50 9LH

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. To book your place please go to our parish website.

Looking for Volunteers for the Come and See Club

We are looking for volunteers to help run the **Come and See Club**, the Parish holiday club for children in primary and secondary school. Our next club will take place during the **Autumn Half-Term break: 27 - 31 October 2025**. If you would like to volunteer—or know someone who might be interested—there are many ways to get involved, such as:

- Assisting with administration and secretary work
- Helping to organise outings and activities
- Supporting the children at the club for one or more days.

If you can help in any way, please contact Fr. Luca at comeandsee@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Parish Jubilee Pilgrimage to St. John's Cathedral

On Saturday 25 October, we invite all parishioners to join us on a pilgrimage to St John's Cathedral to celebrate the 2025 Jubilee.

The programme is as follows:

8.30am – Meet at the Holy Cross car park

9am – Departure by coach

9.45am – Arrival at Portsmouth Harbour train station (The Hard Interchange).

Walk/pilgrimage to St John's Cathedral (30 minutes). For those who cannot walk, they will be dropped off at the Cathedral.

11am – Arrive at the Cathedral. Visit the church, devotions, confession and indulgence.

12.15 – Mass.

1pm – Lunch in the Discovery Centre (hall of the Cathedral).

3pm – Leave the Cathedral by coach

3.50pm – Arrive at Holy Cross Car Park

Price: £10 to book a place on the coach. £15 to book buffet lunch after Mass.

For those who wish to travel to Portsmouth by car or train, we will meet at 9.45am at Portsmouth Harbour train station (The Hard Interchange).

You are welcome to bring your own food if you would prefer not to book a buffet lunch.

To join the pilgrimage, please complete the registration form on our website and pay the full amount by bank transfer to the following account **by Sunday, 19 October 2025**:

Account holder: CDP St Swithun Wells

Account number: 01786599

Sort code: 30-93-04

Reference: Please indicate 'JUB_surname' (e.g. JUB_Smith).

If you need help, the parish office can assist you with booking your place and can also take cash payments tel. 02380 273882

Consultation - Your opinion matters - Following the announcement at all Masses last week about the proposed new Parish Centre and the closure of one of our churches, we would like to hear from you. Information booklets are available on our website and we ask you to consider and respond to the online survey which is also on our parish website **by 14 October**. Paper copies of the survey are also available and should be returned to the parish office by 14 October marked 'consultation'. A meeting will be held at **2pm on 12th October in St Swithun Wells church, Fair Oak** to discuss.

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. The next meeting is on the 10th of October. All welcome!

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Tuesdays:	Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh;
Wednesdays:	Fr Luca by appointment, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh;
Fridays:	Fr Mario 10am-12 Noon, OLQA, Bishop's Waltham;
Fridays:	Fr Pietro, 11am-12.45pm, 26A Abbey Water, Romsey;
Fridays:	Fr Matteo, 11am-12.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh.

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 4th Oct <i>St Francis of Assisi</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Antonio Cicu RIP FM Jackie Callow RIP Jean Mary Dolan RIP Pasqualina Marucci RIP 2nd Anniversary
Sun 5th Oct <i>Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</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> People of the Parish Carrie Fung & Peter Tse 20th Wedding Anniversary Robert Brockway RIP Deceased members of The Fox, Slevin and Kelly Family The Holy Souls of Purgatory
Mon 6th Oct	9.30am	Holy Cross	Raymond Kelly FM
Tues 7th Oct <i>Our Lady of The Rosary</i>	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Norman Joyce RIP Anniversary Peter O'Brien RIP
Weds 8th Oct	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Frederick Bishop FM Canon Peter Wilkie FM
Thurs 9th Oct <i>St John Henry Newman</i>	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Raymond Kelly RIP
Fri 10th Oct	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	Elizabeth Gare Wellbeing
Sat 11th Oct	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Maria Jacobs RIP Bill Barry RIP
Sun 12th Oct <i>Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time</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> Ian Warwick FM Tom Cummings RIP Anniversary Keith Small RIP Brian Roy Smith RIP

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

Finance Administrator: Christina Geleji
Email: accounts@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Mary Dingle
Email: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Website Contact: website.sswp@gmail.com

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