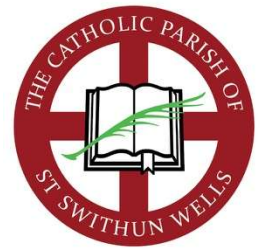


NEWSLETTER



4th October 2026: TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity N. 1199568

A CHRISTIAN JOURNEY FOR FAMILIES

Dear Parishioners, this weekend I would like to offer every family in our parish a copy of a booklet entitled A Christian Journey for Families. This booklet is the fruit of a journey shared by families over a number of years. Originally developed with families in Turin, Italy, it has also been used during the past four years at our Family Get2Gethers here at St Swithun Wells. The booklet you receive today has grown out of this shared experience of reflection, dialogue and mutual encouragement. At its heart is a simple conviction: Christian family life is a vocation and a journey towards God.

Following Christ happens in the ordinary circumstances of family life: between husband and wife, around the dinner table, in bringing up children, in work and rest, in disagreement and forgiveness, in welcoming others into our homes, and even in the way we use our phones and social media.

The booklet therefore follows three great dimensions of Christian life: the love of God, love in the family, and love for the community and the world. Everything begins with God. Families need prayer. The booklet encourages simple habits of family prayer, personal prayer and silence, together with regular Confession and, above all, the Eucharist. These help us to remember that God is present not only in church but in the ordinary life of our homes.

The booklet also reflects on technology and social media. These can be wonderful means of communication, but they should serve real human relationships rather than replace them. Social media should lead us towards greater communion, not isolation. We need to protect those moments when we are truly present to one another: talking, listening, sharing meals and looking one another in the eyes.

The second part looks at married and family life. Husband and wife are entrusted to one another so that they can journey together towards happiness and holiness. As Antoine de Saint-Exupéry beautifully wrote, "Love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction." Love is expressed not only in great sacrifices but also in hundreds of small things: listening, talking, sharing meals, helping one another, laughing together, offering affection and encouragement. And because no family is perfect, the booklet also speaks about wounds, dialogue and forgiveness. Christian family life means learning, with God's grace, to ask forgiveness, forgive one another and begin again.

An important part of the booklet concerns the education of children. The task of a married couple, inseparable from their mutual love, is to welcome children, raise them and introduce them to the meaning of life, to a broad vision of reality, and to all that is true, beautiful and good. Parents do this above all through their own lives. Children learn the faith not simply from what we tell them, but from what they see.

Finally, a Christian family cannot live only for itself. Our homes are called to become places of welcome, and families need the friendship and support of other families and of the wider Church. A family rooted in Christ can become a place of hope, welcome and witness for others.

Please do not feel that you need to read the booklet from beginning to end immediately. Take it home and allow it to accompany you. Choose a section, read it together, discuss the questions and return to it from time to time. Its purpose is simple: to help us look at our family life in the light of Christ and grow in the grace and beauty of family vocation.

God bless you and your families.

Fr Raffaele



GEM OF THE WEEK

A THIRST FOR MEANING, FOR TRUTH AND FULFILMENT - POPE LEO

Read on our website

For the next Newsletter, items should be received into the Parish Office by 10am on Tuesday
6th October 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 4th October 2026 YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK 3

PSALM RESPONSE: THE VINEYARD OF THE LORD IS THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL.

1st Reading Isaiah 5:1-7 **Psalm** 80(79) **2nd Reading** Philippians 4:6-9 **Gospel** Matthew 21:33-43

Sunday 11th October 2026 YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK 4

PSALM RESPONSE: IN THE LORD'S OWN HOUSE SHALL I DWELL FOR LENGTH OF DAYS UNENDING.

1st Reading Isaiah 25:6-10a **Psalm** 23(22) **2nd Reading** Philippians 4:12-14,19-20 **Gospel** Matthew 22:1-14

PARISH GROUPS



Ark of Fellowship - A group for those with learning disabilities or learning difficulties, their families and friends. **Thursdays at 6.30pm** in **Holy Cross Resource Centre**. Contact: arkoffellowship.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. If you would like to participate, please email Fr Matteo: mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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.

Growing In Faith Together Group (GIFT) - every **Tuesday at 10.15am** in the **H/Cross Resource Centre**. This week we will be starting Wk.1 of a 3 week talk exploring Early Christianity in Britain. Everyone is very welcome.

Tuning into God - St Thérèse of Lisieux described prayer as a simple heartfelt surge towards God. We are a Contemplative prayer group that seeks God simply in the depths of our hearts. We pray Morning Prayer, Intercessory Prayer, Lectio Divina and Silent Prayer on the **first Thursday** of the month at **10.30am** **St Joseph's Church Hall**, 26A Abbey Waters, Romsey. For info please email: samanthaharris218@gmail.com

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) *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:

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

Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community meet weekly at:

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

For more information please see the groups section on our website. All are welcome.

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! The group is family friendly. **Every first Thursday** of the month there is Eucharistic Adoration. For info please email:

voiceofpraise.sswp@gmail.com

MESSAGES



CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal this Harvest

Please donate to our *Family Fast Day* parish collection. Your gift can support children like Tayla in Zimbabwe to stay in school by helping communities and schools provide nourishing meals, improve access to water and grow food in school gardens. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call **0303 303 3030**.



Churches together in N. Baddesley (CTNB) - Will be holding a combined service of Praise and Worship in **North Baddesley Baptist Church**, Nutburn Road, SO52 9DZ on **Sunday 4th October at 6.30pm**.

This is the first time that the four churches in our village have attempted this, so please support us if you're able. If you have any questions please contact Ann Heslop on 07717362925

Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 4th October 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 Funerals - Please pray for the repose of the soul of Susan Pinnick who recently passed away. Her funeral will be **Monday 12th October**. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary McDonald who recently passed away. Her funeral will be held **Wednesday 14th October at 12.30pm** at **Holy Cross church**.



Upcoming Weddings – Congratulations to Laurence Cannings & Rebecca Russell and also to David Meaney & Katie Burt who are getting married on the **10th October in St Joseph**. Please pray for them and their happiness.

Parish Lunch at the Wheatsheaf, Braishfield
On **Wednesday 14th October**, meals to be served at **12.30pm**. All are welcome. The menus are on your church notice board. If you are interested in coming please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know before **Sunday 4th October**.

Cultural Friday – Our next event will be on **Friday 16th October** at **St Edward** when we will show the film 'Triumph of the Heart', a film about St Maximillian Kolbe. We will start with cheese and wine at **7pm** (Suggested donation £5) and show the film from **7.30pm**.

Then on **Friday 20th November** we have two speakers coming to talk about AI so please save this date. They are Adriana Wilde and Richard Gomer, Mayor of Eastleigh.

Formation Day for Readers – It is not too late to sign up for the Formation Day for Readers being organised by the Diocesan Liturgy Team on **17th October 2026** at the Pastoral Centre in Winchester. Anyone wishing to attend is kindly asked to email liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org

Talk on Our Lady of Guadalupe – You are invited to an illustrated talk about the miracle of Guadalupe on **Saturday 17th October** at **3pm** in the Hall at **Our Lady Queen of Apostles**. Come and find out about this amazing event which changed the lives of millions and continues to do so today. Refreshments provided.
Charles Forrest

Come & See Half Term Club (7-14yrs)
Monday 26th - Friday 30th October, 8.30am-3.30pm
St Edward's Cloister. Registrations are now open. Cost: £12 per child per day. £6 for additional siblings. Spaces are limited. For any enquiries, please contact comeandsee@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk
For more information and to book your child's place please go to the parish website.

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 Jo Lau uk.jolau@gmail.com，也可以向神父多了解，歡迎大家參加堂區以廣東話舉行的慕道班。

Family booklet – This booklet is a companion for families. Please help yourself to a copy from the welcome area.

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 **18th 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.

CAFOD Co-ordinator needed for Holy Cross Church
We are looking for someone to help co-ordinate the CAFOD appeals in Holy Cross Church. This is a simple role that requires the organisation of two appeals a year. If you are interested, please speak with Fr Raffaele.

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. If you have been unable to register via our website, you can now use the paper forms which will be available in the church welcome area. Please return to the parish office or a member of Clergy once complete.

Parish Pilgrimage – There will be a Parish Pilgrimage to Norwich and Walsingham. It will be from **Monday 26th - Thursday 29th April 2027**. The cost will be £450. The deadline to book and pay is **28th November**. A booking form is available in the welcoming area of your church with all the information. There will also be a meeting to present the programme and answer questions on **Saturday 24th October** at **2.30pm** in **St Edward**.

Parish Calendar – The new parish calendar for September 2026 - August 2027 will be on display in the church welcome area for reference to important dates throughout the year.

Parish Office Closure – Please note that the Parish Office at Holy Cross will be closed **Friday 9th October**.

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

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

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

* Livestreamed

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 3rd Oct	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Antonio Cicu RIP FM Jim Russell RIP & Martin Russell RIP Gus Reynolds (for healing) Pasqualina Marucci RIP (3 rd Anniversary)
Sun 4th Oct Twenty-seventh 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> Living & deceased of Murphy & Lucas Families FM Ramon and Nelita Hechanova RIP (wedding anniversary) Danny Browne RIP Denise Fingleton RIP Thanksgiving for Rimini Trip
Mon 5th Oct	9.30am	Holy Cross	Robert Brockway RIP FM
Tue 6th Oct	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	The wellbeing of the Pascoe family
Wed 7th Oct Our Lady of the Rosary	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Raymond Kelly RIP FM
Thur 8th Oct	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Frederick Bishop FM Kathleen Docherty RIP
Fri 9th Oct St John Henry Newman	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	
Sat 10th Oct	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Edward	People of the Parish Marchesi & James family (Special Intention)
Sun 11th Oct Twenty-eighth 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> Canon Peter Wilke RIP FM Norman Joyce RIP anniversary Lowe family RIP Deceased members of the Fox, Kelly & Slevin families

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 Piusco (Assistant Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; ppiusco@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Bob Birtles

Tel: 023 8069 2416; bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon John di Meo

Tel: 01794 515688; jdiimeo@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