



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ
26th October 2025: THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AWAKE MY SOUL

Last year, I started having dinner once a month with some young people from the parish who were helping out in various groups. There were five of them: university students and young people in their first jobs. We talked about a variety of topics, such as grief, understanding our vocation, and the meaning of our faith. For this reason, I decided to call the group: Awake My Soul, a reference to both Psalm 57 and the well-known song by Mumford & Sons.

The last time we met in June, at dinner at Giacomo's house (whom I had asked to help me), they expressed their desire to see each other more often and to open this group to more people. After discussing it with the other priests over the summer, and bearing in mind the bishop's request to start a group for people of that age, we decided to open this group to all young people in the parish aged 18–25.

The response from young people has far exceeded our expectations. We have met three times so far (we meet every other Wednesday in the Holy Cross presbytery) and each meeting has been moving. Around 15 young people attend each evening. We start with dinner — someone always arrives early to set up the dining room or help me cook — and then continue with a dialogue based on a text. Currently, we are using the words that Pope Leo XIV at the vigil for the Jubilee of Young People last summer.

What struck me first was the people's deep desire to get to know each other. Most of them did not know each other; some came not knowing anyone. But in each of them, I saw an enormous desire to start true friendships. But even more than that, I saw a deep desire for community. It was as if they were thirsting for a group like this, where they could explore their faith in depth with others and see how it relates to their everyday lives. And this is evident in what they say: they speak about the joys and difficulties of their personal lives and the importance of faith in dealing with these situations.

For example, on the first evening when the theme was about how God calls us in our daily lives, one of them said, "Very often, what I do bores me. So I started to follow a piece of advice my father gave me: if something bores you, turn it into prayer". Another one of them said at a different meeting, "Since I converted to Christianity, I have realised that it is possible to experience joyful suffering. I imagine that Jesus on the Cross experienced something like this; He was suffering, but He knew it was for our salvation. Since becoming Catholic, I have realised that all my wounds are embraced, and that suffering can be experienced joyfully". Another said, "I realised that giving my time freely to help out in parish groups makes everything I do in my daily life meaningful".

These are just some of the wonderful things that came out of our meetings. Meetings that awaken the soul and fill the heart with gratitude to God.

Fr Matteo

GEM OF THE WEEK

'We are not created for lack but for fullness' by Pope Leo XIV
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 29th 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 26th October 2025 YEAR C - YEAR 1 - PSALTER WEEK 2

PSALM RESPONSE: THE LOWLY ONE CALLED, AND THE LORD HEARD HIM

1st Reading Sirach 35:15b-17 20-22b Psalm 34 (33) 2nd Reading Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Gospel Luke 18:9-14

Sunday 2nd November 2025 YEAR C - YEAR 1 - PSALTER WEEK 3

PSALM RESPONSE: SUCH ARE THE PEOPLE WHO SEEK YOUR FACE, O LORD

1st Reading Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14 Psalm 24 (23) 2nd Reading 1 John 3:1-3 Gospel Matthew 5:1-12a

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.

Awake My Soul - a group for young adults (aged 18 to 25) in the parish. We 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 start with dinner together, followed by a discussion on how our faith relates to our daily lives. Next meeting **Wednesday 5th November**. If you would like to participate, please email Fr Matteo: mpagni@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community meets weekly at:

Holy Cross every Wednesday at 8pm and

St Edward's every Thursday at 8pm.

For more information please click the link on the homepage of our website. All 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. Next date: **Friday 14th November**.

Growing In Faith Together Group (GIFT)

Tuesday at 10.15am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. We will be studying Luke's Gospel.

Voice of Praise - Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group

Join us every **Thursday evening, 8.15pm - 9.15pm**, 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!

Ark of Fellowship - for people with learning disabilities or learning difficulties, their families and friends

Thursdays at 6pm - 8pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre. Interested in volunteering or know some adults who would like to join the group?

Contact: arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com

Little Flowers Baby and Toddler Group

Wednesday 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

Little Saints - St Andrew's Church, 66A Fleming Ave, North Baddesley, SO52 9AQ. **Wednesdays, 1pm - 3pm**. A community group for families who want to educate their children by looking to Jesus Christ as the source of all that is true, beautiful, just and good. We aim to come together, connect and build lasting friendships. Next date: Wednesday 5th November.

MESSAGES

Upcoming Funerals - Please pray for the repose of the soul of Simon Slaughter and for his family. Simon's Funeral Mass takes place on Wednesday 29th October 11:30 in St Laurence Roman Catholic Church, Petersfield, GU32 3ED with the wake afterwards at the Half Moon Inn, Petersfield, GU31 4BD.

Please also pray for the repose of the soul of Michelle Rook and her family. Michelle's Funeral Mass takes place on Friday 31st October 14:00 in Holy Cross Church.

Social media - Please follow our Instagram (stswithunwellsparish) and Facebook (St Swithun Wells Parish) accounts for updates on parish life.

Halloween - Please consider that, as Catholics, we are called to celebrate light & God and not darkness nor demons. For this reason, Catholics should not celebrate Halloween.





Pilgrimage to Portugal (Lisbon and Fatima)

This will be from Thursday 30th April to Monday 4th May 2026.

We will visit Lisbon, the birthplace of St Antony, the site of the Apparitions of Our Lady in Fatima and Tomar. There will Mass every day and procession of candles in Fatima. The price will be £879 per person on the basis of shared accommodation. (The price is valid until 14 November 2025.) Breakfast and dinner included. Three-star hotel accommodation for two nights in Lisbon and two nights at Fatima.

For more information, visit our website or take a leaflet from the Welcome Area.

OLQA Exhibition - There will be a unique display of some of the miracles from across the world researched by St. Carlos Acutis. **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.

Daughters of Wisdom Heritage Days exhibition **31st October and 1st November, 10am—4pm,** **Wisdom Centre Romsey. Free admission.**

Friends of Wisdom are supporting and helping raise funds for the Amber Project. There will be a shop, hot and cold beverages, cakes and a grand tombola. Cash or Card payments accepted.

Contact: Wisdom Centre, 01794 830206,
reception@wisdomhouseromsey.co.uk

Our next Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 2nd November **1pm - 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.

Legacy Gifts - Our firm belief and hope as Catholics is that, 'for your faithful, Lord, life is changed not ended', and that – even amidst the sadness of death – the light and love of Christ abound. One beautiful and practical expression of this conviction is by committing support to the work and witness of the Church beyond the span of our own mortal lives, and leaving a legacy gift to the Church in our wills.

For more information about legacies please contact Christina by phoning 02380 273882 or writing to accounts@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk.

Come and See Club Autumn Half-Term break: 27 - 31 October 2025 in St Edwards. 8.30am - 3.30pm. Cost club per day, £10 eldest or only child, £5 additional children (siblings). For more info, booking and payment please see our website. For info email: comeandsee@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Good Companions - Our next gathering is at 12 noon on Friday 14 November in the Cloister at St Edward's. Why not join us for good company and delicious food? Everyone is welcome. Please ring Tony Wilson on 023 8026 617 to let us know if you are coming so we can gauge numbers for catering. We look forward to seeing you.

Fundraising for the World Scout Jamboree - 12-year-old Joshua, who attends OLQA, is raising funds to represent Bishops Waltham at the World Scout Jamboree in 2027. Joshua is working hard to raise £3,590 through community events, challenges and a GoFundMe page: <https://gofund.me/387dab803>

Office notice - The email address for the Parish Secretary (office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk) is being occasionally monitored but please send urgent messages to accounts@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk.

Consultation Summary - Regarding the consultation about the new parish centre and closure of one of our churches, a summary of the survey and meeting is available on our website.

End of British Summer Time

Please remember that the clocks go back by one hour this **weekend of 25th/26th October**.

Priests' availability - Priests will not be available to meet at their usual surgeries over half-term.

Bamenda Sunday - Please remember that next Sunday, November 2nd, is All Saints and also Bamenda Sunday. The second collection will be for Bamenda.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION **(CONFESSION)**

Tuesday:	9.30am-10.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew
Tuesday:	6.30pm-7.30pm (after Mass)	St Edward
Saturday:	10.00am-10.30am (after Mass)	Holy Cross
	5.30pm-6.00pm (before Mass)	OLQA
	5.30pm-6.00pm (before Mass)	St Joseph
Sunday:	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Edward
	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday:	6.30pm - 7.30pm (after Mass)	St Edward
Wednesday:	10am -11am (after Mass)	Holy Cross
Thursday:	12.30pm - 1pm (after Mass)	OLQA
	5pm - 6pm (before Mass)	St Joseph

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 25th Oct	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Cancelled Martin Russell RIP Simon Slaughter RIP Morgan & Shankhani Families (Thanksgiving)
Sun 26th Oct <i>Thirtieth 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> Paul Chandler RIP 10th Anniversary Monica Carrasco RIP Anniversary Kevin Greig (Special Intention) Barbara Crowther & family People of The Parish
Mon 27th Oct	9.30am	Holy Cross	
Tues 28th Oct <i>Ss Simon & Jude</i>	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	
Weds 29th Oct	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	
Thurs 30th Oct <i>Bl Winchester Martyrs</i>	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Keith Clark RIP Birthday Anniversary George & Camilla Farrugia RIP Anniversary
Fri 31st Oct	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	Roy Russell-Smith RIP Anniversary
Sat 1st Nov	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Gerard Carr RIP FM Mrs Edward Christian FM
Sun 2nd Nov <i>All Saints</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> Patricia Roydon RIP People of the Parish Beatrice & George White; Laura, David & Eduardo Fernandes FM Samantha Harris (Thanksgiving) Seamus Alyward RIP

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

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 Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri 9.30am - 5.30pm; Wed 9.30am - 2.30pm
Parish Administrator: Currently vacant
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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