



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

31st AUGUST 2025: TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE SEASON OF CREATION

Did you know that the month of September up to the Memorial of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October has been designated the Season of Creation? This ecumenical initiative mirrors the calls made by Pope Francis ten years ago in his encyclical letter on Care for our Common Home (*Laudato si*) and by Pope Leo in his recent message on the Care of Creation.

We live in a world that is fast-changing and subject to many environmental challenges: climate change, plastics pollution, loss of habitat and threats to biodiversity, species endangered and deforestation, just to name a few.

Pope Francis reminded us that environmental justice is no longer an abstract concept or a distant goal but an immediate imperative. To quote his words, "Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience."

Preface V for Sundays in the Roman Missal takes the theme of Creation and says in a prayer to God the Father, 'You formed man in your own image and set humanity over the whole world in all its wonder, to rule in your name over all you have made.' We are called not to domination, exploitation and tyranny over nature but to stewardship and the harnessing of our natural resources for the Common Good. Entrusted to us is a commission from God to be good and responsible stewards.

Protection and nurturing of the natural world is not just a pragmatic exercise or a political expedient; it is (or should be) based on the value we place on the God-given gift of creation in all its beauty, magnificence and diversity. In scripture, particularly in the Old Testament, we read of the gratitude expressed for the wonders of creation. The psalmist writes, 'All the trees of the wood shout for joy at the presence of the Lord'. The Canticle of Daniel relates all the categories of the natural world by which we praise God's name, 'All plants of the earth, creatures of the sea, every bird in the sky, wild beasts and tame.'

It may be that we are so busy with daily living that we are oblivious to the world around us; too busy to stop for a moment to praise God in the beauty that surrounds and supports us. Our forbears may have been more attuned to the connection between creation and faith than we are. Did you know that several of our flowering plants have English names beginning with 'Lady', for example: Lady's-mantle and Lady's-smock? In the Middle Ages these were called Our Lady's mantle and Our Lady's smock.

We can use this Season of Creation to increase our awareness of nature and motivate our action in response to the environmental challenges which affect us all. We are not detached from the natural world or the need for its just management and respect: in an integrated ecosystem we are all interconnected and interdependent. A recent Christian commentary noted that we are not only members of the Kingdom of God but also the 'Kingdom' of God.

Perhaps we can bear in mind the heading of last week's newsletter (thank you, Fr Matteo): REAWAKEN OUR SENSE OF WONDER.

Deacon John

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is Pope Leo's message: *Care of Creation 2025*. You can find this on our website.
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 3rd September 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 31st August 2025: YEAR C - YEAR 1- PSALTER WEEK 2

PSALM RESPONSE: IN YOUR GOODNESS, O GOD, YOU PROVIDED A HOME FOR THE POOR.

1st reading Sirach 3:17-18,20,28-29 **Psalm 68 (67)** **2nd reading** Hebrews 12:18-19,22-24a **Gospel** Luke 14:1,7-14

Sunday 7th September 2025: YEAR C - YEAR 1- PSALTER WEEK 3

PSALM RESPONSE: O LORD, YOU HAVE BEEN OUR REFUGE, FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION.

1st reading Wisdom 9:13-18 **Psalm 90 (89)** **2nd reading** Philemon 9-10, 12-17 **Gospel** Luke 14:25-33

PARISH GROUPS



Growing In Faith Together Group (GIFT) - every Tuesday at 10.15am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. Next week we will talk about Blessed Carlo Acutis.

The Little Flowers Baby & Toddler Group

Meet on Wednesdays during term time from 10am in Holy Cross Resource Centre. We will restart on Wednesday 17th September. 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



Invitation from Communion & Liberation Groups - to join their 'Beginning of The Year Pilgrimage' on **Sunday 14th September**. The day will start at 10.30am in St Peter's Parish Hall in Marlow and will include a meditation led by Fr Luca, a pilgrimage walk, a talk by the parish priest about the history of St Peter's church, confessions and Mass. The walk will include praying the Rosary, singing and quiet meditation. Please bring your own packed lunch. We expect to finish by 4.30pm. For more details and to register please go to the parish website.

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. More details to follow. Save the Date!

Awake My Soul - a group for young adults (aged 18 to 25) in the parish will begin in September. We will meet every other Wednesday from 7pm until around 9pm 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 first meeting will be on Wednesday 24th September.

Good Companions - Our next gathering is at 12 noon on Friday 19th September in the Cloister at St Edward's. Please join us for some friendly company and delicious food. All welcome. Please contact Tony Wilson on 023 80266617 so we can assess likely numbers. Hope to see there.

OLQA Children's Liturgy sessions - We are very pleased to announce that we are moving from monthly sessions to **twice monthly, starting from Sunday 7th September**. We will continue with the first Sunday of the month and now add in the third Sunday too. Please check your calendars! Parents and grandparents, we are very much looking forward to welcoming your children together. For any further information, please contact Joanna Somerville at joannasomerville1@hotmail.com

Parish Secretary - Please welcome Mary Dingle who has been appointed as our new Parish Secretary. **Mary starts on Wednesday 3rd September** and will be working with Patricia for a couple of weeks.

OLQA Wilfred Walk - Members of OLQA will be walking through the Hampshire countryside, visiting 5 churches in the Meon Valley dating back to Saxon times and founded by St Wilfred in the 7th century. The walk will start at 10am on **Saturday 20th September** at **St Peter & St Paul's church in Exton**. All are welcome. Please contact Angus Somerville for more details on 07929 867472 or angussomerville@hotmail.com

Weddings - Please pray for Sylvanus Ehiabhi & Klaudia Osmalek and Ria Cagampang & Kristian Ott Milbo who will be getting married soon. Sylvanus and Klaudia's wedding is at 11am on Tuesday 9th September in Holy Cross and Ria and Kristian's at 1pm on Saturday 13th September in St Edwards.

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. 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.

MESSAGES CONTINUED



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) *New time: Sundays 6.30pm to 8.30pm*

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form) *Fridays 6.30pm to 8.30pm*

Our Youth Groups for children in primary school and young people in secondary school will restart at the end of September 2025. They are also the path we propose to those who want to be prepared to receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Registrations for the year 2025/2026 are now open on our website: www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk (scroll down to Youth Groups).

We would like to remind you that if a child or a teenager wants to be prepared to receive First Holy Communion (and is at least in school year 3) or Confirmation (and is at least in school year 9) we will ask them to come regularly to one of the three groups according to their age. They will receive First Holy Communion or Confirmation when they are ready (usually after one year).

There will be a meeting on **Saturday 20th September 2025 at 11am in St Edward's cloister** for all the parents and guardians where we will present the **2025/2026 Stars of Abraham programme**. Another meeting to present the Stars of Abraham programme in the Romsey & North Baddesley area will be held at **St Andrew's Church, North Baddesley on Friday 26th September at 5pm**.

The first event of Grail Seekers and Student Youth will be a weekend away from **Friday 19th September to Sunday 21st September at St Cassian's Centre, Kintbury**. For more information about the weekend and to register please go to our website.

There will be a meeting with parents to present the Grail Seekers programme at **6.30pm on Friday 12th September in the Holy Cross Resource Centre**.

Advance Notice Holy Cross Resource Centre - Minor building works are planned in the Resource Centre during the week starting Monday 8th September. If confirmed, there will be **no access to the centre** during this week. We will provide an update in the next newsletter.

Stop assisted suicide - action needed!

The Leadbeater assisted suicide Bill is expected to have its Second Reading in the House of Lords on Friday 12th September. Right To Life UK has launched an *EasyAction* tool to help you write to a few Peers with a tailored message to highlight key concerns with the Bill. Please take action now and visit

www.righttolife.org.uk/aspeers to ask Peers to oppose assisted suicide - it takes just 30 seconds!

Marriage Help - Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Next date: **17th to 19th October**. www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 0788 7296983

Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

If you would like to be baptised, confirmed or received into the Catholic Church (or know more about the Catholic faith) please email Deacon Paul Owen: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or alternatively please speak to a priest.

The Parish of St Swithun Wells require a Part-Time Communications & Events Coordinator

The position will be based in Eastleigh and involves maintaining the parish website, promoting parish events using social media platforms, organise and plan parish events in accordance with Diocesan policies, including Health & Safety, GDPR & Safeguarding, and comply with copyright law.

The role promises a varied and interesting workload. The job is part-time (15 hours per week) on an initial fixed term contract of 18 months.

Salary offered for the role is £9,377.12 per annum based on 15 hours per week.

For more details and how to apply, please see the parish website www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk or contact the Parish Office on 02380 273882 or accounts@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

At a Glance - List of Upcoming Parish Events

14th Sept: CL Pilgrimage
19th Sept: Good Companions
20th Sept: OLQA Wilfred Walk

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday: St Edward - after Mass (6.30pm-7.30pm)

Wednesday: Holy Cross - after Mass (10am-11am)

Thursday: OLQA - after Mass (12.30pm-1pm)

Thursday: St Joseph - before Mass (5pm-6pm)

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

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 30th August	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Sunny Thomas RIP Maureen Vokes RIP
Sunday 31st August <i>Twenty Second 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> Susan Butcher RIP Anniversary Mary Quinn RIP 1st Anniversary Leopoldo Aggalot RIP People of The Parish
Mon 1st Sept	9.30am	Holy Cross	
Tues 2nd Sept	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	
Wed 3rd Sept <i>St Gregory The Great</i>	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Special Intention to Our Lady, St Joseph & St Padre Pio Evert van Willigenburg (Health & Wellbeing)
Thurs 4th Sept	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Ludwik Kolacz & Deceased Members of the Killick Family
Fri 5th Sept	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	Patricia Haimes RIP
Sat 6th Sept	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Jerry McDonnell RIP FM Skipton Leonard & Mary Marjorie Haslam RIP Dudley Roberts RIP FM John & Marion Peacock (60th Wedding Anniversary)
Sunday 7th Sept <i>Twenty Third 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> Zolziskaw Krupa RIP 10th Anniversary Stanislaw & Wladyslawa Olearnik RIP People of The Parish

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: rcossa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: lspeziale@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Mario Toma (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: mtoma@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Matteo Pagani (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Pietro Paiusco (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: ppaiusco@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Bob Birtles
Tel: 023 8069 2416; E: bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon John di Meo
Tel: 01794 515688; E: jdiimeo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Paul Owen
Tel: 023 8025 4806; E: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Paul Wilson
Tel: 023 8061 6618; E: pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Emmanuel Chituh
Tel: 07915 379686; E: echituh@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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