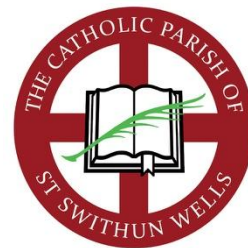


# NEWSLETTER



**20<sup>th</sup> September 2026: TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity N. 1199568

## A CALL TO WORK IN THE LORD'S VINEYARD

It's 16<sup>th</sup> August. At 3 o'clock in the morning, the alarm goes off; I jump out of bed, splash my face with cold water to wake myself up, grab my white vestment for Mass and a stole, and hop into the car. It's warm, but not too hot – around 25–26 degrees. After a three-hour drive on quiet, traffic-free roads, I stop at a motorway service station; it's a lovely day, and the temperature of 30 degrees makes the air very pleasant. I have a good breakfast and start to get excited at the thought of where I'm going: I'm heading to a place very dear to me; it's been 20 years since I was last there.

The place is the monastery of Vitorchiano, a convent of cloistered nuns belonging to the Trappist Order. The last time I was there was for a spiritual retreat before my ordination as a priest. It's a very vibrant convent; they have many vocations, and it's a place where, if you ask for a prayer for any reason, you can be sure that your plea will reach God in the unison of a choir of over 70 women!

Anyway, I arrived at the place; there were other people there too, some I knew, others I didn't. Eventually, I met the person for whom I'd travelled over 500 km in a single morning: Maria.

Maria is a young woman I met a couple of years ago in Manchester, where she was living at the time. Back then she was 35 years old; she had a very good job, a house and a car, and she was looking for a partner because she wanted to get married and start a family. However, she asked me to help her understand what God truly wanted from her, given that she was no longer in the first flush of youth and had still not found anyone. Without going into all the details of this period during which we talked and tried to understand God's will, certain events took place that made it clear to her that God was calling her to become a cloistered nun at the monastery in Vitorchiano. So she resigned from her job, sold her house, car and everything she owned, and 16<sup>th</sup> August was the day chosen for her to enter the cloister.

So we found ourselves there with her, her family and a few friends – some from Italy and some from England. The most striking thing was the simplicity with which this entry took place. She was wearing a simple outfit: a top and a long skirt. Just before entering, she put her hands in her pockets and pulled out a packet of tissues from one pocket and her mobile phone from the other. She gave the mobile to her brother, saying he could do whatever he wanted with it. She gave some of the tissues to her mum, whose tears were already streaming down her face. At one point, there we were – friends and relatives on one side, facing the cloister door which had opened, and on the other side were all 74 nuns waiting for her. So, after greeting us all personally, she took a little hop over the threshold, and the door closed behind her. We could hear shouts of joy from behind the door, whilst we on this side were weeping because we would never see Maria again in this world.

It was a wonderful experience and a glimpse of what it will be like in the end for each of us: when we leave this earth, our friends and relatives will weep, but in heaven there will be angelic choirs to welcome us joyfully. So it is, and so it will be, for all those who joyfully accept the call to work in the Lord's vineyard!

**Fr Mario**



### GEM OF THE WEEK

OUR VISION FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

*Read on our website*

For the next Newsletter, items should be received into the Parish Office by 10am on Tuesday  
22<sup>nd</sup> September 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 20<sup>th</sup> September 2026** YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK 1

**PSALM RESPONSE:** THE LORD IS CLOSE TO ALL WHO CALL HIM.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** Isaiah 55:6-9 **Psalms** 145(144) **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a **Gospel** Matthew 20:1-16a

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2026** YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK 2

**PSALM RESPONSE:** REMEMBER YOUR COMPASSION, O LORD.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** Ezekiel 18:25-28 **Psalms** 25(24) **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** Philippians 2:1-11 **Gospel** Matthew 21:28-32

## 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**. 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.

**Growing In Faith Together Group (GIFT)** - every **Tuesday at 10.15am** in the **H/Cross Resource Centre**.

### **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!

## MESSAGES



**Second Collection** - This weekend there is a second collection for Missio (World Mission Sunday).

**CL Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Caversham** - Organised by the Communion and Liberation communities in the Diocese of Portsmouth. On **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September** there will be a pilgrim walk from Sonning to Caversham with meditations, the praying of the Rosary, singing, confessions, and Mass. It is open to adults and children of any age. The event will start at **10.30am** and finish at **4.30pm**. For more information and registration, please see our website.

**The next Good Companions lunch** - will be held on **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September** in the **Cloister at St Edward Church**. Lunch is served **12Noon - 2pm**. Everyone is welcome. Any queries, please contact Louise 07931 251111 or Clare 07538 347299.

**72 Heralds Meeting** - Due to the large number of care homes in our area, we have started a project to visit residents and offer them the comfort of the sacraments, a moment of prayer, or simply the warmth of our company. The Heralds visit care homes in pairs, so newcomers can be introduced by those with more experience. If you would like to help or find out more, please join us to our first meeting of the social year on **Saturday 26 September at 11am**. The meeting will be held at **26A Abbey Water, Romsey SO51 8EJ**. We hope to see as many of you as possible. *Fr Pietro*

### **Parish Lunch at the Wheatsheaf, Braishfield**

On **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October**, meals to be served at **12.30pm**. All are welcome. The menus and prices to be confirmed. If you are interested in coming please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know before **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October**.

**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 **17<sup>th</sup> October 2026** at the Pastoral Centre in Winchester. Anyone wishing to attend is kindly asked to email [liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org)

**Talk on Our Lady of Guadalupe** - You are invited to an illustrated talk about the miracle of Guadalupe on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> 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*

**Stewardship Campaign** - Thank you for supporting our recent campaign. Due to your generosity the increase in our offertory, including gift aid, is just over £51,000. This will make a huge difference to our parish finances and cover the increased costs we will incur due to inflation over the next couple of years. We are immensely grateful for your support. *Frs Raffaele, Luca, Mario, Matteo and Pietro*

**Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



**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)**

*Holy Cross Sundays 6.30pm to 8.30pm*

**Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)**

*Holy Cross 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 2026. 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 2026/2027 are now open on our website:

[www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](http://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 to present the Stars of Abraham programme in the Romsey & North Baddesley area at **St Andrew's Church, North Baddesley on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm.**

Student Youth Group will start on **Friday 25<sup>th</sup>**

**September.** Grail Seekers will start on **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>**

**September.** Stars of Abraham in St Edward will start

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September,** in Holy Cross will start

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September.**

**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](mailto: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 Paul Owen 執事：[powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) 或者也可以向神父了解。堂區正在考慮以廣東話舉行新的慕道班。

**Parish Pilgrimage** - We are planning a Parish Pilgrimage to Norwich and Walsingham. It will be at the end of April. More information will come soon.

**Voice of Praise - Children's Helper Wanted**

Voice of Praise is looking for someone who would be available for approximately **30 minutes on Thursday evenings** to look after and engage the children in some simple activities while their parents take part in the prayer meeting. The children will remain nearby and close to their parents throughout the session. This is a **paid opportunity** and would involve approximately 30 minutes per week. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Voice of Praise at [voiceofpraise.sswp@gmail.com](mailto:voiceofpraise.sswp@gmail.com)

**A new Contemplative prayer group** - called *Tuning into God* meets on the first Thursday morning of every month at **St Joseph's Church Hall**. We start at **10.30am** with Morning Prayer/Intercessory Prayer, have some coffee/social time and then have a time for Lectio Divina and Silent Prayer. We will finish at about **12Noon**. Please email [samanthaharris218@gmail.com](mailto:samanthaharris218@gmail.com) if you would like to attend.

**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 in 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.

**Two Saints donations at St Edwards** - Please ONLY donate men's & ladies pants & socks now, as they have limited storage. Many thanks!

**Holy Cross Property Manager** - seeks volunteer to assist with paperwork filing. No more than three days' work. Can be spread across two weeks. Please speak with Fr Raffaele if you would like to help.

**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.

**Street Pastors** - Could you spare one Friday night per month to listen, care and help in our community. We need more volunteers! Street Pastors have faithfully been spreading the love of our Lord in Eastleigh for the last 17 years. In that time, we have seen a young generation grow into adults with families. Our next training is **Friday eve 7pm - 9.30pm, Saturday 9.30am-4.30pm, Sunday 9.30am-4.30pm** All timings and subjects are provisional. Weekend 1: **9-11<sup>th</sup> October 2026** Weekend 2: **23-25<sup>th</sup> October 2026** Weekend 3: **13-15<sup>th</sup> November 2026**. For further information please contact Eric Hyom on 07736 967921, [erichyom@hotmail.com](mailto:erichyom@hotmail.com)

**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.

**Message from Bishop Philip** - We were surely all relieved when in the House of Commons MPs voted against a fresh move to legalise assisted suicide in England and Wales. It was an answer to prayer and I wish to thank all those individuals, groups and MPs, plus many behind the scenes, who campaigned for the defeat of what was a dangerously flawed bill. Let us work hard to support with love and care the elderly, the vulnerable and the dying and to promote ever-improving palliative care.

## MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

\* Livestreamed

| DATE                                                                          | TIME                                                                 | CHURCH                                                                                  | MASS INTENTION                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>                                               | 9.30am<br>5.00pm<br>6.00pm<br>6.30pm                                 | Holy Cross<br>OLQA<br>St Joseph<br>St Edward                                            | Private Intention<br><br>Trish Cassidy RIP                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Sept</b><br>Twenty-fifth<br>Sunday in<br>Ordinary Time | 8.30am<br>9.00am<br>9.00am<br>9.30am<br>11.00am<br>11.00am<br>5.30pm | Holy Cross<br>St Edward<br>St Andrew<br>OLQA<br>Holy Cross *<br>St Joseph<br>Holy Cross | <i>Polska Msza Święta</i><br>Zdsilaw Krupa RIP Anniversary<br>Newton Carrasco RIP Anniversary<br><br>Juliene Wakuh (40 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Intention)<br>People of the Parish<br>Bert Stephens RIP |
| <b>Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Sept</b><br>St Matthew                                 | 9.30am                                                               | Holy Cross                                                                              | Sarah Ferreria RIP                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Tue 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept</b>                                               | 10.00am<br>6.00pm                                                    | St Andrew<br>St Edward                                                                  | Kathleen Docherty RIP                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept</b><br>St Pio of<br>Pietrelcina                   | 9.30am<br>10.00am                                                    | Holy Cross<br>St Edward                                                                 | Anne Wood RIP                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Thur 24<sup>th</sup> Sept</b><br>Our Lady of<br>Walsingham                 | 9.30am<br>12 Noon<br>6.00pm                                          | Holy Cross<br>OLQA<br>St Joseph                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>                                               | 10.00am<br>10.00am<br>12 Noon                                        | St Joseph<br>St Edward<br>OLQA                                                          | Special Intention for a friend that is seriously ill                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>                                               | 9.30am<br>5.00pm<br>6.00pm<br>6.30pm                                 | Holy Cross<br>OLQA<br>St Joseph<br>St Edward                                            | Pat Freemantle FM<br><br>Martin and Desmond Pond RIP<br>Maria Szczétnikowicz                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Sept</b><br>Twenty-sixth<br>Sunday in<br>Ordinary Time | 8.30am<br>9.00am<br>9.00am<br>9.30am<br>11.00am<br>11.00am<br>5.30pm | Holy Cross<br>St Edward<br>St Andrew<br>OLQA<br>Holy Cross *<br>St Joseph<br>Holy Cross | <i>Polska Msza Święta</i><br>Moir Kerr RIP<br>People of the Parish<br><br>Ellen Lane RIP FM<br><br>Danny Browne RIP                                                                                   |

## 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)

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

### Fr Mario Toma (Assistant Priest)

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

### Fr Matteo Pagani (Assistant Priest)

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

### Fr Pietro Piusco (Assistant Priest)

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

### Deacon Bob Birtles

Tel: 023 8069 2416; [bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### Deacon John di Meo

Tel: 01794 515688; [jdimeo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:jdimeo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### Deacon Paul Owen

Tel: 023 8025 4806; [powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### Deacon Paul Wilson

Tel: 023 8061 6618; [pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### 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, Wed, Thu 9.30am – 5.30pm  
Fri 9.30am–2.30pm

### Parish Administrator: Sabrina Gardner

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

### Finance Administrator: Dexter De Couto

[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)