



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

9th November 2025: THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

AUTHORITY AND CONSCIENCE

Our society today often experiences tension between authority and conscience. On one hand, we recognise the need for leadership to prevent chaos. On the other, we value the protection of individual conscience, believing that each person must ultimately determine what is good and what is bad.

Yet, how difficult it is to make these two voices - the voice of conscience and the voice of authority - enter into genuine dialogue and mutual understanding. Too often, we draw a hard line between them, placing each in soundproof chambers so they never meet.

But is this the only model we can follow? Is there a way for these two voices to come together and collaborate rather than compete? A brief passage from an article by Michael Konrad, a theologian and one of my confreres, may shed some light. It reflects on the legacy of St. John Henry Newman, who was recently given by Pope Leo the title *Doctor of the Church* - an honour bestowed on those whose teachings are recognised as especially inspiring for the Church and the world.

Twenty-five years after Newman's conversion, the First Vatican Council promulgated the dogma of papal infallibility, and Newman found himself faced with a new problem. Some Catholics interpreted the dogma to mean that the Pope was infallible in all his statements. Newman reaffirmed the importance of infallibility, but without forgetting the other side of the coin, namely the moral conscience of the individual. Without denying the Church's authority to teach on matters of faith and morals, the Cardinal stated: "If I am obliged to bring religion into after-dinner toasts, I shall drink - to the Pope, if you please - still, to Conscience first, and to the Pope afterwards."

For Newman, moral conscience and authority are not mutually exclusive, but mutually dependent. A person who sincerely seeks the good and is aware of their own limitations cannot but desire to find an authority that can guide them in their search. Conversely, an authority such as that of the Church, which has no means of physical coercion at its disposal, can only appeal to the conscience of the individual, hoping that they will recognise the truth. For Newman, the Church and moral conscience are two vicars of Christ, whose task is to assist the individual in their search for the will of God.

To foster a true dialogue between the voice of conscience and the voice of authority in the Church (the Pope, the bishops, and the teachings of the Catechism), we must first recognize that they share a common origin. Both our conscience and the authority of the Church are 'vicars of Christ', deriving from the same Creator in whom we live, move, and have our being.

Recognising this requires effort on both sides. On one hand, we must allow our hearts to be challenged by what the Church's authority teaches - without prejudice or preconceived ideas - and approach it with honesty and sincerity. On the other hand, we must also examine what our conscience perceives as true, right, and just, moving beyond superficial impressions and reactions to reach the deepest part of ourselves, the place where the voice of conscience truly speaks.

This work cannot be done alone, as St John Henry Newman often reminds us both in his writings and his life. As Prof Konrad says: "One cannot understand Newman's spirit without considering the community he belonged to: from St. Philip Neri he learned that, for a member of the Oratory, the place of sanctification is first and foremost community life - not so much following an abstract rule, but loving real people, with all their faults".

The fellowship of the Church accompanies us, helping us to open our eyes and ears so that we may see and hear the Truth - the only reality that can bring unity to the life of both the individual and society.

Fr Luca

GEM OF THE WEEK

'Broadening Your Horizon' 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 12th November 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 9th November 2025 YEAR C - YEAR 1 - PSALTER WEEK 4

PSALM RESPONSE: THE WATERS OF A RIVER GIVE JOY TO GOD'S CITY, THE HOLY PLACE, THE ABODE OF THE MOST HIGH.

1st Reading Ezekiel 47:1-2,8-9,12 Psalm 46 (45) 2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11,16-17 Gospel John 2:13-22

Sunday 16th November 2025 YEAR C - YEAR 1 - PSALTER WEEK 1

PSALM RESPONSE: PROCLAIM THE WONDERS OF THE LORD AMONG ALL THE PEOPLES.

1st Reading Jeremiah 1:4-9 Psalm 96 (95) 2nd Reading 2 Corinthians 3:1-6 Gospel John 21:15-17

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

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

Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community meets weekly at Holy Cross every Wednesday at 8pm (contact Fr Pietro) and St Edward's every Thursday at 8pm (contact Fr Raffaele). 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.

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! For info please email:

voiceofpraise.sswp@gmail.com

Little Saints - St Andrews Church, North Baddesley every other Wednesday, 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 19th November.

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 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 19th November. If you would like to participate, please email Fr Matteo: mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

MESSAGES



Blessing of the Graves - In November each year we remember those who have gone before us. One tradition is this blessing of the graves in the cemeteries of our parish. Details of this year are:

9th November: OLQA Cemetery 10.30am
Romsey Cemetery 2pm Woodley 2.30pm
Bishopstoke Cemetery 2pm Fair Oak 2pm
Eastleigh Cemetery 3pm Ramalley Cemetery 3pm
11th November: North Baddesley Cemetery 10.30am

Lighting of Candles and Prayers for parishioners who have died in the past year - We will be lighting candles and saying prayers for those parishioners on Saturday 8th November (Vigil Masses) & Sunday 9th November during Mass in all of our churches.

Remembrance Sunday 9th November

Holy Cross - Mass will start at 11.30am, following the civil commemoration in the park. There will be the annual parade with road closures.

St Joseph's - Mass will start at 11.30am, following the civil commemoration in the park.

Fair Oak Remembrance Day Service will begin at 11.00am in the Square. As usual St. Swithun Wells Church will be laying a wreath and would ask as many parishioners as possible to come along.

Romsey parking - Please note that parking on the drive is **not permitted**. All cars should be parked in Marie Louise House car park or the local car parking areas in the town.

MESSAGES CONTINUED



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

CL Portsmouth Diocese Day - 12noon on Sunday 16th November at St Edward. Programme for the Day:

12 noon: Arrive, bring & share lunch, **3pm:** School of Community Together - sharing the fruits of our journey in the last month. Ettore, a CL visitor from Europe, will join us. **5pm:** Holy Mass

Please bring some food to share. We will provide drinks, pudding, plates and cutlery. Please bring a donation with you for use of the venue and invite any family or friends. Please book your place on the parish website as soon as possible.

Cultural Friday - 21st November 7pm at St Edwards We will watch the film *Living* (2022). Starring Bill Nighy and Aimee Lou Wood, and directed by Oliver Hermanus, this touching film tells of a weary civil servant in 1950s London who, facing mortality, learns to live with purpose and kindness. A poignant reflection on the value of every moment and the call to serve others with love. Cheese and wine from 7pm. The film starts at 7.30pm. Suggested donation £3.

Parish Advent Retreat on Saturday 29th November 2.30pm to 4.30pm at St Edwards. Open to everyone. There will be a talk about Advent, some time for private prayer in the church and a time for questions and sharing thoughts.

Christmas Wreath Workshop - OLOA will be holding a wreath making workshop from **10am to 12 noon on Saturday 29th November**. Cost £30 per person, which will include all materials, payable at time of booking, to the following bank account: Santander, Sorting code: 09-01-31, Account name: P. Watson, Account number: 97370403, Payment reference: ACROSS2911

There are 12 places which will be allocated on a 1st come/1st served basis. Proceeds will go to the ACROSS charity which organises pilgrimages for the sick to Lourdes. To book your place, please contact paulinestmargaret@gmail.com Any queries 07917 407361.

Parish Lunch at the Wheatsheaf, Braishfield - **Tuesday 2nd December at 12.30pm.** The Main Meal, Lunch and 'Kids' menus are all available to us and can be found on the Wheatsheaf website or ask Rosemary for details. Please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know your choice of meal **before Sunday 29th November** as we have to pre-order. Thank you.

Parish Christmas Party - from 1pm to 4pm on Sunday 14th December. Save the date!

40th Anniversary of The Fraternity of St Charles - to celebrate the 40th anniversary of The Fraternity of our priests you are invited to **Holy Cross** for a talk by one of the Superiors, Fr Donato Contuzzi, on **Sunday 30th November**. There will be tea & coffee at 3.30pm in the Resource Centre, the talk at 4pm and Mass at 5.30pm.

St Swithun Wells Church Carol Service - everyone is very welcome to our annual Carol Service at **3pm on Sunday 21st December**. Please put the date in your diary. Come and have a good sing and enjoy mulled wine, mince pies and other festive refreshments!

The Knights of St Columba - are raising money for Mary's Meals who provide food to attract children to education. We need your old foreign or UK coins and notes, any and all of them please!! A box will be available after Mass in our churches on **Sundays in November**. Pick up a Mary's Meals envelope or just put your notes & coins in the collection box. We will announce how much money we raise.

OLOA Missio Red boxes - this is the end of year call up for your boxes to be brought to church by the end of November please. A huge thank you from Marie Kemp.

St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School - is organising a Christmas Raffle to raise funds for our PTFA, and we would be very grateful if you could donate a prize. Your support would be truly appreciated. Alongside the raffle, we are hosting a **Christmas Fayre at the school from 3.30pm to 6.30pm on Friday 5th December**, where our children will have the chance to sell festive crafts they've created in school. This promises to be a joyful afternoon for the children and a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together and enjoy the holiday spirit. If you are a local business and happy to donate we will arrange collection at your convenience. Please contact adminoffice@st-swithunwells.hants.sch.uk Any donations would be warmly received.

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 Anthony, 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 14th November 2025.) Breakfast and dinner included. Three-star hotel accommodation for two nights in Lisbon and two nights at Fatima. A coach will be booked to take pilgrims from Eastleigh to Heathrow with return, for an additional cost. For more information, visit our website or take a leaflet from the Welcome Area or please email caroline.bubien@gmail.com

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 8th Nov	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Phil Talbot RIP Anniversary For all the faithful departed For all the faithful departed For all the faithful departed Deceased members of the Cassidy & Baker Families
Sun 9th Nov <i>The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica</i>	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.30am 11.30am 5.30pm	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA Holy Cross (& livestreamed) St Joseph Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> For all the faithful departed Flotilda Guia & Eustacio Guia (Senior) RIP For all the faithful departed For all the faithful departed For the Corbett & Drewery families Paul Freeman FM
Mon 10th Nov <i>St Leo the Great</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross	Bill Reynolds RIP 30th Anniversary
Tues 11th Nov <i>St Martin of Tours</i>	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Southampton Catenians Deceased Brothers & Families
Weds 12th Nov <i>St Josaphat</i>	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Florence Bohan FM Joan (John) Pereira RIP
Thurs 13th Nov	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	John Howe (Wellbeing) Helen Sloan RIP
Fri 14th Nov	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	
Sat 15th Nov	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Cowling & Tierney Families RIP FM Andrew Bates RIP People of the Parish Rosemary Oxby RIP
Sun 16th Nov <i>St Edmund of Abingdon</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> Anna Biczko RIP Tony Armshaw RIP Anniversary Audrey & Denis Queen FM Intentions of Margaret O'Donnell

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: jdimeo@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

Parish Administrator: Amie O'Reilly
Email: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

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

Events & Communications Co-ordinator: Faye Harris
Email: events@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