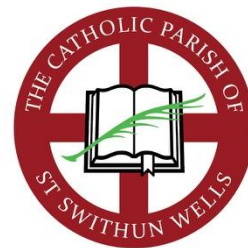


NEWSLETTER



27th September 2026: TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity N. 1199568

MEETING THE POPE

From 20th to 27th August, I travelled to Rimini in Italy with 15 young adults from our parish. While there, we visited Assisi and Rome, but the main purpose of the trip was to attend the Rimini Meeting, a cultural event organised by the Catholic Movement of Communion and Liberation. One of the most significant moments among the days spent at the Rimini Meeting, attending conferences and visiting exhibitions, was the visit by Pope Leo XIV.

It was Saturday 22nd August. Right from the very beginning, we were struck by the sheer number of people queuing to enter the exhibition centre. Some sources estimated the number of people to be around one million. There were teenagers, young people, families with small children, elderly and people in wheelchairs. It was quite a sight to see all these people gathered for the Pope's visit. Out of all those people, we were one of the 60,000 lucky ones who had managed to get a ticket to enter the auditorium in which the Pope was due to speak. While most people gathered around the barriers along the Pope's route through the exhibition halls, we made our way to the auditorium. After queuing and waiting for a few hours (during which the young adults from our parish learnt the hard way that we're not very good at keeping to a queue in Italy), the Pope entered the auditorium. Instantly, many people, including some of our young parishioners, gathered around the barriers to watch him pass by. You can still find videos of the Pope's passing on the parish's social media channels. After greeting those present, the Pope delivered his wonderful speech. At one point, he addressed the young people directly. Here are a few excerpts:

Dear young people, there are so many of you here, [...]. You are a sign that the future is promising, and not a threat! Many no longer believe this, whether among adults or your peers. Yet, silently, "the love that moves the sun and the other stars" still inspires hope. [...] Love moves us, urges us on, awakens us from our slumber, inspires new vocations and calls us to take risks. Do not be afraid to give yourselves fully! Open yourselves to a truly catholic spirit, broadening your networks beyond every overly narrow sense of belonging. Let your Movement, your groups and your communities be a springboard from which you can dive into the whole of reality. [...] Dear young people, today the world seems surprised by your commitment to Christ, by the attraction you feel toward him and his word, and by your sense of belonging to the Church. For many today, the very fact that you are Christians comes as a surprise! [...] Dear friends, always love the Church! Love and safeguard unity. Dear friends, love and safeguard the unity of the "community" through which Christ has reached you and draws you to himself.

Some 60,000 people were packed into that auditorium, not to mention the million or so others watching on the giant screens set up around the exhibition centre. And yet, each and every one of us felt as though we had been called out by name. It was a call that came with a task: to bring the beauty we had encountered to those who did not yet know it. As one of the young adults who was there that day told me: "I don't think what we experienced has to end there. I came away from Rimini with a greater appreciation for friendship, a greater sense of hope, and, most importantly, a desire to continue opening my heart to Christ. Perhaps the greatest gift of the trip was realising that the journey does not finish when the holiday does. It simply continues when we return home".

Fr Matteo



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
29th September 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 27th September 2026 YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK 2

PSALM RESPONSE: REMEMBER YOUR COMPASSION, O LORD.

1st Reading Ezekiel 18:25-28 **Psalm** 25(24) **2nd Reading** Philippians 2:1-11 **Gospel** Matthew 21:28-32

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

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

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.

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

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 click the link on the homepage of our website. All 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! For info please email: voiceofpraise.sswp@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 about the groups please go to our website:

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

MESSAGES



Pastoral Letter by Bishop Philip - Please take a copy of the new pastoral letter of the Bishop with the title of Things Visible and Invisible.

CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal this Harvest

Please donate to our *Family Fast Day* parish collection. Put your faith into action and share the Lord's love by supporting our global neighbours experiencing shortages of food and safe water. 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**.



Next Friday, October 2nd is CAFOD Harvest Fast Day

There will be a Soup lunch at **St Edwards** from **12Noon to 1.30pm** in aid of CAFOD. Please give us your support and come along!

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 Weddings - Congratulations to Benjamin Brooks & Siân Holloway who are getting married on the **3rd October in St Joseph**. 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**.

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

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 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 - 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 **13th November** and proper booking form will follow next week.

Voice of Praise - Children's Helper Wanted

Voice of Praise is looking for someone who would be available for approximately **1 hour 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 60 minutes per week. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Voice of Praise at 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 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 **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.

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: **9-11th October 2026** Weekend 2: **23-25th October 2026** Weekend 3: **13-15th November 2026**.

If you would like to become a volunteer Street Pastor, please could you respond by the closing date, **1st October**. Contact email, eastleigh@streetpastors.org.uk or phone; Eric Hyom 07736967921

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.

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*

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
Sat 26th Sept	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Pat Freemantle FM Martin and Desmond Pond RIP Maria Szczétnikowicz
Sun 27th Sept Twenty-sixth 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> Moira Kerr RIP People of the Parish Ellen Lane RIP FM Jacqueline Garrett RIP Danny Browne RIP
Mon 28th Sept	9.30am	Holy Cross	Bryan Nanson (Wellbeing)
Tue 29th Sept The Holy Archangels Michae, Gabriel & Raphael	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Mrs Edward Christian FM
Wed 30th Oct St Jerome	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Joyce Philomena Whitelock RIP Birthday FM Kathleen Docherty RIP
Thur 1st Oct St Teresa of the Child Jesus	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Florence Bohan FM Sr Avis RIP
Fri 2nd Oct The Holy Guardian Angels	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	Bernard Barton RIP George Sandhu RIP
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

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

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Fr Matteo Pagni (Assistant Priest)

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Deacon John di Meo

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Deacon Paul Owen

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Deacon Paul Wilson

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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