



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

19th October 2025: TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE LAST 300M

When I was about fifteen years old, I used to hang out with a group of friends, we played together in our village band. With them I didn't just play music, but we also did other activities. Among these friends of mine was a boy who loved running and sports competitions. One day he decided to sign up for a sort of non-competitive run, done to raise money for some charitable project. On that occasion he convinced us to sign up to do it together as well. The march was 55 km and 300 m long. The start was at midnight from a point 55 km away to arrive in the centre of my village.

When I told my parents, they weren't at all happy. They told me it was madness, that I would not make it, that I would get hurt, etc. However, I wanted to participate because my friends were going and I didn't want to be outdone. Since there were also school class trips at that time, I told my parents that I would give up the school trip - thus saving money - so that I could participate on the run with my friends. My parents insisted that I give up that madness!

I started pestering them every day that I absolutely wanted to go and that there was nothing wrong with it. There would be an ambulance following the race, so if I couldn't make it I could always get a lift, etc. etc. In short, I insisted and annoyed my parents so much that they gave in and gave me permission to participate. I was over the moon with joy!

I went to this race with my friends. We left at midnight, we did the first 10 km running, then we started walking with most of the group of my friends, the ones more trained went on running ahead. We walked, walked, walked, until dawn. The closer we got to Caorle, my town, where the finish was, the more frequently we stopped to rest because we were exhausted. Eventually, after almost ten hours from the start we arrived at our destination, we were the tail group, the last to arrive. I managed to get home somehow, but my legs were completely destroyed, because I had not done the slightest bit of training beforehand. I stayed in bed for two days without being able to do anything. The most I could do was walk like a mummy all clammy to go to the toilet and back to bed. Nevertheless, I was happy to have participated and to have gone all the way with my friends.

Why did I tell this story? Because as this Sunday's gospel says, if one really wants something, one insists and cries until one gets it. If I got permission to do something so crazy (for me, I was untrained), how much more reasonable is it to insist to Jesus that he give us something meaningful and truly useful for life.

You may ask what is the point of the title? Well, the difficult part of that marathon was not the 55 km... but the last 300 metres: I couldn't go on any longer!

So ask sensible and useful things from Jesus for your spiritual life, and it will be given to you without having to do those damned last 300 m!

Fr Mario

GEM OF THE WEEK

The wonder of reality: An exhibition first proposed at this year's Oxford Convergence
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 22nd 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 19th October 2025 YEAR C - YEAR 1 - PSALTER WEEK 1

PSALM RESPONSE: OUR HELP IS IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, WHO MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH

1st Reading Book of Exodus 17:8-13 Psalm 121 (120) 2nd Reading Timothy 3:14 - 4:2 Gospel Luke 18:1-8

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

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.

Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community meet weekly at:

Holy Cross 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!

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

Thursdays at 6pm-8pm 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

Growing In Faith Together Group (GIFT) - every Tuesday at 10.15am in the Holy Cross Resource Centre. We will be studying Luke's Gospel.

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 families. More information is on the website or you can email: littleflowers.sswp@gmail.com

MESSAGES



Awake My Soul - a group for young adults (aged 18 to 25) in the parish. We will 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 will start with dinner together, followed by a discussion on how our faith relates to our daily lives. Next meeting **Wednesday 22nd October**. If you would like to participate, please email Fr Matteo: mpagni@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Pilgrimage to Portugal (Lisbon and Fatima) This will be from **Thursday 30th April to Monday 4th May 2026**. The price will be approximately between £800 - £900 on the basis of shared accommodation. There will be a meeting on **Saturday 18th October at 2.30pm at St Edward** to present the itinerary and the opportunity to ask any questions. If you are interested, please attend so we can gauge demand.

Knights of St Columba

Building on the sermons re volunteering last weekend have you considered joining the Knights of St Columba. We need new Members to help fulfil our aims of mutual support, assist our Clergy in the Parish and raise money for good causes. More information can be found at <http://ksc.org.uk> or contact Neil Hendricks on 02380 266324. Alternatively come along to one of our meetings held monthly at St Edward the Confessor on the

third Monday of every month. You would be made very welcome.

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: 22nd October.

Volunteer Appeal - Following last weekend's appeal for more volunteers, if you would like to give some of your time to help in the church please have a look at the information on the notice board in the welcoming area. There you will find contact names and telephone numbers.

Message from June Wilson - Thank you to everyone for their prayers, messages and support since her accident. I hope to be back soon.

Saturday morning Mass Cancelled - Please notice that on **Saturday 25 October** there won't be Mass and Confessions in the morning in Holy Cross. The priests will be at the Parish Jubilee Pilgrimage at Portsmouth's Cathedral.

MESSAGES CONTINUED



Voice of Praise - Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group

Join us every **Thursday evening, 8.30 - 9.30pm**, 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!

OLQA Exhibition - There will be a unique display of some of the miracles from across the world researched by St. Carlos Acutis. **Saturdays and Sundays 18th, 19th and 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.

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 system and payment please see our website. For info email: comeandsee@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Parish Jubilee Pilgrimage to St. John's Cathedral

On Saturday 25 October, we invite all parishioners to join us on a pilgrimage to St John's Cathedral to celebrate the 2025 Jubilee.

The programme is as follows:

8.30am – Meet at the Holy Cross car park

9am – Departure by coach

9.45am – Arrival at Portsmouth Harbour train station (The Hard Interchange).

Walk/pilgrimage to St John's Cathedral (30 minutes).

For those who cannot walk, they will be dropped off at the Cathedral.

11am – Arrive at the Cathedral. Visit the church, devotions, confession and indulgence.

12.15 – Mass.

1pm – Lunch in the Discovery Centre (hall of the Cathedral).

3pm – Leave the Cathedral by coach

3.50pm – Arrive at Holy Cross Car Park

Price: £10 to book a place on the coach. £15 to book buffet lunch after Mass.

For those who wish to travel to Portsmouth by car or train, we will meet at 9.45am at Portsmouth Harbour train station (The Hard Interchange).

You are welcome to bring your own food if you would prefer not to book a buffet lunch.

To join the pilgrimage, please complete the registration form on our website and pay the full amount by bank transfer to the following account **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**:

Account holder: CDP St Swithun Wells

Account number: 01786599

Sort code: 30-93-04

Reference: Please indicate 'JUB_surname' (e.g. JUB_Smith).

If you need help, the parish office can assist you with

booking your place and can also take cash payments, tel. 02380 273882

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.

Daughters of Wisdom Heritage Days exhibition 31st October-1st November- Wisdom Centre Romsey 10am-4pm free admission.

Friends of Wisdom supporting and helping raise funds for the Amber Project.

Shop - hot and cold beverages - cakes

Grand Tombola - Cash or Card payments accepted.

01794 830206 Wisdom Centre

reception@wisdomhouseromsey.co.org

A warm welcome to Faye Harris, our new Communication and Events Coordinator who has joined us at the parish office. Faye has two lovely children, Amber and Joshua, and is married to Matthew. She is happy to work for the parish and meet all of you!

Consultation Summary Following the consultation over the last three weekends, we would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the survey and to those who attended the meeting last Sunday. A summary of the survey and meeting is available on our website and some paper copies will be in all our churches.

Upcoming Second Collection

Sunday 19th October for Missio - World Missions.

All worldwide Mass collections and every single donation support churches, hospitals, schools, and vocations in countries where the Church is new or poor. **Please do not use our yellow gift aid envelopes** for this collection. Missio have provided their own.

Our next Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 2nd November 1-4pm. 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.

TIMES A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Tuesdays: Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh;

Wednesdays: Fr Luca by appointment, 3.30pm-5.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh;

Fridays: Fr Mario 10am-12 Noon, OLQA, Bishop's Waltham;

Fridays: Fr Pietro, 11am-12.45pm, 26A Abbey Water, Romsey;

Fridays: Fr Matteo, 11am-12.30pm, Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh.

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 18th Oct <i>St Luke</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Michael Lane RIP FM People of the Parish Pierre Depiesse RIP Ian Logan RIP
Sun 19th Oct <i>Twenty Ninth 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> Neil Mc Gleenon RIP Theo Osime RIP (Birthday Anniversary) Camuti Family RIP Barbara Crowther (Special Intention) Michelle Rooke RIP
Mon 20th Oct	9.30am	Holy Cross	The Holy Souls in Purgatory
Tues 21st Oct	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	
Weds 22nd Oct	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Lowe Family Patrick Burke RIP
Thurs 23rd Oct <i>St Ethelflaeda (Romsey)</i>	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Giuseppe Ermanno Guzzetta RIP
Fri 24th Oct	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	
Sat 25th Oct	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	<u>Holy Cross</u> St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	<u>Cancelled</u> Martin Russell 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) People of The Parish

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

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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