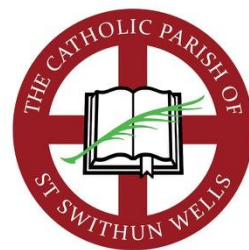


# NEWSLETTER



**26<sup>th</sup> April 2026: FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity N. 1199568

## ARISTOTLE'S FIREWORKS

During my first year in the seminary in 2013, I encountered one of the greatest thinkers of all time through my studies: Aristotle. His philosophy revealed to me many wonderful mysteries hidden in our reality.

He discovered that everything exists the way it does because of its invisible essence and its final purpose. For example, a simple leaf is shaped the way it is to catch rays of light and transform them into energy to sustain the whole plant's life.

These simple insights arose my deepest questions: What is the essence of the entire universe? Why is it the way it is? What is its purpose? What is the purpose of human beings? What is my essence? What is my purpose?

Another of the wonderful mysteries of reality that Aristotle disclosed to me is that everything that exists is the development of a hidden, precise potential. The actual shape of something is the result of a force developing its precise potential. For example, an oak seed can reach perfection by becoming a beautiful oak tree, thanks to fertile ground, rain and sunshine.

These simple insights have made my deepest questions even bigger: What are mankind's potentialities? What forces could realise them? What will my 'final being' be when all my hidden potential has been realised? Who knows the answer? Which force can realise it?

When these thoughts and their many questions crossed paths with the Gospel's message and the living presence of Jesus, fireworks exploded in my soul! All the answers to my boundless questions led to the living presence of Jesus.

One of the most significant outcomes of the encounter between Aristotle and the Gospel in my soul was a deeper understanding of the word 'vocation'. I saw my life and that of my fellow seminarians described and foretold in the words of God: "*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations*". (Jer 1,5).

I still don't fully understand the personal image of God within me, but I know the way. "*Remain in my love*", says the Lord. "*If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit*" (cf. John 15). The joy of the saints is my hope.

Over the years, the Church has taught me, through its wisdom and the company of many friends, to see the world through the eyes of Jesus. The world is God's field, where he sows many different and wonderful seeds of unique plants that can grow and develop in the light of his presence. He also appoints workers to go out into the field and nourish the seeds with the body and blood of Christ. I am just one of them.

May "*the Lord of the harvest send out workers into his harvest field*" (Luke 10, 2), so that every human seed can become the wonderful plant it is meant to be, and so that history can move towards the day when Christ will be in everyone, and we can enjoy the beauty of a blooming forest!

I really hope that Aristotle is rejoicing at seeing all his profound ideas come to fruition in Christ and his Church!

**Fr Pietro**



### GEM OF THE WEEK

read on our website: *The Price We Pay for Not Paying Attention*  
by Delphine Chui

For the next Newsletter, items should be received into the Parish Office by 10am on Tuesday  
28<sup>th</sup> April 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 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026** YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK 4

**PSALM RESPONSE:** THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; THERE IS NOTHING I SHALL WANT.

**1st Reading** Acts 2:14a, 36-41 **Psalms** 23(22) **2nd Reading** 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:20b-25 **Gospel** John 10:1-10

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026** YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK 1

**PSALM RESPONSE:** MAY YOUR MERCIFUL LOVE BE UPON US, AS WE HOPE IN YOU, O LORD.

**1st Reading** Act 6:1-7 **Psalms** 33(32) **2nd Reading** 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:4-9 **Gospel** John 14:1-12

## PARISH GROUPS



### **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](mailto: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 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.* For more information about the groups please go to our website:

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

**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 29th April.** If you would like to participate, please email Fr Matteo:

[mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### **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 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.

**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.**

### **Knitting Group** - Next meeting **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May**

**2.00pm to 4.00pm** in the **Resource Centre.** We knit hats and scarves for the homeless. Everyone welcome.

**Growing In Faith Together Group (GIFT) - every Tuesday at 10.30am** in the **H/Cross Resource Centre.**

## MESSAGES



**Portugal Pilgrimage** - This week, from Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> April - Mon 4<sup>th</sup> May around 30 pilgrims from our Parish will be travelling to Portugal on a Pilgrimage to Lisbon & Fatima. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers for safe travel and an joyful experience. We will share lots of photos from the journey on our social media!

**The annual Memorial Service** - at the **West Hoe Cemetery** is taking place this **Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm.** All are welcome to join us at this ecumenical service to remember loved ones.

**Upcoming Second Collections - Clergy Training Fund**  
This weekend on **25th/26th April.**

**Prayer for Vocations** - Please keep our Seminarians in your prayers this Good Shepherd Sunday, and pray especially for more vocations to the sacred priesthood, but also for vocations to all states of life and ministry in the Church in our Diocese of Portsmouth.

**Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 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.

## MESSAGES CONTINUED



### **St Swithun Wells School Casual Minibus Driver**

**Vacancy** - We need your help! The future of our school minibus service depends on it. St Swithun Wells is seeking to appoint a minibus driver to start as soon as possible. We're open to **flexible, part-time options** to suit different lifestyles – mornings only, afternoons only, or even just a couple of days a week. There will be the opportunity to help with school trips. More details and the application procedure can be found on our website <https://www.st-swithunwells.org.uk/Casual-Minibus-Driver/> or you can phone the school on; 02380 266210.

**St Swithun Wells School Teacher Vacancy** - The school is looking for a primary school teacher (ECT) - September 2026 start. Closing date **30<sup>th</sup> April 2026**. More information can be found on the school website.

**Cultural Friday - Save the date** for the next Cultural Friday, which will take place on **15<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm at St Edwards**. The topic is "Is it possible to be Christian and work in a hospital?". We will invite some guests to share their personal experiences. This meeting is particularly relevant for anyone working in the NHS, including doctors, nurses and staff.

**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.

### **Gift Aid Co-ordinator for OLOA Needed**

Our Lady Queen of the Apostles is seeking a volunteer to co-ordinate Gift Aid claims. This is a very important role which last year claimed £4,974.38. If you are interested, please speak to Fr Mario or contact the parish office: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

### **Volunteer Property Manager(s) Needed**

Our parish is seeking volunteers who may be interested in serving as a Property Manager for one of our churches. This important role involves helping to oversee the care and maintenance of church buildings and grounds, liaising with contractors where necessary, and ensuring that our properties are kept safe and well maintained. If you feel you may be able to help, we would be very pleased to speak with you about which church and what the role would involve. If you are interested please speak to Fr Raffaele or contact the parish office: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

### **Chair of Property Managers Committee Needed**

Our parish is seeking a volunteer to serve as Chair of the Property Managers Committee. This important role involves coordinating and supporting the work of the Property Managers of the different churches, helping to ensure good communication, shared planning, and the careful stewardship of our parish properties. Support and guidance will be provided. If you are interested, or would like to find out more about what the role involves, please speak to Fr Raffaele or contact the parish office: [office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

**Upcoming Parish Festival - Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July at Pavillion on the Park**. If you know anyone with children's entertainment experience or equipment such as bouncy castle, please email Faye at [events@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:events@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

**Mass for the Sick & Housebound**  
**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 10am at St Edward's Church, 12Noon at OLQA Church. Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 10am at St Joseph Church.** There will be three special Masses in which we will pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish. During Mass it will be possible to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. All who are sick, elderly, facing surgery, or seeking the gift of God's healing are welcome to participate. The whole Parish will be invited to join in prayer for those who are sick and for their caregivers.

### **Come & See Half Term Club (7-14yrs)**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May, 8.30am-3.30pm St Edward's Cloister.** Registrations are now open. Cost: £10 per child per day. £5 for additional siblings. Spaces are limited. For any enquiries, please contact [comeandsee@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:comeandsee@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)  
For more information and to book your child's place please go to the parish website. **Please only book if you are sure your child is going to attend, thank you.**

**We are looking for photos** - from events, groups and activities connected to the parish, to share on our website and social media. If you have any photos, please send them to [events@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](mailto:events@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk) or whatsapp them to 07356318616, with a brief explanation of the photo. Please ask permission to share online from those in the photos, and do not send any photos of children.

**It is with great sadness** - we have to report that the Eastleigh Council of the Knights of St. Columba will be closing down with immediate effect. Despite several appeals we have failed to attract new members and therefore with dwindling numbers, many in their 80's and 90's, it has not proved possible to carry on. We will continue to support the Clergy and the Parish, as well as each other but on an individual basis rather than as a collective force. We would like to thank everyone who has supported our work in the past in raising thousands of pounds for charitable causes. God Bless you all.

**Parish Lunch - Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 12.30pm, at The Wheatsheaf, Braishfield.** Menus can be found on your church notice board. All are welcome. Please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know your choice of meal before Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May as we have to pre-order.

**Fryern Funtasia** - at **Fryern recreation ground May 4<sup>th</sup> 12 Noon - 4.30pm**. Churches together in Chandlers Ford attend this event with a gazebo with children activities as well as promoting groups of our Parish. Please go over and say hello to show your support!

## MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

\* Livestreamed

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
<b>Sat 25<sup>th</sup> April</b> St Mark	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Holy Souls in Purgatory Heather Pollard RIP Anniversary Ann McGroary RIP Angie & Felino Cagampang (In Thanksgiving)
<b>Sun 26<sup>th</sup> April</b> Fourth Sunday of Easter	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> Carmen Milne RIP Gerald Reynolds RIP James Smith RIP 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary Christine Watson & Chloe Godding RIP Anniversary People of the Parish Derek Stuart Smith RIP Birthday
<b>Mon 27<sup>th</sup> April</b>	9.30am	Holy Cross	John Quinn RIP FM
<b>Tue 28<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	
<b>Wed 29<sup>th</sup> April</b> St Catherine of Siena	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Monica Dunne RIP
<b>Thur 30<sup>th</sup> April</b>	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Agatha De Mornay (Wellbeing)  Joyce Austin RIP
<b>Fri 1<sup>st</sup> May</b>	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	
<b>Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> May</b> St Athanasius	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Hubert De Mornay RIP Anniversary  People of the Parish Pauline Wilson RIP
<b>Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b> Fifth Sunday of Easter	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> Mrs Edward Christian FM Evelyn McKay RIP Heather Pollard RIP Giuseppe Ermanno Guzzetta RIP Anniversary Holly Harris RIP Anniversary Holy Souls in Purgatory

## 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 Paiusco (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, Thu & Fri 9.30am - 5.30pm  
Wed 9.30am-2.30pm

**Parish Administrator: Sabrina Gardner**

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

**Finance Administrator: Christina Geleji**

[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)