

NEWSLETTER Catholic Parish of St Swithun Wells

www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity No. 1199568



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ
25th January 2026: THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Farewell Party

This weekend, a girl from the Student Youth group will be moving to Australia with her family. She joined the group two and a half years ago, faithfully attending our weekly meetings and deepening her relationship with God. She has also made many friends with the other teenagers in the group. To celebrate her departure, we are holding a Farewell Party on Friday (or, since you will probably read this on the weekend, we have held a Farewell Party).

This departure has raised a question for many of the young people in Student Youth: "What now? What will become of this friendship?". This is a question that many of us have had to face in our lives. Whether you were born and raised in this parish and have seen friends or relatives leave for other countries over the years. Or whether, like me, you came to England from another country and left the people you were close to behind. In both cases, we have asked ourselves: "What will become of these beautiful relationships that I now have to leave behind, with whom I have shared my daily life for so long?".

I asked myself this question in a powerful way when I left my friends to enter the seminary in Rome almost nine years ago. I particularly remember the day I entered the seminary. I had asked four friends I had grown up with to accompany me and, early one morning, we left my town, which is north of Milan, for Rome, which is about 400 miles away. Once we arrived, we were together in the seminary, welcomed by the other seminarians and priests of the Fraternity of St. Charles, but in the late afternoon, it was time for my friends to leave. On the one hand, I was filled with joy at this new beginning. On the other hand, being separated from my friends was painful. However, I was certain of one thing: the Lord was asking me to make that separation, and therefore He would not allow those friendships to end.

Now, since that separation on 8th September 2017, I can say that God has not only kept the promise of that intuition, but has given us much more. Even though we have only been able to see each other once or twice a year in recent years — and even less frequently since I moved to England — our friendships have not only endured, but become even more beautiful, true and profound. The reason these friendships have blossomed, as have many others over the years, is one thing alone: if a relationship is rooted in Christ, it contains the seed of eternity within itself. Therefore, even if we have to leave the people we love to follow what the Lord asks of us, such as leaving our friends to follow our family to the other side of the world, these relationships will not only endure, but flourish. Of course, the pain of separation remains, and the nature of the friendship changes: living 5 miles away is different from living 10,000 miles away. However, the truth and beauty of friendship will not fade.

This is the promise that has been made to us: that our friendships, rooted in Christ, will deepen as we follow the path that the Lord has prepared for us.

Fr Matteo

GEM OF THE WEEK

Apostolic letter *In Unitate fidei* 'The heart of Christian faith' by Pope Leo
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 Tuesday
27th January 2026, 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 25th January 2026 YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK 3

PSALM RESPONSE: THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND MY SALVATION.

1st Reading Isaiah 9:1b-4 Psalm 27 (26) 2nd Reading 1st Corinthians 1:10-13,17 Gospel Matthew 4:12-23

Sunday 1st February 2026 YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK 4

PSALM RESPONSE: BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT; FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

1st Reading Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13 Psalm 146 (145) 2nd Reading 1st Corinthians 1:26-31

Gospel Matthew 5:1-12a

PARISH GROUPS



Communion & Liberation Groups

Our Schools of Community groups have their weekly meetings in **Holy Cross** every **Wednesday at 8pm** (contact Fr Pietro) and at **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!

Growing In Faith Together Group (GIFT) - every **Tuesday at 10.15am** in the **H/Cross Resource Centre**. We will continue to look at the Nicene Creed.

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

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 28th January**. If you would like to participate, please email Fr Matteo: mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

School of Christianity in Bishop's Waltham - A course about the basis of the faith using the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Next meeting will be **Friday 30th January at 6pm** in the **hall of Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church**.

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



Christian Unity Eastleigh - As part of the week of prayer for Christian Unity, Churches Together in Eastleigh are joining together to read the bible.

From Monday 19th to Friday 23rd we will be reading through the entire Bible from **8am - 9pm daily** in **Eastleigh Baptist church**. On **Saturday 24th January** we will be gathering in **Eastleigh Town Centre** to read the Gospels from **10am to 2pm**. This is a fantastic opportunity to demonstrate the unity we all have in knowing Jesus as Lord and Saviour as revealed through the holy scriptures. We would love people from every church to take part. You can sign up for as many slots as you like. Each slot is one hour and up to 4 people at a time can book in so no one has to read for the full hour. Please visit the St Swithun Wells parish website to sign up.

Christian Unity Romsey - There will be a Christian Unity service on **Sunday 25th January at 6.30pm** in the **Abbey**. Everyone welcome.

Upcoming Funeral - Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Williams who was a parishioner at **St Edwards** for a long time. Please join his family to remember John with a Requiem Mass and final committal at **Woodvale Crematorium (North Chapel)**, Lewes Road, Brighton, BN2 3QB on **Friday 30th January at 1.00pm**

Upcoming Funeral - Please pray for the repose of the soul of Patricia Hillary and for her family. Funeral Service takes place on **Friday 30th January at 11.30am** in **Holy Cross**.

Readers Retreats - All readers and all those wishing to become readers are invited to the Readers' Retreats on **Saturday 31st January**. Retreats are located in the following churches:

- **OLQA 10.30am-12noon.** For readers at OLQA.
- **St Andrew 10.30am-12noon.** For readers at St Andrew and St Joseph.
- **Holy Cross 2.30-4pm.** For readers at Holy Cross, St Edward's and St Swithun Wells.

MESSAGES CONTINUED

Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 1st February 1-4pm

Pavilion in 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.

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

Monday 16th - Friday 20th February, 8.30am-3.30pm

St Edward's Cloister Cost: £10 per child per day. £5 for additional siblings. Spaces are limited. For any enquiries please contact:

comeandsee@stswithunwellparish.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.**

A big thank you - to the Knights of Columba for their generous donation of £656.16, which will help to fund the trip to Italy for the young people of the parish this summer. The money will be used to help those who cannot pay the full amount, and if there is any money left, it will go towards meals during the trip.

Evangelisation Strategy Team - Following the advice of Bishop Phillip, we have started an Evangelisation Strategy Team (EST) in our parish. The EST includes some members of the clergy and lay people of the parish, who are called to promote evangelisation and develop our mission in the parish. The first meeting was in October 2025 and the team meets four times a year. Please pray for the members and their important role. *Fr Raffaele.*

PAMIS, ChurchSuite & Parish Census - We're moving our parishioner database from PAMIS to ChurchSuite. ChurchSuite is a market leader and has good data protection measures. To begin with accurate records, we'll hold a parish census this month. More details will follow. For queries, please contact Christina at accounts@stswithunwellparish.org.uk

Holy Cross Choir - Our parish choir at Holy Cross is welcoming new voices for the 11am Sunday Mass! If you enjoy singing and serving our parish through music, we would love to have you join us and help enrich our worship. If interested, please speak to Deacon Emmanuel or Fr Raffaele

LAST CALL for online marriage programme

Does your marriage need some TLC? Need help with communication and trust? Retrouvaille helps marriages. It can bring hope and healing to relationships.

Next date: 12th February 2026.

www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

New parish blog - We now have a blog on our website. We are also on Facebook and Instagram and you can follow us at [@stswithunwellparish](https://twitter.com/stswithunwellparish) for all the latest news and events in the parish.

Voices from the Parish - We are looking for parish volunteers to share a few words and photos about the wonderful work they do in the parish, to be shared on our social media and website, with a different volunteer being featured each week. If you would like to share your experiences and encourage others to get involved, please send no more than 100 words describing your role/a story and at least one photo to: events@stswithunwellparish.org.uk

Street Pastors - Volunteers needed for Eastleigh and Fair Oak. Could you spare one Friday night per month to listen, care and help in our community. Our training programme equips you for everything you need to join one of our patrols, and aims to set the tone for continued learning while you are out on the streets. If you are interested in finding out more about our work, or are interested in becoming a Street Pastor, please contact Eric Hyom on 07736967921 or email erichyom@hotmail.com

Suggested reading - for the next couple of months we suggest the following book: *Catholicism: A Journey To The Heart of The Faith* by Bishop Robert Barron.

Second Collection for the Cathedral - Our cathedral is situated in the most deprived part of the diocese. The parish collection covers just over half of the ordinary running costs of £5,000 per week. Please support the second collection on **25th January**. Never has this annual collection by parishes for the mother church of the diocese been more critical or needed. Thank you. You can donate online using the QR Code.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

(CONFESSION)

Tuesday:	9.30am-10.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew
Tuesday:	6.30pm-7.30pm (after Mass)	St Edward
Saturday:	10.00am-10.30am (after Mass)	Holy Cross
	5.30pm-6.00pm (before Mass)	OLQA
Sunday:	5.30pm-6.00pm (before Mass)	St Joseph
	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Edward
	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tues:	6.30pm - 7.30pm (after Mass)	St Edward
Wed:	10am -11am (after Mass)	Holy Cross
Thurs:	12.30pm - 1pm (after Mass)	OLQA
Thurs:	5pm - 6pm (before Mass)	St Joseph

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 24th January <i>St Frances de Sales</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Doreen Smith RIP Muriel Matthias & Family (Wellbeing) Gerard Cambridge RIP
Sun 25th January <i>Third 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> John William RIP Stella & Peter Bowerman RIP Anniversary Monica Tarrer RIP Anniversary Miraille Lias Fakoury RIP Sr Ancilla (Wellbeing) People of the Parish
Mon 26th January <i>St Timothy & Titus</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross	Mariah Smyth FM Helen Elizabeth Barrass RIP FM
Tues 27th January	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Pauline Lobo RIP (1st Anniversary)
Weds 28th January <i>St Thomas Aquinas</i>	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Sylvester McMahon RIP FM Mrs Edward Christian FM
Thurs 29th January	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Mary McMahon FM Thanksgiving for special birthdays
Fri 30th January	10.00am 10.00am <u>11.30am</u> 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward <u>Holy Cross</u> OLQA	Sr Catherine Carey (Wellbeing) Bernadette Keenan RIP <u>Funeral Service for Patricia Hillary RIP</u>
Sat 31st January <i>St John Bosco</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Pamela Whitter RIP Marjorie Harris & Benji Roberts RIP FM Sr Agnes (Wellbeing) Joan Applin RIP Anniversary
Sun 1st February <i>Fourth 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> Louis Bernard Periera RIP (1 month Anniversary) Calvin Nel RIP Anniversary People of the Parish Sr Rani Kurian (Wellbeing)

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)

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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

Parish Administrator: Sabrina Gardner

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Finance Administrator: Christina Geleji

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Events & Communications Co-ordinator: Faye Harris

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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