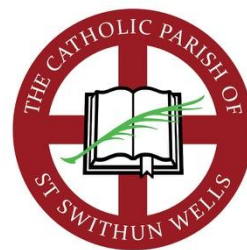


NEWSLETTER



24th May 2026: PENTECOST SUNDAY

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity N. 1199568

A Life-Changing Gift

This Sunday, we celebrate Pentecost. It was the day on which the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles, transforming their lives – and ours, too. It was after receiving this immense gift that the apostles stopped hiding and began to proclaim Christ to the world. It is the same gift that 36 young people from our parish will receive from Bishop Philip in Holy Cross Church next Sunday. It is a beautiful and life-changing gift. Some might consider this a slightly exaggerated statement, but it is not.

A few months ago, Father Pietro and I asked some teenagers from the Student Youth group (the parish group for those in the final two years of Secondary School and College) to share their experiences of faith with the Grail Seekers group (for those in school years 7-8-9). To help them prepare, Fr Pietro came up with some questions. The first was: "Could you tell us about a time in your life when you experienced an encounter with God? A specific time when you thought He was real?".

What struck me most was that everyone spoke about their Confirmation. One girl said: "One of these encounters was when I was confirmed. I had had a hectic morning trying to get ready and make it to the Cathedral on time, and I was stressed about walking up to the front of the Cathedral with loads of people I didn't know watching me. However, when I went up to the bishop, who said some words and placed the chrism oil on my forehead, I felt a warmth in my heart, and I felt at peace as if all my worries and stress had disappeared. I was so happy and felt like I had truly been saved. In the moment after I was confirmed, it felt like Jesus was giving me a hug".

Another boy said: "One of the most significant experiences in which I truly felt God's presence was when I was confirmed, which happened quite recently. I could really feel His presence through the Holy Spirit – a presence that I could not control, yet that was very tangible. I cannot put this into words, but I will try to describe some of the effects that such encounters have on me. One effect is the extreme and ultimate peace I feel in my heart, which signals that the Lord is near or even within me. Another effect is that I am able to see the world, the people around me and interactions differently – as something far more gratuitous and a direct gift from God. Encounters like this also provide a direct experience of realisation".

I think these teenagers' experiences better explain the profound meaning of the feast we are celebrating today than any speech could. The Holy Spirit is an immense and undeserved gift through which God makes himself present in our lives and gives us a peace that does not belong to us. It also gives us the ability to live life in a new way, sensing that reality is a gift from God who continually fulfils our lives.

Fr Matteo



GEM OF THE WEEK

Building Up The Good by Pope Leo
read on our website

For the next Newsletter, items should be received into the Parish Office by 10am on Tuesday 26th May 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 24th May 2026 YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK Office Proper
PSALM RESPONSE: SEND FORTH YOUR SPIRIT, O LORD, AND RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH.
1st Reading Acts 2:1-11 **Psalm** 104(103) **2nd Reading** 1st Corinth 12:3b-7, 12-13 **Gospel** John 20:19-23

Sunday 31st May 2026 YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK Office Proper
PSALM RESPONSE: TO BE PRAISED AND HIGHLY EXALTED FOR EVER!
1st Reading Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9 **Psalm** (Dn3) **2nd Reading** 2nd Corinth 13:11-13 **Gospel** John 3:16-18

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

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 Holy Cross Resource Centre.** We start with dinner together, followed by a discussion on how our faith relates to our daily lives. Next meeting: **Wednesday 3rd June.** 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 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

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 16th June 2pm to 4pm** in the **Resource Centre.** We knit hats and scarves for the homeless. Everyone welcome.

Growing In Faith Together Group (GIFT) - every Tuesday at 10.15am in the **H/Cross Resource Centre.**

MESSAGES



Stewardship Campaign - Over the last few weeks we have heard about stewardship and the financial needs of our parish. Please read the 'Renewing Our Parish Commitment' information packs, reflect on what you have heard, the needs of our parish and prayerfully consider your contribution. I would like to thank everyone for all that you already do for our parish. With your continued support, we will be able to secure the future of our parish and continue God's mission. Thank you. *Fr Raffaele*

Come & See Half Term Club (7-14yrs)
Tuesday 26th - Friday 29th May, 8.30am-3.30pm St Edward's Cloister. Registrations are now open. For any enquiries, please contact comeandsee@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk
We still have availability Wednesday and Friday.

Mass for the Sick & Housebound
Friday 22nd May 10am at St Joseph Church. There will be a special Mass 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.

This weekend we celebrate Pentecost Sunday

In our parish, we come from different nations, cultures, and traditions, yet we are one family in Christ. Pentecost reminds us that the Spirit does not erase our differences but weaves them together into a rich tapestry of faith. *Come, Holy Spirit, unite our voices in praise, our hands in service, and our hearts in love. Make our parish a beacon of welcome, joy, and peace for all people. Amen.*

MESSAGES CONTINUED



Confirmation and First Holy Communion - On **Sunday 31st May** there will be Confirmations at **3pm** at **Holy Cross Church**, everyone is welcome! Bishop Phillip will preside over the celebration and confirm our teenagers. **(For this reason there will be no Mass at 5.30pm on that day).** While on **Sunday 7th June**, there will be First Holy Communions in the morning at **St Edward, Holy Cross & St Andrew**.

Please pray for our teenagers who are going to be confirmed, and their families:

Aaron Michael, Alexander Chilczuk, Alexein Silang, Andrew Paulose, Asher Ronad, Clarence Junior Dinamling, Curtis Tarrant, Dennis Ziolkowski, Francesca Marie Lara, Georgina Louise Lumasag, John Lucas Lugares, Juci Rappini, Maegan Pereira, Maryvonne Victoria Dingle, Michael West, Mikhaela Villaver, Rei Andrea Gamana, Sarah Jamolin, Sebastián Niampira, Shawn Carlo, Victor Bednarz, Xander Lumasag, Zack Lumasag, Adimora Anakwenze, Alastair Casey, Amelia Hinton, Ania Heaton-Kostek, Daniel Simpson, Delali Atsutse, Elvis Okpala, Francesco Squicciarini, Gabriella Heaton-Kostek, Isabel Sebastian, Marcel Mroczek, Marika Bandur and Max Mroczek.

CAFOD Coffee morning and Cake Sale - Wednesday June 17th after Mass at St Edward. There will also be a raffle and new unwanted gifts for sale. Please come along and bring your friends and neighbours! All proceeds will go to support CAFOD in the poorest areas of the world. For more information, please contact Clare Lasker on 02380252138

Upcoming Parish Festival - Sunday 5th 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
If you wish to donate towards the raffle, or know of local businesses willing to contribute prizes, please also contact Faye. Any support, big or small, would be hugely appreciated.

Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) is creating a branch in Southampton. The inaugural meeting is being held on **23rd May at 10.30am** in **Eastleigh Parish Church All Saints** small hall (SO50 5NH), on the corner of Derby Rd, and Desborough Rd. Please come along and show your support.

Are you celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or more Wedding Anniversary? If so, Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of celebration. This will take place at **St Bede's church in Basingstoke** on **Saturday 20th June at 11am**. This will be followed by a buffet lunch. Please contact the office if you would like to attend and they will send you a form for you to complete and return to Kirsten McGuire kmcguire@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

St Swithun Wells School Summer Fayre 13th June, from 11am to 3pm. Everyone is welcome! Please come along to support our school.

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 are interested please speak to Fr Raffaele or contact the parish office: 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. If you are interested please speak to Fr Raffaele or contact the parish office: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

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, send them to 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.

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.

TIME A PRIEST WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET

Tuesdays:	Fr Raffaele, 3.30pm-5.30pm Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh
Wednesdays:	Fr Luca, 3.30pm-5.30pm <i>by appointment</i> Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh
Fridays:	Fr Mario 10am-12noon OLQA, Bishop's Waltham
Fridays:	Fr Pietro, 11am-12.45pm 26A Abbey Water, Romsey
Fridays:	Fr Matteo 11am-12.45pm Holy Cross Resource Centre, Eastleigh

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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Tuesdays:	9.30am-10.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew
Tuesdays:	6.30pm-7.30pm (after Mass)	St Edward
Saturdays:	10.00am-10.30am (after Mass)	Holy Cross
	4.30pm-5.00pm (before Mass)	OLQA
	5.30pm-6.00pm (before Mass)	St Joseph
Sundays:	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Edward
	8.30am-9.00am (before Mass)	St Andrew

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

* Livestreamed

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 23rd May	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Fergal and Rose (Special Intention) John Berridge RIP
Sun 24th May Pentecost Sunday	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> People of the Parish Mary Patricia Wade RIP (5 th Anniversary) Kathleen Bernadette Reynolds FM Stanisława and Józef Szczotka (Special Intention)
Mon 25th May Mary, Mother of the Church	9.30am	Holy Cross	Ellen Lane RIP FM
Tue 26th May St Philip Neri	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	
Wed 27th May St Augustine of Canterbury	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Oswald Carr RIP FM Sonny Mcternan RIP & Family members
Thur 28th May Our Lord Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	
Fri 29th May	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	Sr Margaret RIP Anniversary
Sat 30th May	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Wakuh Family (Special Intention) People of the Parish John Smee (Wellbeing)
Sun 31st May The Most Holy Trinity	8.30am 9.00am 9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 3.00pm	Holy Cross St Edward St Andrew OLQA Holy Cross * St Joseph Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i> Marie Whitty (Special Intention) For the Charlton family (Special Intention) Mark Masterman RIP Monica Dunne RIP Confirmations

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; rcossa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)

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Fr Mario Toma (Assistant Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; mtoma@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Matteo Pagani (Assistant Priest)

Tel: 023 8061 2430; mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Pietro Pausco (Assistant Priest)

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Deacon Bob Birtles

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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, Thu & Fri 9.30am - 5.30pm
Wed 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