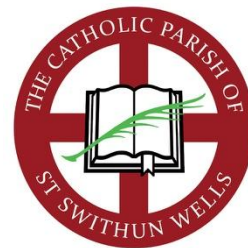


NEWSLETTER



13th September 2026: TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity N. 1199568

ZEUS'S LAW

A few days ago, I went to the cinema with some young adults from our parish to watch *The Odyssey* by Christopher Nolan, an adaptation of Homer's ancient Greek epic.

What struck me first was how a story written 2,700 years ago can still speak so powerfully to us today, in a society that seems worlds apart from the one in which Homer lived. I think the reason is simple: when a story touches the depths of the human heart—its burning questions, longings, and desires—it unites people across centuries and cultures. It reveals that the human heart is the same at every latitude and in every age.

We identify with Odysseus, the hero who embarks on a long and perilous journey driven by the desire to return home—to see again his land, his wife, and his son Telemachus. Haven't we all felt, at least once, that deep nostalgia for a place we can truly call home? Isn't this similar to the experience of many friends who decide to join the Catholic Church because they sense "it is time to go back home"?

One detail stayed with me. Several times throughout the film, characters mention the "law of Zeus," an ancient Greek moral code that required hosts to welcome strangers, feed them, and give them a place to sleep. The reason given is striking: "You must welcome strangers because it might be one of the gods travelling in human disguise."

Although Nolan may be offering a subtle critique of Western society—which in recent decades has struggled to find the right balance in welcoming strangers—this law reminded me of what St Benedict writes in his Rule. He insists that hospitality be one of the highest monastic values: "Let all guests who arrive be received as Christ." (Rule of St Benedict 53.1)

Last week, Fr Raffaele wrote in the Frontpage that this year our community wants to focus on a simple principle: attention to the person. I encourage you to read that Frontpage again. It explains beautifully that just as European civilization was renewed by Benedictine spirituality—especially its vision of human dignity, rooted in the conviction that every human being carries within himself the very presence of God—so too the renewal of any community begins not with lofty or sophisticated mission plans, but with heart-to-heart encounters between people.

Encounters that are made possible not by our effort to "be kind because it is the right thing to do," but by the discovery that - even if we come from different cultures or backgrounds - we share something profound with every human being: a heart that longs for God (the unmistakable sign of His presence within each person), and a place where a path is offered to us for finding Him.

Fr Luca



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
15th 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 13th September 2026 YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK 4

PSALM RESPONSE: THE LORD IS COMPASSIONATE AND GRACIOUS, SLOW TO ANGER AND RICH IN MERCY.

1st Reading Sirach 27:30-28:7 **Psalm** 103(102) **2nd Reading** Romans 14:7-9 **Gospel** Matthew 18:21-35

Sunday 20th September 2026 YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK 1

PSALM RESPONSE: THE LORD IS CLOSE TO ALL WHO CALL HIM.

1st Reading Isaiah 55:6-9 **Psalm** 145(144) **2nd Reading** Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a **Gospel** Matthew 20:1-16a

PARISH GROUPS



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. The group will restart on **Wednesday 16th September**.

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!

MESSAGES



Upcoming funerals - Funeral Mass for Martina Jacobs will take place on **Tuesday 15th September at 10am** at the **St Andrew Church**. Funeral Mass for Colin Atterbury will take place on **Friday 18th September at 12Noon** at the **St Edward church**. Please pray for the repose of their souls and for their families.

Exaltation of the Holy Cross - On **Monday 14th September** we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Holy Cross in **Holy Cross Church** at **9.30am**. Please come along if you can to pray for the community of our church.

OLQA Fundraiser Quiz - **Saturday 19th September at 6.30pm**. £15 entry includes a charcuterie board and a drink. Under 12 free, teams of 6 to 8 can be arranged. We will raise money to help support a young parishoner on his trip to the European Scout Jamboree. Please contact Marie Kemp 07760 809640 or Coralie 07468 869913.

CL Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Caversham - Organised by the Communion and Liberation communities in the Diocese of Portsmouth. On **Sunday 20th September** there will be a pilgrim walk from Sonning to Caversham with meditations, the praying of the Rosary, singing, confessions, and Mass. It is open to adults and children of any age. The event will start at **10.30am** and finish at **4.30pm**. For more information and registration, please see our website.

The next Good Companions lunch - will be held on **Friday 25th September** in the **Cloister at St Edward Church**. Lunch is served **12Noon - 2pm**. Everyone is welcome. Any queries, please contact Louise 07931 251111 or Clare 07538 347299.

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

Parish Lunch at the Wheatsheaf, Braishfield - On **Wednesday 14th October**, meals to be served at **12.30pm**. All are welcome. The menus and prices to be confirmed. If you are interested in coming please let Rosemary (01794 522411) know before **Sunday 4th October**.

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**. For further information please contact Eric Hyom on 07736 967921, erichyom@hotmail.com

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*



Second Collection – Next weekend **19th/20th September** there will be a second collection for Missio (World Mission Sunday).

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)

Holy Cross Sundays 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form)

Holy Cross Fridays 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Our Youth Groups for children in primary school and young people in secondary school will restart at the end of September 2026. They are also the path we propose to those who want to be prepared to receive **First Holy Communion and Confirmation**. Registrations for the year 2026/2027 are now open on our website:

www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk (scroll down to Youth Groups).

We would like to remind you that if a child or a teenager wants to be prepared to receive First Holy Communion (and is at least in school year 3) or Confirmation (and is at least in school year 9) we will ask them to come regularly to one of the three groups according to their age. They will receive First Holy Communion or Confirmation when they are ready (usually after one year).

There will be a meeting on **Saturday 19th September at 11am in St Edward's cloister** for all the parents and guardians where we will present the **2026/2027 Stars of Abraham programme**. The meetings for the children will start the following week. Another meeting to present the Stars of Abraham programme in the Romsey & North Baddesley area will be held at **St Andrew's Church, North Baddesley on Friday 25th September at 6pm**. The meetings for the children will start the following week.

A meeting with the parents of Grail Seekers will be held on **Friday 18th September at 6.30pm in Holy Cross Resource Centre**.

Student Youth Group will start on **Friday 25th September**.

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 Paul Owen 執事：powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk 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 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.

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.

Suggested readings and films – It is always nice to take the time for a good book or a film. You will find new suggestions on our website:

<https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/books-and-movies>

Eastleigh Basics Bank - Needs You!

The Basics Bank is looking for a volunteer to be secretary to the management committee. Key tasks are booking, agenda and minutes for bi-monthly management meeting, and correspondence, predominantly with supporting organisations. Some experience of administration including use of computer e.g. Microsoft word required. This is a great opportunity to help if you are not suited to a more physical role in the shop or warehouse. Please, consider joining us in helping our neighbours in need. For more information, please email Marina Joyce at volunteering@eastleighbasicsbank.co.uk

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 in 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.

Two Saints donations at St Edwards – Please ONLY donate men's & ladies pants & socks now, as they have limited storage. Many thanks!

Parish Pilgrimage – We are planning a Parish Pilgrimage to Norwich and Walsingham. It will be at the end of April / beginning of May 2027. More information will come soon.

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.

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 12th Sept	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Edward	People of the Parish Anne Widdecombe RIP
Sun 13th Sept Twenty-fourth 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> The Layzell Family (Special Intention) Kathleen & Abert Harrison RIP Anniversary Majorie Harris RIP Monica Dunne RIP
Mon 14th Sept The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	9.30am	Holy Cross	All the parishioners of Holy Cross Church (past and present)
Tue 15th Sept Our Lady of Sorrows	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Funeral Mass for Martina Jacobs RIP Mrs Edward Christian FM
Wed 16th Sept Ss Cornelius & Cyprian	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Sarah Prince RIP
Thur 17th Sept	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Rosa Donovan (Wellbeing)
Fri 18th Sept	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward St Edward OLQA	Funeral Mass for Colin Atterbury RIP
Sat 19th Sept	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Trish Cassidy RIP
Sun 20th Sept Twenty-fifth 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> Zdsilaw Krupa RIP Anniversary Newton Carrasco RIP Anniversary Juliene Wakuh (40 th Birthday Intention) People of the Parish Bert Stephens RIP

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

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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