



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ

12th October 2025: TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WHAT AM I PRO?

"Are you more liberal or conservative? Traditional or progressive? What are your views on the war in Palestine and Ukraine?" I often find myself in conversations where people ask me these kind of questions and which side I take on divisive issues. Before answering, I usually pause and ask myself what the Church teaches—especially the words of the Pope and the Bishops.

I know, it might sound like the classic ostrich move: burying your head in the sand, dodging responsibility, and hiding behind someone else's voice. But for me, it's different. Something happened in my life that changed everything. At a certain point on my journey, I came to understand—deeply and clearly—that through a group of friends, I had encountered Someone who holds the key to the world. Someone through whom life finally makes sense. Someone whom, after years of walking with Him, I know I can trust, because He knows me better than I know myself. Someone whom, in time, I learned to call by His real name—Jesus Christ—who, though born two thousand years ago, is still present today whenever two or three gather in His name, with His challenging voice, His unconditional love, and His penetrating judgment.

In a recent interview Pope Leo said:

Why is the world so polarised? What's going on? I think there are a lot of elements that have led to this. I don't pretend to have all the answers, but I certainly see the reality in some of the results. The crisis of 2020 and the pandemic certainly had an effect on all of this, but I think it began further back...Perhaps in some places the loss of a higher sense of what human life is about would have something to do with that, which has affected people on many levels. The value of human life, of the family, and the value of society. If we lose the sense of those values, what matters anymore?

I think the Gospel addresses some of these questions from a basis which comes out of a sense of being sons and daughters of God, who is Creator, of God who sent His Son, who incarnated among us and who taught us the value of human life, keeping an eye on eternal life. If we lose the horizon, you lose your compass, you may be wandering in vain and not knowing where to go (Pope Leo).

When I listen to the voice of the Church today—especially the voice of our Pope—I don't find straightforward answers about politics, society, or polarising issues. Instead, I find sound teaching rooted in Christ: teaching about what it means to be human, what we are made of and made for.

The Church's words feel less like an imposition of extreme or partial views, and more like an invitation to see the whole picture: the human being is not merely a bundle of instincts, sharp reasoning, or physical and psychological abilities—capable of both great and terrible things. He is a creature in search of his Creator with the entirety of his being: spirit, soul, body, mind, and psyche. The more I listen to the voice of the Church, the more I realise that it is also my own—the voice of the person I am but often forget to be, and the person I long to become.

So if someone were to ask me today, "Are you pro-right or pro-left, pro-this or pro-that?" I would answer, "Neither. I am pro-Christ and His Church, and pro-everything they stand for, in its entirety, and ready to rediscover its implications every day with anyone willing to do the same".

Fr Luca

GEM OF THE WEEK

"To remain as an act of love" by Cardinal Pizzaballa
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 15th 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 12th October 2025 YEAR C - YEAR 1 - PSALTER WEEK 4

PSALM RESPONSE: THE LORD HAS SHOWN HIS SALVATION TO THE NATIONS

1st Reading Second Book of Kings 5:14 -17 Psalm 98 (97) 2nd Reading Timothy 2:8 -13 Gospel Luke 17:11-19

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

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

Pilgrimage to Portugal - after the success of last year's pilgrimage we are organising another parish pilgrimage to Portugal (Lisbon and Fatima). It 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.

Vacancy for St Swithun Wells Parish Administrator

Part-time 15 hours per week to be split over three days - working pattern to be agreed at interview.

Salary £9,523.80. Are you an experienced Administrator with secretarial knowledge, looking for a role where your skills can make a real difference? St Swithun Wells Parish is seeking a Parish Secretary to be

working in the Parish office, Holy Cross Church, Eastleigh and reporting to the Parish Priest. Role purpose: A full job description and application pack can be found on our parish website. Please send a CV and covering letter outlining your relevant experience and reasons for applying for the role to HR at: recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Please state Parish Administrator SSW in the headline of your email. Closing date for applications: Sunday 19th October 2025 at 10pm.

Cultural Friday - 17th October, 7pm at St Edwards. Exhibition: The Wonder of Reality: a dialogue with Scientists and their discoveries. During the evening Marco Pisa (one of the curators) will present the Exhibition which invites you to rediscover your sense of wonder through the stories of contemporary scientists and their groundbreaking discoveries. Cheese and wine from 7pm, the talk starts at 7.30pm. Suggested donation of £1.

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: 2+2nd October.

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

Our next club will take place during the **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. If you would like to volunteer and help in any way, please contact Fr. Luca at:
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 **by Sunday, 19 October 2025**:

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

Consultation - Your opinion matters - Following the announcement about the proposed new Parish Centre and the closure of one of our churches, we would like to hear from you. Information booklets are available on our website and we ask you to consider and respond to the online survey which is also on our parish website **by 14 October**. Paper copies of the survey are also available and should be returned to the parish office by 14 October marked 'consultation'. A meeting will be held at 2pm on 12th October in St Swithun Wells church, Fair Oak to discuss.

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.

Diocesan Day for Ministers of the Word

Saturday 18th October, 10am, - 2pm. at St Bedes Church, Basingstoke. This is for anyone who is, or might like to become a reader at Masses. If you would like to attend please register your name on the Liturgy section of the Portsmouth Diocesan website.

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

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday: St Edward - after Mass (6.30pm-7.30pm)

Wednesday: Holy Cross - after Mass (10am-11am)

Thursday: OLQA - after Mass (12.30pm-1pm)

Thursday: St Joseph - before Mass (5pm-6pm)

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 11th Oct	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	People of the Parish Maria Jacobs RIP Anniversary Marcin Koronkiewicz (Birthday Intention) Dr Clare Fearon (Wellbeing) Bill Barry RIP
Sun 12th Oct <i>Twenty Eighth 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> Ian Warwick FM Jesus Ocaya & Francisco Villaver RIP Tom Cummings RIP Anniversary Keith Small RIP Gail Patrick RIP Anniversary Brian Roy Smith RIP
Mon 13th Oct	9.30am	Holy Cross	Intentions of The Layzell Family
Tues 14th Oct	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Peter Allan RIP Mrs Edward Christian FM
Weds 15th Oct <i>St Teresa of Avila</i>	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Allan Bartrop RIP
Thurs 16th Oct	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Ronald Grieg & William Greig RIP Barbara Crowther (100th Birthday Anniversary)
Fri 17th Oct <i>St. Ignatius of Antioch</i>	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	Barbara Crowther (100th Birthday Anniversary) Fr. Scott Anderson (Special 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)

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