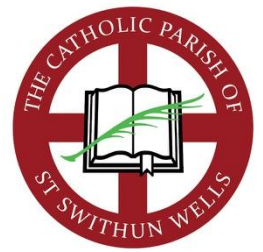


NEWSLETTER

9th August 2026: NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity N. 1199568



TAKE HEART; IT IS I. HAVE NO FEAR.

In this Sunday's Gospel we find Jesus who, after withdrawing to the mountain, prays throughout the night. The Lord, having distanced himself from the people and the disciples, manifests his communion with the Father and the need to pray in solitude, far from the commotion of the world.

This distancing, however, must not be seen as a lack of interest in individuals or trust in the Apostles. On the contrary, Matthew recounts, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat, "and go before him to the other side" (Mt 14:22), where he would see them again. In the meantime the boat "was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them" (v. 24). And so in the fourth watch of the night [Jesus] came to them, walking on the sea" (v. 25); the disciples were terrified, mistaking him for a ghost and "cried out for fear" (v. 26). They did not recognize him, they did not realize that it was the Lord.

Nonetheless Jesus reassured them: "Take heart, it is I; have no fear" (v. 27). This is an episode from which the Fathers of the Church drew a great wealth of meaning. The sea symbolizes this life and the instability of the visible world; the storm points to every kind of trial or difficulty that oppresses human beings. The boat, instead, represents the Church, built by Christ and steered by the Apostles.

Jesus wanted to teach the disciples to bear life's adversities courageously, trusting in God, in the One who revealed himself to the Prophet Elijah on Mount Horeb "in a still small voice" [the whispering of a gentle breeze] (1 Kings 19:12).

The passage then continues with the actions of the Apostle Peter. Moved by love for his Teacher, Peter asks Jesus to call him forward so that he too may walk on the water. "But when he saw that the wind was strong, he became afraid, and beginning to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!'" (Mt 14:30).

St Augustine, imagining that he was addressing the Apostle, commented: the Lord "leaned down and took you by the hand. With your strength alone you cannot rise. Hold tight to the hand of the One who reaches down to you" (En. in Ps. 95, 7: PL 36, 1233), and he did not say this to Peter alone but also to us.

Peter walks on the water, not by his own effort but rather through divine grace in which he believes. And when he was consumed by doubt, when he no longer fixed his gaze on Jesus but was frightened by the gale, when he failed to put full trust in the Teacher's words, it means that he was interiorly distancing himself from the Teacher and so risked sinking in the sea of life.

So it is also for us: if we look only at ourselves we become dependent on the winds and can no longer pass through storms on the waters of life. The great thinker Romano Guardini wrote that the Lord "is always close, being at the root of our being. Yet we must experience our relationship with God between the poles of distance and closeness. By closeness we are strengthened, by distance we are put to the test".

Pope Benedict XVI



GEM OF THE WEEK
NO GREATER LOVE TALK
Watch via our website

For the next Newsletter, items should be received into the Parish Office by 10am on Tuesday
18th August 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 9th August 2026 YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK 3

PSALM RESPONSE: SHOW US, O LORD, YOUR MERCY, AND GRANT US YOUR SALVATION.

1st Reading 1st Kings 19:9a, 11-13a **Psalm** 85(84) **2nd Reading** Romans 9:1-5 **Gospel** Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday 16th August 2026 YEAR A - YEAR 2 - OFFICE PROPER

PSALM RESPONSE: ON YOUR RIGHT STANDS THE QUEEN IN GOLD OF OPHIR.

1st Reading Revelation 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab **Psalm** 45(44) **2nd Reading** 1st Corinth 15:20-27 **Gospel** Luke 1:39-56

MESSAGES



Message from Kevin Allen – Kevin Allen and family would like to thank the parishioners for the many messages of condolence following the funeral for Mary-Ann.

Upcoming funerals – Funeral Mass for Leonora Scappaticci will take place on **Thursday 13th August** at **11.30am** at **St Edward's church**. Please pray for the repose of her soul and for her family. Funeral service for Margaret Smith will take place on **Monday 17th August** at **12.30pm** at the **Test Valley Crematorium, Romsey**. Please pray for the repose of her soul and for her family.

Office Closure – Please note that the Parish office in Holy Cross will be closed **Friday 14th August** and **Friday 21st August**.

St Joseph's and St Andrew's Church BBQ
Sunday 16th August 12.30pm at **St Andrew's Church**. Everyone is welcome. We will provide the meat and drinks. Please bring along some sides and desserts to share. No charge, but donations are welcome. The sign up form is on the home page of our website, or ask Fr Pietro for a paper copy.

Suggested readings and films for the summer

August is always a wonderful month to take the time for a good book or a film. You will find some suggestions on our website:

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

CL Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Caversham – Organised by the Communion and Liberation communities in the Diocese of Portsmouth. On **Sunday 20th September 2026** 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

Street Pastors – Could you spare one Friday night per month to listen, care and help in our community. We need more volunteers, especially ladies to reach out to the vulnerable young girls we meet. 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**.

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 2026 at 11am in St Edward's cloister** for all the parents and guardians where we will present the **2026/2027 Stars of Abraham programme**.

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**.

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.

Health and Safety Rep OLOA & Safeguarding Rep St Joseph/St Andrew Needed

Our parish is seeking volunteers who may be interested in serving as a Health and Safety Rep for OLOA church and Safeguarding Rep for St Joseph and St Andrew churches. These are essential roles that are required for the running of our churches and communities. If you are interested please speak to Fr Raffaele, Fr Pietro and Fr Mario or contact the parish office: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

MESSAGES CONTINUED



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.

Please contact your MP to oppose assisted suicide

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is back in the House of Commons and seeks to legalise assisted suicide. It will have its Second Reading and vote on Friday, 11 September 2026. Please write to your MP to make your voice heard and oppose the Bill.

"This bill is wrong in principle," says Archbishop Richard Moth, President of the Bishops' Conference, "It is also deeply flawed and, if passed, could lead to vulnerable people feeling pressured into ending their lives. The Bill has a serious lack of protection for health and social care staff and risks putting many wonderful hospices and care homes in the position of no longer being able to operate. I urge you to write to your Members of Parliament to petition them to vote against the Bill at Second Reading."

You can support the Archbishop's call and contact your MP now as a matter of urgency. Even if you have already done so in the past, please speak up and voice your opposition. The charity Right to Life UK has a simple online mechanism to do this. It takes little more than a few minutes to enter your postcode, make sure the suggested text suits your viewpoint and submit your message to ask your MP to stop this flawed Bill progressing through parliament.

For more information and resources, visit:

cbcw.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide and righttolife.org.uk/Sept11vote

We need your help! The future of our school minibs service depends on it

One of our wonderful drivers retired in July, and despite advertising for the past two years, we still haven't been able to recruit a replacement. If we can't fill the role before September, we may only be able to run **one** daily bus service – something we really want to avoid. **Do you know someone who might be interested?** 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. Ideally, we'd love to build a small bank of staff to help keep the service running smoothly. More details can be found on our school website, please share with anyone who might be a good fit. Any enquiries please contact the school.

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

Times to Meet a Priest – Our priests will not be holding their regular sessions until September, but remain available to meet you. Please either see them after Mass or email them.

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

*** Livestreamed**

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 8th Aug St Dominic	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Edward	People of the Parish Special Intention Bernard & Frances Weaver RIP Eric Rozenski RIP
Sun 9th Aug Nineteenth 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> Helena & Jan Gaca RIP Anniversary Harold & Carmen Butcher 60 th Wedding Anniversary Gagetan (In Thanksgiving for his birthday) John Gare RIP Anniversary
Mon 10th Aug St Laurence	9.30am	Holy Cross	Living & deceased members of the Davis & Lengyel Families FM Mike Walsh RIP Anniversary
Tue 11th Aug St Clare	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Living & deceased of Johns family FM
Wed 12th Aug	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	
Thur 13th Aug	9.30am	Holy Cross	In loving memory of Mary Marjorie Haslam RIP

Thur 13th Aug	11.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	St Edward OLQA St Joseph	Funeral Mass for Leonora Scappaticci RIP Nigel Tait RIP Anniversary
Fri 14th Aug St Maximilian Maria Kolbe	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	The Crowther & Haimes families, living and deceased In loving memory of Skipton Leonard & Mary Marjorie Haslam RIP Piotr Zebrowski RIP (7 th Anniversary)
Sat 15th Aug	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Mary & Hugh McTernan RIP & family members People of the Parish Layzell family (Special Intention)
Sun 16th Aug The Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary	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> Christina, Géza & Sándor (Health and Wellbeing) Alan French RIP Anniversary Reverend Paul Beaumont RIP FM
Mon 17th Aug	9.30am	Holy Cross	Michael Lane RIP FM
Tue 18th Aug	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Mrs Edward Christian FM
Wed 19th Aug	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	The Layzell Family (Special Intention)
Thur 20th Aug St Bernard	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Kathleen Bernadette Reynolds FM RIP (40 th Anniversary)
Fri 21st Aug St Pius X	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	Samantha Harris (Special Intention)
Sat 22nd Aug The Queenship of Mary	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Victor & Gina Sullivan RIP Living & deceased of Harry & Cavanagh Families FM
Sun 23rd Aug Twenty-first 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> People of the Parish John Marlow RIP Anniversary

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

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Parish Office Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh
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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