



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ
24th AUGUST 2025: TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

REAWAKEN OUR SENSE OF WONDER

Last week, during the weekdays, we read the Gospel in which Jesus tells the people who came to listen to him that in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, they need to become like children. You can call it a simple phrase, but it's the kind of thing that, the more you think about it, the more you realise how deep it is. And the more you do that, the more you realise what it means to become like children. Of the many reasons why Jesus asks us to become like children, one in particular became clear to me after the *Come and See Club* last week.

As many of you will know, *Come and See* is a week-long club that we organise for children during the half-term and summer holidays. This time, on the Tuesday, we visited the New Forest Wildlife Park. It is a small zoo where you can find different types of animals, mainly forest animals, but not only. It was a wonderful day! This was certainly due to the beauty of the animals we saw, from the majesty of the adult deer to the elegance of the otter's movements. However, what struck me most was how amazed the children were to see the animals. The younger the children were, the greater their sense of wonder. I particularly remember the bright eyes and dazzling smile of an eight-year-old girl standing in front of her favourite animal, the snowy owl (the same one you can see in the Harry Potter films). I also remember the joy of a seven-year-old boy when he finally saw the wildcat. And not to mention when we passed by the fawn enclosure where the children could stroke them!

Looking at the sense of wonder these children had, I began to understand one of the many meanings of Jesus' words in the Gospel: that we need to become like children to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Becoming like children means reawakening our sense of wonder at the world around us. This helps us to realise that everything we have is a gift. We realise that the beauty of the world around us is a gift from God. But why? Why is a sense of wonder so important? Because wonder gives rise to gratitude. If we no longer allow ourselves to be amazed by anything, we take everything for granted, making it more difficult to be grateful to God for His gifts. However, if we rekindle our sense of wonder at the things around us, thanking the Lord for the beauty of his gifts in our lives will come more naturally. It's just like the little girl who was amazed and full of wonder when she saw a family of wallabies hopping alongside her.

Fr Matteo

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is Pope Leo - The Jubilee Vigil for Young People. You can find this on our website.
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 27th August 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 24th August 2025: Year C - Year 1 - PSALTER WEEK 1

PSALM RESPONSE: GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS.

1st reading Isaiah 66:18-21 **Psalm** 117 (116) **2nd reading** Hebrews 12:5-7,11-13 **Gospel** Luke 13:22-30

Sunday 31st August 2025: YEAR C - YEAR 1- PSALTER WEEK 2

PSALM RESPONSE: IN YOUR GOODNESS, O GOD, YOU PROVIDED A HOME FOR THE POOR.

1st reading Sirach 3:17-18,20,28-29 **Psalm** 68 (67) **2nd reading** Hebrews 12:18-19,22-24a **Gospel** Luke 14:1,7-14

MESSAGES



Flower Mass 2025 - The yearly Mass for the flower arrangers in the parish will be offered on **Friday 22nd August at OLQA at 12 noon**. All members of the parish who are involved with the flowers at our churches are invited to join us beforehand at 10.30am for morning coffee and biscuits in the hall. For any enquiries please contact: paulinestmargaret@gmail.com

Message from The CAFOD group and the Knights of St Columba - we invite you to a parish barbeque at **St Edwards on Saturday 23rd August, from 1pm**. Tickets cost £12 and will include food (with dessert) and a first free drink. Children under 12 are FREE. BBQ, dessert, and raffle contributions all gratefully accepted and there will be a CAFOD produce stall. Enquiries to Neil Hendricks 023 8026 6324. Places are limited, so don't delay!

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**. More details to follow. Save the Date!

Invitation from Communion & Liberation Groups - to join their 'Beginning of The Year Pilgrimage' on **Sunday 14th September**. The day will start at **10.30am in St Peter's Parish Hall in Marlow** and will include a meditation led by Fr Luca, a pilgrimage walk, a talk by the parish priest about the history of St Peter's church, confessions and Mass. The walk will include praying the Rosary, singing and quiet meditation. Please bring your own packed lunch. We expect to finish by **4.30pm**. For more details and to register please go to the parish website.

Awake My Soul - a group for young adults in the parish will begin in September. We will meet every other Wednesday from 7pm until around 9pm 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. The first meeting will be on **Wednesday 24th September**.

Parish Secretary - Please welcome Mary Dingle who has been appointed as our new Parish Secretary. **Mary starts on Wednesday 3rd September** and will be working with Patricia for a couple of weeks.

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) *New time: Sundays 6.30pm to 8.30pm*
Student Youth (school year 10 until sixth form) *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 2025. 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 2025/2026 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 20th September 2025 at 11am in St Edward's cloister** for all the parents and guardians where we will present the **2025/2026 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 26th September at 5pm**.

The first event of Grail Seekers and Student Youth will be a weekend away from **Friday 19th September to Sunday 21st September at St Cassian's Centre, Kintbury**. For more information about the weekend and to register please go to our website.



Gift Aid Personal Statements

To save on postage costs this year, the parish will not be sending out individual gift aid statements. If you would like a copy of your statement, please contact your church's Gift Aid coordinator and they will be glad to email it to you:

St Andrew's and St Joseph's: David Martin

giftaid.sjsa@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

St Edward's: Donna Scappaticci or Mike Greenslade

giftaid.seb@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

giftaid.sea@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Holy Cross, St Swithun Wells & OLQA: Patricia

Baggott giftaid.hcolqa@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

We warmly thank all who support the parish through planned giving, as well as those who give through the loose plate. Every offering is a valued part of our parish life and mission. Please read the insert with this newsletter.

St John Henry Newman - Pope Leo XIV will officially declare St John Henry Newman, the 38th Doctor of the Church for the abiding impact of his teaching on the universal Church. Cardinal Newman is only the second Englishman to be afforded this title, after St Bede the Venerable.

Stop assisted suicide - action needed!

The Leadbeater assisted suicide Bill is expected to have its Second Reading in the House of Lords on Friday 12 September. Right To Life UK has launched an *EasyAction* tool to help you write to a few Peers with a tailored message to highlight key concerns with the Bill. Please take action now and visit www.righttolife.org.uk/aspeers to ask Peers to oppose assisted suicide - it takes just 30 seconds!

Marriage Help - Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Next date: **17th October to 19th October**. www.retrouvaille.org.uk
Tel: 0788 7296983

The Divine Mercy Apostolate London - is holding a Celebration of St Faustina Birthday at Aylesford Priory, Aylesford, Kent on Bank Holiday **Monday 25th August 2025 from 10.30am to 4pm**. The reflection day will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Stations of the Cross, Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. Call Millie on 07957594646 for more information. All welcome.

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 (email details and phone numbers are on the last page of this newsletter).

Sacramental Preparation for Adults (RCIA)

If you would like to be baptised, confirmed or received into the Catholic Church (or know more about the Catholic faith) please email Deacon Paul Owen: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or alternatively please speak to a priest.

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. 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.

New to the Parish? A very warm welcome to our Parish; we are delighted that you have joined us. If you are looking to regularly attend one of our churches and join our vibrant community, please complete one of the 'New to the Parish Registration Forms' available on our parish website: www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk and in the church Welcoming Areas. All families are welcome at **ALL** Masses, however we have specific Children's Liturgies on Sundays. Please ask one of the Welcomers for details of the times at your Church.

Congratulations and marriage blessings - to Therese Marie Monaghan and Thomas Oliver Everatt on their marriage. The nuptial wedding took place at the Sacred Heart Church Wimbledon on Saturday 9th August. Wishing the couple every blessing and happiness for all the years ahead.

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)

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

5.30pm-6.00pm (before Mass) St Joseph

Sunday: 8.30am-9.00am (before Mass) St Edward

8.30am-9.00am (before Mass) St Andrew

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sat 23rd August	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	People of The Parish Delsa Llosa (Birthday Thanksgiving)
Sunday 24th August <i>Twenty First 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> Denis McCormack RIP Ramon & Nelita Hechanova RIP Steven Laferla RIP 2nd Anniversary Raymond Kelly RIP 4th Anniversary John Marlow RIP Anniversary Frederick John Johnson FM
Mon 25th August	9.30am	Holy Cross	Special Intention to Our Lady, St Joseph & St Padre Pio
Tues 26th August	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Thomas Lee (Health & Wellbeing)
Wed 27th August <i>St Monica</i>	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Ron & Collette Reynolds FM Paul Bowman RIP
Thurs 28th August <i>St Augustine of Hippo</i>	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Thomas Charles Robinson FM
Fri 29th August <i>The Passion of St John the Baptist</i>	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	John Marsh RIP Anniversary
Sat 30th August	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Sunny Thomas RIP Maureen Vokes RIP
Sunday 31st August <i>Twenty Second 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> Susan Butcher RIP Anniversary Mary Quinn RIP 1st Anniversary Leopoldo Aggalot RIP People of The Parish

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: rcossa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: lspeziale@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Mario Toma (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: mtoma@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Matteo Pagani (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: mpagani@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Pietro Paiusco (Assistant Priest)
Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: ppaiusco@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Bob Birtles
Tel: 023 8069 2416; E: bbirtles@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon John di Meo
Tel: 01794 515688; E: jdimeo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Paul Owen
Tel: 023 8025 4806; E: powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Paul Wilson
Tel: 023 8061 6618; E: pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Emmanuel Chituh
Tel: 07915 379686; E: echituh@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Office Holy Cross Church, 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh,
SO50 9DF Tel: 02380 273882
Please see revised times in newsletter.

Finance Administrator: Christina Geleji
Email: accounts@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Parish Secretary: interim - Patricia Mitchell
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