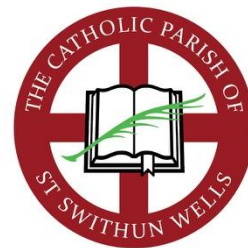


NEWSLETTER



18th October 2026: TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity N. 1199568

AUTUMN LEAVES

One morning I arrived at the Church of Our Lady Queen of Apostles in Bishop's Waltham, and seeing that the entrance with the ramp was covered in leaves, I picked up the broom and swept them all away. The next day I arrived and saw there were still lots of leaves on the ramp, even though I'd already cleaned it the day before. I looked up and saw that the nearby trees were still full of leaves. Therefore, as it is autumn, a fair number would probably fall every day.

So I had to decide: do I clear the ramp, knowing it will be full of leaves again tomorrow, or do I leave them there to pile up? The problem is that if someone in a wheelchair needs to get in, all those leaves would prevent them from getting in easily. Or elderly people who struggle to walk might slip on the leaves and hurt themselves badly. So I thought: I'll give it a quick sweep; it doesn't cost me much, and at least I'll have peace of mind knowing that whoever arrives that morning will find the path clear and can enter the church safely.

Whilst I was thinking all this through, a comparison came to mind: after all, the leaves are like our sins. Through confession, we cleanse our souls of the bad things we have done and of the shame for the good things we have failed to do, thus restoring our souls to purity. We know full well that the devil is always lying in wait and that, the very moment after confession, we are under his relentless attack. Just as the Pharisees were with Jesus, as this Sunday's Gospel says, "they went and plotted how to entangle Jesus in his words". Therefore, just as with the leaves on the ramp, our soul too could immediately become soiled with the stains of our sins.

Yet, after confessing our sins, we are pure; we are like saints, and whoever meets us is as though they were meeting Jesus himself—his purity, his patience, his merciful gaze. Those who meet us encounter a clean path, free of leaves and therefore safe for walking towards Jesus. Therefore, confession, as well as placing us in a state of grace, is also a way of truly being missionaries. Indeed, what a Christian desires most is for the whole world to know Jesus. Therefore, even though we know that after confession we will probably fall back into our usual sins, we should go to confession anyway.

Let us go to confession, for sooner or later all the leaves on the trees will fall, and the Lord's grace will prevail over our limitations and shortcomings.

In any case, let us ask for the grace to transform our vices into virtues, and let us not be content with excuses such as, "That's just the way I am and there's nothing I can do" or "I did this only on instinct, not out of malice", or "it doesn't matter the confession, because tomorrow I will commit anew the same sins" and so on.

Let us ask, especially in this month of October, for the help of Our Mother, who lived a life of utter virtue because she was devoted and very close to Jesus and always eager to do God's will. And I am sure she, too, always swept the entrance to her house so that Joseph and Jesus could come and go safely.

Fr Mario



GEM OF THE WEEK

A THIRST FOR MEANING, FOR TRUTH AND FULFILMENT - POPE LEO

Read on our website

For the next Newsletter, items should be received into the Parish Office by 10am on Tuesday 20th October 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 18th October 2026 YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK 1

PSALM RESPONSE: ASCRIBE TO THE LORD GLORY AND POWER.

1st Reading Isaiah 45:1, 4-6 **Psalm** 96(95) **2nd Reading** 1st Thessalonians 1:1-5b **Gospel** Matthew 22:15-21

Sunday 25th October 2026 YEAR A - YEAR 2 - PSALTER WEEK 2

PSALM RESPONSE: I LOVE YOU, LORD, MY STRENGTH.

1st Reading Exodus 22:20-26 **Psalm** 18(17) **2nd Reading** 1st Thessalonians 1:5c-10 **Gospel** Matthew 22:34-40

PARISH GROUPS



Ark of Fellowship - A group for those with learning disabilities or learning difficulties, their families and friends. **Thursdays at 6.30pm** in **Holy Cross Resource Centre**. Contact: arkoffellowship.sswp@gmail.com

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

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.

Growing In Faith Together Group (GIFT) - every **Tuesday at 10.15am** in the **H/Cross Resource Centre**. This week we will be continuing Wk.2 of a 3-week talk exploring Early Christianity in Britain. Everyone is very 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**.

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) *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:

<https://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/our-groups>

Communion & Liberation Groups

School of Community meet weekly at:

Holy Cross presbytery every Wednesday at 8pm;
St Edward's every Thursday at 8pm.

For more information please see the groups section on our website. All are welcome.

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! The group is family friendly. **Every first Thursday** of the month there is Eucharistic Adoration. For info please email: voiceofpraise.sswp@gmail.com

MESSAGES



Second Collection - World Mission Sunday: 18th October - The theme for this year's World Mission Sunday is 'One in Christ, united in mission.' It marks the 100th anniversary of this global celebration. In his message for this day, Pope Leo says: 'Your prayers and practical support, on World Mission Sunday, will be a great help in bringing the Gospel of God's love to everyone, especially the poorest and those most in need. Every gift, no matter how small, becomes a meaningful act of missionary communion. I renew my heartfelt gratitude for everything you will do to help me help missionaries throughout the world.'
For more information, visit missio.org.uk/wms.

Upcoming Funerals - Please pray for the repose of the soul of Julia Bintcliffe who recently passed away. Her funeral will be held **Friday 23rd October at 11am** in **Holy Cross church**. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Teresa Ardani who recently passed away. Her funeral will be held **Friday 23rd October at 11.30am** in **St Edward church**.

The 72 Heralds project - aims to address the loneliness experienced by elderly people in care homes in the Romsey area. Up to 15 Extraordinary Ministers of Communion visit them regularly and we may also be able to hold prayer sessions with Christians of other denominations, with the approval and support of the care home manager. We know that many nurses and carers in our community work in these care homes. It would be great to find a way to work together to make the 72 Heralds' mission more effective and widely known.

If you are a nurse or carer at Abbotswood Court, Cedar Lawn, Dunwood Manor, Durban House, Knights' Grove, Marie Louise House, Nightingale Lodge, Waverley Lodge, Woodley Grange or Fryers House, please email: 72heralds.sswp@gmail.com to let us know. We will then get back to you to discuss collaboration. All parishioners can also let us know about a relative or friend for us to visit by contacting us via the email above.



Family booklet – The booklet that you received two weeks ago is a guide for family life. You can download a copy of it on our website.

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

End of British Summer Time

Please remember that the clocks go back by one hour next **weekend of 24th/25th October**.

Come & See Half Term Club (6-17yrs)

Monday 26th - Friday 30th October, 8.30am-3.30pm St Edward's Cloister. Registrations are open.
Cost: £12 per child per day. £6 for additional siblings. Spaces are limited. For any enquiries, please contact comeandsee@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk
For more information and to book your child's place please go to the parish website.

Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 1st November 1-4pm in Pavilion on the Park. An event for all of the parish, especially families. We begin at 1pm, sharing a meal together followed by some activities and a discussion. No cost, however we kindly ask you to give a donation to cover the hire of the Pavilion. Please bring some food, beverages or cakes to share with others. Please can you bring your own cups/plates/cutlery. Please include a list of ingredients so those with allergies can make an informed decision. To book your place please go to our parish website.
We will discuss the topic of **Dialogue** from the booklet "A Christian Journey for Families".

Cultural Friday – On **Friday 20th November at 7pm** in **St Edward** we will have two speakers coming to talk about AI so please save this date. They are Adriana Wilde and Richard Gomer, Mayor of Eastleigh.

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. If you have been unable to register via our website, you can now use the paper forms which will be available in the church welcome area. Please return to the parish office or a member of Clergy once complete.

Catholics in Hospital – It is crucially important that when a Catholic is admitted to hospital, the family ensure that the Catholic Chaplaincy is contacted so that appropriate support can be given. One suggestion is that the patient carries a note to give to hospital staff on admission notifying staff that they are Catholic and that they would really appreciate the Catholic chaplaincy service. This could be followed up by a call from the family to the ward, making the request. Let us pray for our magnificent chaplains in their irreplaceable work.

Parish Calendar – The new parish calendar for September 2026 – August 2027 will be on display in the church welcome area for reference to important dates throughout the year.

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 **18th 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.

Parish Pilgrimage – There will be a Parish Pilgrimage to Norwich and Walsingham. It will be from **Monday 26th - Thursday 29th April 2027**. The cost will be £450. The deadline to book and pay £115 deposit is **28th November**. A booking form is available in the welcoming area of your church with all the information. There will also be a meeting to present the programme and answer questions on **Saturday 24th October at 2.30pm** in **St Edward**.

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（或想更多了解天主教信仰），請電郵聯絡 Jo Lau uk.jolau@gmail.com，也可以向神父多了解，歡迎大家參加堂區以廣東話舉行的慕道班。

A group from the parish are self-organising a pilgrimage to Lourdes - 18th-25th June 2027, and we welcome anyone else who would like to join us. We fly from Heathrow Airport to Toulouse, with coach transfers from Winchester and to Lourdes, and we stay in a 4 star hotel in Lourdes. Price for the week is £920 per person based on twin occupancy, including flights, transfers, 7 nights hotel accommodation and all meals in Lourdes. You have to arrange your own insurance. We can support people needing assistance in Lourdes and for travel (transfer coaches have accessible lifts, we have airport assistance and accessible hotel rooms). If you are interested please contact Marianne for more details by email mwanstall@btinternet.com.

Holy Cross Shop – 2027 Diaries and Calendars are now available to buy in the shop.

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 17th Oct St Ignatius of Antioch	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Gillian and Alec Dirks (40 th Wedding Anniversary) Brinley Jones RIP Sarah Prince RIP
Sun 18th Oct Twenty-ninth 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> Ian Warwick FM Theo Osime RIP (Birthday Anniversary) Paul Belisario RIP Anniversary Mr Danny Browne RIP People of the Parish Michael Lane RIP FM
Mon 19th Oct	9.30am	Holy Cross	
Tue 20th Oct	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	
Wed 21st Oct	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Sarah Ferreria RIP Audrey Winder RIP
Thur 22nd Oct	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Brinley Jones RIP
Fri 23rd Oct	10.00am 10.00am 11.00am 11.30am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward Holy Cross St Edward OLQA	Alvaro Mayorga (Wellbeing) Funeral Mass for Julia Bintcliffe RIP Funeral Mass for Teresa Ardani RIP
Sat 24th Oct	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Dr Clare Fearon RIP Anniversary Jessie Regan RIP
Sun 25th Oct Thirtieth 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> Kathleen Docherty RIP Monica Carrasco RIP Anniversary Kevin Greig (Special Intention) Anna Thomas RIP Phil Sillence RIP People of the Parish

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

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Deacon Paul Wilson

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Deacon Emmanuel Chituh

Tel: 07915 379686; echituh@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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Open on: Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu 9.30am – 5.30pm
Fri 9.30am–2.30pm

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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