



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ
28th SEPTEMBER 2025: TWENTY SIXTH IN ORDINARY TIME

ANGELS AND ARCHANGELS

This week, the Catholic Church's liturgy invites us to consider heaven and its oldest inhabitants: the angels. We will celebrate the feast of the three great archangels, Michael, Raphael and Gabriel, as well as the memorial in honour of the Guardian Angels. But who are the angels?

They are God's first creations, enjoying His immense beauty in Heaven and celebrating His immense majesty in the heavenly liturgy, as the beautiful fourth and fifth chapters of the Book of Revelation tell us. They experience God's eternity. God indeed entrusted them with specific tasks to carry out His plan of salvation for us. The word 'angel' actually means 'messenger' in Greek. They are God's messengers, His hands in this world and His epiphanies.

The Bible is full of angelic manifestations: The angel of death on the night of the Passover, the angel in the pillar of fire during the Exodus, the angel who wrestled with Jacob, and the seven angels with the seven scourges in the Book of Revelation. They are also very present in the Gospels, for example on Christmas night. Jesus was also served by angels after His days in the desert and He confirmed that hosts of angels were ready to intervene during His Passion if He had given them the order.

Some angels have very specific tasks. Michael is the commander of the heavenly army, responsible for fighting the fallen angels. Gabriel is the messenger who announced the birth of Jesus to Mary, and Raphael is God's healer. Many angels are responsible for guarding nations and peoples, helping them to welcome Jesus the Lord into their lives. Finally, there are guardian angels who bring us the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and help us to fight evil spirits. During each Mass, hosts of angels are always present because every Mass on earth is a participation in the one eternal Liturgy, and where Jesus is, they serve Him faithfully. They are the famous 'Cherubim, Seraphim, Thrones, Dominions, Powers and Principalities' to whom we join our song of praise during the Sanctus. (That's why I am always sad when I have to say the Sanctus instead of singing it. I want to join the angelic choirs!) It is also an angel who brings the Eucharist offered by Jesus before the Father in heaven.

The history of salvation and our lives are full of angels. Suspended between eternity and time, they are always at work to help God's plan be accomplished. This involves recapitulating all things and all lives in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Angels help us to perceive creation as a whole in the right perspective. Creation is not a ground floor hall in which humans, animals and stars are fitted in. Creation is more like a skyscraper. We are on the ground floor; higher up are the hosts of angels and countless saints. The attic is obviously God's domain, where Our Lady, Queen of the Angels, also resides. All the walls are made of crystal so that the light shining from above can diffuse through the floors in multiple colours. The floors are connected by lifts and elevators, and the angels go up and down continuously to deliver God's messages to us on the ground floor and to collect our prayers and offerings to take them to the top. Jesus Christ himself takes the lift and descends to the ground floor on seven particular occasions: when we celebrate the seven sacraments. When the time comes, an angel takes a soul from the ground floor and leads it to one of the higher floors, known as the seven heavens. Everyone who appears on the ground floor is assigned a guardian angel, who prepares a chair with their name on it on the top floors. His task is to take them to that named chair when the time comes.

This is more or less what our world looks like. It develops more in height than width. While our five senses can only perceive the ground floor, our spiritual senses can sense the invisible higher floors and their inhabitants.

Personally, I am looking forward to hugging my guardian angel and thanking him for everything he has done for me. Even though the majesty of the cherubim and seraphim fills me with a little fear — they seem so serious, and I worry that they lack a sense of humour — I am excited to meet them.

I hope you feel a sense of nostalgia when you lift your mind to the higher world from which we receive our daily light. If the ground floor is so beautiful, I can't imagine how marvellous the upper floors must be!

Fr Pietro

GEM OF THE WEEK

"The tragic normality of the political violence in the US" by Mattia Ferraresi
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 1st 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 28th September 2025: YEAR C - YEAR 1 - PSALTER WEEK 2

PSALM RESPONSE: MY SOUL, GIVE PRAISE TO THE LORD.

1st Reading Amos 6:1a, 4-7 Psalm 146 (145) 2nd reading Timothy 6:11-16 Gospel Luke 16: 19-31

Sunday 5th October 2025: YEAR C - YEAR 1 - PSALTER WEEK 3

PSALM RESPONSE: O THAT TODAY YOU WOULD LISTEN TO HIS VOICE? "HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS."

1st Reading Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4 Psalm 95 (94) 2nd reading Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14 Gospel Luke 17: 5-10

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. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 8th October

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. The marriage preparation will start on Sunday 12th October.

Reminder for Counters - please keep charity specific Gift Aid envelopes (e.g. CAFOD, Stella Maris) sealed and forward to the parish office as this saves admin for the charity. Thank you!

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. This will restart at 8pm on 1st October in St Edward.

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.

The National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima - and relics of the Fatima Visionaries, Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto will be coming to St John's Cathedral in Portsmouth on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th October 2025. Please see the posters in each church with details of the programme for the weekend. All welcome!

MESSAGES CONTINUED



Upcoming Second Collection

5th October 2025: CAFOD Harvest Appeal

CAFOD's Family Fast Day is on Friday 3rd October

Please do not use our yellow gift aid envelopes for this collection, CAFOD have provided their own envelopes which are now available in our churches, please do pick up an envelope. You will then be able to hand in the CAFOD envelopes during the second collection on the 4th/5th October. Alternatively please give online at cafod.org.uk/envelope.

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! The group starts in the **Resource Centre on Thursday 2nd October**.

OLQA Exhibition - Wonderful examples of some of the research work by the youngster Carlo Acutis (who was canonised on 7th September) will be on display in the church hall entitled 'The Eucharistic Miracles of The World'. **Saturdays and Sundays 18th, 19th and 25th October from 11am - 6pm. Sunday 26th October 11am - 12.30pm.** Volunteers are sought to help at these times. Further information from Kornelia on 077380 13097. All are welcome to this unique occasion.

Parish Get2Gether - Sunday 5th October 1-4pm Pavilion on the Park, 1 Kingfisher Road, SO50 9LH

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. To book your place please go to our parish website.

Looking for Volunteers for the Come and See Club

We are looking for volunteers to help run the **Come and See Club**, the Parish holiday club for children in primary and secondary school.

Our next club will take place during the **Autumn Half-Term break: 27 - 31 October 2025**.

If you would like to volunteer—or know someone who might be interested—there are many ways to get involved, such as:

- Assisting with administration and secretary work
- Helping to organise outings and activities
- Supporting the children at the club for one or more days.

If you can help in any way, please contact Fr. Luca at comeandsee@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

St George's Catholic College

Open Evening at St George Catholic College on **Thursday 2nd October from 5pm-8pm**.

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)

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, tel. 02380 273882

Consultation - Your opinion matters - this weekend we are launching a consultation about the future of our parish. Information booklets are available and we ask you to consider and respond to the online survey 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.

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 27th Sept <i>St Vincent de Paul</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Ellen Lane RIP FM Pat Freemantle FM In Thanksgiving Ann Wood RIP
Sun 28th Sept <i>Twenty Sixth 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> Living & Deceased members of the Murphy & Lucas Families FM People of The Parish Anna Thomas RIP Chris Mitchell RIP
Mon 29th Oct <i>The Holy Archangels</i>	9.30am	Holy Cross	
Tues 30th Sept <i>St Jerome</i>	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	Mrs Edward Christian FM
Weds 1st Oct <i>St Teresa of the Child Jesus</i>	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Florence Bohan FM Robert Scarr RIP
Thurs 2nd Oct <i>Guardian Angels</i>	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Holy Souls Of Purgatory Desmond & Martin Pond RIP
Fri 3rd Oct	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	In Thanksgiving for Angie Cagampang's daughter's recent marriage
Sat 4th Oct <i>St Francis of Assisi</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Antonio Cicu RIP FM Jackie Callow RIP Jean Mary Dolan RIP Pasqualina Marucci RIP 2nd Anniversary
Sun 5th Oct <i>Twenty Seventh 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> People of the Parish Carrie Fung & Peter Tse 20th Wedding Anniversary Robert Brockway RIP Deceased Members of the Fox, Slevin and Kelly Family The Holy Souls of Purgatory.

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