



Our Vision is a Person, Our Vision is Jesus Christ
27th JULY 2025: SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
This Newsletter Also Covers Sundays 3rd & 10th AUGUST 2025

WITH A GRATEFUL HEART

My Journey to the Diaconate

It is with deep gratitude and humility that I write to you as a newly ordained Permanent Deacon. This moment is the culmination of a journey that has shaped me spiritually, personally and pastorally, and I am deeply thankful to God for calling me to this sacred ministry. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to you, my parish family, for your prayers, encouragement, and constant support throughout the five years of formation. Your faith, kindness, and community spirit have helped me stand firm in my calling, and I truly thank God for each one of you.

My Roots and Calling

I was born and raised in Njinikom, a village in Cameroon, located in the Archdiocese of Bamenda, which enjoys a vibrant partnership with the Diocese of Portsmouth. This collaboration enriches both dioceses in their shared mission of evangelisation and faith-based outreach. I come from a large family of eleven siblings, seven girls and four boys, and was brought up in a household steeped in Christian values. My father served as a permanent catechist for over 50 years, while my mother nurtured young children through the *Cadets of Mary*, fostering Marian devotion. Their devotion to the Church laid a strong spiritual foundation in our home.

I am joyfully married to Noela, and we are blessed with two beautiful children, Chiara and Caydan. Our faith has been the centre of our family life, a daily reminder that Christ is our anchor, guiding our actions and decisions.

A Journey Shaped by Faith

As a child, I served faithfully as an altar server and attended daily Mass with my family. Those early moments at the altar stirred in me a deep interest in the priesthood, especially inspired by the missionary priests who served in our parish. That call led me to join the Mill Hill Missionaries, where I entered formation and studied philosophy for three years and theology for two years. Although my journey to priesthood changed course, the desire to serve God and His people remained unwavering. This calling took a new form when I pursued a Master's degree in Social Work at the University of Southampton. For the past 17 years, I have worked in adult services, supporting vulnerable individuals and advocating for those most in need.

Years later, a priest from one of my former parishes gently reintroduced me to the idea of the Diaconate. At first, I wasn't sure I was being called back into ordained ministry. But the more I prayed, the more I listened, the stronger the calling grew, until it became a quiet certainty in my heart. I could no longer ignore the pull to serve.

Formation and Transformation

My years of formation at Oscott College in Birmingham were rich and transformative. The programme offered growth across four key areas: human, spiritual, academic, and pastoral formation. Through every lecture, pastoral experience, and time of reflection, I came to know Christ more deeply. And in knowing Him, I felt myself being transformed, not just for my sake, but for the sake of those I am called to serve.

The Diaconate is rooted in service, modelled on Christ the Servant - who came not to be served but to serve. It is a ministry that meets people in their joys and sorrows, offering compassion presence, and prayer. To serve in this way is a privilege I do not take lightly, and I remain in awe of the grace that has brought me here.

A Shared Mission

My hope is to live this ministry with the same humility and love that shaped my own formation - loving others as Christ has loved us, and placing Him at the centre of all I do. I believe that when we open ourselves to Christ's unconditional love, we begin to reflect that love into the world and that is how true transformation begins. As I begin this new chapter, I kindly ask for your continued prayers and support. Please pray that I may serve faithfully, joyfully and with a heart always open to Christ and to His people.

Thank you for walking with me, for believing in me, and for being the community that helped form the Deacon I am today. May God bless you always. With deep gratitude.

Deacon Emmanuel Chituh

GEM OF THE WEEK



This week's GEM is 'You Matter' the Life of Cicely Saunders - you can find this on our homepage. 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 6th 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: <http://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk/financesdonations>

LITURGICAL INDICATIONS



Sunday 27th July 2025: YEAR C - YEAR 1- PSALTER WEEK 1

PSALM RESPONSE: ON THE DAY I CALLED, YOU ANSWERED ME, O LORD.

1st reading Genesis 18:20-32 **Psalm** 138 (137) **2nd reading** Colossians 2:12-14 **Gospel** Luke 11:1-13

Sunday 3rd August 2025: Year C - Year 1 - PSALTER WEEK 2

PSALM RESPONSE: O LORD, YOU HAVE BEEN OUR REFUGE, FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION.

1st reading Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23 **Psalm** 90 (89) **2nd reading** Colossians 3:1-5,9-11 **Gospel** Luke: 12:13-21

Sunday 10th August 2025: Year C - Year 1 - PSALTER WEEK 2

PSALM RESPONSE: BLESSED THE PEOPLE THE LORD HAS CHOSEN AS HIS HERITAGE.

1st reading Wisdom 18:6-9 **Psalm** 33 (32) **2nd reading** Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 **Gospel** Luke 12:32-48

MESSAGES



Roger Wood's 100th Birthday 28th July 2025 -

To celebrate this very happy occasion Holy Mass will be offered for Roger's intentions at 10am on **Wednesday 30th July** at **St Edward the Confessor Church**, **Chandlers Ford**. Please stay and join Roger after Mass for tea, coffee and birthday cake in the Cloister.

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 Joan Leith about Safeguarding at Holy Cross Church - If there are any volunteers who would like to know their current safeguarding situation, or who wish to discuss the forms I gave out last week I will be in the **Resource Centre** after Mass on **Sunday 27th July**. If you are a Eucharistic Minister, you only need to be checked if you visit people in their home or care home.

Come & See Summer Holiday Club (7-14yrs)

Monday 4th - Friday 8th August 8.30am-3.30pm
St Edward's Cloister (Activities will start at 9am and finish at 3pm). Cost: £10 per day, £5 for additional children/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. **Please only book if you are sure your child is going to attend, thank you.**

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. Tickets on sale after all Masses 2nd/3rd August and 9th/10th August. Places are limited, so don't delay!

Congratulations to Emmanuel Chituh - Bishop Philip has appointed Emmanuel to serve in our parish after his ordination on 26th July. Please keep Emmanuel and his family in your prayers as he nears his ordination and commences his new role in our parish.

Collection for Emmanuel Chituh - We are organising a collection for Emmanuel to present him with a gift after his ordination. If you wish to contribute please either give your donation in an envelope marked Emmanuel's Gift and hand into the parish office, or pay by bank transfer to the main Parish Account: Sort code: 30-93-04, A/c No: 01786599 Account name: CDP ST SWITHUN WELLS. Ref: Emmanuel's Gift

St Andrew's 50th Anniversary Celebration - will be held on **Sunday 17th August** at **St Andrew's church**. The Celebration will start with Mass at 9.00am, followed by songs, games, etc. and a BBQ at 12.30pm. More details and tickets sales to follow. Please 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.

Youth Groups (including First Holy Communion & Confirmation) - Our Youth Groups for primary and secondary school children will restart at the end of September. They are the path we propose for those who want to receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Registrations for the next year 2025/2026 will open shortly on our website.

MESSAGES CONTINUED

Upcoming funerals - Please pray for the repose of the soul of Peter Penrose. Peter's Funeral Liturgy takes place at 12 noon on Thursday 31st July at Test Valley Crematorium, Romsey.

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 (details below).

Parish Office Closures - Christina, our Finance Administrator, is on holiday until 29th July. Next week the parish office will be closed on Monday 28th July and open 9.30am to 2.30pm on Tuesday 29th July. From Wednesday 30th July onwards, the office will be open 9.30am to 5.30pm.

Congratulations to Fr Ryan Browne - who has recently been ordained as a priest in our Diocese. He will be an Assistant Priest at the Cathedral in Portsmouth.

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)

CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)
 Tues: 9.30am-10.00am (before Mass) St Andrew
 Tues: 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

CLERGY & PARISH OFFICE

Fr Raffaele Cossa (Parish Priest)
 Tel: 023 8061 2430; E: rcossa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
 Fr Luca Speziale (Assistant Priest)
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 Deacon Bob Birtles
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 Deacon John di Meo
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 Deacon Paul Owen
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Deacon Paul Wilson
 Tel: 023 8061 6618; E: pwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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

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

Parish Secretary: interim- Patricia Mitchell
 Email: office@stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Communications & Events Coordinator: Amy Jordan
 Email: events@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

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Sunday 27th July <i>Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8.30am	Holy Cross	<i>Polska Msza Święta</i>
	9.00am	St Edward	Clare Ashcroft RIP FM
	9.00am	St Andrew	People of The Parish
	9.30am	OLQA	
	11.00am	Holy Cross (& livestreamed)	Beatrice & George White; Laura, David & Edward Fernandes FM
	11.00am	St Joseph	Brian Arthur RIP
	5.30pm	Holy Cross	Holy Souls
Mon 28th July	9.30am	Holy Cross	
Tues 29th July <i>Ss Martha, Mary & Lazarus</i>	10.00am	St Andrew	Anna Ryan RIP 2nd Anniversary
	6.00pm	St Edward	

MASS TIMES FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES (CONTINUED)

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	MASS INTENTION
Wed 30th July	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Special Intention to Our Lady, St Joseph & St Padre Pio Living & Deceased Members of the Wood Family
Thurs 31st July <i>St Ignatius of Loyola</i>	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Janet Burton RIP FM
Fri 1st August <i>St Alphonsus Liguori</i>	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	Michael Cummins RIP
Sat 2nd August <i>St John Vianney</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	People of The Parish Herbert Howie RIP Anniversary
Sunday 3rd August <i>Eighteenth 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> Mary & Denis McCormack RIP Arthur Heslop RIP Anniversary Matthew Thomson RIP Anniversary Keith Small RIP Penny Bible RIP Anniversary Alison Bell-Hamilton RIP
Mon 4th August	9.30am	Holy Cross	
Tues 5th August	10.00am 6.00pm	St Andrew St Edward	
Wed 6th August <i>The Transfiguration of The Lord</i>	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Cross St Edward	Patricia Cowling RIP FM Living & Deceased Members of the Layzell Family FM
Thurs 7th August	9.30am 12 Noon 6.00pm	Holy Cross OLQA St Joseph	Phil Talbot RIP
Fri 8th August <i>St Dominic</i>	10.00am 10.00am 12 Noon	St Joseph St Edward OLQA	Molloy Family - Special Intention in Their New House
Sat 9th August <i>St Teresa Benedicta of The Cross</i>	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Cross St Swithun Wells OLQA St Joseph St Edward	Special Intention to Our Lady, St Joseph & St Padre Pio People of The Parish Brenda & Paul (Golden Wedding Anniversary)
Sunday 10th August <i>Nineteenth 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> Eric & Clare Lasker (60th Wedding Anniversary) Alan French RIP Anniversary Living & deceased Members of the Davis & Lengyel Families FM John Gare RIP Anniversary Mike Walsh RIP 5th Anniversary