



DONATE

St. Swithun & St. Thomas More

A Parish in the North East Hampshire Pastoral Area of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth



St. Swithun (SS)
Firgrove Road
Yateley Hants
GU46 6NH
yateley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
www.stswithunsyateley.org.uk

Parish Office & Enquiries at St. Swithun's
Tuesday to Friday 10am to 12 Noon
Secretary: Mrs Carole Williams
01252 872732 or 07831 307063
yateley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
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Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
Registered Charity No. 1199568

Parish Priest
Fr Wojciech Paszko

WEEKLY NEWS
*Baptism of Our Lord &
2nd Sunday of the Year*
(Year A)
11th & 18th December 2026

Safeguarding Minister for
St Swithun & St Thomas More:
safeguarding.yat@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

St. Thomas More (STM)
Mildmay Terrace
Mount Pleasant
Hartley Wintney RG27 8PN
stm.stswithunsyateley.org.uk

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Sun 11th Baptism of the Lord
6pm (Sat) Baby Michael Tevlin GE
8.45am (STM) People of the Parish
10.45am

Tues 13th Feria
7pm

Wed 14th Feria
9.30am Liz & Jerry O'Mahony GE
10-11am Mothers Prayers Group
10-11am Adoration

Thu 15th Feria
9.30am

Fri 16th Feria
9.30am

Sun 18th 2nd Sunday of the Year
6pm (Sat) People of the Parish
8.45am (STM) People of the Parish
10.45am

Tue 20th Feria
7pm

Wed 21st St Agnes
9.30am Clare Owens GE
10-11am Mothers Prayers Group
10-11am Adoration

Thu 22nd Feria
9.30am

Fri 23rd Feria
9.30am

COFFEE MORNINGS

Coffee after 10.45am Mass at St Swithun's. Everyone welcome, please join us.



LECTIO DIVINA

Every Wednesday, 7pm, St Swithun's Parish Centre, Yateley.

UCM MEETING

20/01: 7.30pm meeting in the Parish Centre, Yateley. All welcome.



UCM LUNCH

Saturday 31st January.

You are all invited to join the UCM for their annual lunch, 12noon to 4pm. Price £20 per person. Please speak with Marjorie Killen if you are interested in going. Alternatively speak with Carole in the office.

PRESENT FOR THE HOMELESS

Thank you for your kind donation of gifts for the homeless. These were taken to them, and they are all very grateful. Also thank you to the couple who delivered the gifts to them.



SECOND COLLECTION

There will be a 2nd Collection 25th January, for St John's Cathedral which is the Mother Church of our Diocese of Portsmouth.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass intentions these days are booked more and more in advance. If you have anniversaries coming up, see Carole to book them in early, so that you are not disappointed.



PIGEON HOLES

Can you please empty your pigeon holes as Christmas cards are still in them. You all have a pigeon hole, just look for the 1st letter of your surname.

THANK YOU

A big thank you to all volunteers involved in helping in any way getting our church ready for Christmas, it is all very much appreciated. Father and I would also like to thank you for your cards and gifts. God Bless you all. (Father Wojciech & Carole)

THE CATHOLIC HISTORY SOCIETY

For the Winchester Catholic History Society, the 2026 Season of speakers and events commences with An Evening with Cardinal Radcliffe on Thursday 29th January at Winchester College. Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe was ordained in 1971 as a Dominican and created Cardinal by Pope Francis in December 2024. This is a pre-booked ticket only event so please check their website: www.winchestercatholichistorysociety.com if you would like to attend.

GOSPEL BY MATTHEW

Sat 31st Jan: Gospel of Matthew (Year A) led by Fr Gervase Holdaway OSB Introduction to the Gospel, noting its particular character, how it differs from the others & how it enhances our understanding and the celebrations of the Sundays of this coming year. Please note: 2-4pm only, no charge. For more information: pastoral@douaiabbey.org.uk

AdORE

Spiritual mini-retreat 24th January 10.00-1.00 on Zoom. "GOD IS LOVE" – Jesus

taught that God is a loving and merciful Father. Mini retreat morning including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prophecy, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring talk from guest speaker Fr. Chris Thomas, founder of the Irenaeus Community in Liverpool. Register in advance at: bit.ly/ADOREJAN2026, More information at: www.altonrenewal.com

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM

First Communion & Reconciliation

Preparation Classes 2026
Classes are for children wishing to make their First Holy Communion at St Swithun's. The classes are aimed at children in Yrs 3-5
Requirements: 1. A Baptism certificate (if not baptised at St Swithun's or St Thomas More)
2. Regular Sunday Mass attendance. Classes for 2026 will start in January 2026. Your involvement in the preparation of your children for First Holy Communion is paramount. The parish 'helps', but does not replace your part in the process of leading your children in the development of their faith, through the development and example of your own. As part of their preparation your child will be prepared for, and invited to make their First Reconciliation: "Children must go to the sacrament of Reconciliation before receiving Holy Communion for the first time" (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1457). Please speak to Father Wojciech to register your child.



THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
THURSDAY 15TH JANUARY.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan reminds us that God enters our lives not from above, but from close at hand, He stands among people so that everyone may hear:

“You are my Beloved child”.

ONLINE GIFT CARD FRAUD

Gift card fraud is an increasingly common way of tricking victims into purchasing gift cards and sharing their details, leading to financial loss. Please be aware that there have been scam messages circulating which appear to come from priests or diocesan staff, asking people to buy gift cards or provide financial help urgently. The Diocese and its clergy will never ask for money, gift cards, vouchers, or personal details by email, text message, or social media.

If you receive a message of this kind, do not respond and do not send any money. Please report it to your parish office or to the Diocese communications team so that we can alert others.

FOOD BANK

Thank you for continuously donating items for the food bank. They are in need of adult coats, if you have any spare ones, or old one you wish to donate, please leave them in the porch in a plastic bag. Thank you.



CRAFT & NATTER CLUB

Saturday 25th January, 10.30 to 12.30pm, St Swithun parish centre,. Please join us, this is open to all.



Confessions St Swithun

Saturdays 5.30pm-5.50pm
St Swithun Church



Confession allows us to hold ourselves accountable for these sins and seek true forgiveness. The soul needs confession to cleanse itself, allowing us to repair our relationship with Christ. Confession grants us sacramental grace, helping to repair the bonds we break with God when we sin.

THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. With it, the Christmas Season comes to an end. In the Liturgy, we do a fast forward of thirty years, to when as a man grown up, Jesus begins His Public Ministry. The first event of his public ministry was His baptism in the River Jordan by John. As the Gospel tells, it was a revelation of the Blessed Trinity: *the Spirit descended like a dove* and the Father's voice rang out: *This is my Son, the Beloved*. The feast makes us think about the importance of the beautiful Sacrament of Baptism. Jesus, of course, did not need to be baptised; the reason He submitted to John's Baptism and went down into the waters was for us and for our salvation: to make holy the waters of baptism. To baptise means to immerse in water. The one baptised is immersed into the death of Christ in order to rise with Him as a new creation. As the *Catechism* says, baptism is the gateway to life in the Spirit. It cleanses us of Original Sin, makes us disciples of Christ, members of His Church and fills us with the eternal life of the Trinity. It makes us holy. It's an amazing gift, a living gift that needs constant nurture. God wants everyone to be saved and Baptism is necessary for salvation. It is the Sacrament of Faith. Faith - how to rouse it, strengthen it, hand it on, spread it?

You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you. In Mass next Sunday, let us pray for all to be baptised during 2026, especially all the adults in our RCIA programmes across the Diocese. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to descend upon many with the gift of faith, that they will welcome it. Let us pray for ourselves, that during the Holy Year we will become more holy, filled with the joy of the Gospel.

WORK IN A CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Are you a Catholic currently teaching in a non-Catholic school? Have you considered applying for a post in one of our schools but are unsure how they are different and whether your application would be welcomed? Find out the answers to these questions and any others you may have about working in a Catholic school by attending our online webinar, 'Come to work in our Catholic schools' being held on Tuesday 13th January 2026 at 7pm. The webinar will be led by Catherine Hobbs, Diocesan Director for Education and Robert Dare, Diocesan Schools Support Officer, and will last approximately one hour. Please register your interest in attending by registering on the link below.

staging.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/caso/events-booking/

YOUR OFFERTORY MONEY

Your Offering to the Parish is very important to us, and we thank everyone who are supporting the parish. We ask you to consider setting up a Standing Order, or do an online Bank Transfer.

CDP YATELEY ST SWITHUN

Account: 00892220, sort code 30-93-04

CDP HARTLEY WINTNEY STM

Account: 01785711, sort code 30-93-04

Please put your surname 'offertory' in the transaction reference text so we can identify the purpose of the donation.

If you are a UK taxpayer please consider joining our Gift Aid Scheme. Forms are available in the porch or the Parish Office.

ST THOMAS MORE NEW WEBSITE

The St Thomas More website has been moved to the same internet server as St Swithuns. Its new address is "stm.stswithunsyateley.org.uk"

Please use this new address in future; do not attempt to use the old address any more as it will not work.

ST. SWITHUN'S 100 CLUB

Names of winners are displayed in the porch. If you would like to become a member contact the parish. Office.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

Please pray for all the sick in our parish May the Lord heal them all with his love.

FIRST COLLECTION:

27/12: SS: £102.20; STM=£79.50

04/01: SS=134.20; STM=£85.05

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

25/01: St John Cathedral, Portsmouth