

The Parish of St Saviour and The Ascension, Portsea

September 2025

Dear Friends,

As the summer draws to a close, and schools return for a new academic year, our minds once again return to the tasks and meetings and routines that lie ahead of us — our plans for Harvest, Advent and Christmas; where will we spend Christmas and New Year? Is it time to change our summer wardrobe for our winter clothes? We may have a new resolve to do things in a different way or with more enthusiasm as, most likely, we have been able to take some time for rest and relaxation over the summer and have used this time to think about our ordinary everyday activities. Of course this is a generalisation and will not hold true for everyone. But it is true to say that human beings do not function well unless they are able to take some rest. In fact, taking some rest is actually divinely instituted.

When one reads the Book of Genesis and the first creation narrative we discover that God worked/created the world in six days and on the seventh day he rested. This poetic depiction of creation gave us the Sabbath, the seventh day — a day of rest with strict laws governing what you could or could not do, a day to be spent in God's presence. The people of Israel then adopted this model as their way of life, and adapted it. For instance, a farmer could work the land for six years, but was ordered to let it rest for the seventh year. This understanding of working six days and resting on the seventh has been within our culture for centuries — although not everyone was able to share in it.

Alas with the growth of consumerism and secularism, and the influence of technology, the Sabbath has lost a lot of its meaning. For peoples of different faiths the day of rest will vary. For others their leisure activity requires people to work to support that activity. It is not as simple as perhaps once was. But it is still evident — especially from statistics recording burnout, breakdown, stress and depression, that taking a day of rest is important to one's health. Thankfully the Church has always maintained this position of having a day of rest and is perhaps a prophetic voice in our busy world of today.

In this busy autumn season, I encourage you to make time for rest and relaxation, but also room for Christ in your lives. Too often people come with excuses as to why they are unable to attend Sunday Mass or other church events. As Christians if we are not seen to place God first, how can we expect to grow our churches and bring other people to faith?

Over the summer a good amount of maintenance has taken place in our two churches, I am particularly grateful to Kerensa who has repaired the Paschal Candle stand at St Saviour and painted the candles either side of Our Lady at The Ascension, and to Terry who has spent a considerable time cleaning and repairing the Stations of the Cross at St Saviour, it is lovely to be able to see the images properly without layers of dirt on the glass! Thank you also to those who work tirelessly on the everyday mundane tasks that keep our churches open and looking their best. The Parochial Council are currently working on several important projects — the provision of some car parking spaces at St Saviour, as well as the possibility of reviving a Sunday School. At The Ascension we have received funding to begin a Choir Church project with local schools to bring young people into church. This has been run successfully at both St Mary's, Fratton and St Faith's, Havant and we hope it will be a success here. We will shortly be asking for volunteers to help with providing the children with tea etc.

Harvest Festival will soon be upon us, with our Harvest Supper taking place on Saturday 4th October, this year at St Saviour. This is always a highlight of the social calendar so please put the date in your diary and if you would like to contribute to the entertainment please let me know.

With my love and prayers,



Fr Benjamin.

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Calendar for September 2025

Monday 1 st	10.00am	Low Mass (BCP)	St Saviour
Wednesday 3 rd	11.30am	Low Mass followed by Community Lunch	St Saviour
Thursday 4 th	5.25pm	Junior Choir	The Ascension
	6.30pm	Evensong & Low Mass	The Ascension
Friday 5 th	6.30pm	Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
	7.30pm	Parochial Church Council Meeting	St Saviour
Sunday 7 th	THE 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
	9.30am	Family Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Family Mass	The Ascension
Monday 8 th	10.00am	Sung Mass for The Nativity of Our Lady <i>attended by members of the GSS Portsmouth Chapter</i>	St Saviour
Wednesday 10 th	11.30am	Low Mass followed by Community Lunch	St Saviour
Thursday 11 th	6.30pm	Rosary, Devotions & Walsingham Mass	The Ascension
Friday 12 th		No Mass	
Saturday 13 th	10.00am	Portsmouth Churches 'Ride & Stride'	
Sunday 14 th	HOLY CROSS DAY		
	9.30am	Parish Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Low Mass	The Ascension
Monday 15 th		No Mass	St Saviour
Wednesday 17 th	11.30am	Low Mass followed by Community Lunch	St Saviour
Thursday 18 th		No Mass	
Friday 19 th	6.30pm	Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
	7.30pm	Beetle Drive with Bring & Share Supper	St Saviour
Sunday 21 st	THE 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
	9.30am	Parish Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Parish Mass	The Ascension
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong	St Mark's
Monday 22 nd	10.00am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Wednesday 24 th	11.30am	Low Mass followed by Community Lunch	St Saviour
Thursday 25 th	5.25pm	Junior Choir	The Ascension
	6.30pm	Evensong & Monthly Requiem Mass	The Ascension
Friday 26 th	6.30pm	Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
Saturday 27 th	2.00pm	Rosina's 4 th Birthday Party	The Vicarage
Sunday 28 th	THE 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
	9.30am	Parish Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Parish Mass	The Ascension
	6.00pm	Solemn Evensong & Benediction	St Saviour
Monday 29 th	10.00am	Sung Mass for S. Michael & All Angels	St Saviour