

Parochial Admin: **Rev. Fr Matthew King**  
 Parish Secretary: **Clarinda Mansfield**  
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Safeguarding:

[safeguarding@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

 @catholicchurcingosport

 [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/gosport/](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/gosport/)

## ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S

The Catholic Church in Gosport



### 23 February 2025 - SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year C)

22	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	People of the Parish	<p><b>CONFESSION TIMES</b>                  Wed 6:15pm-6:45pm                  (if Mass is celebrated)                  Sat - 12:00nn—1:00pm</p> <p><b>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION</b>                  Thu—after the 7pm Mass  <i>Holy half hour with Night Prayer</i>                  Fri 10:00am-12:00nn  <i>with Rosary for the unborn at 10am</i></p> <p><b>OUTREACH</b>                  Thu from 12:00nn</p>
23	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<b>Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Kathleen Nora Wallace RIP Zied Solomon RIP	
24	Mon	<b>No Service</b>			
25	Tue	<b>No Service</b>	<i>Fr Matthew will be on Clergy Day</i>		
26	Wed	07:00pm		Francis Savege RIP	
27	Thu	07:00pm	St Gregory of Narek	Mary Hathaway RIP	
28	Fri	12:00nn		Monica Carolan RIP	
01	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Elizabeth Extance & Family RIP	
02	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<b>Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	People of the Parish Deceased of Savege, Gauci & Vella Families	

### REFLECTION

Love your enemy.

It is certainly difficult to be “kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.” But doing so is exactly what our Lord commanded us to do. And His command is not a command in the sense of being a burden. On the contrary, it’s a command that frees us from the ingratitude and wickedness we encounter.

Often when we encounter ingratitude from another, or any other form of wickedness, we tend to react in kind. Our fallen human nature lures us into cruelty when faced with cruelty. We criticise, condemn, attack, and get angry. But Jesus is very clear that this is not how God acts toward the wicked. And it is not how He acts toward us. In the end, the wicked who fail to repent will endure the consequences of their rejection of God’s mercy. But until that final judgment, hope of conversion must always be present. And for that reason, we must never give up on another, no matter how difficult. Kindness shown to everyone, in every circumstance, goes to the heart of the mission we have received as children of God.

Think about a person in your life who seems unworthy of your kindness and generosity. Why are they undeserving? Are they truly undeserving? The truth, according to our Lord’s teaching, is that these are not questions we should even ask ourselves. Instead, we must fully commit ourselves to loving everyone who appears to be our enemy, and do good to them and to everyone whom we encounter. Though this is difficult, it won’t be if we understand the goodness that God has shown to us.

God has shown us perfect goodness, not because He expected anything back, but simply because He has willed to love us. If we want to be children of God then we must reciprocate the love given to us. That’s the nature of God’s love. It cannot be contained. It cannot be selfishly received without also allowing it to pour forth from our lives. When we understand this, we will understand the reason Jesus instructed us to be “kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.” It is simply because this is how God has treated us.

Think about the unlimited love God has for you. It is beyond what you could ever comprehend. Reflect, also, upon the great benefit there is in opening yourself to God’s perfect love, kindness, generosity, and mercy. The benefit is that you can be filled with that which you receive. And as you receive this love of God, it necessarily overflows into the lives of everyone you encounter, the good and the wicked. Everyone must always be offered this love. Do not hesitate, for God does not hesitate with you.

**Dear Lord, You give Your goodness to everyone, whether they're good or bad. You never stop showing Your love and mercy. Please help me to always open myself to Your grace and share that same depth of love with everyone. Amen.**

*Dcn John*

#### TO MAKE DONATIONS:

For **BACS Transfer**: Account Name: **CDP Gosport** Account No.: **00878538** Sort Code: **30-93-04** . Make all cheques payable to **CDP Gosport**, or you may scan the QR code. Standing Order and Gift Aid forms are available in the office.

*Please Gift Aid your donations if possible.*



## PARISH KEY DATES

### **FEBRUARY**

**27 - Parish Office will be closed. Clarinda on leave.**

### **MARCH**

**01 - Sat 9:00am • First Holy Communion Catechism Session 4**

**05 - Wed • ASH WEDNESDAY**

**08 - Sat 10:00am • RCIC Session**

**09 - Sun • FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

## NEW PARISH WEBSITE

Our parish's new website is now up and running. You may visit: [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/st-marys-and-st-columbas-gosport/](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/st-marys-and-st-columbas-gosport/)



## NEXT WEEK'S SPECIAL COLLECTION

Next week's second collection is for White Flower Appeal to support the protection of unborn children and promote the right to life in our society. A collection basket will be available at the back of the church. Thank you for your generosity.

## PARISH SAFEGUARDING MINISTER POSITION STILL OPEN

We are committed to ensuring our parish and church community is a safe space for everyone. Safeguarding is an integral part of the life and ministry of the church. As a PSM, you will play a key role. please contact the parish office or speak to Fr Matthew or Dcn John if this is something you believe you can help the parish with.

## RITE OF ELECTION 2025

The Rite of Election for 2025 will take place on **Saturday 8th March at 11am in the Cathedral**. The *Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion* takes place each year on the Saturday after Ash Wednesday. It is the liturgy in which those adults who are preparing for Baptism at Easter and those candidates who are preparing to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church are presented to the Bishop for the Church's blessing. For the 'catechumens' (those under catechesis for Baptism) especially, this Rite is important: it's the moment in their formation when they are formally 'elected' or chosen by the Bishop, on the testimony of their godparents and others, to become members of the Church. Their names are inscribed in the Book of the Elect to signify that they have heard the Lord calling them by name and that they wish to respond publicly to His call. The Rite of Election is always full of joy! Since the mission of our Diocese of Portsmouth is *Bringing People Closer to Jesus Christ through His Church* and as a sign that mission and evangelisation is always our first priority, Bishop Philip invites everyone in the Diocese to come and join in the celebration. **Please pray for the catechumens and candidates, together with their sponsors, families and friends.** **Please note that there will be no 12nn confession on this day.**

## EASTER FLOWER APPEAL

If you wish to donate towards flowers to decorate the Church this coming season, there is an option on the DONA machine for this collection. This will be made available from March. Thank you.

## PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

**Jubilee Pilgrimage to Lourdes—Monday 7th July to the 11th July**, gathering at Heathrow airport for a morning flight to France and returning to Heathrow on the evening of the 11th July. In Lourdes, residence (full board) at the 4\* hotel, La Solitude where all rooms are ensuite, and fitted with tea/coffee making facilities. The cost of the pilgrimage this year is £879 per person for a shared room, youth pilgrims can travel at £825. To find out more and to book a place please call 07780 221686 or email [lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Tea and Coffee in St Mary's Hall every Sunday after the 11:15am Mass. Please join us for a friendly cuppa and chat. *All tea & coffee donations go towards parish expenses.*

## PASTORAL ACTIVITIES

- **World Day of Prayer - 07 March.** In March, we will celebrate the World Day of Prayer, formerly known as Women's World Day of Prayer. The service written by the Christian Women of the Cook Islands with the theme, "I Made You Wonderful", will be held at **1.45pm at Stubbington Methodist Church or 2pm and 7pm at St Philip Howard in Fareham.** Everyone is encouraged to join.
- **FLAME - 15 March.** Three young members of our parish will be joining this Catholic youth conference at the Wembley Arena in London. It is the biggest Catholic youth event in England and Wales. Please pray that their passion for Christ remains strong and that they devote their lives to serving the Lord through His Church.
- **Discerning God's Will.** These sessions will be held at Scared Heart Catholic Church in Fareham, PO16 0NQ from 11am-3pm. The dates are: **22nd March, 3rd May and 28th June.** There will be Fellowship, Formation and food. *Booking is required.* please email: [vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)
- **SVP Mass with Anointing of the Sick - 26 March at 1:30pm.** The Mass will be held at St Philip Howard Church, Fareham. Everyone is invited to attend.



## Jubilee 2025—Pilgrims of Hope

### 21-23 February—Jubilee of Deacons

May all deacons serve with faith, humility, and dedication, upholding their calling to support the church and community with wisdom, compassion, and integrity. Lord, we pray for Dcn John, his family, and all the deacons in the diocese.



## CAFOD LENT APPEAL

*Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection and be a pilgrim of hope with CAFOD this Jubilee Year. You'll be supporting communities experiencing the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions and hope. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at [cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope) or call us on 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10. You may use the QR code and it will take you to CAFOD's virtual envelope where you can make your donation.*



## MARRIAGE PREPARATION & SUPPORT

Marriage Sankofa Ltd is a registered business helping marriages to return to the Biblical roots. They offer remote marriage preparation, marriage repair and ongoing enrichment and post-wedding accompaniment. Marriage Sankofa's marriage preparation dates for this year are: 25 February to 8 April (7-9pm) and 23 April—4 June (6:30-8:30pm). For more information, please email [marriagesankofa@hotmail.com](mailto:marriagesankofa@hotmail.com)

## CELEBRATION & WITNESS TO MARRIAGE

Are you celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or anniversary over 60 years? If so, Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of celebration. This will take place at St Bede's church in Basingstoke on **Saturday 21st June at 11am**. This will be followed by a buffet lunch. It is a wonderful occasion to celebrate and witness to Marriage. Please contact the parish office or send an email to [anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) to request a form for you to complete and return. To help celebrate the occasion please could you provide a **copy** of your Wedding photograph, you can upload it when you return the form, or if you have no access to the internet you can post a **copy** along with completed form by post to: St Bede's Parish Office, Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX (please mark envelope Significant Wedding Mass).