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www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/gosport/

ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S

The Catholic Church in Gosport



02 March 2025 - EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year C)

01	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Elizabeth Extance & Family RIP	<p>CONFESSION TIMES Wed 6:15pm-6:45pm <i>(if Mass is celebrated)</i> Sat - 12:00nn—1:00pm</p> <p>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION 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>OUTREACH Thu from 12:00nn</p>
02	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	People of the Parish Deceased of Savege, Gauci & Vella Families	
03	Mon	No Service			
04	Tue	12:00nn	St Casimir	Irene Maghew RIP	
05	Wed	12:00nn 07:00pm	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	John Hanlon RIP Dean Carlin RIP	
06	Thu	07:00pm		Agnes Clark RIP	
07	Fri	12:00nn		Rev Canon Thomas Doyle RIP	
08	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Jim Leigh RIP	
09	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>First Sunday of Lent</i>	Neville Saunders RIP People of the Parish	

REFLECTION

The Jubilee Icon

Created by the artist Mulugest Araya to celebrate the 2025 Pilgrims of Hope, this icon was produced with CAFOD partners from St Mary's College Wukro, Adigrat diocese in Tigray, northern Ethiopia, who have expertise in iconography.

The artist interprets Jesus' teaching of healing and liberation in the Synagogue from Luke 4:16-21, which refers to Isaiah 61:1-2. The crowd gathers to listen to Jesus: men, women and children, old and young. Listening attentively, their body language shows they are engaged with the Word of God. Their eyes are fixed on Jesus, who is looking out into the world. His gaze encompasses all people, not just this crowd, and his teaching is for all time. The act of 'seeing' is a predominant theme in Ethiopian icons.

Jesus wears a golden halo to show his divinity as the Son of God. Jesus raises his right hand to show that he is teaching. Jesus holds the Holy Bible in his left hand opened at the Scripture text written in Ge'ez (an Ethiopian Semitic language). The rainbow is a symbol of God's covenantal hope with all people, bridging the Old and New Testaments.

The Icon will be travelling to dioceses and parishes across the country during the Jubilee Year 2025.



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

08 - Sat - No 12nn Confession ▪ Fr Matthew will be at the Cathedral for the Rite of Election

09 - Sun - FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

12 - Wed - No evening Mass and Confession ▪ Fr Matthew will be in Fareham for the RCIA Reconciliation

23 - Sunday - Parish Census

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

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL COLLECTION

This 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.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION DURING LENT

During Lent, our Eucharist Adoration on Fridays will be replaced by the Stations of the Cross straight after the 12nn Mass, starting on the 14th of March.



RITE OF ELECTION 2025

The Rite of Election for 2025 will take place **on Saturday 8th March at 11am in the Cathedral**. 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. 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. **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.

Holy Hour for Pope Francis

In unity with Catholics worldwide, there will be a Holy Hour to pray for Pope Francis' health here at St Mary's on the 7th of March from 11:00am to 12:00nn followed by a Mass and Stations of the Cross immediately after. Everyone is encouraged to attend.



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.

PARISH CENSUS

It is time, once again, to update our parishioner information. On the 23rd of March, our parish of St Mary and St Columba will be conducting a census to update our records and gather information about both registered parishioners and Catholics who have not yet joined our parish. This effort will help us better understand your needs and improve the support we provide. By collecting accurate contact details, we aim to strengthen pastoral care, enhance communication, and ensure you receive timely updates on events, programs, ministries, and opportunities for spiritual growth.

CATECHISTS LENT DAYS OF PRAYER AND FORMATION

The Vicariate for Evangelisation will be hosting **three online events** during Lent and invites all Catechists in the Diocese to participate. These events offer a chance to connect with other catechists, share experiences, and find inspiration to hand on the faith in our parishes. Each event will begin at 7:30pm and last for one hour. Catechists can choose from the three events based on their area of catechesis:

Thursday 13th March Children's Liturgy and First Holy Communion

Thursday 20th March Marriage Preparation and Baptism

Thursday 3rd April Confirmation and RCIA

To sign up for these events, please go to

<https://tinyurl.com/5d683j2p>

SANCTUARY LAMP

This week, St Mary's Sanctuary Lamp is donated by Barbara Davies for the intention of David Walker.



PASTORAL ACTIVITIES

- **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
- **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.
- **Confession for Confirmation candidates - 29 March at 10:30am** . The confession for all confirmands within the pastoral area will be held at St Philip Howard. Let us continue to pray for our candidates.



VOCATIONS

"Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?" Jesus calls us to self-awareness and humility, reminding us to look inward before we judge others. This same humility is essential when discerning how God is calling us to serve. Talk to Fr Matthew or contact Cn. John Cooke at vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Jubilee 2025—Pilgrims of Hope

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH
For families in crisis



Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

8-9 March : Jubilee of the World of Volunteering

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 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.



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 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).