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ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S

The Catholic Church in Gosport

09 March 2025 - FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (Year C)



08	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Jim Leigh RIP	<p>CONFESSION TIMES</p> <p>Wed 6:15pm-6:45pm (if Mass is celebrated) Sat - 12:00nn—1:00pm</p> <p>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION</p> <p><i>This Lent, Friday Adoration is replaced by Stations of the Cross after the 12nn Mass</i></p> <p>OUTREACH</p> <p>Thu from 12:00nn</p>
09	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	First Sunday of Lent	Neville Saunders RIP People of the Parish	
10	Mon	No Service			
11	Tue	12:00nn		Martina Bosoni RIP	
12	Wed	No Service <i>Fr Matthew will be in Fareham for the RCIA Reconciliation Service</i>			
13	Thu	07:00pm		Ms Mary Anne Cornelius RIP	
14	Fri	12:00nn		Anne Jessop INT	
15	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	People of the Parish	
16	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Second Sunday of Lent	Rev John Martin RIP Zied Solomon RIP	

REFLECTION

Forty Days, Forty Ways

How often is the number 40 mentioned in the Bible? Over 150 times. This is significant, because numbers are never used randomly in Scripture. They always mean something.

Some say that '40' is Biblical code for 'a very long time', but if you look carefully, you can see that it's very often connected with stories of trial or hardship before something new begins.

In today's Gospel, Jesus fasts and prays in the desert for 40 days and nights before starting his public ministry. But we also know that he later ascends to heaven 40 days after his resurrection.

Noah's flood lasts for 40 days; the Israelites wander in the desert for 40 years, and Moses waits for 40 days and nights on Mt Sinai for the Ten Commandments.

Each time, this waiting always precedes a new beginning.

After Noah's flood, a new civilization begins. After crossing the desert, the Israelites start a new life in the Promised Land. Moses' Ten Commandments mark God's new Covenant with all mankind. Jesus' public ministry marks the beginning of a new way of life for everyone. And his Ascension opens the way for the Holy Spirit to descend on his disciples.

Today is the first Sunday of Lent, and Lent of course, is the season of 40 days before we celebrate Easter, so now we're being invited to spend these 40 days preparing for something very new.

We all want to live our lives. Lent is a good opportunity to work towards that by making time for quiet reflection, by working through our flaws and fears, and by opening ourselves up to the freshness of Jesus Christ.

But for all that to happen, we must first lose our distractions, and that's why we're all encouraged to spend some time in the desert, just as Jesus did.

In the early Church, many religious men and women literally went into a desert for a while. These days, the desert is more likely to be quiet, spiritual place where we go to reflect. But our focus remains the same, to look beyond ourselves and to strengthen our relationship with Jesus Christ.

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 - MARCH

12 - Wed - No evening Mass and Confession

15 - Saturday 9:00am - First Holy Communion Catechism Session

19 - Wednesday 5:30pm - First Holy Communion Parents' Meeting . In St Mary's Parish Hall upper room

23 - Sunday - Parish Census

25 - Tuesday - Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION - CAFOD

Next week's second collection is for CAFOD. 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. You may also use the CAFOD envelope in church, or donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope. You may use the QR code and it will take you to CAFOD's virtual envelope where you can make your donation.



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.

BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR OUR DCN JOHN

May God continue to bless you with joy, strength, and grace in your ministry. Happy birthday!



Jubilee 2025—Pilgrims of Hope



The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity
and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

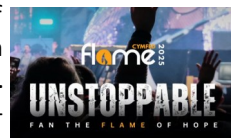
SANCTUARY LAMP

This week, St Mary's Sanctuary Lamp is donated by Apolinaria Kilany in memory of Felicitas Corpuz. May her soul rest in peace. ✠



YOUTH CONFERENCE—FLAME

On the 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. They will be joined by many other young members of the Catholic faith from all over the UK and other countries. Please pray that their passion for Christ remains strong and that they devote their lives to serving the Lord through His Church.



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.



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.

COLLECTION OF MISSIO BOXES

Please bring your Missio boxes, beginning next week. You may drop them off in the parish office during office hours or give them to Antony Cruddas, our Missio representative, after the 8:00am Sunday Mass. Please make sure that you have written your name on the box. If anybody wishes to have a Missio box, please let the parish office know.



Lent Schedule at St Mary's

Stations of the Cross

every Friday after the 12nn Mass from 07 March
9:30am on Saturday 05 April (led by the FHC children)
10:00am on Good Friday

13 April - Palm Sunday

Regular Sunday Mass schedule

15 April - Holy Tuesday - Chrism Mass

11:00am at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth
No 12:00nn Mass at St Mary's

16 April - Holy Wednesday - Spy Wednesday

07:00pm Mass

17 April - Maundy Thursday - The Lord's Supper

8:00pm Mass, Watching at the Altar of Repose at Our Lady Chapel until Night Prayer at 11:00pm

18 April - Good Friday

10:00am Stations of the Cross
3:00pm Liturgy

19 April - Holy Saturday

12nn Confession
8:30pm (Vigil)

20 April - Easter Sunday

(also Feast of the Annunciation)
8:00am Dawn Mass and 11:15am Day Mass



Lent schedule for other churches within the Pastoral Area (Park Gate, Fareham, Stubbington & Lee) will be available at St Mary's Facebook page, St Mary's website, and notice board.

March 8-9 is Jubilee of the World of Volunteering.

We continue to thank and celebrate all our parish volunteers, and all that they bring to continue building the Kingdom of God. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please speak to Fr Matthew or call the office.