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ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S

The Catholic Church in Gosport

23 March 2025 - THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (Year C)



22	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 <i>This Lent, Friday Adoration is replaced by Stations of the Cross after the 12nn Mass</i></p> <p>OUTREACH Thu from 12:00nn</p>
23	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Third Sunday of Lent	Edwin Alvarez RIP Kathleen Hourigan RIP	
24	Mon	No Service			
25	Tue	12:00nn	The Annunciation of the Lord	Joe Gomes RIP	
26	Wed	07:00pm		Sr Charlotte McNeill RIP	
27	Thu	11:00am 07:00pm	<i>Requiem Mass</i>	David Palmer RIP Ken & Mary MacDonald RIP	
28	Fri	12:00nn		Ms Mary Anne Cornelius RIP	
29	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Effie & Craton Nunes RIP	
30	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Fourth Sunday of Lent	Wesley Sally & Aria INT People of the Parish	

REFLECTION

A Call to Repentance and Fruitfulness

The season of reflection challenges us to embrace change and growth. It's a time to examine our hearts and respond to God's call with action. Through repentance and acts of faith, we can live a life that bears spiritual **fruit**.

Repentance is at the heart of this journey. It's about turning away from distractions and focusing on God's will. Like the *gardener* in the parable of the fig tree, God patiently nurtures us, giving us time to grow.

Practical steps include prayer, fasting, and acts of kindness. These actions help us align our lives with God's purpose. By seeking His guidance, we can respond to His call with humility and faith.

Bearing Fruit Through Acts of Faith and Kindness

Living a fruitful life means showing **compassion** and offering **forgiveness**. These acts reflect God's love and bring us closer to Him. Whether it's helping a neighbour or forgiving someone who has wronged us, every action matters.

The parable reminds us that we are called to *bear fruit* in our daily lives. This fruitfulness is a testament to our faith and a way to honour God's presence in our lives.

As we journey through this season, let's embrace the opportunity to grow spiritually. By responding to God's call with repentance and action, we can live a life that truly bears fruit.

I greet you, Ever-blessed Virgin, Mother of God, Throne of Grace, miracle of Almighty Power! I greet you, Sanctuary of the Most Holy Trinity and Queen of the Universe, Mother of Mercy and refuge of sinners! Most loving Mother, attracted by your beauty and sweetness, and by your tender compassion, I confidently turn to you, miserable as I am, and beg of you to obtain for me from your dear Son the favour I request in this novena: (Mention your petitions here)

Obtain for me also, Queen of heaven, the most lively contrition for my many sins and the grace to imitate closely those virtues which you practiced so faithfully, especially humility, purity, and obedience. Above all, I beg you to be my Mother and Protectress, to receive me into the number of your devoted children, and to guide me from your high throne of glory.

Do not reject my petitions, Mother of Mercy! Have pity on me, and do not abandon me during life or at the moment of my death. Amen.



Feast of the Annunciation of our Lord

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

25 - Tue - Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord

30 - Sun - Fourth Sunday of Lent and Mothering Sunday

April

13 - Sun - Palm Sunday

15 - Tue - **Chrism Mass** . This will be held at St John's Cathedral at 11:00am. Everyone is encouraged to join the service.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent, our Eucharist Adoration on Fridays is replaced by the Stations of the Cross (SoTC) straight after the 12nn Mass. There will be SoTC on 05 April led by the FHC children and on Good Friday, the SoTC will be at 10:00am.



SUNDAY MISSAL

This Sunday Missal (Standard Edition) contains the readings and Order of Mass for every Sunday and solemnity of the liturgical cycle. This beautiful hardback missal with two ribbons will support prayer and devotion in all seasons of life. This is available to order through the parish or by visiting www.ctsbooks.org.



MASS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please consider asking for particular prayer intentions at Mass and the Sanctuary Lamp. To make a request, please use the envelopes that are available in the church foyer. For Mass intentions, the next available date is May.

ST MARY'S EAST WINDOW

Our window was featured in an article in The Tablet magazine. If you wish to read it, the link is: <https://tinyurl.com/3etahjsh>



COLLECTION OF MISSIO BOXES

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, pls contact the parish office.



24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

"24 Hours for the Lord" is an annual event that takes place on the eve of the Fourth Sunday of Lent. This is an event of prayer, reconciliation, and Adoration, inviting the faithful to spend time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. This year, as part of the Jubilee celebrations, we are called to deepen our encounter with our Lord, seeking mercy and grace. *Joining the Catholic communities around the world, we are extending the opening hours of St Mary's Church until 7:30pm on 28 March—Friday. This is for all the faithful to rest in His presence, offer your prayers, and open your heart to His love and mercy. After the Stations of the Cross, there will be Eucharistic Adoration from 1:30-7:30pm. This will only be possible if we have parishioners willing to give an hour to the Lord, so please sign up after the Mass by providing your name and contact number. Adoration will finish with a night prayer. Please join us.*



REQUIEM MASS FOR DAVID PALMER

There will be a Requiem Mass for David Palmer on the 27th of March at 12nn followed by a committal at Anns Hill. Eternal rest grant unto him oh Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.



IT IS PARISH CENSUS DAY!
BE COUNTED!

SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp this week is lit for the intentions of Mozard and Anne Fernandes.



NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION - CLERGY ASSISTANCE

The Clergy Assistance Fund contributes to the work of the Department for Clergy Team. This appeal resources our Diocese to assist our priests towards holiness, happiness and health - to serve those who serve us. The Clergy Support Team is responsible for looking after the welfare, ongoing formation and personal support of our clergy, such as the provision of spiritual direction, counselling, appraisal, ongoing formation and practical advice. It organises retreats, ministerial formation days, courses and sabbaticals. It looks after the junior clergy, the overseas clergy and especially the retired clergy. It is the principal mechanism through which the Bishop looks after the wellbeing of the clergy. You may also donate using the Dona Machine at the back of the church.

STELLA MARIS EASTER CHOCOLATE APPEAL

A donation box will be made available in the church foyer for all your chocolate donations for the Stella Maris chocolate appeal. Your donations will go to all seafarers visiting our ports in the next couple of months.

PASTORAL ACTIVITIES

- **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.

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.

VOCATIONS

"I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future." We are invited to consider how God may be cultivating our hearts, preparing us for a vocation of service. Is God calling you to priesthood or consecrated life, and patiently waiting for you to respond? Talk to Fr Matthew, Dcn John or contact Cn. John Cooke vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869

SOLENT PASTORAL AREA—UPDATE

As you may recall from the last Update before Christmas, the Bishop has agreed that we should aim to establish the new parish envisaged in the 10-year diocesan plan by September 2026 - which is now "next year"! The Solent Pastoral Area Advisory Group (SPAAG) has started to make plans for this change and to help in this work, 3 subgroups have been formed.

The **St Peter Group** will focus on the ongoing formation of the laity across the Pastoral Area. It will explore what parishioners feel they need and the topics, methods and resources that would best meet those needs.

The **St Paul Group** will focus on evangelisation in the wider community of our towns and will grow out of other mission efforts such as the Zion mission happening in Fareham in June.

Finally, the **St Matthew Group** will address Pastoral Area finances, property and resources, working alongside parish Finance chairs and the Diocesan Canon Lawyer (changes such as those proposed entail a lot of processes that are enshrined in canon law).

More information about the groups will be shared as and when it becomes available and, meanwhile, these SPA updates are now being shared across all our existing parishes.