

Parochial Admin: **Rev. Fr Matthew King**
 Parish Secretary: **Clarinda Mansfield**
 Deacon: **Dcn John Cumpsty**
 Office Hours: **Mon to Fri 9am—12pm**
 Email: **office@stmarysgosport.org.uk**
 Telephone: **(023) 9258 0119**



Chaplain War Memorial: **(023) 9258 0119**

Chaplain QA Hospital: **(023) 9228 6408**

Safeguarding:

safeguarding@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



@catholicchurcingosport



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

ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S

The Catholic Church in Gosport

30 March 2025 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Year C)



29	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Effie & Craton Nunes 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>
30	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Fourth Sunday of Lent	Wesley Sally & Aria INT Elfi Ip INT	
31	Mon	No Service			
01	Tue	12:00nn		Klara Mansfield INT	
02	Wed	07:00pm		Holy Souls in Purgatory	
03	Thu	07:00pm		Raewynne Beevers RIP	
04	Fri	12:00nn		Ms Mary Anne Cornelius RIP	
05	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Barbara Allen & Bernadette Knight RIP	
06	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Fifth Sunday of Lent	Melissa & Ben INT People of the Parish	

REFLECTION

Trading Parched Grain for Manna

In the First Reading, the Israelites are finally at the promised land. The Exodus is over and the Israelites eat parched grain from the produce of the land.

The Exodus was a tough time for the Israelites. But, almost from the start, there was one peril in the desert from which the Israelites did not suffer: lack of food.

That is because God himself fed them.

A funny kind of food appeared on the ground, and the Israelites gathered it in. When that food first showed up on the ground, the Israelites said, “WHAT is THAT?”—“MAH NA” in their language. (And ‘manna’ is what it came to be called by them, and by us.)

The Israelites learned fast what the answer to their question was. That stuff on the ground, the manna, was like Tolkien’s lembas or Elven bread. It was unbelievably nourishing. You could go a very long time on just a little of it. And it was delicious. It was light; it had something of the taste of coriander about it; and there was a suspicion of honey in it, too. It was magically good, and it came from the hand of God, who hand-fed his people in the wilderness.

Who would ever want to give up manna?

But when the Exodus ended, the manna did too. One night the Israelites ate the parched grain of the promised land, and the next day there was no more manna.

I don’t know what parched grain is, but it doesn’t sound worth having by comparison with manna, does it? It doesn’t sound delicious. It doesn’t come from the hand of God; you have to get it for yourself. And you have to work to grow it. It doesn’t just magically appear on the ground in the morning.

Who would ever want to trade manna for parched grain?

But the parched grain was the beginning of life in the promised land, where the Israelites found a home. The consoling sweetness of manna came out of the harshness of the conditions of the Exodus. Out of the sorrow of trading manna for parched grain there came the consolation of home.

And here is the lesson for us. The Lord’s goodness never fails. It changes in character, but it is always there for us.

Source: Prof Eleonore Stump, *Spiritual Reflection* (www.liturgy.shu.edu)

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.



Welcome to all our visitors and parishioners. St Mary's is open every day for visits, prayers and Masses. If you are new to the parish, please introduce yourself to Fr Matthew King or Dcn John Cumpsty after Mass today.

PARISH KEY DATES

April

01 - Parish office will be closed

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.

RCIA & RCIC REHEARSAL

For all the participants of the RCIC and RCIA programme, there will be a rehearsal on the 12th of April—Saturday, in St Mary's from 10:00am.



THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION - CLERGY ASSISTANCE

The annual collection for the Clergy Assistance Fund helps support the Department for Clergy Team. They are responsible for the welfare, ongoing formation and personal support of our clergy. They look after the junior clergy, overseas clergy, and especially the retired clergy. Donations can be in cash, or through our contactless card facility in the church foyer. You may also donate online by using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/3maw8jds>

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Are you planning on having your child baptised? Please speak to Fr Matthew after the Mass. The next parents' online baptismal preparation will be on Tue the 6th and 13th of May with a Meet & Greet on Sat 17th May. Are you expecting your child soon? You may take part. Contact the parish office for more information.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy group is holding the next session on 6th April—Sunday. We are inviting all children aged 4 to pre-First Holy Communion age to join.

There will be NO Tea and Coffee in the hall today - 30 March after the 11:15am Mass to give families an opportunity to celebrate Mothering Sunday with their loved ones.

ORGAN MUSIC NEXT SUNDAY

We extend a warm welcome to Kieran who will play the organ next Sunday - 6 April at the 11:15am Sunday Mass.

SPECIAL COLLECTION - EASTER FLOWER APPEAL

On the 6th and 13th of April, there will be a special collection after Mass for Easter Flowers. Your kind donations, however small, will make a big difference. Thank you for your generosity.



LOOKING FOR A VENUE?

Our church hall is available for events! Spacious, affordable, and perfect for meetings, parties, and gatherings. Contact the parish office for details and bookings.

WEEKDAY & SUNDAY MISSALS

The **Sunday Missal** contains the readings and Order of Mass for every Sunday and solemnity of the liturgical cycle.



The **Weekday Missal** contains all the prayers and readings for all weekday Masses from Monday to Saturday.



If you wish to purchase your own copy of the Weekday or Sunday Missal, you may order online by visiting www.ctsbooks.org or www.cbcdistributors.co.uk. The parish will have a few copies of the Sunday Missal available in the repository at a cost of £25.

SPONSOR A SANCTUARY LAMP

If you would like to sponsor a Sanctuary Lamp, either at St Mary's or at St Columba's with a thoughtful intention, simply fill out a sponsor envelope that is available in the church foyer. The cost of sponsoring a Lamp is £5 per week (Sunday to Saturday). Your intentions will also be remembered during the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday. Please use the envelope provided at the back of the church.

MASS INTENTIONS

To have a Mass offered for your intentions, kindly use the envelopes at the back of the church. Please book in advance. The earliest available date commences from May 20th.

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.



PARISH CENSUS

Be a part of our parish - have you been counted? Thank you for filling in the census form last week! It was such an undertaking, but rest assured that this is for the benefit of our parish. Updating our parishioner database helps the church maintain accurate records, improve pastoral care, plan for growth and resources, help enhance communication, and it provides opportunity for parishioners to participate in ministries and volunteer work.



We kindly ask you to fill in the form if you missed it last Sunday. Forms are available at the entrance to the church after Mass. Please take a form to complete and return to the parish office as soon as possible. We also encourage those who are able, to please consider Gift-Aiding your donations. Gift Aid leaflets are available. Thank you for your time and commitment to our parish.

STELLA MARIS EASTER CHOCOLATE APPEAL

A donation box is 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. Thank you.

Jubilee 2025—Pilgrims of Hope

28-30 March—Jubilee of the Missionaries of Mercy



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).