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ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S

The Catholic Church in Gosport



6 & 13 April 2025 - Fifth Sunday of Lent & Palm Sunday (Year C)

05	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Barbara Allen & Bernadette Knight RIP	CONFESSION TIMES Wed 6:15pm-6:45pm <i>(if Mass is celebrated)</i> Sat - 12:00nn—1:00pm EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION <i>This Lent, Friday Adoration is replaced by Stations of the Cross after the 12nn Mass</i> OUTREACH Thu from 12:00nn
06	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Fifth Sunday of Lent	Melissa & Ben INT Mac Stephenson INT	
07	Mon	No Service			
08	Tue	12:00nn		Martin and James Connolly RIP	
09	Wed	07:00pm		John Horseman RIP	
10	Thu	07:00pm		Philomena Gaynor RIP	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. <i>Please Gift Aid your donations if possible.</i>
11	Fri	12:00nn		Noah Harding RIP	
12	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Elizabeth Extance & Family RIP	
13	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	PALM SUNDAY	People of the Parish Emma Cliffe INT	
14	Mon	No Service			
15	Tue		CHRISM MASS - 11:00am at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth		
16	Wed	07:00pm	Holy Wednesday	John Hook RIP	
17	Thu	08:00pm	MAUNDY THURSDAY	Private Intention PP	
18	Fri	10:00am 03:00pm	Stations of the Cross GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE		
19	Sat	08:30pm	EASTER (Vigil Mass)	People of the Parish	
20	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	EASTER SUNDAY	Liz Conyers RIP Zied Solomon RIP	

BLESSING OF EASTER BASKETS - ŚWIECONKA AT OUR LADY IN STUBBINGTON . Swieconka(sh-vee-en-soon-kah) is one of the most beloved Polish traditions. Baskets containing a sampling of Easter foods are brought to church to be blessed on Holy Saturday. Although every family might have its own traditions when it comes to the Easter baskets, many make sure to include enough food so every family member can have a bite of all the blessed foods after Mass on Easter Sunday. This can be a taste of the Easter dinner foods, plus some daily staples. The basket is traditionally lined with a white linen or lace napkin and decorated with sprigs of boxwood (buzsapan), the typical Easter evergreen. Observing the beautiful foods and creations of other parishioners is one of the special joys of the event. **Easter baskets will be blessed by Fr Francis Sasinowski on 19 April - Holy Saturday 10:00am at Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Bells Lane Stubbington PO14 2PL.**



OFFICE CLOSURE . The parish office will be closed after Easter, from the 21st to the 25th of April, re-opening on Monday the 28th. If you need assistance, please leave a voicemail message as this will be checked periodically during this period. Alternatively, you may send an email and this will be replied to upon the return of the Parish Administrator. In case of emergency, please call 07590643572.

FR MATTHEW'S EASTER BREAK . Fr Matthew will not be available from the 21st to the 24th of April. Regular Mass schedule and Friday Eucharistic Adoration will resume on the 25th OF April - Friday.

TEA & COFFEE . There will be NO tea and coffee after the 11:15am Mass on Easter Sunday

WARM WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS AND PARISHIONERS.

Welcome to all visitors and parishioners who have joined us at St Mary's. Whether you are seeking spiritual growth, connection, or simply a place to belong, we hope you find our church a welcoming place. If you are new to the parish, please introduce yourself to Fr Matthew and/or Dcn John after Mass today.

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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent, our Eucharistic Adoration on Fridays is replaced by the Stations of the Cross (SoTC) straight after the 12nn Mass. **There will be SoTC on Good Friday at 10:00am.**



SECOND COLLECTION FOR EASTER FLOWERS

For two consecutive Sundays starting this weekend, our second collection is for Easter Flowers. Your kind donations, however small, will make a big difference. Thank you for your generosity.



GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION—CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND

The Pontifical Good Friday Collection supports the Christian community in the Middle East. This last year has been particularly challenging for this small community which seeks 'to be the salt, light and leaven of the Gospel' in the region, often living in difficult circumstances. "May this year's collection pro Terra Sancta be an opportunity for everyone not to ignore the difficult situation of our brothers and sisters of the Holy Places but rather to lighten their burdens." – Leonardo Card. Sandri
Thank you for your support." You may also donate using our electronic collection plate or online : <https://tinyurl.com/2p8v3vna>

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.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE—GOSPORT

Catholic Women's League - Gosport . Gosport section of CWL is meeting at 1:30pm in the Hall of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Stubbington on Wednesday 9th April. Our group consists of members from all the parishes in this area so come along and meet us. For information, please contact Marguerite Boulter 01489 575663 margieboulter@aol.com or Marie Owen 07790 378 097 mariaeowen@gmail.com

WEEKDAY & SUNDAY MISSALS

Few copies of the Sunday Missal are now available in the repository at a cost of £25.

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.

There are also Sunday Missals ideal as gifts for FHC, Confirmation, or weddings. Please contact the parish office if you need more information.



SANCTUARY LAMP

This week, Sanctuary Lamp is donated by Anne & Mozard Fernandes in memory of Marinao & Clara Fernandes. May their souls rest in peace. ✠



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 is in May.

EASTER OFFERING COLLECTION FOR FR MATTHEW

Priests depend on the generosity of parishioners during Christmas and Easter as a token of gratitude for their Ministry. This is a chance for us to demonstrate our appreciation to Fr Matthew by contributing to the Easter Collection. This offering, combined with the Christmas collection, constitutes a significant portion of his income.

You may give through:

1. The use of Easter Collection envelope that is available at the back of the church
2. The Mass collection on Easter Sunday
3. Bank transfer to the parish bank account with "Easter Collection" as reference
3. Contactless payment using the collection machine at the back of church: "Easter Offering (Priest)"
4. The use of our give as you live (GAYL) page - <https://tinyurl.com/bdhkkdv4> Thank you

GIFT AID ENVELOPES NOW AVAILABLE

To those who signed up for the Gift aid envelopes, they are now available in the back of the church. If you filled in a Gift Aid form and you wish to have envelopes for your weekly donations, please contact the parish office or speak to Ann Berger after the 11:15am Mass. It is not too late to gift aid your donations if you are a UK taxpayer.

Jubilee 2025—Pilgrims of Hope

5-6 April - Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers



WORLDPRIEST GLOBAL ROSARY RELAY

The Annual Global Rosary Relay for the Sanctification of Priests will again take place on **27 June 2025, the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**. Worldpriest asks us to 'Pray the Rosary, unite with our country, and help encircle the world in prayer' on 27 June—Friday. This will be its fourteenth year, having grown from 24 to 2,600 prayer locations.

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. The Southampton, Fawley and Portsmouth Port Chaplains will deliver your treats to all seafarers visiting our ports in the next couple of months. Thank you.

PARISH CENSUS . Are you new to the parish? Did you miss our form-filling Sunday?

If so, Please take a Parishioner Registration 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. For information, Gift Aid leaflets are available in the church foyer. Thank you for your time and commitment to our parish.



PALM SUNDAY & HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday and Blessing of the Palms

For the 11:15am Mass, everyone is requested to gather in St Mary's Hall for the procession into the church.



Holy Tuesday - Chrism Mass - 11:00am St John's Cathedral

The Mass is the special Liturgy in Holy Week during which the Bishop blesses the three Holy Oils for use in the Sacraments: the Oil of the Blessing of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens and the Oil of Chrism. The blessing of the Holy Oils is one of the most ancient ceremonies of the Church and it is always celebrated in the Cathedral with the priests, deacons, religious and lay people of the diocese. The Mass is one of the main diocesan events of the year and during it, all the priests make a renewal of their commitment to priestly service, "manifesting their communion with the Bishop" (Roman Missal). Everyone is encouraged to attend this special service.

Holy Wednesday - 7:00pm Mass

EASTER TRIDUUM (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday & Easter)

Sundown on Holy Thursday to sundown on Easter Sunday is considered the most solemn part of the liturgical year. This three-day period is referred to as the Easter Triduum, also known as the Sacred Triduum, or Paschal Triduum. The Triduum "reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil, and closes with evening prayer on Easter Sunday". The word "triduum" comes from the Latin word triduum, which comes from tris ("three") + dies ("day"). The Sacred Triduum is one great festival recounting the last three days of Jesus' life on earth, the events of His Passion and Resurrection, when the Lamb of God laid down his life in atonement for our sins.

MAUNDY THURSDAY—The Lord's Supper - 8:00pm

The evening Mass on Holy Thursday is referred to as *The Mass of the Lord's Supper*. This is where the Church re-lives the institution of the Eucharist and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the Last Supper, as well as the institution of the priesthood, which took place the evening before Jesus was crucified.

There will be **"washing of the feet" ceremony**, where Fr Matthew will wash the feet of others to signify his role as servant—just as Jesus did with His disciples. Extra hosts will be consecrated at this Mass to be used on Good Friday on which no Mass will be celebrated. **The Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday concludes with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the "altar of repose," a place where the consecrated Host is kept, away from the main altar where Mass is normally celebrated. The altar of repose will be at Our Lady Chapel. We encourage everyone to stay and pray with the reposed Eucharist at this altar of repose until 11:00pm, remembering Jesus' request in the Garden of Gethsemane for someone to "watch and pray" with Him.**

GOOD FRIDAY - 3:00pm Communion Service

Good Friday is a mandatory day of fasting and abstinence. This is the day of the crucifixion—the day Jesus died for the sins of the world. ***There will be Stations of the Cross at 10:00am. Please join us.***

On Good Friday, the parish altar will look very different: it is plain and bare. There is no consecrated Host in the tabernacle at the main altar of the church; it was carried away on Holy Thursday night to the "altar of repose" to signify Jesus' death. The candle by the tabernacle is blown out, and the tabernacle doors are left open to show that it is empty. Jesus is gone. This is a reminder that Good Friday is a solemn day of mourning and prayer. Good Friday is the only day of the year on which no Masses are offered.

Good Friday service will take place at 3 PM, the hour that Jesus breathed His last on the cross. Veneration of the Cross will also take place at this service, in which the priest and the faithful come before the cross and kiss it.

HOLY SATURDAY - 8:30pm (Easter Vigil)

We recall, with Mary and the disciples, that Jesus died and was separated from them for the first time as He lay in the tomb. The faithful often continue their Good Friday fast through Holy Saturday. Easter Vigil is the most beautiful liturgy in the church. The vigil is divided into several parts: the Service of Light, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of Baptism, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. This is also the Mass in which our RCIA and RCIC catechumens and candidates will be brought into full communion with the Catholic Church.

EASTER SUNDAY - 8:00 (Dawn Mass) and 11:15am (Day Mass)

Easter Sunday is what we've all been waiting for! The forty days of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during Lent was in preparation for this day, when our hearts and souls can drink in deeply the culmination of the Paschal mystery: the Resurrection.

"Therefore Easter is not simply one feast among others, but the 'Feast of feasts', the 'Solemnity of solemnities', just as the Eucharist is the 'Sacrament of sacraments'. St. Athanasius calls Easter 'the Great Sunday' and the Eastern Churches call Holy Week 'the Great Week'. The mystery of the Resurrection, in which Christ crushed death, permeates with its powerful energy our old time, until all is subjected to him."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1168 and 1169

Reference: goodcatholic.com and wikipedia

MONTH OF APRIL IS DEDICATED TO THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Dedicating April to the Holy Eucharist allows us to focus our hearts and minds on the profound mystery of the Eucharist—the real presence of Jesus Christ, body, blood, soul, and divinity. As we consider this profound Mystery of our Faith, let us, with hearts of deep gratitude and thanksgiving, fervently ask Our Lord Jesus for the graces to grow in devotion and love for Him in the Most Blessed Sacrament. And as Christ fills us with His presence at each Mass, we will be equipped to participate in His salvific work by living our Faith boldly in a world that desperately needs to see Jesus reflected in the life of every faithful Catholic today.



Source: covenantcatholic.org

REFLECTION

Year C – Palm Sunday Reflection

The introductory Gospel of Passion Sunday, or Palm Sunday as it is otherwise known, has Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem on the back of a colt, to be greeted by cheering crowds laying down their cloaks and branches, shouting in joy at the arrival of their liberator.

But before Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem the Jewish people had the expectation of a military Messiah, they were seeking the king of an Israeli state, who would overthrow the occupying force and truly free the people.

If Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem is the opening event of a popular uprising, where He is asking to be seen as the Messiah who comes to liberate through conquest, no wonder it fails so soon.

If we read the same Gospel from Mark we see that this is no uprising at all. Jesus enters the city, looks over the temple, and heads back to Bethany.

When there were signs that that expectation was going to be totally unfulfilled then it was easy to change the crowds' attitudes, turning them into a mob which would be manipulated and turned against Jesus. Where have we now heard that before!

And yet, he did come to liberate, not just Jerusalem, but each and every one of us. But his triumph is not a short campaign which may be won in weeks or months, his is not an easy victory. It is a campaign which has to be waged every day of our lives, we have to be liberated over and over again – and we see in the Passion narrative the price which has to be paid for that victory – death on a cross.

But what of the road which leads to the cross – Jesus is rejected by his own people, betrayed by Judas, denied by Peter, forsaken by disciples, condemned by religious authorities, beaten by Roman soldiers, crowned with thorns, unable to carry his cross, reviled by passers-by, and abandoned by God. All this suffering is a prelude to, and necessary, before the resurrection – in essence, no cross – no glory.

But what of us, how should we experience the liberation and glory he won for us through the cross. How should we *live* the Paschal mystery?

The essence of discipleship is that we don't simply *receive* the fruit of Jesus' suffering and death; the essence of discipleship is that we *carry* his cross. Disciples go wherever the Master goes.

To understand Jesus' mission and how it relates to us is a lifetime's work, perhaps only understood one day at a time. To be faithful followers we need to take up the cross, one day at a time. We may feel this to the depths of our being, we may suffer, we may lose heart, we will cry out to God to take our pain away.

But like Jesus, we too have divine life, first received in baptism, which gives us the strength to carry our cross.

During baptism when a child is anointed with the oil of chrism part of the prayer for the anointing is "As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet and King, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life."

Because of our baptism we are all united in Jesus, and that is how we should *live* out the Paschal Mystery - already united with our Lord.

Don John

GOING TO CONFESSION DURING LENT

The requirement for Catholics is to receive the sacrament of reconciliation or confession at least once per year, but it does not specify when that should be. Many Catholics, however, do receive this sacrament during the Lenten season, and for good reason: Lent is a special penitential season, meaning that during Lent we are called to make an extra effort to examine our lives and to strive to live in greater conformity with our faith, to imitate Jesus in a greater way.

During Lent we also take on some extra penitential practices in order to grow in holiness and be free from the bondage of sin. Because of this, it is fitting that many Catholics choose to receive the sacrament of reconciliation during this holy season.

Consider the words of the great saint and spiritual writer St. Francis de Sales when he said: *"In confession you do not only receive absolution for your venial sins, but you also receive great strength to help you in avoiding them henceforth, clearer light to discover your failings, and abundant grace to make up whatever loss you have incurred through those faults. You exercise the graces of humility, obedience, simplicity and love, and by this one act of confession you practice more virtue than in any other."*

Confession times at St Mary's: Wednesday—6:15-6:45pm, Saturday—from 12nn, on Sundays after Mass, or by appointment.

"Behold, my God, I come to Your sacrament of Confession to ask for forgiveness and to be restored to Your grace. You so loved us that You sent us Your only Son, and He is a shepherd willing to go searching after even one of His sheep. Guide me as I prepare to approach this sacrament."

NEW MILLENNIAL SAINT

Blessed Carlo Acutis' canonization Mass is expected to take place on Sunday, April 27, at 10:30 a.m. local time in St. Peter's Square. Born to Italian parents in London, England, in 1991, Blessed Carlo was a web designer who died from leukaemia at the age of 15 in Italy. He was known for his devotion to Eucharistic miracles and Marian apparitions, which he catalogued on a website he designed. Blessed Carlo was "welcoming and caring towards the poor, the homeless, and immigrants with the money he saved from his weekly allowance."

