

Parochial Admin: **Rev. Fr Matthew King**
 Parish Secretary: **Clarinda Mansfield**
 Deacon: **Dcn John Cumpsty**
 Safeguarding Officer: **Maureen Williams**
 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@stmarysgosport.org.uk
 @catholicchurchingosport
 www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/gosport/

ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S
 The Catholic Church in Gosport



20 & 27 April 2025 - Easter Sunday & Second Sunday of Easter (Year C)

19	Sat	08:30pm	EASTER (Vigil Mass)	People of the Parish	CONFESSION TIMES Wed 6:15pm-6:45pm (if Mass is celebrated) Sat - 12:00nn—1:00pm EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION Thu—after the 7pm Mass Holy half hour with Night Prayer Fri 10:00am—12:00nn OUTREACH Thu from 12:00nn
20	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	EASTER SUNDAY	Liz Conyers RIP Zied Solomon RIP	
21	Mon	No Service			
22	Tue	No Service			
23	Wed	No Service			TO MAKE DONATIONS: For <u>BACS Transfer</u> : 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. 
24	Thu	No Service			
25	Fri	12:00nn		Natty Beevers INT	
26	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Christine Barnett INT	
27	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Second Sunday of Easter	Michael Mark Palmer RIP People of the Parish	
28	Mon	No Service			
29	Tue	No Service			
30	Wed	07:00pm		Holy Souls in Purgatory	
01	Thu	07:00pm	St Joseph the Worker	Ms Mary Anne Cornelius RIP	
02	Fri	12:00nn	St Athanasius	Holy Souls in Purgatory	
03	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Annamma RIP	
04	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Third Sunday of Easter	Ms Mary Anne Corenelius RIP People of the Parish	

This Newsletter covers a two-week period. The next Newsletter will be issued on the 11th of May.

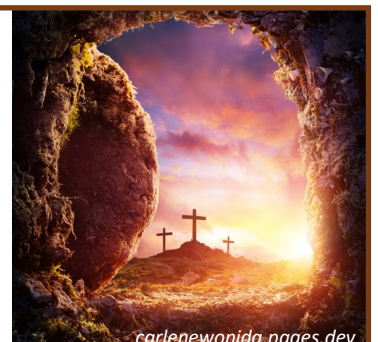
OFFICE CLOSURE . The parish office will be closed after Easter, from the 21st to the 25th of April, re-opening on Monday the 28th. If you need assistance, please leave a voicemail message as this will be checked periodically during this period. Alternatively, you may send an email and this will be replied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

NO MASS ON 06 MAY - TUESDAY . Fr Matthew will be on Clergy Day.

*Risen Lord,
 With a heart full of gratitude, I thank you for the gift of Your resurrection. You have overcome death and brought me light, hope, and new life. I offer You the burdens I carry—the fears, the doubts, the weariness, the struggles I can't seem to shake—and I lay them at the foot of the empty tomb. Fill the broken and tired places in me with Your peace, and renew my spirit with the joy that only Easter brings. Help me to be faithful, hopeful, and ready to share Your love with those around me. May I see you in the quiet moments, and may I be courageous enough to follow You wherever You lead me. Because You are alive, so is my hope. Amen.*



TO ALL VISITORS AND PARISHIONERS.

A warm welcome! 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.

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>

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. All donations, including Gift Aid where applicable, given at Masses on Easter Sunday (including the Easter Vigil), other than those by regular standing order, will be used exclusively to support the priest appointed to the parish. You may give through:

1. The use of Easter Collection envelope at back of the church
2. The Mass collection on Easter Sunday
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

SANCTUARY LAMP

The Easter Sunday Sanctuary Lamp is donated by Anne & Mozard Fernandes in memory of Reggie & Clare Martins. The Sanctuary Lamp for the Second Sunday of Easter is donated by Clarinda and William Mansfield in memory of Antonio & Marciana Bay. May their souls rest in peace. ✠



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

From 2:30-4:00pm, at Our Lady in Stubbington, there will be Eucharistic Adoration and Sacrament of Reconciliation

Our Lord's words to St Faustina about this requirement to be merciful are very strong and leave no room for misinterpretation: ***Yes, the first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be acts of mercy. 'I demand from you deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to your neighbours always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it.'*** To fittingly observe Divine Mercy Sunday in a solemn way, we should:

1. Celebrate the Feast on the Sunday after Easter
2. Sincerely repent of all our sins
3. Place our complete trust in Jesus
4. Go to Confession
5. Receive Holy Communion
6. Venerate the Image of the Divine Mercy
7. Be merciful to others, through our actions, words, and prayers on their behalf



Jubilee 2025—Pilgrims of Hope

25 - 27 April Jubilee of Teenagers

28 - 29 April Jubilee of People with Disabilities



PRAYER FOR OUR CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES

Matthew, Samantha, Richard, Maya, Jensen, & Freddie

Heavenly Father, we thank You for calling these Catechumens and Candidates into Your Church. Fill them with Your grace, strengthen their faith, and guide them on their journey to full communion. May they grow in love for You and trust in Your plan. Bless them with wisdom, courage, and joy as they now lovingly receive the sacraments. Surround them with Your peace and the support of the community of St Mary's Church, through Christ our Lord. Amen.



GIFT AID ENVELOPES NOW AVAILABLE

If you filled in a Gift Aid form and you wish to have envelopes for your weekly donations, we still have three available. Please speak to Ann Berger after the Mass It is not too late to gift aid your donations if you are a UK taxpayer.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

We have 11 candidates who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Sacrament of the Eucharist very soon. To parents of the candidates, please take note of these dates:

Sat - 26 April 9:00am - 10:30am

Sat - 03 May 9:00am - 10:30am

Sat - 17 May 9:00am - 10:30am

Sat - 07 June 9:00am - 10:30am

Sat - 21 June 9:00am - 10:30am

Sat - 28 June TBC Rehearsals

Sun - 29 June 11:15am First Holy Communion

Sat - 05 July 9:00am - 10:30am

Sun - 06 July 11:15am Going Forth Mass



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

We are inviting all children from aged 4 to join the Liturgy team for our Easter activity on the 27th of April during the 11:15am Mass.



MEET OUR NEW PSM—MAUREEN

We are pleased to announce Maureen as our new Parish Safeguarding Minister (PSM). Maureen brings great dedication and care to this important volunteer role, helping to ensure that our parish remains a safe and welcoming environment for everyone - especially children and vulnerable adults. Maureen will be your point of contact for any safeguarding concerns or questions. Her email address is : safeguarding@stmarysgosport.org.uk. Please join us in thanking Maureen for taking on this responsibility, and in supporting her as she begins this vital ministry.



May is the Month of Mary

In May, before the 11:15am Mass, the Rosary will be prayed from 10:45am. We are looking for at least 2 volunteers each Sunday to lead the Rosary. If you are interested, please give your name to Fr Matthew or Clarinda. And just like every year, we are going to have a High Street Marian procession at the end of May. If you can help with the carrying of the statue of Our Lady, please let us know. The Children's Liturgy group will also take this opportunity to gather the children in church after Mass to learn how to pray the Rosary.



LIGHT OF TRUTH—TRAINING

Light of Truth is an Apostolate of the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph with a mission to proclaim the Gospel by their lives and words. Several trainings and courses are available to those who wish to receive formation as Readers, Catechists, or if you simply would like to learn more about the Catholic Faith. Although the training is FREE to attend and open to everyone, please consider contributing, if you can, £5 per session. This is to help them live a life of consecration to God and do their work. Please visit www.lightoftruth.uk/join.

PASTORAL EVENTS

(Gosport . Lee . Stubbington . Fareham)

- **Saint Vincent de Paul** . Ric Burch, President of Fareham SVP would like to invite everyone to join them on the 7th of May for Mass of the Anointing at 1:30pm and to join them for tea afterwards in the church hall.
- One of the UK's most highly regarded Catholic evangelists is to lead a mini mission **at St Philip Howard in Fareham from June 20-22**. The mini mission will focus on evangelisation and how to share the Good News with those around us who may have no faith. The event will begin with an opening talk and worship at 7.30pm on **Friday, 20th June**, gathering again on Saturday morning at 9.30 for a day of prayer, talks and workshops with an evangelisation theme. The event will end with a closing service of thanksgiving on the Sunday, from 4pm-5.30pm. If you would like to attend the mini mission, it is essential that you register. You may do this by contacting Deacon Larry Murawski at 07425 161769 or lmurawski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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 27 May.

STELLA MARIS EASTER CHOCOLATE APPEAL

Stella Maris would like to thank everyone who generously donated Easter eggs towards their appeal. All donated chocolates will reach seafarers from far and wide visiting our shores during the Easter season.



NEW MILLENIAL 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."



CAFOD MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, CAFOD is responding through the Catholic Church there to support families affected by the disaster. Your donations will provide essentials like water, food, solar lights, and mosquito nets. Please give to CAFOD's Myanmar Earthquake Appeal in church or you can donate online at cafod.org.uk/myanmar or by calling 0303 303 3030. You can also text EARTHQUAKE to 70450 to donate £10

DIOCESAN LITURGY PROJECT

The Liturgy Formation Team for the Diocese is organising further formation sessions for EMHC and Readers this year. The sessions are open to both new and experienced Ministers. Both sessions will take place at St Bede's Church/Hall in Basingstoke

EMHC day on 3rd May will include a session on taking Holy Communion to the sick and house bound.

Readers' day on 18th October will include a session on Lectio Divina.

In addition, they are organising Formation for **Ministers of Children's Liturgy on 6th September, also at St Bede's, from 10.30 am to 1 pm.** The programme will include prayer and reflection, sharing good practice; working collaboratively; how to grow and communicate as Liturgical Catechists; Music suggestions; and a wish list for future support, networking & how to find more helpers. Anyone involved in any of the above is encouraged to register via liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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.

WEEKDAY & SUNDAY MISSALS

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

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME - THE CHOSEN

St Mary's have 8 Confirmation candidates attending the programme in Fareham. Five of them will be confirmed in June this year. All sessions are taking place at St Philip Howard. Below is the schedule of the sessions leading up to the Confirmation at St John's Cathedral.

Fri - 25 April 7:00-8:30

Fri - 09 May 7:00-8:30

Sat - 10 May 9:00am-7:00pm Retreat at Park Place

Fri - 16 May 7:00-8:30

Fri - 23 May 7:00-8:30

Fri - 6 June 7:00-8:00 Rehearsal

Saturday - 7 June Confirmation at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth

Has your child received the Sacrament of the Eucharist (First Holy Communion) and is over 12 years old? Then they may now be ready to attend the Confirmation programme. Please contact the parish office for more information.

FLAME 2025 - UNSTOPPABLE

Fan the Flame of Hope



Saturday, 15th of March, was the day three of our young parishioners were looking forward to. It was FLAME 2025! **William and Klara** attended two years ago, but for **Catherine**, this is a new experience. The O2 Arena was buzzing with young voices from all over England, Wales, other parts of Europe, and even as far as America! There were 10,800 participants, and this number included our very own, plus the Confirmation group from Fareham and St Edmunds' Catholic School chaplaincy group in Portsmouth.

The praise and worship got everyone going! It was evident that a powerful truth was echoing through the gathering: **you are the Church.** Not just future leaders or bystanders—you are part of God's mission today. **You have been called by name,** uniquely chosen for a purpose. You need to always remember that Christ is always on your side and that you are "unstoppable".

In a world that often tells the youth that "faith is outdated" and that "the young does not matter", the message couldn't be clearer: you are chosen, you are called, and with Christ on your side, you are UNSTOPPABLE!

TV adventurer Bear Grylls shared his own faith journey—not perfect, but personal. For him, faith is still a journey. He described it as an **ember**, quietly burning even in tough times. "Faith is not part of the adventure; faith is the adventure," he said. It's the backbone, the **fire, light, and water** that sustains. Doubt? It's part of the deal. Faith and doubt are two sides of the same coin—and that's okay. Just like adventure is a state of mind, Faith is a state of presence, a way of seeing, feeling, and responding with openness, trust and love.

Pope Francis reminded us of something deeply moving: **"God believes in you."** That is not just encouragement, it is divine confidence in your potential, your goodness and your mission.

Bro Chris Patino of De La Salle— California urged young people to **unleash the spirit of the Living God** and to **fan the flame of hope**, because **hope does not disappoint.** You are not just a face in the crowd—you are God's living letter written not with ink, but by the Spirit of the Living God, dictated by Jesus Christ himself.

The call to youth is clear: **believe in your goodness, your purpose, and your power to make a difference.**

We are all invited to humanise our faith—to live it out in real, authentic ways through faith, fun, and friendship. Now is the time to stand ablaze with God's fire. Not tomorrow. Not someday. Now. Because we are chosen. We are called, and the Church needs our light. We are UNSTOPPABLE.

The season of Easter is not just about remembering that Jesus rose—it's about rising with Him.

*As we celebrate the Resurrection, we are reminded that **new life is possible**—for our Church, for our communities, and for each other. The same power that raised Christ from the dead is at work in each one of us. Easter invites us to step into that power with courage and joy, to live boldly in our faith, and to bring the light of Christ to places where there is doubt, pain, or indifference.*

*We are not meant to hide our fire—we are called to burn brightly for others to see. Let this be a season where we not only receive hope, but **become messengers of hope**, where we move from the empty tomb into a world that desperately needs life, light, and love.*

*So ask yourself: **What is Christ calling me to rise into this Easter?***

*And then—step forward. **You are chosen. You are called. And now, you are sent. Be UNSTOPPABLE!***

May the joy of the Risen Christ fill your hearts and homes this season. Be assured of our prayers—Christ is truly risen! Have a blessed Easter.

– Fr Matthew & Den John