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ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S

The Catholic Church in Gosport

04 May 2025 - Third Sunday of Easter (Year C)



ST MARY'S WEBSITE



ST MARY'S FACEBOOK

03	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Annamma RIP	CONFESSION TIMES Thu 6:15pm-6:45pm <i>(if Mass is celebrated)</i> Sat - 12:00nn—1:00pm EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION Thu—after the 7pm Mass <i>Holy half hour with Night Prayer</i> Fri 10:00am—12:00nn OUTREACH Thu from 12:00nn
04	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Third Sunday of Easter	Ms Mary Anne Cornelius RIP People of the Parish	
05	Mon	No Service			
06	Tue	No Service	<i>Fr Matthew on Clergy Day</i>		
07	Wed	12:00nn		E.K. Molloy INT	
08	Thu	07:00pm		Frank Frankland RIP	
09	Fri	12:00nn		Ms Mary Anne Cornelius RIP	
10	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Elizabeth Extance & Family RIP	
11	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Fourth Sunday of Easter	People of the Parish Zied Solomon RIP	

REFLECTION

Mary, the mother of Jesus, holds a unique and cherished place in our belief as Catholics. She is more than just the mother of Christ; she is a symbol of faith, love, and total trust in God's will. Her "yes" to God, the fiat (Luke 1:38), changed the course of history. Through her humble consent, God entered the world, and redemption began. We honour Mary as the first disciple of Christ. Her journey was not easy. From the moment the angel Gabriel visited her, she faced uncertainty, doubt, and hardship. Yet, her deep faith never wavered. Mary was a young girl when she accepted God's will to become the Mother of Jesus. Imagine the courage it took to say yes, knowing the challenges that would come. Her acceptance is a powerful example of complete trust in God's plan.

At the foot of the Cross, Mary's heart broke as she watched her Son suffer and die. Yet, even in her grief, she remained steadfast. In this moment, she became a mother not only to Jesus but to all of humanity. As Catholics, we believe that in His final moments, Jesus entrusted Mary to us as our mother (John 19:26-27). This makes her the spiritual mother of all believers, constantly interceding for us, guiding us closer to her Son. One of the most moving titles Catholics give Mary is Our Lady of Sorrows. This reflects her deep compassion and understanding of human suffering. Mary knew the pain of a mother's broken heart, but she also knew the hope of the Resurrection. This is why Catholics turn to her in times of distress, trusting that she understands our pain and offers her loving comfort.

The Church also teaches that Mary was conceived without sin. This doctrine of the Immaculate Conception (Luke 1:28) means that God preserved her from original sin, preparing her to be the perfect vessel for His Son. She lived a life of purity and holiness, never turning away from God's grace. Moreover, Catholics believe that at the end of her life, Mary was taken up into heaven, body and soul. This is known as the Assumption (Revelation 12:1). It signifies her full participation in the glory of her Son's resurrection and points to the hope of our own bodily resurrection.

Mary is not just a figure from the past; she is alive in heaven, constantly praying for us. We often ask for her intercession, trusting that as a loving mother, she brings our prayers to Jesus. When we pray the Hail Mary, we are asking her to pray for us "now and at the hour of our death." In her life, Mary embodies all that it means to be a follower of Christ: humility, faith, courage, and above all, love. She points us toward her Son and reminds us that no matter how difficult life may become, God's grace is always with us. Mary's powerful example teaches us to trust God fully and to embrace His will, knowing that His love never fails.

As our loving mother, she is always close, offering her prayers, her comfort, and her love. Through Mary, we come to know her Son more deeply, and through her example, we learn to live with greater faith, hope, and love.

Source: www.catholic.org/news/hf/faith/story.php

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.



May is the Month of Mary

During this month, the Holy Rosary will be prayed at 10:45am. There will be a Marian procession on the 18th. If you think you can help with the carrying of the statue of Our Lady, please let Elsie 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.



PARISH KEY DATES

May

17 Sat - First Holy Communion Children's Session (FHC) at 10am in St Mary's Hall

18 Sun - Marian High Street Procession

23 Fri - No Service. Fr Matthew will be away.

29 Thu - Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (Holy day of obligation). There will be a midday Mass and the regular evening Mass.

June

07 Sat - Confirmation Day. at St John's Cathedral.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

11 May - Good Shepherd Sunday. We are inviting all children from aged 4 to First Holy Communion age to join. Children's liturgy takes place every 2nd Sunday of the month during the 11:15am Mass

Holy Mary, Mother of God, be with us now and always. Guide us, protect us, and lead us closer to your Son, Jesus Christ. Wrap us in your mantle of love and keep us under your care. Amen.

COME PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US

The Rosary group meets every night at 8pm on WhatsApp. If you would like to join and participate in praying the Rosary as part of the group please contact Anthonia 07773185812 or Clare 07774664409. Thank you.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME - THE CHOSEN

St Mary's have 8 Confirmation candidates attending the programme in Fareham. Five of them will be confirmed on the 7th of June—Saturday at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth. Please continue to pray for them. **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.**

Tea and Coffee in St Mary's Hall every Sunday after the 11:15am Mass. Please join us for a friendly cuppa and chat.

REQUIEM MASS FOR JACKIE GULVIN ✠

Of your charity please pray for the soul of Jackie Gulvin RIP. There will be a Requiem Mass on Thurs **15th May - 11am** at **Sacred Heart Church.** *May she rest in peace & rise in glory.*

Announcement from Fr Matthew

In 1992, Pope St John Paul II wrote an important document governing the formation of clergy, known as Pastores Dabo Vobis. In it he reminds priests that having completed their theological studies and being ordained does not mean an end to their formation and development. Rather, formation should continue as they live out their vocation. Indeed, John Paul II writes that clergy should always be developing to better serve God and his people. Therefore, I am very pleased to have the opportunity to begin a training course in counselling & psychotherapy. It is my sincere hope to eventually qualify as a priest-therapist, though this journey will be long. The first course runs for six months, and I will be studying part-time so that my ministry in Gosport will continue as normal. My lessons, however, will be held on Wednesday evenings which will, unfortunately, interrupt the parish schedule for the next six months. **Therefore, Wednesday schedules will temporarily change until the end of September 2025. During this time there will instead be a Noon Mass on Wednesdays, and Confessions will be from 6:15 - 6:45pm on Thursday evenings.** I apologise for this temporary disruption to the parish schedule. Please keep me in your prayers as I begin these studies.

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION

The second collection next week is for the Clergy Training Fund. CTF supports our seminarians, including the 11 men currently in formation for the priesthood, for the duration of their six or seven-year journey to ordination. To sustain a Seminarian costs around £30,000 each year. Each seminarian brings to his training his own life experience and then participates in a comprehensive programme of formation pastorally, intellectually, humanly and spiritually. These are the men who will baptise and catechise the coming generations, and care for us on our pilgrim way: our generosity today is a legacy to the Church of tomorrow. Online donations may be made through <https://tinyurl.com/mdbnfcnc>. You may also donate using our electronic collection plate that is in 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. You may book in advance.

Jubilee 2025—Pilgrims of Hope

01-04 May Jubilee of Workers

04-05 May Jubilee of Entrepreneurs



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.

PASTORAL EVENTS

(Gosport . Lee . Stubbington . Fareham)

- **Saint Vincent de Paul** . Mass of the Anointing on 7th May at 1:30pm at St Philip Howard - Fareham.
- **Evangelisation Mini-Mission** . 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. If you would like to attend the mini mission, please register by contacting Deacon Larry Murawski at 07425 161769 or lmurawski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE - GOSPORT

The Gosport Section of the Catholic Women's League are going to meet at 1:30pm in the Hall of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Stubbington on Wednesday 14th May. There will be a talk about Canine Partners, and visitors are welcome. For more information, contact 01489 575663 margieboulter@aol.com or 07790378097 mariaeowen@gmail.com

