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## ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S

The Catholic Church in Gosport

**18 May 2025 - Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year C)**



ST MARY'S WEBSITE



ST MARY'S FACEBOOK

17	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	People of the Parish	<b>CONFESSION TIMES</b> Thu 6:15pm-6:45pm <i>(if Mass is celebrated)</i> Sat - 12:00nn—1:00pm  <b>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION</b> Thu—after the 7pm Mass <i>Holy half hour with Night Prayer</i> Fri 10:00am—12:00nn  <b>OUTREACH</b> Thu from 12:00nn
18	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<b><i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i></b>	Maureen Wesley RIP Ms Mary Anne Cornelius	
19	Mon	<b>No Service</b>			
20	Tue	12:00nn		Klara and William Mansfield INT	
21	Wed	12:00nn		Georgina Savege INT	
22	Thu	07:00pm	St Rita of Cascia	Jemilla Bangura INT	
23	Fri	<b>No Service</b>			
24	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Barbara Seymour RIP	
25	Sun	<b>09:00am</b>	<b><i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i></b>	People of the Parish	

### REFLECTION

#### A reflection on death by Eleonore Stump

When someone we know is diagnosed with serious sickness, we are shocked; and so is the sick person, as we all take in the possibility that he might die.

There is something perplexing about this reaction, isn't there? None of us is getting out of this life alive. And it is foolishness to think that we do not know the time of our death. It is sometime between now and the time when you would be 110 years old. (Who lives past 110?)

So death is inevitable, and we know at least roughly when it will come. The closer you get to 110, the closer it is—though, of course, we also know that you could get hit by a bus today.

Rats, you might think, this is a truly depressing thought! Why call it to our attention? It is better to be shocked and surprised when it comes.

But listen to the Second Reading. What does it say? When death comes, here is what it brings:

Our Lord himself comes to encourage you to weep over all the hardship of your past life, and then he himself wipes those tears away from your eyes.

And there is not only a new heaven, but also a new earth. What do you expect from earth? Well, earth isn't disembodied. Earth is earth-dirt, plants, animals, the whole thing that God created when he created earth, as Genesis explains it to us.

Only this time there will be no pain and suffering. So there may be great sea beasts, as Genesis says (Gn 1:21), but they won't hurt anything; and neither will any of the other animals. If you want to play with lions, what's to stop you?

In fact, even humans won't hurt anything, in that great and wonderful time. Now *that* is a thought hard to take in, isn't it? But, in that new earth, you can be yourself, open, vulnerable, and still totally safe and at ease, because the people around you won't hurt *anything*—not you either.

And all of this is wrapped up in the tender love of the Lord. He himself will welcome you to this new world and to himself by telling you, "come away, beloved. The winter is past; the flowers appear on the earth!" (Song of Songs 2:10-12)

That joy begins on the other side of death. What is there to fear about this?

*Written by Eleonore Stump, Glancing Thoughts, (www.liturgy.slu.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.*



## PARISH KEY DATES

### May

**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.

**15 Sun - Trinity Sunday & also Father's Day**

**22 Sun—Corpus Christi Sunday**

**27 - Fri - Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**

## Flores de Mayo

Please join us today for a Marian Procession in the High Street after the 11:15am Mass. **If you brought flowers, there will be an opportunity to offer them to Our Lady after the procession. Please join us in the hall later. There will be food to share with everyone.**



## 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.**

**WE ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME FR KEVIN BIDGOOD WHO WILL BE CELEBRATING WEEKEND MASSES ON THE 24TH AND 25TH OF MAY PLEASE JOIN US IN GIVING HIM A WARM WELCOME.**

**Please Note: Instead of 8:00am, the early morning Mass on the 25th will be at 9:00am. Fr Matthew will be away from 23 May to 25th May and therefore, there will be no Mass on Friday the 23rd, but Adoration on this day will still take place as scheduled.**

## REQUIEM MASS FOR TERESA CROWLEY RIP

Requiem Mass for Teresa Crowley will be on the 22nd of May - Thursday at 11:00am here at St Mary's, followed by a committal at Anns Hill at 12:15pm. Teresa was a dedicated member of the Catholic Women's League. Please pray for her family and friends at this difficult time. May God grant her eternal rest.

**Please pray also for Anne Jones and Cath Day who passed away recently.** ✠



## SPONSOR A SANCTUARY LAMP

If you would like to sponsor a Sanctuary Lamp with a thoughtful intention, simply fill in a sponsor envelope that is available in the church foyer. The cost of sponsoring a Lamp is £5. Your intentions will also be remembered during the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday.

## 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 11 June.

**There is Tea and Coffee in St Mary's Hall every Sunday after the 11:15am Mass. Please join us for a friendly cuppa and chat. This is also an opportunity to help raise funds to support various parish activities. We are looking for more volunteers to help serve tea and coffee in the hall at least once a month. Please speak to Anne Berger or Mike Slater if you are interested and wish to find out more information about this ministry.**

## Jubilee 2025—Pilgrims of Hope

Loving God, we pray that you always direct our minds and hearts to you, so that we may be living stones of the Church, and that all that we do, our whole Christian life, may be a luminous witness to your mercy and love.



## DIOCESAN EVENTS

- **Celebration and Witness to Marriage** . For those celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th anniversary or over 60 years, 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. To request a form, please contact the parish office or email [anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)
- **The Liturgy Project**. This is for all 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. **Readers' day on 18<sup>th</sup> October** will include a session on Lectio Divina. In addition, they are organising **Formation for Ministers of Children's Liturgy on 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

## 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.

## SHROUD OF TURIN EXHIBITION AT ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

The Shroud of Turin Exhibition will showcase a full-sized replica of the world famous Shroud of Turin. The exhibition will run from **1st-14th June 2025, 8am-6pm**. This is Free Admission. A talk by Shroud Expert Pam Moon will take place on Sunday 1st June at 1pm following the 12nn Mass

## PASTORAL EVENTS

(Gosport . Lee . Stubbington. Fareham)

- **ADoRE Mini Retreat . Saturday 31st May**, ADoRE will bring their Day of Renewal to St Philip Howard Church in Fareham for a joy-filled mini-retreat, to share the blessings and gifts of the Holy Spirit and to revitalise the Parish. There will be Mass and Praise, Prophecy, and Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit. There will be a shared picnic lunch. No need to register in advance for this month's meeting. You can find more information at [www.altonrenewal.com](http://www.altonrenewal.com)
- **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 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 [lmurawski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lmurawski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)