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## ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S

The Catholic Church in Gosport

**25 May 2025 - Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year C)**



ST MARY'S WEBSITE



ST MARY'S FACEBOOK

24	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Barbara Seymour RIP	<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  <b>There will be no evening Mass on Thursday - 29 May</b>
25	Sun	09:00am 11:15am	<b><i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i></b>	People of the Parish Les Savege RIP	
26	Mon	<b>No Service</b>			
27	Tue	12:00nn	St Augustine of Canterbury	Deceased of the O'Neill Family	
28	Wed	12:00nn		Winifred Maria Evans RIP	
29	Thu	12:00nn 07:00pm 07:30pm	<b><i>The Ascension of the Lord</i></b> <i>St Mary's—Gosport</i> <i>Our Lady—Stubbington</i> <i>St Margaret Mary—Park Gate</i>	Holy Souls in Purgatory	
30	Fri	12:00nn		Dean Carlin RIP	
31	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Elizabeth Extance & Family RIP	
01	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<b><i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i></b>	Rose Albert & John Bullock RIP Cath Day RIP	

### REFLECTION

#### Living in the Light of the Ascension

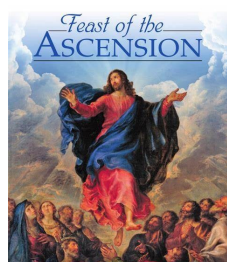
The Ascension of Jesus is not just a moment of departure—it's a moment of deep promise. It marks the end of Jesus' visible ministry on earth, but the beginning of something even more intimate: his presence within us through the Holy Spirit.

Luke's Gospel tells us that Jesus was lifted up into heaven before the eyes of his disciples. It's a powerful image, but its meaning reaches far beyond the sky. The Ascension invites us to see that Jesus has not left us behind—he has gone ahead of us, opening the way to the Father and making room for us in the life of God.

In the silence after Jesus ascended, the disciples were not left in sorrow. They waited in hope for what Jesus promised—the Holy Spirit, the presence of God not just *with* them, but *within* them. That promise is for us, too. The same Spirit Jesus sent now lives in us, guiding, comforting, and empowering us to be his hands and feet in the world.

The Ascension also reminds us that our faith is not just about what happened in the past, but about what is still to come. Jesus will return in glory. Until then, we are called to live with purpose—carrying his love, proclaiming his truth, and trusting that he is always near, even when we cannot see him.

So today, don't just look up—look within. Christ has ascended, but he has not abandoned us. His Spirit fills our hearts. His mission continues through us. And his promise still stands: *"I am with you always."*



*Lord Jesus, thank You for completing Your work on earth and opening the way for us to share in Your life. Help me to live today in the power of Your Spirit, trusting that You are always near. As I wait for Your return, may I be faithful in the mission You've given me—to love, to serve, and to witness to Your glory. Amen.*

*29th of May - Thursday is the solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. This is a Holy Day of Obligation. In the Catholic church, a Holy Day of Obligation is a special day set aside for the faithful to attend Mass and participate more fully in the life of the Church. These days are not just obligations, but wonderful opportunities to celebrate the key mysteries of our faith. They draw us deeper into the life of Christ and His Church.*

#### 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

**26 Mon - Bank Holiday Monday** . The parish office and St Mary's Church will be closed.

**29 Thu - Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (Holy day of obligation)**. Please see Mass times overleaf.

### June

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

**08 Sun - Pentecost Sunday**

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

**22 Sun - Corpus Christi Sunday**

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

## YOUR MISSIO BOXES ARE NOW AVAILABLE

For regular donors, named boxes are now available in the church foyer. There are also unnamed boxes for those who wish to take one for the first time. Please also take a copy of the Missio newsletter. The total collection raised through the Missio boxes was £329.86. Thank you for your generosity.

## 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.

*WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO FR KEVIN BIDGOOD FOR CELEBRATING MASS WITH US WHILST FR MATTHEW IS AWAY.  
FR KEVIN, YOU WILL REMAIN IN OUR PRAYERS ALONG WITH OUR SINCERE THANKS.*



## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION SCHEDULE

To all parents of our FHC candidates, please take note of these dates:

June	07 Sat - Session 9
	21 Sat - Session 10
	28 Sat - FHC Rehearsals
	29 Sun—First Holy Communion
July	05 Sat - Last Session
	06 Sun - Going Forth Mass

## Jubilee 2025—Pilgrims of Hope

30 May—1 June

Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents and Elderly



## CONFIRMATION DAY—7TH JUNE

We pray for our candidates who will be confirmed on the 7th of June - 11:00am at St John's Cathedral in Portsmouth.

## PARISH MISSION WEEKEND

The Evangelisation Mini-Mission is a weekend to help us open our eyes and ears to the Gospel message and learn how to spread it to others. The event will begin at 7.30pm on **Friday, 20th June at St Philip Howard in Fareham**. Come and be part of this journey - become a missionary. If you would like to attend the mini mission, please register by contacting Deacon Larry Murawski at [lmurawski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lmurawski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

## FILIPINO MASS

You are cordially invited to a Filipino Mass on Saturday, the 31st of May at 11am, Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is happening at St John's in Lee-on-Solent PO13 9AS. Fr Claro Conde, the Diocese Filipino and Chinese Chaplain, will officiate.

## FLORES DE MARIA

Radio Maria England is a Catholic radio station dedicated to sharing the Gospel through prayer, teaching, music, and community. **From 28th to 30th May, they will celebrate the vibrant faith of the Philippines with three days of music, inspiring talks, and guest speakers, highlighting how the Catholic faith is flourishing across the Filipino islands and beyond.** Tune in via DAB+ in selected areas, on the Radio Maria England app, or online at [RadioMariaEngland.uk](http://RadioMariaEngland.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.

## 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. **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**. Both sessions will take place at St Bede's Church/Hall in Basingstoke. 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)
- **Called and Gifted online Information Evening - Monday 7 July 7pm - 8:30pm** . Are you keen to be more fully the person that God created you to be? Are you sensing that you need to discern the spiritual gifts (charisms) you've been given to empower you spiritually and practically? If so, the Called and Gifted discernment process is for you! The Called and Gifted team in the Diocese are planning to hold an online information evening for Called and Gifted on Monday 7 July. This is intended for anyone who may be interested in hearing more about discerning charisms and the spiritual and practical benefits this can bring for individuals and communities. Please contact the parish office if you wish to register, or email [calledandgifted@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:calledandgifted@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**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 and 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.**