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ST MARY'S WEBSITE



ST MARY'S FACEBOOK

ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S

The Catholic Church in Gosport

27 July 2025 - SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year C)

26	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Elizabeth Extance & Family 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
27	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Fr Gerard Flynn RIP Crispo & Clarita Alvarez RIP	
28	Mon	No Service			
29	Tue	12:00nn	Ss Mary, Martha & Lazarus	William Francis Doyle RIP	
30	Wed	12:00nn	St Peter Chrysologus	Ms Mary Anne Cornelius RIP	
31	Thu	07:00pm	St Ignatius of Loyola	George Turuta RIP	
01	Fri	12:00nn	St Alphonsus Liguori	Nicola Vizard RIP	
02	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Clarinda Mansfield INT	
03	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	People of the Parish William Crispo Mansfield INT	

REFLECTION

Two questions lie at the heart of today's readings:

How do we approach God? And how does He respond?

In Genesis, Abraham speaks directly to God — not for himself, but on behalf of others. He asks boldly, raising the stakes each time: “If there are 50 righteous... 40... 30...” Is he bargaining? Not really. He's pleading for justice, trusting that God won't punish the innocent with the guilty.

And God listens. Abraham approaches not as a stranger, but as a friend — someone confident that God is just, merciful, and willing to hear.

This kind of prayer isn't about getting what we want. It's not transactional. It's relational. Prayer draws us deeper into friendship with God — beyond ourselves, into His mercy and justice.

In the Gospel, Jesus shows an even greater intimacy. He calls God Abba — a word that means more than “Father.” It expresses God's whole nature: loving, trustworthy, close. Jesus knows the heart of God, and he invites us to do the same — to speak to God with trust and freedom.

He teaches us to pray through every part of life:

We ask for our **daily bread** — trusting that today's needs will be met.

We seek **forgiveness** for our past — confident in God's mercy.

We ask for strength in **future trials** — knowing He will walk with us.

And how does God respond?

Not reluctantly. The first line of the Lord's Prayer tells us everything: we're speaking to a Father who delights in giving.

Jesus reassures us:

Ask, and it will be given. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened.

Like Abraham, we're invited to be persistent— not to wear God down, but to hand over our whole selves. We place every hope, every sorrow, every need into the hands of the One who knows us and loves us.

And as we do, we grow in friendship with Him. A friendship that mirrors the life of the Trinity — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — one that is deep, generous, and life-giving.

This Reflection was generated by AI from a Homily produced by myself. Dcn John

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 UPDATES

- **Children's Liturgy** - the group is having a break this August. The next session for the children will be on the 14th of September.
- **Multicultural Mass in September** - Following last year's successful International Mass, we are holding it again on the 14th of September. **We need volunteers to help with the planning.** Pls speak to Clarinda in the parish office for more information.

Advance Notice

The parish office will be closed on these dates which may affect the opening of the church on Mondays

04 Aug Mon - St Mary's Church will be closed on this day.

05-07 Aug Tue-Wed - No Noon Mass. Fr Matthew will be on a break.

25 Aug Mon - Bank Holiday. St Mary's Church will be closed on this day.

ST MARY'S CHURCH TRUSS REPAIRS

Dear Parishioners, we would like to inform you that essential repairs are needed on the church roof trusses on the left hand side of the nave. A structural engineer completed an inspection and drafted some drawings detailing how to safely secure the wooden trusses. These remedial works are scheduled to begin in the next couple of weeks. This may affect the left hand side of the nave as these works are carried out in the church. Your generosity in giving to the collection plate has a direct impact on funding this remedial works and is very much appreciated.

SUCCESSFUL TABLE TOP SALE

Yesterday was a successful fundraising event for St Mary's. We thank the Fundraising Team who stayed from 10am til 2pm and who worked tirelessly on Friday evening to sort and prepare for the Saturday event. We also thank those who donated so many items for the sale!



NEW ASSISTANT PRIEST IN FAREHAM

Effective 8 September, Fr Benedikt Timpe, known to Gosport parishioners as Fr. Faustino, will be the assistant priest in Fareham. We would like to welcome Fr Benedikt and wish him well in his ministry.

Jubilee 2025—Pilgrims of Hope

28 July - 03 August—Jubilee of Youth



A TALK - FEAST OF OUR LADY OF KNOCK

Come and find out about the wonders of Our Lady of Knock in Ireland first hand from Fr Tom Grufferty. Afternoon tea -tea/ coffee, scones and jam and biscuits will be provided. This is happening on Thursday August 21st 3pm at St Philip Howard hall, Bishopsfield Road, Fareham PO14 1QS. Everyone is welcome. ***Our Lady of Knock, help me to remember that we are all pilgrims on the road to Heaven. Fill me with love and concern for my brothers and sisters in Christ. 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.

THANKSGIVING & HEALING MASS

St Vincent de Paul in Fareham extends their invitation for a joint Thanksgiving and Healing Mass. It will be on the **6th August 2025 at 1:30pm at St Philip Howard - Fareham.** There will be tea & coffee provided by SVP afterwards. Pls note that there is a new car parking system employed at SPH and you will need to ensure you register your vehicle on your arrival to avoid a parking fine.

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 initiatives.

ADULT BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

Are you interested in **becoming a Catholic** or do you know someone who is? Did you miss out on the **Sacrament of Confirmation** as a teenager and would like to be confirmed? Please speak to Fr. Matthew or Dcn John, or email the parish office.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: ASSISTANT PSM

We are currently looking for a dedicated volunteer to serve as Assistant Parish Safeguarding Minister. This important role supports the Parish Safeguarding Minister in ensuring our church remains a safe and welcoming environment for all. If you would like to contribute to this vital role of promoting safety and well-being within our parish, or wish to find out more information, please speak to Fr Matthew, Dcn John, or you may contact the parish office. Thank you.

WILLIAM FRANCIS DOYLE RIP

A Memorial Mass will be held for Bill on 29 July - Tue 12nn at St Mary's Church. On 30 July - Wed, a Funeral Service at the Crematorium will be held at 1:45pm. William was fondly known as B and was a long time member of the Iona Club in Bridgemary. Please pray for his family and friends. May his soul rest in peace. ✠



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. You may book in advance. There are still available dates in August.

ADORE - A CALL FOR PRAYER AND FASTING

On Thursday 24th July please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia. 25th July is the 57th anniversary of Humanæ Vitæ. ***"Please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia on Thursday 24th July, the Vigil of the Feast of St James. These days seem quite dark, what with Parliament voting to partly decriminalise abortion and voting to legalise euthanasia.*** Please invite others to join us in praying and fasting for life, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/3at7xyd7>

RIDE + STRIDE

On 13 September - Saturday, over 400 churches and chapels in Hampshire & the Isle of Wight, including St Mary's Church will be open. This will be a family fun day out and a chance to discover the beautiful churches and chapels on our doorstep by taking part in a sponsored cycle or walk. Go as a family, singly or get a group together. ***As a sponsored activity and a fun day for the kids, your participation will be supporting Hampshire & The Islands Historic Churches Trust (HIHCT) in giving out grants to the churches for the maintenance of their fabric and you can nominate St Mary's which will then receive half of the sponsorship money raised back from HIHCT.*** For sponsorship forms and more information about Ride & Stride and how you can help, please contact the parish office. Thank you.

ALTAR SERVERS

Have you received your First Holy Communion and would like to serve the Lord in a special way during Holy Mass? Please speak to Fr Matthew, Dcn John, or contact the parish office for an application form. There is also an opportunity for you to be enrolled into the Guild of St Stephen.

