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 Parish Secretary: **Clarinda Mansfield**
 Deacon: **Rev Dcn John Cumpsty**
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 www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/gosport/



ST MARY'S WEBSITE



ST MARY'S FACEBOOK

ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S

The Catholic Church in Gosport

10 & 17 August 2025 - NINETEENTH & TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year C)

09	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	People of the Parish
10	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	A.V. Joseph RIP Cristin Kosche RIP
11	Mon	No Service		
12	Tue	12:00nn		Clarita Bay Alvarez RIP
13	Wed	12:00nn		James Hill & Bernadette Knight RIP
14	Thu	07:00pm	<i>(Vigil Mass - The Assumption)</i>	Dal Nwokora INT
15	Fri	12:00nn 07:00pm	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Anthonia Nwokora INT Georgina Savege INT
16	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Hilton Stander RIP
17	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	People of the Parish Zied Solomon RIP
18	Mon	No Service		
19	Tue	12:00nn		Zim Nwokora INT
20	Wed	12:00nn	St Bernard	Margaret Farnworth RIP
21	Thu	07:00pm	St Pius X	Bridget Fry RIP
22	Fri	12:00nn	The Queenship of Mary	Bridget RIP
23	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Elizabeth Extance & Family RIP
24	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time	Deceased of the McGillivray Family People of the Parish

CONFESSION TIMES

Thu 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

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.



FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

15th August . Holy Day of Obligation

This is a significant celebration in the Catholic Church, highlighting Mary's role in salvation. It is a day of joy and reflection on the mysteries of faith and the hope of resurrection. Please take note of the following Services here at St Mary's:



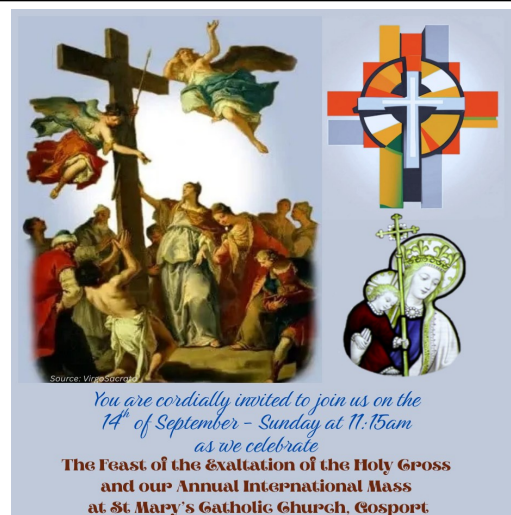
14 Aug Thursday 7:00pm (Vigil Mass) not 6pm as previously announced in last week's newsletter

15 Aug Friday 12:00nn

15 Aug Friday 7:00pm (Pastoral Area Mass)

Painting of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary by Pieter Fransz de Grebber.

On the 14th of September, you are welcome to wear traditional attire or something that represents your roots or culture. This is a beautiful reminder of the rich diversity of our parish that is united in Christ. We would also request, if you are able, to bring food to share in the hall after the Mass. Pls speak to Clarinda in the parish office if you need more information. Thank you.



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.



Advance Notice

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

11-13 Aug Mon-Wed

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

ST MARY'S CHURCH TRUSS REPAIRS - UPDATE

We are now in the final stages of selecting the contractor who will carry out the project to repair the five trusses. The repair will be managed by a structural engineer. The remedial works will begin soon and will affect the left hand side of the nave. We will aim to keep any disruptions in the church to a minimum. More details will be provided soon. **Your generosity in helping to preserve and care for the fabric of St Mary's is deeply appreciated.**

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PROJECT

We would like to invite our keen knitters to take part in a special project for Remembrance Sunday. Whether you are an experienced knitter or just starting out, your contribution is welcome. Every poppy will count and will add meaning to this tribute to those who served and sacrificed. **You may start dropping off your finished poppies in the parish office!**



GET INVOLVED - SAY YES TO MINISTRY!

Have you ever felt a tug on your heart to do more, to give back, to get involved? The opportunities to serve in St Mary's is endless. Whether you have an hour or two a week or just a willingness to assist, there is a place for you: from helping in the liturgy, music, catechesis, hospitality, outreach, or behind-the-scenes support, your time and talents can make a real difference. **Interested? Please speak to Fr Matthew, Dcn John, or contact the parish office.**



We wish to extend our appreciation to all our volunteers who serve: you are all making a big difference and are such a big help to Fr Matthew. Thank you!!

BAPTISM

Parents who want to have their child baptised in one of the churches in the Solent Pastoral Area are asked to attend a programme to help them prepare for this important sacrament. There are generally four or more preparation programmes a year. The next one will be held at the end of September and early October 2025. **The closing date for applications is midday on Friday 12 September 2025.** Please use the online Baptism Preparation Form (copy this link on to your browser: <https://tinyurl.com/2vctjens>). Before applying, please ensure that you will be available to attend the following events:

- Meet and Greet introduction – 27 September 10.00am at St Philip Howard church, Bishopsfield Road, Fareham PO141ND.
- Online Session 1 – Tuesday 30 Sept 8.00pm
- Online session 2 – Tuesday 7 October 8.00pm

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.

CHURCH WEDDINGS

Marriage is a sacred covenant. Getting married in church is a traditional, meaningful, and a beautiful ceremony to which every Catholic couple aspires. If you wish to get married at St Mary's Church, please contact the parish office. We will be happy to guide you through the process towards the Sacrament of Matrimony.

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

SANCTUARY LAMP

This week's Sanctuary Lamp is donated by Cathy Swan in memory of Jackie Walsh, and next week's Sanctuary Lamp is donated by the McGillivray Family in memory of Michael McGillivray. May God grant them eternal rest. ✠



SECOND COLLECTION REPORT

We are happy to inform you that your generous donations toward our second collections for various charities raised the following:

£123.50 - World Communications (01 June)

£150.20 - Day For Life (15 June)

£190.50 - Peter's Pence (29 June)

£237.70 - Stella Maris (13 July)

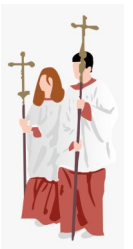
Your donations, whatever the amount, make a big difference to the beneficiaries of our second collections. Thank you!

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!

Are you looking for answers about the Catholic faith? If you are not a Catholic or you know someone who isn't, or who was baptised as Catholic but never confirmed, then we have the perfect course to attend. Our group starts on Wednesday 24.09.2025 and is set to meet in Sacred Heart church hall at 7:15pm. In the words of Christ, 'Come and see!' We talk about the evidence for the existence of God, how God speaks to us, the person of Jesus, Mary, Sacraments and other key beliefs and teachings of the Catholic Church. To find out more, please contact Deacon Larry & Yvette at: lmurawski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or 01329 318 869.

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 more information. There is also an opportunity for you to be enrolled into the Guild of St Stephen.



RIDE + STRIDE

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.

PORTSMOUTH VOCATIONS

www.portsmouthvocations.org Contact Canon John at 01329 318 869 or Email: vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Please pray for much needed Vocations Lord Jesus Christ, Shepherd of souls who called the apostles to be fishers of men, raise up new apostles in your holy Church. Teach them to serve you is to reign; to possess you is to possess all things. Kindle in the young hearts of our sons and daughters the fire of real zeal for souls. Make them eager to spread your Kingdom on earth. Grant them courage to follow you, who are the Way, the Truth and the Life; who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen. "Seeker Saturday" 18th October 11am - 3pm Sacred Heart Hall and Church. Pray, Decide & Don't Worry. Fellowship, Discussions, Mass, Lunch and Adoration. For those with "that itch". Welcome!

A Gentle Note

To the parents who bring little ones to Mass, **Thank you!** Your presence, and theirs, brings life and hope to our Church. The sounds of children remind us that the Church is growing and alive.

When brought to Mass frequently, children more quickly learn the language of the Faith. Behaviour at Mass gets better at an earlier age if they are taken from an early age and become used to going. - The Faith becomes interwoven into the "fabric" of their lives. - A love for and hungering after the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. - www.hbgdiocese.org

To those without young children, may their little voices be a joyful reminder that we are part of a larger family. Patience is a beautiful act of love. **"Let the little children come to me...for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."** — Matthew 19:14

CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTHDAY OF ST FAUSTINA

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Celebration of St Faustina Birthday at **Aylesford Priory, Aylesford, Kent on Bank Holiday Monday 25 August 2025 from 10:30 am to 4pm**. The reflection day will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Stations of the Cross, Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All welcome. Call millie on [07957594646](tel:07957594646) for information.

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.

ST LORENZO RUIZ - PROCESSION & HOLY MASS

In honour of St Lorenzo Ruiz, the first Filipino-Chinese saint, there will be a procession and Holy Mass on Saturday **the 27th of September from 1:30pm**. This will be held at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth. Please join us. Food and fellowship available afterwards. Everyone is invited to attend.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

You are warmly invited to a High Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham, happening at 11AM Saturday 27th September at St Agatha's Church in Portsmouth. Newly ordained Fr Ryan Browne will be preaching.

RADIO MARIA

Radio Maria is a radio programme with the mission of preaching the Good News and to share in the mission of Mary, our Mother. Radio Maria is a worldwide and is available in 85 countries over 130 radio stations in 83 languages. In England alone, there are over 200 volunteers, 2 fixed studios and 5 mobile studios. You can listen to the programme via smart speakers (ask for Radio Maria England), digital radio, Radio Maria play app, Spotify, Google podcasts and many more. Click radiomariaengland.uk to find out more.

SUPPORTING MOTHERS IN CRISIS PREGNANCIES

Gosport Community Hope Hub recently partnered with SPUC Portsmouth to support women facing crisis pregnancies. You may help by praying for the mission, donate to help provide essential needs, and spread the word so mothers know they are not alone. For more information, you may contact 07534936942 or email hopeinpregnancy@gmail.com. Facebook: Gosport Community Hope Hub

OUR LADY OF FATIMA - RELICS VISIT TO THE CATHEDRAL

On the 4th and 5th of October—Saturday and Sunday, the relics of Sts Jacinta and Francisco, together with the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue (NPVS) of Our Lady of Fatima will be visiting the Cathedral of St John in Portsmouth. There will be a series of activities on these days. More information can be found on our notice board and on our Facebook page. Thank you.

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 litugy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

NEW DIOCESE WEBSITE - Have a look!

The new Diocese of Portsmouth website has been launched: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. If you go to their "Find a Parish" and search for Gosport, it will come up with our churches of St Mary and St Columba. It will also bring up St Mary's Primary School. Please share this information to others. Thank you.

DIOCESAN FREE WILLS SERVICE

The Diocese has partnered with market-leading solicitors and will-writing providers. Whether you would like to write your Will in-person, online or over the 'phone, you will be expertly supported throughout. You are under no obligation to leave your Parish a gift in their Wills, but a gift of this kind is an opportunity to make a lasting gift to the Church, and we hope many will choose to do so. More information at: <https://tinyurl.com/3r7hh47w>

CANONISATION ANNOUNCEMENT: THE SAINTS OF YOUTH

the Holy Father announced that London-born **Blessed Carlo Acutis alongside Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati will be canonised together on 7 September**. The canonisations of the two young saints – one from the early twentieth century, the other the first millennial saint – have been greatly anticipated due to the great devotion among the faithful.

CWL GOSPORT

Gosport Section of the Catholic Women's League are meeting at 1.30 pm at Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Stubbington, on Wednesday 13th August. Visitors very welcome. For further information, please contact Marguerite Boulter 01489 575663 margieboulter@aol.com or Maria Owen 07790 378 097 mariaeowen@gmail.com

RETRouvaille CATHOLIC MINISTRY

Marriages in difficulty? Do you feel alone? Frustrated, or have you just stopped talking to each other? Retrouvaille might be able to help. No group therapy or group work. Email in@retrouvaille.org.uk or contact 07887 296 983

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL OUR VISITORS AND PARISHIONERS.

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.

This Newsletter covers a two-week period. The next Newsletter will be issued on Sunday, 24 August.

The parish of St Mary's and St Columba's - Gosport, is part of the Solent Pastoral Area, a group of four parishes which includes Fareham, Stubbington and Lee-on-the-Solent, and Park Gate. The Diocesan Ten-year Plan entitled "You will be my Witnesses" calls for all the parishes in the diocese to work together, holding joint services, combining efforts for sacramental preparation, and resource-sharing.

Marian Feast Days in August

The month of August holds special significance in the Catholic Church, particularly through two beautiful Marian feast days: the **Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** and the **Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. Though celebrated a week apart, these feast days are deeply connected both theologically and spiritually, offering rich insights into Mary's role in the mystery of Christ and His Church.

On the Feast of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15), we celebrate the moment when the Blessed Virgin Mary was taken up body and soul into Heaven at the end of her earthly life. This solemnity reflects the Church's belief, affirmed dogmatically by Pope Pius XII in 1950, that Mary, being free from original sin, was preserved from bodily corruption and glorified in Heaven.

More than just a personal privilege, the Assumption points us to our future hope. Mary, the first and most perfect disciple of Christ, has gone ahead of us, showing what awaits those who remain faithful to God. Her Assumption reminds us that salvation in Christ includes not only our souls but also our bodies—redeemed and glorified at the end of time.

One week after the Assumption, we celebrate Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth (August 22). Instituted by Pope Pius XII in 1954, the feast of the Queenship recognises that Mary, exalted in Heaven, now shares in her Son's kingship. As the mother of the King of Kings, she participates in His reign, not in power for herself, but in humble service to God's people.

Her queenship is a natural consequence of her Assumption. Having been taken up into Heaven, she now intercedes for us with maternal care, crowned with the glory that comes from her complete fidelity to God's will.

These two feast days are profoundly connected: the *Assumption* is the glorification of Mary's body and soul, and the *Queenship* is the recognition of her exalted role in the heavenly kingdom. Together, they remind us that Mary's life is inseparably linked with the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

Far from distracting us from Christ, these Marian feasts draw us closer to Him. Mary always points us to her Son, echoing her words at Cana: *"Do whatever He tells you"* (John 2:5). By contemplating her Assumption and Queenship, we are invited to trust in God's promises, to live in hope, and to walk the path of discipleship that Mary walked first and most faithfully.

In this month of August, in honouring Mary, we do not simply celebrate her, but we glorify God who "has done great things" for her (Luke 1:49). Through her, we are reminded of our own call to holiness and our eternal destiny in Christ.

How Can We Be Like Mary?

In the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we find not just a model of holiness, but a mirror of what it means to truly follow Christ. Though she was uniquely chosen, Mary's virtues of humility, faith, obedience, and love are not beyond our reach. They are graces we are all called to seek and live.

Mary teaches us to say "yes" to God, even when we don't fully understand His plan. At the Annunciation, her words *"Let it be done to me according to your word"* (Luke 1:38) show a heart that trusts completely. Like her, we are invited to surrender our will and allow God to work through us, even in small, hidden ways.

She also shows us how to ponder God's presence in silence. In a noisy world, Mary "kept all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Luke 2:19). We, too, can make space in our lives for prayer, reflection, and listening—so we may hear the gentle whisper of God.

Mary remained faithful in suffering, standing at the foot of the Cross. She did not run from sorrow, but embraced it with courage rooted in love. When we face trials, we can ask for her help in staying near to Jesus, even when the way is dark.

To be like Mary is not to become perfect overnight, but to walk with grace, patience, and openness to God's will. She is the first disciple of Christ—and if we follow her example, she will lead us closer to her Son.

Mary, gentle mother and faithful servant, pray for us.



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