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## ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S

The Catholic Church in Gosport



ST MARY'S WEBSITE



ST MARY'S FACEBOOK

### 24 August 2025 - TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year C)

23	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Elizabeth Extnance & Family 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 <i>Rosary for the Unborn from 10am</i>  <b>OUTREACH</b> Thu from 12:00nn
24	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<b>Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Deceased of the McGillivray Family PP	
25	Mon	<b>No Service</b>			
26	Tue	12:00nn		Clarinet Calayan INT	
27	Wed	12:00nn	St Monica	Georgina Savege INT	
28	Thu	07:00pm	St Augustine of Hippo	Gregory & Nazarena Vella RIP	
29	Fri	12:00nn	The Passion of St John the Baptist	Francis Savege RIP	
30	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	People of the Parish	
31	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<b>Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Stephen Street RIP Mgr Joseph Gauci RIP	

### REFLECTION

In the Gospel Reading Jesus says that some people will come to him confidently, but he will say to them, “I don’t know where you are from. Go away, you evildoers!”

This must be one of the most frightening passages in the gospels.

But if we get fearful and ask, “OK, then, what do I have to do in order not to be sent away,” we are on the wrong track entirely.

God does not hate anything that he has made; he loves it.” (*John 3:16*). So you don’t have to rush out to bring sandwiches to the poor or do anything else whose purpose is to work your way into God’s love and forgiveness. The gift of God’s love and forgiveness are already there for you.

But then why are those people in the Gospel passage sent away? If the gift is already there, then why don’t these people get it?

Well, no gift can be given unilaterally. Successful gift-giving takes two: one to offer the gift, and one to receive it. If you refuse the gift God offers you, the gift cannot be successfully given, can it?

So maybe the whole problem with these people who are sent away is their determination to do the right stuff in order to be part of the in-group. If you want to achieve *for yourself* what God is offering as a gift, you are in effect refusing the gift, aren’t you?

And maybe that’s why Jesus says to these people, “I don’t know where you are *from*.” If you accept God’s gift of his forgiving love, then you are *in* Christ; and the spirit of Christ is in you. You don’t have to come from anywhere to him. You are your beloved’s, and he is yours, as the Song of Songs says (*Song 6:3*).

So what you have to *do* in order not to get sent away is nothing. Just receive the gift, open to the Lord, let the Holy Spirit of Christ in. Then you might bring food to the poor, or write a book, or compose a symphony. But however you share your gifts, you will do so by first having opened to God’s love, which is his gift to you.

Reflection by Eleonore Stump (*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.*



## Advance Notice

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

**03 Sep Fri** - **No Noon Mass** - Fr Matthew will be at St Mary's School to meet with teachers

**06 Sep Sat** - **Diocesan Mass for St Mary's Gosport**

**14 Sep Sun** - **Start of Children's Liturgy** . This is happening during the 11:15 Mass and is open to all children 5 to 9 years old.

## BAPTISM

We joyfully welcome **Zinaya and Menaye**, who received the Sacrament of Baptism on 24 August 2025. Let us keep them and their families in our prayers that the light of faith may always shine brightly in their lives.



## INTERNATIONAL MASS - 14 SEPTEMBER

Everyone is invited on Sunday, 14 September at 11:15am to celebrate the rich diversity of our parish. You are welcome to wear traditional attire. There will be a gathering in the hall afterwards and we encourage everyone to bring food to share. There will be talented parishioners performing! **If you have any unwanted presents that you wish to donate for the raffle, please speak to Elsie or drop them off in the parish office.** Thank you.



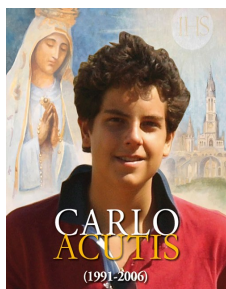
## 7th OF SEPTEMBER - SUNDAY

### TREE OF HOPE—a symbol of renewal, forgiveness & faith

Our Tree of Hope Jubilee Project is culminating on the 7th of September. Together with our Eucharistic Adoration team, we invite everyone to join us in praying for every petition of hope, thanksgiving, and intention placed on the Tree. We entrust these prayers to the Lord, that He may bless them according to His will. May this time of prayer renew our faith, deepen our gratitude, and strengthen the bonds of love within us. Let us continue to pray for one another, and may this Tree of Hope remain a sign of God's abiding presence among us.

### CANONISATION ANNOUNCEMENT: THE SAINTS OF YOUTH

On this date, we will also celebrate the canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis alongside Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. These two inspiring young saints remind us of the power of faith lived with joy, courage, and love for Christ.



## 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!**

## 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 21<sup>st</sup> 3pm at St Philip Howard hall**, Bishopsfield Road, Fareham PO14 1QS. Everyone is welcome.

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

## SACRAMENTS

**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

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (FHC)** . Registration for First Holy Communion will be opening in September. For children in Year 4 or over. Please contact the parish office for more information.

**CONFIRMATION** . Are you or do you know a child in Year 8 or above? CHOSEN our Pastoral Area Confirmation Group will be holding an information evening on Friday 26th September from 7-8:30pm at St Philip Howard Church, Bishopsfield Road to which young people in Years 8 and above together with their parent/carer are invited to come along and find out more about the group. If you would like to know more about the Sacrament of Confirmation within our pastoral area please message Sue on 07739 099 000, or contact the parish office.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR CHILDREN (RCIC)** . Registration is on-going for children aged 7 and 14 who are not yet baptised or have been baptised in another Christian tradition but wish to become Catholic (**and not merely for Catholic School entry**). Please speak to Fr Matthew or contact the parish office.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)** . This Programme is **offered to anyone who is not Catholic or who have been baptised in another Christian tradition but wish to become Catholic.** RCIA is also offered to Catholics who were baptised as Catholics but never confirmed. The group starts on Wednesday 24 September 2025 and is set to meet in Sacred Heart Church Hall in Fareham at 7:15pm. In the words of Christ, 'Come and see!' To find out more, please contact Deacon Larry & Yvette at: 01329 318 869 / [lmurawski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lmurawski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

**MARRIAGE** . 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.

**SACRAMENT OF THE SICK** . **If you are in the hospital or will be admitted in the hospital:** Please call the following Chaplaincy Nos: QA - 02392 286 408 / War Memorial - 02382 318 000 / Southampton Hospital - 02381 206 049, and ask for a Roman Catholic Priest. **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick:** Please contact the Parish Office if you know of any **elderly or housebound people** who would appreciate being offered the sacraments at home. **If you or a loved one is sick or housebound:** If you are unable to participate in the Sunday Eucharist, please contact the Parish Office and arrangements will be made for you to receive Holy communion.