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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

31 Aug & 07 Sep 2025 - TWENTY-SECOND & TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year C)

30	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	John Crowley 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 <i>Rosary for the Unborn at 10am</i> 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. 
31	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	Stephen Street RIP Mgr Joseph Gauci RIP	
01	Mon	No Service			
02	Tue	12:00nn		Les Savege Snr RIP	
03	Wed	No Service			
04	Thu	07:00pm		Mary Horseman RIP	
05	Fri	12:00nn		Private Intention	
06	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Souls in Purgatory	
07	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Carmelo & Marianna Dalli RIP People of the Parish	
08	Mon	No Service			
09	Tue	12:00nn	St Peter Claver	Louis Gauci RIP	
10	Wed	12:00nn		Ms Mary Anne Cornelius RIP	
11	Thu	07:00pm		Mgr Anton Gauci RIP	
12	Fri	12:00nn	The Most Holy Name of Mary	Zim Nwokora INT	
13	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Elizabeth Extance & Family RIP	
14	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Elsie Hill & Barbara RIP People of the Parish	

ADVANCE NOTICE - September

- 01-09 Mon-Tue & 15-17 Mon-Wed - Parish Office Closure** . Clarinda will be on her scheduled annual leave.
- 03 Wed - No Noon Mass** - Fr Matthew will be at St Mary's School to meet with teachers
- 06 Sat - Diocesan Mass for St Mary's Gosport** . Let us continue to pray for our parish. Also the **First Saturday Mass in Lee**.
- 21 Sun - Start of Children's Liturgy** . This is open to all children 5 to 9 years old. The date has been moved from the normal second Sunday of the month due to the International Mass and celebration.
- 22-24 Mon - Wed - No Noon Mass** - Repair works to the church trusses will be scheduled at this time.

EMERGENCY ALERTS TEST

Sunday 7 September 2025 . The Emergency Alerts system is used to warn if there's a danger to life nearby, including extreme weather. Since the first national test of the system in April 2023, five alerts have been sent, including during major storms when lives were at risk. **There will be a second national test on Sunday 7 September 2025 at 3pm.** Please share this message to make sure that people are aware of the Emergency Alerts system test.



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. **Two of our dear parishioners will be participating on a sponsored cycle on the 13th of September. Please support Annette and Adriana by filling in the sponsorship form that will be at the back of the church. All donations will be shared between St Mary's and the Hampshire & the Islands Historic Churches Trust.** If you wish to be part of this event, and to find out more information about Ride & Stride and how you can help, please contact the parish office. Thank you.

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.

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.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PROJECT

You may start dropping off your finished poppies in the parish office! Thank you to those who already handed theirs in. It is not too late to start knitting. If you need wool, please speak to Clarinda in the parish office.

OPEN CHOIR PRACTICE

20th of September at 2pm at St Mary's

We would like to invite you to join us for an Open Choir Practice. This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone, children and adults alike, who enjoys singing or is curious about joining the choir, to come along, take part, and experience the joy of making music together. No prior experience is required, just bring your voice and enthusiasm. Come and sing with us, meet new friends, and discover if choir membership might be right for you. This is happening on the 20th of September at 2pm.



ST MARY'S CHURCH TRUSS REPAIRS - UPDATE

We now have a schedule for the repair of the trusses. This will be on the **22nd to the 24th of September - Mon to Wed**. Please be reminded that there will be no Masses during this period in order to give time for the builders to do their work. **Your generosity in helping to preserve and care for the fabric of St Mary's is deeply appreciated.**

PARISH INCOME

Thank you to all those who contribute to the parish through our website and those using our Dona machine. If you can establish a Standing Order (SO) for the Parish, it would help a great deal.

Gift aid: the good way to give to the church. Gift Aid is an arrangement that allows charities, including St Mary's, to reclaim tax on donations made by a taxpayer. It covers weekly giving as well as one-off donations. This means that every donation you make is worth 25% more to your Church at no cost to you.

The past tax year (2024-2025) has seen your Gift Aid contribution make a valuable difference to our parish finances (We will update you regarding the total contributions very soon). If you are a UK tax payer, we kindly encourage you to complete a Gift Aid Declaration Form so that your donations can go even further. This simple step significantly increases our parish income at no additional cost to you. **Please accept our deepest gratitude to those who have already upgraded their offerings and those who have volunteered their time and talents.**

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

SEPTEMBER SECOND COLLECTIONS

14 Sep—Catholic Education Service

Our Second Collection on Sunday will be in support of the Catholic Education Service. The Catholic Education Service represents the Catholic Bishops' Conference and works to promote and support Catholic education across the country. Below is the link to the GAYL page: <https://tinyurl.com/se7xj2uy>

21 Sep—Home Missions

FR MATTHEW IN LEE-ON-SOLENT ON 06 SEPTEMBER

On the **6th of September - First Saturday of the month at 9:30am**, Fr Matthew will be at St John the Evangelist Church in Lee-on-Solent to cover for Fr Francis. There will be Confession, Mass and Adoration. **Please note that this will not affect the 12nn Confession at St Mary's.**

UNWANTED BOOKS NEEDED

Do you have any unwanted books that are in good to very good condition? We are looking and accepting books with bar codes or ISBN for our charity fundraising initiative. Please bring them to the parish office anytime during parish office hours. Thank you.



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.

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.

ST MARY'S - OUR HOME

St Mary's Church is a gift we share together, and we would love you to help in caring for it. If you happen to pass by, please do come inside, say a little prayer, and take a moment to ensure everything is well. And if you have a bit of time in your busy day to help tidy the grounds, do help us. If you notice anything out of the ordinary, please notify the parish office asap. Save our number 02392 580119.

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.

DIOCESAN FORMATION DAY FOR MINISTERS OF CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Fr Anthony Fyk, Director of Liturgy Formation, will be running further formation day for **Ministers of Children's Liturgy taking place on 06 September, at St Bede's, Basingstoke, 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 and how to find more helpers. Anyone wishing to attend should register via liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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!

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.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The next meeting of the Gosport Section of the CWL will be on the 8th OF October because the ladies are going out in September on the 3rd. More information from margieboulter@aol.com or 01489 575663.

A CATHOLIC FUNERAL

In 2014, Bishop Philip issued to the clergy and people of the Diocese some ***Guidelines for Funerals and for the Care of the Terminally Ill***. The Guidelines should be followed in our Diocese when planning a funeral for a Catholic person who has died. The leaflet also enables Catholics to leave instructions about their own funeral for their next of kin, and in addition, some notes are given for the care of Catholics who are terminally ill. You may find them here. <https://tinyurl.com/mpyje57d>. When a Catholic dies, it is the usual custom of the Catholic Church for them to be brought to their parish church & for a Requiem Mass to be offered up for them. This is the case even for those who during their lifetime rarely practiced their Catholic faith. Catholics believe that when a person dies, it is a priority to offer Mass, because it is the Sacrifice of Christ & in the Mass the Church pleads to the Lord, asking him to forgive the sins and weaknesses of the deceased & to admit them into the communion of the saints. **If you wish to have a copy of the guidelines, please contact the parish office.**

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.

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.

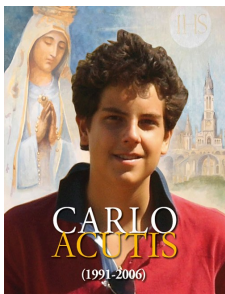
RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA) . This Programme is **offered to anyone who is not Catholic or who have been baptised in another Christian tradition but wish to become Catholic. RCIA is also offered to Catholics who were baptised as Catholics but never confirmed**. The group starts on 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.

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.

BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS: A SAINT FOR THE DIGITAL AGE

Carlo Acutis, born on May 3, 1991, in London, was an ordinary boy with an extraordinary love for God. Raised in Milan, Italy, by Italian parents, Carlo was cheerful, intelligent, and deeply spiritual from a young age. His passion for computers developed alongside a growing devotion to the Catholic faith, which he embraced with his whole heart.



While many young people use the internet for entertainment, Carlo saw it as a way to evangelize. He taught himself computer programming and used his talents to create a website that catalogued Eucharistic miracles from around the world. His goal was to help people better understand the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Carlo once said, *"The more we receive the Eucharist, the more we will become like Jesus."* He considered the Eucharist "the highway to heaven" and encouraged others to attend daily Mass, just as he did from the age of seven.

Carlo lived a life of prayer and compassion. He had a deep love for the Virgin Mary, prayed the rosary daily, and was always ready to help those in need. He defended classmates who were bullied and often gave his pocket money to the poor. Despite his talents and intelligence, Carlo remained humble, always pointing others toward God, not himself.

At the age of 15, Carlo was diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukemia. He offered his suffering for the Pope and the Church, saying, *"I offer all the suffering I will have to suffer for the Lord, for the Pope, and the Church."* He passed away peacefully on October 12, 2006. His life, though short, had a lasting impact.

In 2020, Carlo Acutis was beatified by Pope Francis, bringing him one step closer to sainthood. He is often called the "patron saint of the internet" because of his innovative use of technology to share the Gospel. On 7 September 2025, he will be canonized, officially becoming the first millennial saint.

Two miracles have been attributed to his intercession. The first involved a young boy in Brazil named Mattheus who suffered from a rare and deadly pancreatic condition. After prayers were said to Carlo, the boy made a full and unexplained recovery. The second miracle occurred in Costa Rica. A girl named Valeria suffered a severe head injury in a bicycle accident. Her mother visited Carlo's tomb in Assisi to pray, and shortly after, Valeria began to recover in what doctors called a medically inexplicable healing. Both miracles were rigorously investigated by the Church and accepted as signs of Carlo's heavenly intercession.

Carlo's life resonates deeply with young people today because he was one of them. He lived in the modern world, loved video games and soccer, and understood the challenges of staying faithful in a digital age. Yet, he proved that it's possible to be holy and joyful while embracing modern technology and living a normal life.

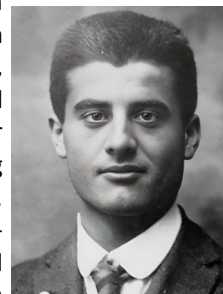
His story continues to inspire Catholics around the world, especially youth and those working in technology. Carlo once said, *"Sadness is looking at ourselves, happiness is looking towards God."* He encouraged others to live with purpose, reminding everyone that *"we are all born as originals, but many die as photocopies."* His message is clear: live authentically, live with God, and use your talents to do good.

As we look forward to his canonization, Carlo Acutis remains a shining example of what it means to be a saint in the 21st century—a teenager who loved God deeply, used his gifts for others, and left behind a legacy of faith, courage, and compassion.

Abridged from Catholic Answers www.catholic.com, Carlo Acutis

BLESSED PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI: MAN OF THE BEATITUDES

Pier Giorgio Michelangelo Frassati was born on April 6, 1901, in Turin, Italy, into a wealthy and influential family. His mother, Adelaide Ametis, was a noted painter, and his father, Alfredo Frassati, was the founder of the newspaper *La Stampa*, later serving as an Italian senator and ambassador. Though raised in a largely secular household, Pier Giorgio developed a deep spiritual life from an early age, joining the Marian Sodality and Apostleship of Prayer. He received special permission to take daily Communion, which was uncommon at the time, and his devotion to the Eucharist and the Blessed Virgin became central to his life.



At 17, he joined the St. Vincent de Paul Society, dedicating himself to the service of the poor, sick, and marginalized, especially returning World War I veterans. He studied mining engineering at the Royal Polytechnic University of Turin, saying he wanted to "serve Christ better among the miners." Alongside his studies, he was active in Catholic Action, the Catholic Student Foundation, and the People's Party, promoting Catholic social teaching as outlined in *Rerum Novarum*.

Pier Giorgio saw the poor not as objects of pity, but as his "masters." He frequently gave away his food or bus fare, and skipped family vacations to remain in Turin, saying, "If everybody leaves, who will take care of the poor?" His spiritual life was nourished by Eucharistic Adoration, Scripture—especially St. Paul's "Hymn of Charity"—and the writings of St. Catherine of Siena.

An avid outdoorsman, Pier Giorgio loved mountain climbing and often invited friends along, using the trips to share his faith through prayer, the Rosary, and Mass. He also enjoyed art, theatre, poetry, and music, memorizing long passages from Dante and attending operas and museums. In 1922, he joined the Lay Dominicans, taking the name "Girolamo" after the fiery Renaissance preacher Savonarola, whom he admired.

His strong opposition to Fascism and Communism sometimes led to clashes in public, but he never hesitated to defend the Church and its teachings. During a demonstration in Rome, he famously picked up a fallen Catholic banner and held it high, shielding himself with its pole when attacked by police.

In 1925, just before completing his degree, Pier Giorgio contracted poliomyelitis, likely from one of the many sick people he served. Though gravely ill, he continued helping others, writing a final note to arrange medicine for a man in need. He died on July 4, 1925, at only 24 years old.

At his funeral, thousands of poor and working-class people lined the streets—many whom his family had never met—grieving the death of the young man who had quietly served them. His legacy as a man of faith, service, and joy left a profound impact.

Pope John Paul II, deeply inspired by Pier Giorgio, beatified him on May 20, 1990, calling him the "Man of the Eight Beatitudes." His incorrupt body was exhumed in 1981 and now rests in Turin's cathedral, drawing pilgrims—especially young people—seeking to live lives of holiness in the modern world.

On November 20, 2024, Pope Francis announced that Pier Giorgio will be canonized. This is now scheduled on the 7th September 2025.

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati stands today as a powerful example of how to live a vibrant, Christ-centered life—devoted to both faith and action, in service to others and in love of God.

Abridged from catholicvote.org, Pier Giorgio Frassati, 29 Nov 2024