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ST MARY'S WEBSITE



ST MARY'S FACEBOOK

ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S

The Catholic Church in Gosport

02 November 2025 - ALL SAINTS

01	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Deceased of the Hill and Wainwright Family	CONFESSION TIMES Wed 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 1:00nn
02	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	ALL SAINTS	Stanislaw Skonieczny RIP Valerie Shaw RIP	
03	Mon	12:00nn	Commemoration of ALL SOULS	Holy Souls in Purgatory	
		07:30pm	<i>Pastoral Mass at St Philip Howard, Fareham at 7:30pm</i>		
04	Tue	No Mass			
05	Wed	No Mass			
06	Thu	07:00pm		Joseph RIP	
07	Fri	No Mass			
08	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Deceased of the Leigh & Fairhurst Family	
09	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA	Cecil Frank Wallace RIP	
				Holy Souls in Purgatory	

ALL SAINTS' DAY AND ALL SOULS' DAY: CELEBRATING THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Each November, the Catholic Church celebrates two important feasts: All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. Though both honour the dead, they express distinct aspects of Catholic teaching about eternal life, the communion of saints, and the power of prayer for the departed.

The Origin and Meaning of All Saints' Day

All Saints' Day, also known as the Solemnity of All Saints, honours all the saints in heaven, both those officially canonised and the countless others known only to God. The celebration dates back to the early Church, which venerated martyrs as early as the 4th century. As the number of martyrs grew, the Church established a common feast to honour them all. Pope Gregory III (731–741) dedicated November 1 to all saints by consecrating a chapel in their honour at St. Peter's Basilica. Pope Gregory IV later extended the feast to the entire Church. The day reflects the Church's belief in the communion of saints, the spiritual union among the faithful on earth, the souls in purgatory, and the saints in heaven. The saints intercede for us and serve as models of holiness. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches that devotion to the saints strengthens the unity of the Church: "Being more closely united to Christ, those who dwell in heaven fix the whole Church more firmly in holiness" (CCC 956). On this holy day of obligation, Catholics attend Mass, reflect on their call to holiness, and draw inspiration from the lives of those who have gone before them in faith.

The Origin and Meaning of All Souls' Day

All Souls' Day, celebrated on November 2, is dedicated to prayer for the souls of the faithful departed who are undergoing purification in purgatory. According to Catholic teaching, purgatory is a temporary state where souls who die in God's grace are cleansed before entering heaven. The formal observance began in the 11th century when St. Odilo of Cluny instituted a day of prayer for the dead. The practice of praying for the departed, however, has existed since the earliest days of Christianity. The *Catechism* affirms: "From the beginning the Church has honoured the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them... so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God" (CCC 1032). On this day, Catholics offer Masses, prayers, and acts of charity to aid souls in their journey to heaven. Visiting cemeteries, lighting candles, and offering personal prayers for loved ones are traditional practices.

The Connection and the Call

While All Saints' Day celebrates those already in heaven, All Souls' Day focuses on those still being purified. Together, they affirm the Church's belief in heaven, purgatory, and the power of intercessory prayer. In many cultures, these feasts are marked by special customs such as Mexico's *Día de los Muertos* that blend faith and remembrance.

Ultimately, both days point toward the Christian hope of eternal life. All Saints' Day calls us to holiness by following the example of the saints, while All Souls' Day reminds us to pray for our departed loved ones. United in the communion of saints, the living and the dead journey together toward the fullness of life with God.

Source: *Catholic Teachings/belovedcatholic.com (abridged)*

REMEMBRANCE CANDLES

Our Remembrance Candles, which has now become a tradition of our parish in remembrance of our dearly departed, are still available.



Lighting a candle in memory of a loved one is a sign of hope in the Resurrection, a symbol of prayer and a gesture of love for the departed. These candles will be lit before the Altar of the Lord on All Souls' Day. If you cannot attend Mass, don't worry, we will light your candle for you. Just leave it in the basket provided. **£1 donation per candle is requested.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

Registration for the 2026 First Holy Communion programme is now open for children in Year 4 or over. Registration forms are available in the parish office. Please email office@stmarysgosport.org.uk or call 02392580119. **Registration ends on the 30th of November and programme starts in January.**



BAPTISM CELEBRATION

Chiranda and Heshani are inviting everyone to join them in the parish hall after the 11:15am Mass to celebrate the baptism of their daughter, Elise Talia.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY AND BLESSING OF GRAVES

On the 9th of November, we will gather by the War Memorial outside the church to observe the two-minute silence at 11:00am. At 2pm, everyone is invited to join Fr Benedikt Timpe and Dcn John for prayers near the graves of our loved ones laid to rest in Ann's Hill Cemetery. We will pray also for all the fallen in time of war.



Thank you to those who already handed their knitted poppies in. To those who haven't yet, you may drop off your finished poppies in the parish office by Tuesday, 4 November! Thank you.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 14 Nov / Fri - Parish office will be closed
- 30 Nov / Sun - First Sunday of Advent
- 08 Dec / Mon - Feast of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and Filipino Supper at 7pm at Our Lady in Stubbington
- 14 Dec / Sun - Pastoral Area Carol Service at St Margaret Mary, Park Gate at 3pm
- 19 Dec / Fri - Filipino "Simbang Gabi" Mass at 6pm

CHOIR PRACTICE

For the members of the choir and those who wish to join the choir, below are the practice dates and they are all happening in St Mary's Church

- Saturday November 8th 2pm
- Sunday November 9th 10am
- Saturday November 29th 2pm
- Sunday November 30th 10am



FUNERAL NOTICE

Patricia Anne Pennicott . A Funeral Service will be held for Patricia Pennicott on the **4th of November at 11:00** at St Mary's. Fr Anthony Pennicott will be the presiding priest. May her soul rest in peace.

Barbara Bond . Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Mrs. Barbara Bond. May she rest in peace. There will be a Requiem Mass on the **26th of November at 12:00nn** St Mary's.

NOVEMBER SECOND COLLECTION—BAMENDA

Since 1974, the Diocese of Portsmouth has enjoyed a rich and close relationship with our partner Diocese of Bamenda, involving prayer for one another; practical and financial support for projects; the organisation of exchange visits; the promotion of the link in our schools and parishes, and the sharing of news and information. Please be as generous as you can to support our sisters and brothers in Bamenda in these very challenging times. ANY contribution of ANY size is most welcome, as together we can make a big difference! *You may use the electronic collection plate (DONA machine) if you wish.*

JUBILEE WALK IN NOVEMBER

Our parish administrator, Clarinda, is organising a Jubilee Walk on the 15th of November to celebrate the Jubilee theme: Pilgrims of Hope. This walk will begin at St Mary's Church going to Bayside Cabin and back. It will be a gentle prayerful walk through our local area. Along the way, she will pray the Rosary, pause for reflection, prayer and thanksgiving, and there will be stops for refreshments. She warmly invites anyone to join her, whether for a whole walk or just part of it. It will be suitable for all ages. If you would like to join her on this Jubilee Walk, please speak to Clarinda or contact the parish office. Thank you.

COME PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US

The Rosary group meets every night at 8pm on WhatsApp. If you would like to join in praying the Rosary as part of the group please contact Anthonia 07773185812 or Clare 07774664409 . Thank you.

TURN EVERYDAY SHOPPING INTO EVERYDAY GIVING

Give as You Live (GAYL) . With Give as You Live Online, every purchase you make helps support St Mary's without any extra cost to you. It is quick, easy and completely free. Shop as normal and raise vital funds for St Mary's. Use this link: <https://tinyurl.com/222ae5s5> to access our parish's online shopping/giving page.

HIS STORY - A CONCERT

His Story, a presentation by Mustard Seed Songs is a musical happening on the 8th of November at Holy Rood Church in Stubbington at 3:00pm and 7:30pm. Tickets are available to purchase. This musical will feature West End stars, Alverstoke School of Dance and the **St Mary's RC Primary School Choir**. Please contact Kathleen Jones for more information. *Poster is also available on the notice board for ticket prices.*

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. **Interested and want to know more? Please speak to Fr Matthew, Dcn John, or contact the parish office.**

CWL - GOSPORT

On Wednesday 12th November, Gosport Section of the Catholic Women's League are meeting at Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Stubbington. Mass at 12 noon will be for the intention of CWL Members past and present. Visitors will be very welcome to bring a packed lunch and stay to hear a talk about **Volunteering with Mercy Ships by Dr Jo**. The talk will begin at 1.30pm. For further information, please contact Marguerite Boulter: 01489 575663 / margieboulter@aol.com or Maria Owen: 07790 378 097 / mariaeowen@gmail.com



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.

