

Priest-in-Charge: **Rev. Fr Matthew King**
 Parish Secretary: **Clarinda Mansfield**
 Deacon: **Rev Dcn John Cumpsty**
 Office Hours: **Mon to Fri 9am—12pm**
 Email: **office@stmarysgosport.org.uk**
 Telephone: **(023) 9258 0119**



Safeguarding Officer: **Maureen Williams**
 Email: **safeguarding@stmarysgosport.org.uk**
 @catholicchurchingosport
 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

19 and 26 October 2025 - TWENTY-NINTH & THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year C)

18	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Ms Mary Anne Cornelius RIP	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 12:00nn TO MAKE DONATIONS: For <u>BACS</u> 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.
19	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time	People of the Parish Alice Theresa RIP	
20	Mon	No Service			
21	Tue	No Service			
22	Wed	No Service			
23	Thu	No Service			
24	Fri	12:00nn	St Anthony Claret	Private Intention	
25	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Rev John Martin	
26	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Brian Davies RIP People of the Parish	
27	Mon	No Service			
28	Tue	12:00nn	Saints Simon and Jude	Holy Souls in Purgatory	
29	Wed	07:00pm		Papachen RIP	
30	Thu	11:00am	Requiem Mass	Patricia Skinner RIP	
31	Fri	12:00nn		Brian Bascom RIP	
01	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Deceased of the Hill & Wainwright Family	
02	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	ALL SAINTS	Stanislaw Skonieczny Deceased of the Alvarez Family	

Please be informed of **these important dates for your diary.**

OCTOBER - NOTICE OF NO MASS & CHURCH/OFFICE CLOSURES

20 Mon	Church and parish office will be closed.
21 - 23 Tue - Thu	Fr Matthew on clergy formation day. Both the church and parish office will be closed.
27 Mon	Church and parish office will be closed.

NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCE SCHEDULE

02 Sun	All Saint's Day Normal Mass schedule
03 Mon	All Soul's Day Mass at 12nn. <i>Pastoral Area Mass at St Philip Howard at 7:30pm</i>
04 Tue	No Mass
05 Wed	No Mass
06 Thu	Mass at 7pm
07 Fri	No Adoration. Fr Matthew will be at St Mary's Primary School, but there will be Mass at 12nn as normal
09 Sun	Remembrance Sunday. Fr Benedikt will preside over this weekend's Services. <i>Gather with Fr Benedikt at 2pm at Anns Hill cemetery for prayers and the blessing of graves.</i>

DECEMBER

14 Sun	Pastoral Area Carol Service at St Margaret Mary, Parkgate at 3pm
19 Fri	Filipino "Simbang Gabi" Mass at 6pm

ARE YOU NEW TO THE PARISH? *welcome!* PLEASE INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO FR MATTHEW AFTER MASS AND REGISTER BY FILLING OUT A REGISTRATION FORM FROM THE BACK OF THE CHURCH. *WHETHER YOU ARE SEEKING SPIRITUAL GROWTH, CONNECTION, OR SIMPLY A PLACE TO BELONG, WE HOPE YOU FIND OUR CHURCH A WELCOMING PLACE.*

REMEMBRANCE CANDLES NOW AVAILABLE

As we approach the feasts of All Saints (moved this year to Nov 2) and All Souls (moved to Nov 3), our Remembrance Candles, which has now become a tradition of our parish in remembrance of our dearly departed, is now 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.**



PAT SKINNER—RIP

The Requiem Mass for Mrs Patricia Skinner will be on the 30th of October-Thursdays at 11am followed by a committal at Anns Hill at 12:30pm. **This Mass will replace the Thursday 7pm Mass.** Please pray for her family and friends at this difficult time. May God grant her eternal rest.

BARBARA BOND—RIP

Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Mrs. Barbara Bond. May she, and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

BAPTISM OF ELISE TALIA

On the 26th of October, the baptism of Elise Talia Fernando will take place during the 11:15am Mass. Let us rejoice in thanksgiving to the Lord with Elise and her parents, Chiranda and Heshani.



BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAMME

If you are planning on having your child baptised, here are the dates for the next Baptism Preparation Programme:

Meet & Greet	Saturday 8 th Nov	10am
Online Session 1	Tuesday 18 th Nov	from 8pm
Online Session 2	Tuesday 25 th Nov	from 8pm

For more information, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/2vctjens>.

Closing date is 31st October.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

Registration for First Holy Communion is now open for children in Year 4 or over. Registration forms are now available. Please contact the parish office to get a copy. **Registration ends on the 30th of November and programme start in January.**

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 November.

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.

CHOIR PRACTICE

For the members of the choir and those who wish to join the choir, below are the choir practice dates and they are all happening in the church

Saturday October 25th 2pm	Sunday October 26th 10am.
Saturday November 1st 2pm	Sunday November 2nd 10am
Saturday November 8th 2pm	Sunday November 9th 10am
Saturday November 29th 2pm	Sunday November 30th 10am



THIS WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION - WORLD MISSION

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY - 19 OCTOBER: invites us to unite in prayer and generosity with missionaries sharing Christ's love around the world. Here is the link to the GAYL donations page: <https://tinyurl.com/ybcbzy6p>. For more information and resources, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/ydtv9dx4>

NOVEMBER 2 SECOND COLLECTION—BAMENDA

In support of projects in Bamenda. Let us continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Bamenda and for the restoration of peace and justice in the region.

JUBILEE WALK IN NOVEMBER

On the 15th of November, one of our parishioners is planning a Jubilee Walk 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.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PROJECT

Thank you to those who already handed their knitted poppies in. It is not too late to start knitting in support of this initiative! **You may drop off your finished poppies in the parish office!**

PARISH RELIGIOUS ITEMS AVAILABLE

We are now offering Christmas cards from our shop. If you wish to order religious items, you are welcome to do so through the parish office during office hours, browse catalogues and place your orders. **Note: Clarinda will be away until end of October.**

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. This musical will feature West End stars, Alverstoke School of Dance and the **St Mary's RC Primary School Choir**. Please contact to 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.**

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.

NO TEA AND COFFEE AFTER THE 11:15AM MASS

There will be no Tea and Coffee after the 11:15am Mass on October 19. If you wish to volunteer two hours of your time once a month to help serve tea and coffee in the hall after the 11:15am Mass, you are very welcome to speak to Anne or Mike. They will be happy to give you more information about this Ministry.

SEEKER SATURDAY

Seeker Saturdays; 18th October- 11am-3pm, Sacred Heart Church, Fareham. PO16 ONQ . This monthly group will resume on **18th October**. For the diary: the Seeker Saturday dates for the next academic year are: 15th November, 6th December, 17th January, 28th February, 21st March, 25th April, 16th May & 13th June. Pope Leo XIV recently called for the creation of communities where young people can feel accepted, listened to, and encouraged in their vocational discernment. If you are discerning if the Lord is calling you to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life, then spending time with like-minded people can be really beneficial to any vocational journey. Contact 01329 318 869

ADORE - CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

ADORE CELEBRATES FIFTY YEARS WITH A SPECIAL DAY OF RENEWAL . On 25th October there will be a special celebration of the Golden Jubilee of "ADoRE" – the Alton Day of Renewal, which has helped thousands of people to renew their faith and fan into a flame the graces received at Baptism and Confirmation. The event takes place at St. Bede's Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke, Hampshire. RG24 9DX starting at 9.30 with registration and Holy Mass at 10.00. Visit <http://bit.ly/ADOREOCT2025>

MEN'S RETREAT

Ignatian Spiritual Exercises: Mens' retreat, 4 & 11 February 2026

A fantastic opportunity to experience St Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises in a 5-day, shortened form. The retreat will be guided by the monastic community of St Joseph's Abbey, Flavigny (France), who were founded with the specific charism of offering this version of the Exercises and with a particular apostolate to men. The retreat is open to men in all states of life, who wish to seek God's will through a deepened detachment from the world. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/3nzd45v2> for more information.

SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Be Still and Know that I am God, 14 - 17 November 2025 . A three-day retreat led by Fr Roger Dawson, SJ, aiming to help participants find a greater attentiveness and disposition to God's presence in their lives through a disciplining of the mind and awareness of the present moment. To find out more, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/mr3az6zr> Christian Heritage Centre

OTHER PASTORAL AREA EVENTS

- **8th December - 7pm** Feast of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and Filipino Supper, at Our Lady in Stubbington
- **14th December -3pm** Pastoral Area Carol Service at St Margaret Mary in Park Gate

CAMINO FUNDRAISING

Clarinda is now on her pilgrimage walking the final 100km of the Camino Frances in Santiago, Spain. She is raising funds for St Mary's. You may continue donating using the DONA machine at the back of the church or by using an envelope, or by scanning the QR Code. Thank you for your kind and generous donations, and please continue to keep her in your prayers.



ST MARY'S HALL HIRE

Please help the Parish spread the word! St Mary's Parish Hall is available for hire. For enquiries, please email or contact the parish office at 02392 580 119.

Jubilee 2025—Pilgrims of Hope

31 October - 2 November

Jubilee of the World of Education



KNOCK PILGRIMAGE—A JUBILEE TOUR

Jubilee Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 10th November 2025. £799.00 pps. Price includes flight from Heathrow or Luton, 10kg hold luggage, 4 nights' in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Full use of leisure facilities. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock Shrine, Ballintubber Abbey, Fr. Peyton Centre & Kylemore Abbey. Irish music nightly. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact knockpilgrimages@gmail.com or 01268762 278 or 07740 175557.

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.



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 info@retrouvaille.org.uk or contact 07887 296 983

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>

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!!

CATECHISTS' DAY

On the 11th of October, three of our parishioners, Ugochi, Anne-Isabelle, and Anthonia, attended the Catechist Day with Bishop Philip Egan at Sacred Heart of Jesus and St Peter the Apostle in Waterloooville. This was part of the ongoing catechists' formation.

Ugochi writes:

The Diocesan Catechist Day – Jubilee for Catechists in Waterloooville was an unforgettable experience, both educative and uplifting, filled with joy, fellowship, and spiritual renewal. The sessions were led by Bishop Philip, supported by a Missionary Sister who shared reflections on living our vocation with humility and joy.



Photo: Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

It was a spirit-filled, educative, and joyful day with plenty of learning, reflection, and fellowship. *Bishop Philip* taught us about our mission as catechists, to be witnesses of faith, hope, and love, helping others encounter Christ personally. One of the Missionary Sisters also encouraged us to live our vocation with joy, humility, and compassion.

We explored the journey of catechesis, learned from the teachings of the Popes, and reflected on what it means to be missionaries of hope. The discussions were engaging and insightful, and there were lots of refreshments, food, and drinks shared in unity and joy.

The atmosphere was warm and welcoming. Everyone was nourished spiritually and physically, with plenty to eat and drink, laughter, and meaningful sharing. Overall, it was a memorable and blessed experience, filled with faith, friendship, and inspiration. We left Waterloooville strengthened in our calling as catechists, teachers, witnesses, and missionaries of hope.

NEWSLETTER THOUGHT

The Catechism of the Catholic Church has an excellent treatise on Christian Prayer. It appears in the fourth and final part of the catechism and begins with a summation of the whole faith. What follows are some excerpts directly from the catechism, though it is well worth reading in its entirety:



Part 4 - PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

"Great is the mystery of the faith!

The Church professes this mystery in the Apostles' Creed (Part One) and celebrates it in the sacramental liturgy (Part Two), so that the life of the faithful may be conformed to Christ in the Holy Spirit to the glory of God the Father (Part Three).

This mystery, then, requires that the faithful believe in it, that they celebrate it, and that they live from it in a vital and personal relationship with the living and true God. This relationship is prayer.

WHAT IS PRAYER?

"For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy." (*St. Thérèse of Lisieux*)

Prayer as God's gift

"Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God." But when we pray, do we speak from the height of our pride and will, or "out of the depths" of a humble and contrite heart? He who humbles himself will be exalted; humility is the foundation of prayer, Only when we humbly acknowledge that "we do not know how to pray as we ought," are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer.

Prayer as covenant

Where does prayer come from? Whether prayer is expressed in words or gestures, it is the whole man who prays. But in naming the source of prayer, Scripture speaks sometimes of the soul or the spirit, but most often of the heart (more than a thousand times). According to Scripture, it is the heart that prays. If our heart is far from God, the words of prayer are in vain.

Prayer as communion

In the New Covenant, prayer is the living relationship of the children of God with their Father who is good beyond measure, with his Son Jesus Christ and with the Holy Spirit. The grace of the Kingdom is "the union of the entire holy and royal Trinity . . . with the whole human spirit."

Prayer is Christian insofar as it is communion with Christ and extends throughout the Church, which is his Body. Its dimensions are those of Christ's love.

Source: CCC Part 4