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ST MARY'S WEBSITE



ST MARY'S FACEBOOK

ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S

The Catholic Church in Gosport

30 November 2025 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

29	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Eddie Laycock 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 1:00pm
30	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	First Sunday of Advent	People of the Parish Sr Joyce Mary Fryer RIP	
01	Mon	No Service			
02	Tue	12:00nn		Emma Cliffe INT	
03	Wed	07:00pm	St Francis Xavier	Private Intention	
04	Thu	07:00pm	<i>St John Damascene</i>	Kathleen Magri RIP	
05	Fri	12:00nn		Chief Emmanuel Offiah RIP	
06	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	People of the Parish	
07	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Second Sunday of Advent	Carmelo & Marianna RIP Zied Solomon RIP	

REFLECTION

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, and the first Sunday of a new liturgical year for the Church. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. It is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. Key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In this new liturgical year, Cycle A, the Gospel of Matthew will be the primary Gospel proclaimed. In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus speak about the need for wakefulness, for watchful waiting, for the coming of the Son of Man.

Matthew's Gospel is dated by most scholars after 70 A.D. Most believe that Matthew wrote for a primarily Jewish community, but one that was no longer cantered on the Temple in Jerusalem. These were Jewish Christians trying to come to terms with their relationship to Judaism in a new situation: Judaism after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. There may have been Christians who believed that the events of the world around them gave evidence of the imminent return of the Lord in glory.

The passage from Matthew we read today is rather straightforward. No one knows the precise time of the coming of the Lord in glory, so watchful waiting and vigilance are required. The passage speaks to the uselessness of looking for signs; there will be none. As a thief sneaks in during the night, so will the Lord's coming in glory be.

The question for us as members of the Christian community, then, is how do we prepare for this? Today's passage speaks more about the manner of waiting, rather than the details of the preparation. Jesus compares the vigilance required of Christians to the vigilance of a homeowner who knows the plans of the thief. If one knows that the thief's action is imminent, one remains watchful. As Christians, we know *that* our Lord is coming even if we cannot know the precise timing. Jesus calls us to be watchful and vigilant, like the homeowner. If we become lax in our Christian living, we may be caught unprepared.



Source: Loyolapress.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.



DECEMBER IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

07 Sun - Second Sunday of Advent

12 Fri - No Adoration. Children from St Mary's Primary School will be coming for the Christmas Carol Service rehearsals

14 Sun - Parish Volunteers' Christmas Get-together. After the 11:15am Mass

18 Thu - St Mary's Primary School Carol Service. Everyone is invited at St Mary's Church at 5pm.

19 Fri - Filipino "Simbang Gabi" Mass at 6pm

20 Sat - Children's Christmas Party. This will be in the parish hall

21 Sun - Christmas Raffle Draw. Happening in the hall after the 11:15am Mass

- **St Mary's Children's Nativity Play** at 5pm in the parish hall

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

24 Wed - Eve

5:00pm - Children's Mass

9:00pm - Night Mass

25 Thu - Day

8:00am - Dawn Mass

11:15am - Day Mass

26 Fri - 12:00nn (St Stephen's Day)

28 Sun - Altar Server's Mass

ST MARY'S NATIVITY PLAY

Join us as we re-tell the timeless story of Christmas with joy and hope. This is happening on the **21st of December at 5pm in the parish hall.** Rehearsal dates are: **13 Dec from 2 - 4pm and 20 Dec from 4-6pm.** Children of all ages are welcome to take part. Come and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with carols, mince pies and plenty of festive cheer! Please speak to Elsie after the 11:15am Mass or contact the parish office for more information.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

We are inviting all children to join us for a Christmas Party in the hall on the 20th of December from 6pm. Parents are required to register their children. Forms are available in the church foyer and a £3 donation per child is requested to cover food and refreshments. Thank you.

NATIVITY SET COMPETITION!

This Christmas season, we invite all parish families to take part in our Family Nativity Set Competition. Celebrate the birth of Christ through creativity, teamwork, and faith as you design your own nativity scene. Use any materials you wish, and let your display reflect the true joy and meaning of Christmas. **Submission date is 13 December** ready for display on the Third Sunday of Advent. There will be winners. For more information, please speak to Annette after the 11:15am Mass or email her: ahkosche@gmx.com

PARISH VOLUNTEERS' CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER!

The **11:15 Mass on the 14th of December - Sunday**, will be offered for the intention of all our church volunteers in gratitude for everything they do throughout the year. This is a special time to celebrate our volunteers and the many ways they bless St Mary's. After Mass, we will gather in the hall for a small celebration. **Please bring a plate of food to share. Thank you for all that you do!**

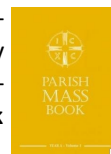
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

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.**



NEW PARISH MASS BOOKS

As we begin the new Liturgical Year of the Church today, on the First Sunday of Advent, we are blessed by the generosity of a kind donor who has graciously offered to provide the new Parish Mass Books. **Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity!**



13 DECEMBER TABLE TOP SALE

Our Fundraising Team is once again organising a table top sale! The date has been changed from 6th of December to **13th of December - Saturday from 10am.** This is to raise funds for St Mary's. They have always been successful and are always well received by people on the High Street, and we encourage everyone to support this initiative. **If you enjoy baking, we kindly welcome donations of cakes and all kinds of baked goods to add an extra touch to our sale. Your generous support is always very much appreciated. Extra pair of hands needed on the day, too!**

ST MARY'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Our Church Christmas raffle which has many great prizes including £100 cash for the first prize, is to be drawn on the 21st December. **Tickets are now available.** As always, we are asking parishioners for donations and also appealing to local businesses to offer a prize. We kindly ask everyone to take a book or two to sell to your friends, families, and neighbours. Many thanks as always for your outstanding support. - *Your Fundraising Committee*

CHOIR PRACTICE

The next Choir practice dates in St Mary's Church are:

Saturday 6th December 2pm Sunday 7th December 10am

Saturday 20th December 2pm Sunday 21st December 10am

Mass setting this Sunday: Missa XVII (Latin)

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STELLA MARIS CHRISTMAS CHOCOLATE APPEAL

It is the time of year! Did you know that there will be about 400,000 Seafarers working over Christmas, separated from their families and friends? Stella Maris meets and supports these seafarers. Your chocolate donations will be for seafarers visiting Southampton ports in the days before Christmas. Thank you.

ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PASTORAL AREA

Everyone is cordially invited to the following events happening within our pastoral area:

08 Dec . Mon - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. There will be Mass at 7pm at Our Lady in Stubbington followed by a Filipino Supper and entertainment in their parish hall

14 Dec . Sun - Pastoral Area Carol Service at St Philip Howard - Fareham at 3pm

TEAMS OF OUR LADY

You are warmly invited to a short service of Advent reflection hosted by Teams of Our Lady at **St. Margaret Mary Church, Park Gate, SO31 7GH on Saturday 6th December at 7-30pm**, followed by refreshments. All are very welcome and there's an opportunity to speak to Jim, Pat and other members. **"In Teams, we have found an atmosphere where we can develop our faith without feeling pressure from anyone."**



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT VESPERS

There will be First Sunday of Advent Vespers with adoration at **Our Lady's on Sunday 30th November**, beginning at 6pm with refreshments in the hall afterwards. Everyone is invited to come.