

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

23 November 2025 - OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

22	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	People of the Parish	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
23	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe</i>	Deceased of the Ashworth & Anderton Family Zied Solomon RIP	
24	Mon	No Service			
25	Tue	12:00nn	St Catherine of Alexandria	Ms Mary Anne Cornelius RIP	
26	Wed	12:00nn	<i>Requiem Mass</i>	Barbara Bond RIP	
27	Thu	07:00pm		Joan Patricia Lewis RIP	
28	Fri	12:00nn		Ms Mary Anne Cornelius RIP	
29	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Eddie Laycock RIP	
30	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	People of the Parish Sr Joyce Mary Fryer RIP	

REFLECTION

From the Diocesan Liturgy Project:

Commentary by Fr Liam Cummins on this Solemnity of Christ the King

This is the last Sunday of the church year. Next week we begin a new year with the first Sunday of Advent.

No matter what way your year went; no matter how many times, and in how many ways you may have failed to live up to the Christian way of life, we conclude our year with the celebration of Jesus as King of the world.

That is the one thing that has not changed, and that never will. It is like a taste of the end of time. At that time, the kingdom of the world, and the kingdom of Satan will come to an end, and Jesus and his kingdom will stand alone, with eternal victory.

I share a story with you (from a friend of mine, now deceased, Fr. Jack McArdle SS CC).

There was a king of a certain country who had a servant who was a fool.

One day the king handed the fool a stick and said, "Take this stick and keep it. If however, you meet a greater fool than you then give this stick to that person".

The years passed and the fool kept the stick.

The king went on many journeys to other countries and always went well prepared with documents and clothes etc.

The king grew old and one day took very ill and called his family and his fool to his bedside to say farewell as he was dying.

He told them that he was going on a long journey, one that he would not return from. His family were very sad.

The fool asked him a question: Master every time you went on a journey you were always well prepared. Tell me, what preparation have you made for this most important journey?"

"I have made no preparations for this journey", said the king, "I kept putting off doing the preparations and now it is too late. I just don't have time".

"In that case, Majesty", said the fool, "take this stick, because, at last I have found a fool much greater than myself!".

(I wonder how many sticks I'll have collected during my lifetime. - Dcn John)

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.



OTHER IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

24 Nov Mon - Church and parish office will be closed

25 Nov Tue - Parish office will be closed. Clarinda will be attending a Diocese training. The church will be open as normal.

30 Nov-Sun - First Sunday of Advent

December

08 Mon - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and Filipino Supper and entertainment at 7pm at Our Lady in Stubbington

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

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

21 Sun - St Mary's Children's Nativity Play at 5pm, parish hall

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!**

CHOIR PRACTICE

For the members of the choir and those who wish to join the choir, the next practice dates in St Mary's Church are Sat-November 29th at 2pm and Sun-November 30th at 10am.

FUNERAL NOTICE ✕

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.

This will replace the normal 7:00pm Mass.

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.**



JUBILEE WALK - A SUCCESS!

15th November—Sat was a beautiful day meant for walking! This Jubilee "Coastal" Walk organised by Clarinda was a big success. The reflections, prayers and the Rosary along the way filled the walkers with love and joy as they bonded together in faith. Join them next year!



BUILDING MAINTENANCE UPDATE

After the most recent cleaning of the church and parish hall gutters, the contractor has spotted some areas that require repair in both the hall (guttering along Minnitt Road) and the church (along the alleyway). They require immediate repair so that no further damage will affect the walls of the two buildings. **If you wish to donate towards the maintenance of our buildings, please use the electronic plate/DONA machine and select Building Maintenance for your donation. Thank you!**

06 DECEMBER TABLE TOP SALE

Our Fundraising Team is once again organising a table top sale on the **6th 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 available from this weekend.** 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.

TEAMS OF OUR LADY

Following on from Jim and Pat's talk last weekend, 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."



MARRIAGE SANKOFA RETREAT

Happening on **Saturday 29th November, 2025**, this retreat is for everyone interested in deepening their knowledge of the marriage covenant including married couples, spouses, adults: young & old. The suggested donation covers the cost of the retreat BUT should NOT exclude anyone. Closing date for registration is 24th November 2025. To register: WhatsApp Aba Shields on 07780 390 102 or email marriagesankofa@hotmail.com.

DIACONATE ORDINATION—JACK RYAN

Saturday 20th December 3pm at St John's Cathedral, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth. All are invited to the ordination of Jack, one of our "sons" from the Solent Pastoral Area - St Margaret Mary's Parish, Park Gate. Through the solemn Laying on of Hands he will be ordained a Deacon for us and, God willing, a Priest next year. Do come and support, and pray for Jack.