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 Deacon: Rev Dcn John Cumpsty  
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ST MARY'S WEBSITE

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## ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S

The Catholic Church in Gosport

11 January 2026 - THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - Year A

10	Sat	06:00pm	Vigil	Lawrence Halford INT	CONFESION TIMES
11	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<b>The Baptism of the Lord</b>	Canon John Watson RIP Zied Solomon RIP	Wed 6:15pm-6:45pm (if Mass is celebrated) Sat - 12:00nn—1:00pm
12	Mon	<b>No Service</b>			
13	Tue	12:00nn	St Hilary	Fitzgerald RIP	
14	Wed	07:00pm		Philomena Hopkins RIP	
15	Thu	07:00pm		Cliffe & Muehlebach Family	
16	Fri	12:00nn		Thomas RIP	
17	Sat	06:00pm	Vigil	Georgina Savege INT	
18	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<b>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	People of the Parish Anne Ellis RIP	<b>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION</b> Thu—after the 7pm Mass <i>Holy half hour with Night Prayer</i> <b>OUTREACH</b> Fri 10:00am—12:00nn <i>Rosary for the Unborn at 10am</i> Thu from 1:00pm

### REFLECTION

#### *The Baptism of the Lord - Revealing God's Loving Presence*

Christ's Baptism, as described in the Gospel of Matthew in today's readings, represents one of the *Theophanies*: a manifestation of God Himself. During this Christmas season and the week after, we celebrate four *theophanies*: (i) The birth of Christ on December 25, which revealed Christ to Israel; (ii) The visit of the Magi on the Epiphany, which revealed Christ to the Gentiles; (iii) The Baptism of the Lord, which revealed the Trinity; and (iv) The miracle at the wedding of Cana, which revealed Christ's transforming power to the world.

In today's Feast, the Trinity is revealed in the final verses of our Gospel:

*...[Jesus] saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'*

Jesus the Son of God is physically present for the Baptism; the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus in the form of a dove; and God the Father speaks from Heaven, proclaiming His joy and the fact that Jesus is indeed His Son.

We are not told who else hears this voice – maybe it is only Jesus – but the message is for all of us. It is the declaration of a Father's love for his Son. As we know, Jesus has an incredibly close relationship with God, calling Him alone "Abba", "Father". The Father of Jesus, however, is also *Our Father*, as we dare to pray time and time again, reminding ourselves of that intimate relationship of love to which we have been called through our own baptism and adoption as God's children.

The theologian, Hans Urs von Balthasar, once wrote: "after a mother has smiled for a long time at her child, the child will begin to smile back; she has awakened love in its heart, and in awakening love in its heart, she awakes also recognition. In the same way, God awakes Himself before us as love. Love radiates from God and instils the light of love in our hearts."

Our heavenly Father speaks to us, declares his love for us, time and time again, as he smiles at us, His children, for all eternity: This is my child, whom I love and on whom my favour rests. We are the servants whom the Lord upholds, the chosen ones in whom His soul delights! In a sense, our entire Christian life is a response to the God who first loves us and who awakens love in our hearts so that we may shine forth the light of His love in the darkness of our world.

Father Mark Hogan – The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Liturgy Project  
 11 January 2026

### 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.*



## IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **16 January Fri - First Holy Communion Parents' Meeting .**  
7pm in the parish hall
- **17 January Sat - First Holy Communion Catechism - First Session .** 9:00am til 10:30 am in the parish hall.
- **31 January Sat - First Holy Communion Catechism - Second Session .** 9:00am til 10:30 am in the parish hall.

**There will be NO MASSES on January 20, 29 and 30 due to Diocesan clergy and training days: There will also be No Eucharistic Adoration on January 30.**

### CHOIR

The next rehearsal date is Sunday 25th January at 10am. **Those who wish to join the choir are very much welcome. Please speak to Fr Matthew or Clarinda in the parish office.**



### CHRISTMAS RAFFLE FUNDRAISING

Our Fundraising Team successfully organised the Christmas Raffle and they managed to raise £1006.00 that will go towards the parish building fund. Again, we wish to thank the Fundraising Team who worked very hard during Christmas. We also would like to thank Morrisons, Tesco in Alver Village, and The Co-op in Privett Road for their prize donations.

### SENIORS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH TODAY

Please note that the parish hall, although will be open after the 11:15am Mass, will be exclusive only for those who have signed up for the Seniors Christmas Lunch. Thank you.



We are delighted to welcome back at St Mary's next weekend (January 17 and 18) Fr David Conroy. He will be celebrating Mass while Fr Matthew is on his course. Let us make him feel welcome and it is a privilege for our parish to have him here when he celebrates his birthday on the 17th - Saturday.

### CHRISTMAS COLLECTION—THANK YOU!

Thank you most sincerely for your very generous Christmas donations. I am deeply grateful for your kindness and support. I keep you and all your loved ones in my prayers.

- Fr Matthew

### STELLA MARIS CHRISTMAS CHOCOLATE APPEAL

We are still accepting donations. Gregory Hogan, the Southampton Regional Port Chaplain would like to express his thanks: "I would like to express our deepest gratitude to all those who advertised, promoted, and collected donated chocolate items for seafarers at Christmas. We received an amazing quantity and were able to deliver bags of chocolate tubs and other gifts to about 100 ships in Southampton and Fawley Refiner. The crew were extremely touched by your thoughtfulness and many expressed how it brought their ship the spirit and warmth of Christmas. Praised be the Baby Jesus!"



STELLA MARIS

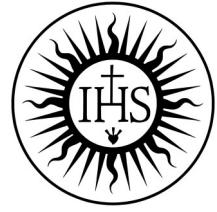
### BAPTISM

Please contact the Parish Office for an application form. The dates for the next Baptism Preparation Programme are:  
Meet & Greet - in person Saturday 14th Feb, 10am  
Online Session 1 Tuesday 17th Feb, from 8pm  
Online Session 2 Tuesday 24th Feb, from 8pm  
Welcome & Anointing Sunday 1st March

**Closing date for this Preparation Pathway - Fri. 30th January**

Please contact the parish office for more information or visit <https://tinyurl.com/2vctjens>.

The month of **January**  
Is dedicated to the most  
Holy Name of Jesus



### HELP NEEDED - CHURCH AND GROUNDS CLEANING

Can you spare a little of your time?

Would you be willing to lend a hand to help keep our church and its grounds welcoming and well-cared for? We are looking for a few volunteers to join a cleaning rota for the church and for the church grounds.



The tasks are light and straightforward, do not take a great deal of time, and would be shared among a team. If you have a friend, a partner, or family member you can work with, even better - it is always nicer to help together!

If you are able to help and wish to be part of the Church Cleaning Ministry, or would like more information, please let the parish office know. Thank you.

### CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE - GOSPORT

CWL'S next Meeting will be on Wednesday 14th January starting at the earlier time of 1pm. We will be having a 'bring and share' lunch - please bring along something you enjoy eating and perhaps a treat to share. Venue is Stubbington Catholic Church Hall (PO14 2PL) Visitors are most welcome - please contact Marguerite (07751435487) or Maria (07790378097) for more details.

### OTHER DIOCESAN EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

To all our parish EMHCs and Readers, please consider attending these formation days. If you have any questions, please speak to Clarinda in the parish office. Thank you.

**Saturday 9th May:** Formation day for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (Winchester). To book, please send an Email to [liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Saturday 17th October:** Formation day for Readers (Winchester). Email: [liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) to book

### ONLINE GIFT CARD FRAUD

Gift card fraud is an increasingly common way of tricking victims into purchasing gift cards and sharing their details, leading to financial loss. Please be aware that there have been scam messages circulating which appear to come from priests or diocesan staff, asking people to buy gift cards or provide financial help urgently. **The Diocese and its clergy will never ask for money, gift cards, vouchers, or personal details by email, text message, or social media.** If you receive a message of this kind, do not respond and do not send any money. Please report it to your parish office or to the [Diocese communications team](#) so that we can alert others. Thank you for your vigilance and for helping to protect our parish communities.

### SEEKER SATURDAYS

**17th January - 11am-3pm, Sacred Heart Church, Fareham. PO16 ONQ.** Pope Leo XIV recently called for the creation of communities where young people can feel accepted, listened to, and encouraged in their vocational discernment. Our regular gathering for Seeker Saturday is for exactly that purpose. 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. Our time together includes prayer, discussion, Mass, Adoration and lunch too. To find out more about this regular event or to enquiry about attending (as booking is required for the hospitality we offer) please email us: [vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)