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ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S

The Catholic Church in Gosport

18 January 2026 - SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A

17	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Georgina Savege INT	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
18	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	People of the Parish Anne Ellis RIP	
19	Mon	No Service			
20	Tue	No Mass			
21	Wed	07:00pm		Erlinda Diño RIP	
22	Thu	07:00pm		Miss Mary Ann Cornelius RIP	
23	Fri	12:00nn		Gerard & Eileen Baynham RIP	
24	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Douglas Savege INT	
25	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	Anderton Family INT People of the Parish	

REFLECTION

Recognising Christ in Everyday Life

As we move beyond the Christmas season and return to our daily routines, we are reminded by John the Baptist's proclamation: "Behold, the Lamb of God!" This declaration invites us to recognise Christ not only in sacred moments but in the ordinary events of our lives.

John the Baptist was more than a herald; he was a guide urging us to see Christ present among us. The Lord often comes disguised in the faces of those in need, the vulnerable, and the forgotten. Pope Francis encouraged us to be sentinels who help our community perceive Christ in these very people.

The Christmas season may have ended, but its message endures. God's presence among us is not limited to a single time or place. It calls us to live differently—to love, pray, and act with the awareness that Christ dwells in our midst.

As a parish family, let us ask ourselves: Do we truly recognise Christ when he draws near? Do our actions reflect his presence? Are we attentive to the needs of those around us, seeing in them the face of Christ?

May this reflection inspire us to carry the joy and hope of Christmas into every day, becoming witnesses to the living Christ in our community.

Let us pray for the grace to behold Christ with renewed wonder and to serve him faithfully in all we meet.

Don John Cumpsty

Lord Jesus,

Open our eyes to recognise You in the ordinary moments of each day, in kindness given and received, in quiet service, in moments of patience and forgiveness. Help us to meet You in one another, to listen with love, and to walk each day in Your presence. Amen.



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

- 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.*



THANK YOU FR DAVID CONROY FOR CELEBRATING MASS IN OUR PARISH. IT WAS A JOY TO HAVE YOU WITH US, ESPECIALLY AS IT ALSO MARKS YOUR BIRTHDAY. WE WISH YOU EVERY BLESSING, GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS IN THE YEAR AHEAD!

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 have an hour to spare, 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.



CHRISTMAS CRIB OFFERING

This year, Bishop Philip has agreed that donations made in the **Christmas Crib appeal will go to the Friends of the Holy Land**. The situation there is dire. Bethlehem is far from lying still and peaceful and is currently home to two refugee camps for those fleeing from the conflict in Gaza, as well as from other conflicts and persecution in the region. The families that live in the Holy Land rely on Pilgrimages for over 90% of their income, something which had barely recovered from Covid before the latest round of fighting brought a halt to visitors to the region. ***Please let others know that the crib will remain until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2.***

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

"Could you not watch one hour with me?"

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament or Eucharistic Adoration happens every Friday from 10am to 12nn followed by a Mass. This is a beautiful time to spend with the Lord in prayer and silence. **You can simply come in, sit quietly, and be with Him. If you wish to know more or would like to sign up for an hour, please speak to Fr Matthew, Dcn John, or contact the parish office. Thank you.**

Tea and Coffee in St Mary's Hall every Sunday after the 11:15am Mass. Please join us for a friendly cuppa and chat.

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>.



SUCCESSFUL SENIORS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH!

Our Seniors' Christmas Lunch last Sunday was a real success and a lovely way to celebrate the season together. A huge thank you to all the cooks and helpers: Elsie, Beata, Clare, Julie, Clarinda, Mike and Anne, who did a fantastic job. The food was delicious and very much appreciated by all. The carol singing led by Jane made the celebration even more fun! Most importantly, everyone had a great time, with plenty of laughter, conversation and good company! We are already looking forward to the next one!

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION - CATHEDRAL

The annual Collection for the Cathedral of St John the Evangelist, Mother Church of the Diocese, is scheduled to take place on Sunday - January 25, and is the first Second Collection of 2026.

TURN YOUR ONLINE SHOPPING INTO 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> or scan the QR code to access our parish's online shopping/giving page.



STANDING ORDER AND GIFT AID

We continue to thank all parishioners for your kind support to our parish in many ways. If you haven't yet, please consider donating via a Standing Order, and sign up for Gift Aid. These are vital in helping to sustain the life and mission of our parish. They provide a more stable, and 25% extra, parish income. Forms available at the back of the church and from the Parish Office. Contactless Giving—Available at the back of the Church.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

The children's Confirmation programme is coordinated pastorally by Fareham covering the parishes in Gosport, Lee-on-Solent, Stubbington, Parkgate and Fareham. This Confirmation pathway called "CHOSEN" has its next session on Fri 23rd Jan. 7 - 8.30pm at St Philip Howard Church.

CATECHISTS' FORMATION DAY - PASTORAL AREA

LENT '26 Saturday 14th March 9.30am - 3.30pm at St Philip Howard Led by Sr Hyacinthe OP. www.lightoftruth.uk/courses A date for the diary, please, for all new and existing Catechists. We are very blessed to have the Dominican Sisters of Sway come to our Solent Pastoral Area and lead a formation day for us. It is the 3rd Saturday in Lent, a refreshing day of formation and prayer.

BREAKTHROUGH - DIOCESAN YOUTH PROGRAMME

This youth programme, for Catholics aged 18-30, is taking place on **Saturday, 31 January 2026 from 10am—4:30pm at St John's Cathedral (Discovery Centre)**, This will be our first youth programme of the New Year 2026, a special opportunity for our young people to come together in faith, worship, and fellowship, and to encounter our living and loving God.

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