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ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S The Catholic Church in Gosport

25 January 2026 - THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A

24	Sat	06:00pm	Vigil	Douglas Savege INT	CONFESION TIMES Wed 6:15pm-6:45pm (if Mass is celebrated) Sat - 12:00nn—1:00pm
25	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Anderton Family INT Georgina Savege RIP	
26	Mon	No Service			
27	Tue	12:00nn	St Angela Merici	Les Savege Snr RIP	
28	Wed	07:00pm	St Thomas Aquinas	Irene Cranstone RIP	
29	Thu	No Mass			
30	Fri	No Mass			
31	Sat	06:00pm	Vigil	People of the Parish	
01	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Miss Mary Anne Cornelius RIP Brian & Frances Smith INT	

REFLECTION

Reflection for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

The Gospel this Sunday begins with a moment of change. John the Baptist has been imprisoned, and Jesus feels both the personal loss and the spiritual weight of it. John had prepared the way; now Jesus must step forward. But he does not step forward alone. He walks along the Sea of Galilee and calls ordinary people — fishermen at their daily work — into a new purpose. *“Come, follow me,”* he says, *“and I will make you fishers of people.”*

This simple invitation becomes the pattern for discipleship in every age. Jesus calls, not because we are perfect or prepared, but because the Kingdom needs willing hearts. The first disciples left their nets - the familiar, the secure, the predictable - and discovered a life they could never have imagined.

Across history, countless others have heard that same call. One of them was Mary Glowrey, an Australian woman whose life offers a gentle but striking example of what it looks like to follow Christ's invitation. Mary was gifted, intelligent, and successful, yet she sensed that God was asking more of her than a comfortable career. She allowed her life to be interrupted by compassion. She stepped away from what was familiar and offered her gifts where they were most needed. Her path eventually led her to India, where she served the sick and the poor with extraordinary dedication. She didn't set out to be remarkable; she simply kept saying yes to the next step Christ placed before her.

Mary Glowrey's story is not meant to make us feel inadequate. It is meant to remind us that discipleship is always a journey - one step, one decision, one act of courage at a time. She didn't do everything. She simply did what she could, with love, and God multiplied it.

In today's Gospel, Jesus begins his public ministry with the words, *“Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”* Repentance is often misunderstood as guilt or self-reproach. But at its heart, repentance means realignment - turning toward God's vision for the world and allowing our lives to move in that direction. It is the quiet, steady work of letting Christ reshape our priorities, our habits, and our sense of purpose.

So this Sunday, the question is not whether we are ready to do great things. The question is much simpler: **What shoreline is Christ inviting us to leave?**

What nets - fear, routine, self-doubt, comfort - might we need to loosen our grip on? And where might our gifts, however ordinary they seem, become instruments of healing, compassion, or hope?

Jesus still walks along the shoreline of our lives. He still calls ordinary people into the - extraordinary work of love. May we, like those first disciples and like Mary Glowrey have the courage to take the next step he places before us.

Adapted from a homily by Deacon Peter, USA

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.



AVAILABLE! - ONLINE FIRE SAFETY TRAINING

The diocese is offering an online Fire Safety Training with Legal Annual Certification. This is open to all parishioners who wish to do the training. This is in **e-learning format, approx. 30 minutes**, and **user-friendly** – you can start, stop, and revisit anytime. If you are interested, please contact the parish office or contact Annette, our Health & Safety Officer at ahkosche@gmx.com. **We are also looking for some people to join the Fire Marshal Team. No previous experience is required as trainings will be provided. For more information, please contact Annette. Thank you!**

THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION - CATHEDRAL

Our cathedral is situated in the most deprived part of the diocese. The parish collection covers just over half of the ordinary running costs of £5,000 per week. Please support the second collection on 25 January. Never has this annual collection by parishes for the mother church of the diocese been more critical or needed. Thank you. You can donate online using the attached QR code or by using our electronic plate at the back of the church.



MASS INTENTIONS

To have a Mass offered for your intentions, kindly use the envelopes at the back of the church. Please book in advance. The earliest available dates are now in February 2026.

SPONSOR A SANCTUARY LAMP

If you would like to sponsor a Sanctuary Lamp, with a thoughtful intention, simply fill out a Sanctuary Lamp sponsor envelope that is available in the church foyer. The cost of sponsoring a Lamp is £5 per week (Sunday to Saturday). Your intentions will also be remembered during the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CATECHISM SESSION

We thank all the parents who attended the parents' meeting last Friday, and all the FHC candidates who came to attend the first catechism session in the parish hall last Saturday. **The second session will be on Saturday—January 31 in the parish hall.**

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 February 13-Thu and February 27-Thu from 7 - 8.30pm at St Philip Howard Church.**

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>.

GEORGINA SAVEGE—RIP

We pray for the repose of the soul of Georgina Savege, a member of our parish who has recently died. Georgina was the mother of Doug Savege, former secretary at St Mary's. May she rest in peace, and may her family be comforted by our prayers, especially at this time.



VOCATIONS

Our Diocesan Vocations Promotion Team invites those discerning a calling to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life to join them for the next Seeker Saturday on 28th February.. Seeker Saturdays take place from 11am-3pm, at Sacred Heart Church, Fareham. PO16 0NQ. Why not sign up for the next Seeker Saturday on 28th February? 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.

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.

SANKOFA MARRIAGE RETREAT

The Sacred Embrace & NFP. Individuals and married couples are invited to this marriage retreat happening on February 7-Sat at St Philip Howard Church from 11:30am to 6pm. Hot lunch and refreshments will be provided. Suggested donation is £20 per person or £35 per couple. Book your place by RSVP message to Aba on 07780 390 102. See notice board for more information.

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

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.

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

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

RETRouveille

Does your marriage need some TLC? Need help with communication and trust? **Retrouvaille helps marriages**. It can bring hope and healing to relationships. Next date: 12th February 2026.

www.retrouveille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN WALSINGHAM

The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham seeks help to purchase a property to accommodate their growing community and further their mission for the re-evangelization of England. Any amount, large or small, is greatly appreciated and the community assure you of their prayers. More information, as well as the option to donate online, can be found at: www.maryshouseappeal.org, Tel: 01362 692574, E-mail: office@walsinghamcommunity.org

BUCKFAST ABBEY

You will find, on our notice board, some information detailing Guided retreats and a Catholic Marriage retreat being held throughout 2026. Please refer to the poster for more details and how to book if you are interested.