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

01 February 2026 - FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A

31	Sat	06:00pm	Vigil	People of the Parish	CONFESION TIMES Wed 6:15pm-6:45pm <i>(if Mass is celebrated)</i> Sat - 12:00nn—1:00pm EUCARISTIC 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
01	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Miss Mary Anne Cornelius RIP Brian & Frances Smith INT	
02	Mon	No Service			
03	Tue	No Mass			
04	Wed	07:00pm		Holy Souls in Purgatory	
05	Thu	No Mass			
06	Fri	12:00nn	St Paul Miki & Companions	Comley & Atkinson Family INT	
07	Sat	06:00pm	Vigil	Ethna & Harry Owen RIP	
08	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Harry Evans RIP People of the Parish	

REFLECTION

Fr Vincent Harvey, Priest of the Diocese of Portsmouth, shares his reflection on the scriptures for this Sunday:

Last Sunday (3rd) we read from Matthew's overview of Jesus's ministry in Galilee. Now we hear the first of Jesus's great discourses: the "Sermon on the Mount". This covers three chapters, the first is read in its entirety from the 4th to the 7th Sundays. The 4th and 5th Sundays therefore may be considered a sort of introduction to the Sermon on the Mount.

These eight beatitudes stand at the head of the Sermon on the Mount, pointing out eight ways in which we can welcome God into our lives. They are ways of living out God's blessing. The first and the last knit them all together with 'heirs is the kingdom of heaven'. Matthew concentrates on the spiritual attitudes required of the Christian: 'poor in spirit, hunger and thirst for justice'. Jesus came to proclaim the kingship of his Father, and these are ways of living it. For most of them there are gospel incidents in which Jesus sums them up, like the entry into Jerusalem on a donkey as the gentle king, or the love he shows in his welcome to sinners, or his bringing peace to those tortured by disease or contempt, or his purity of heart in his single-minded pre-occupation with his Father's will, and finally his acceptance of persecution for what he knew to be right. The beatitudes are, in a sense, a summary of the gospel, of the model of life proposed to the disciple who wants to imitate the Master, 'meek and humble' in heart.

Questions to ask:

1st Reading: Who are today's 'powerless', or 'remnants' in our faith communities? In our local area? In our society? How do we relate to them? Do we rate ourselves among them? Should we? In what way are we/should we be powerless?

2nd Reading: Do we still rely on our human wisdom, unlike the vast majority of the Christian world, who lack everything: possessions, basic needs, power, education? Where do we see the Church alive and vibrant? Should we be concerned with division or dissension? Is 'unity' important?

Gospel: For each of the Beatitudes in today's reading, do you know someone who exemplifies the attitudes expressed? Can one recognise a 'beatitude-living' person? How? What are the 'tell-tell signs'? Are the beatitudes realistic? Which is your own favourite beatitude? Why? In what way are such people 'blessed' (whole, complete, God-reliant)?

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 and this comes 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.

SECOND COLLECTION—RACIAL JUSTICE

This week is Racial Justice Sunday. This is the day the Church focuses on the need to oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour. This year it falls on Sunday 1st February and the theme is: *“Whoever loves God must also love his brother” (1 John 4:21): Promoting Racial Justice in our Parishes.* You may also donate using the Digital Collection Plate in the church foyer.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The next Children's Liturgy session is moved to the 15th of February, replacing the regular second Sunday of the month session. **Children's Liturgy is offered to children aged 4 up to the FHC age.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CATECHISM SESSION

The third session will be on Saturday—February 14 in the parish hall. Let us keep in our prayers all the candidates for First Holy Communion in our parish and within the pastoral area.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

The children's Confirmation programme is coordinated pastorally by Fareham covering the parishes in Gosport, Lee-on-Solent, Stubbington, Park Gate 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.**

GEORGINA SAVEGE—RIP

The Requiem Mass for Georgina Savege will take place on Friday - February 13 at 10:30am here at St Mary's. This will replace the normal 12nn Mass and there will be no Eucharistic Adoration on this day. Let us continue to remember Georgina in our prayers and may her family and friends be comforted by our prayers, especially at this time.



CATHOLIC YOUNG WRITER & ARTIST AWARD 2026

Entries for the Catholic Young Writer Award and Catholic Young Artist Award are now open for 2026. **The Catholic Young Writer Award** is open to all young Catholics (and pupils at Catholic schools) in England and Wales in secondary years 8-11 inclusive. There is a cash prize for the best essay, plus a number of runner-up book prizes. Scan the QR code to view entry requirements and to download registration forms.



The Catholic Young Artist Award is open to primary school aged children. A cash prize is available for the winner and runners up will be recognised. Scan the QR code to view entry requirements and to download registration forms.



PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

The pilgrimage will start at London Heathrow Airport on **Monday 6th July until Friday 10th**, staying at the Hotel La Solitude, which is close to the Sanctuary itself. The rooms are all ensuite and contain tea and coffee making facilities. The food is plentiful and varied, served in a very comfortable restaurant. To know more email lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or visit <https://tinyurl.com/mv639mbz> for a booking form.

2026 Lent Season

- Feb 18 - Ash Wednesday*
- Mar 29 - Palm Sunday*
- Mar 31 - Christmas Mass (Cathedral)*
- Apr 2 - Holy Thursday*
- Apr 3 - Good Friday*
- Apr 4 - Holy Saturday*
- Apr 5 - Easter Sunday*

ST AGATHA'S CHURCH—PATRONAL FESTIVAL

February 7—Sat at 11am . St Agatha's Church is celebrating its patronal festival with a High Mass, with full choir and instrumentalists. Everyone is welcome to attend.

SANKOFA MARRIAGE RETREAT

February 7 - 11:30am to 6:00pm . **The Sacred Embrace & NFP** . Individuals and married couples are invited to this marriage retreat happening at St Philip Howard Church 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.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE - GOSPORT

February 11 - 1:30pm . Gosport Section of the Catholic Women's League are meeting at Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception parish hall, Stubbington. Our group consists of members from all the parishes in this area and we would welcome visitors, so come and see what we do. For further information, please contact Marguerite Boulter: 07751 435 487 / margieboulter@aol.com or Maria Owen: 07790 378 097 / mariaeowen@gmail.com

RETRouveille

Next date: February 12. Does your marriage need some TLC? Need help with communication and trust? **Retrouveille helps marriages.** It can bring hope and healing to relationships. www.retrouveille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

VOCATIONS

February 28 - Sat from 11am-3pm . *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* at Sacred Heart Church, Fareham. PO16 0NQ. Why not sign up? If you are discerning if the Lord is calling you, 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.

Tea and Coffee in St Mary's Hall every Sunday after the 11:15am Mass. Please join us for a friendly cuppa and chat. All donations we receive in the hall during tea and coffee becomes part of the building fund.

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

May 9 - Sat . 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. Formation day for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (Winchester). To book, please send an Email to liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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