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

08 February 2026 - FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A

07	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Ethna & Harry Owen RIP	CONFESION TIMES Wed 6:15pm-6:45pm (if Mass is celebrated) Sat - 12:00nn—1:00pm
08	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	Harry Evans RIP People of the Parish	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION Thu - after the 7pm Mass <i>Holy half hour with Night Prayer</i>
09	Mon	No Service			
10	Tue	12:00nn	St Scholastica	Miss Mary Ann Cornelius RIP	
11	Wed	07:00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes	Winifred Maria Evans RIP	
12	Thu	07:00pm		James Loveday RIP	
13	Fri	10:30am	<i>Requiem Mass</i>	Georgina Savege RIP	OUTREACH Fri 10:00am—12:00nn <i>Rosary for the Unborn at 10am</i>
14	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	People of the Parish	
15	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	Kathleen Nora Wallace RIP Zied Solomon RIP	

REFLECTION

Gospel Reflection for this weekend – the 5th Sunday OT Year A

“You Are the Salt of the Earth... You Are the Light of the World”

Jesus' words in this Sunday's Gospel are striking - not because of what he asks, but because of what he declares. He does not tell us to **become** salt or to **try to be** light. He simply says:

“You are the salt of the earth ... you are the light of the world.”

These are not tasks to achieve but identities we already carry as disciples.

Salt brings out the best in what it touches. Light reveals beauty and truth. Both exist for the sake of others. Our Christian life is meant to season the world with hope, mercy, and compassion, and to shine with a warmth that helps others see God's goodness more clearly.

As Lent approaches - and as our parish prepares to welcome those who may be returning to the Church - we are invited to look honestly at our own witness.

Is our “salt” fresh, or has it gone stale with frustration or discouragement? Does our “light” shine gently, or has it been hidden under the bushel basket of fear or fatigue?

The Eucharist keeps our salt alive and our light warm. Christ renews us so that we can renew others. May our presence - steady, humble, and welcoming - help those who have drifted away to find their way home to the table we share each Sunday.



Heavenly Father, You call us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. You invite us to bring flavour where life feels dull, hope where hearts feel weary, and love where kindness is needed most. Help us to preserve what is good, holy, and true in our families and our community. May our words be gentle, our actions compassionate, and our lives a witness to Your Gospel. Ignite within us the light that comes from You. When we are afraid to stand for what is right, give us courage. When we feel hidden or insignificant, remind us that even a small light can brighten the darkest places.

Teach us, Lord, to shine not for our own glory, but so that others may see Your goodness through us and come to know Your love. May we always walk as children of the light: faithful in service, joyful in hope, and generous in love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. 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.



Would you like to talk about it with a priest?

Need to talk? Sometimes it can be hard to find time for a deeper conversation after Holy Mass. If you'd like to meet privately for one hour to discuss your faith, a personal struggle or wish to share what's on your heart, I will be available most Friday's from 15:00 to 18:00. To book a one-hour time slot, please email me a request of your preferred date and time and I'll get back to you. My email is: mking@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

- Fr Matthew King

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 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 27-Fri 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 replaced 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.



PRIEST NEXT WEEKEND - FR VINCENT HARVEY

We are grateful to Fr Vincent Harvey, who will be joining us next weekend to celebrate Mass on the 14th and 15th of February while Fr Matthew is on his course.

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.



AVAILABLE! - ONLINE FIRE SAFETY TRAINING

An online Fire Safety Training is now available and this comes with Legal Annual Certification. This is open to all parishioners who wish to do the training. If you are interested, please contact the parish office or contact Annette, our Health & Safety Officer at ahkosche@gmx.com.

2026 Lent Season

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

PILGRIMAGES

Sun - March 08 . Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, £899.00 pps. Price includes flight from Heathrow or Luton, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights' in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Full use of leisure facilities. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock Shrine, Ballintubber Abbey, Fr. Peyton Centre & Kylemore Abbey. Irish music nightly. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Mon - July 6th until Friday the 10th . The pilgrimage will start at London Heathrow Airport on Monday 6th July, 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/>

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION NEEDED

Our parish is seeking more EMHCs to assist in taking Holy Communion to the sick and housebound. This is a deeply meaningful ministry supporting Fr Matthew and Dcn John, and helping ensure that the Eucharist is shared with reverence and care to those who are not able to go to church. If you feel called to serve in this way, we would love to hear from you. Guidance and training will be provided. Please speak to Fr Matthew or Dcn John to express your interest.

Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE - GOSPORT

Wed - 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. Please contact Marguerite Boulter: 07751 435 487 / margieboulter@aol.com or Maria Owen: 07790 378 097 / mariaeowen@gmail.com

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.

VOCATIONS

Sat - February 28 . 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**. Seeker Saturdays take place from 11am-3pm, 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.

OTHER DIOCESAN EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Sat - May 9 . 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

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