

Priest-in-Charge: **Rev. Fr Matthew King**
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ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S
 The Catholic Church in Gosport

22 February 2026 - FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - Year A

21	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Paul Abela RIP	<p>CONFESSION TIMES Wed 6:15pm-6:45pm <i>(if Mass is celebrated)</i> Sat - 12:00nn—1:00pm</p> <p>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></p> <p>OUTREACH Thu from 1:00pm</p>
22	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>First Sunday of Lent</i>	People of the Parish Somto Nwokora INT	
23	Mon	No Service			
24	Tue	12:00nn		Brian & Frances Smith INT	
25	Wed	No Mass			
26	Thu	07:00pm		Paul Slater INT	
27	Fri	12:00nn		Georgina Savege RIP	
28	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Rev John Martin RIP	
01	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>	Miss Mary Ann Cornelius RIP People of the Parish	

REFLECTION

A Reflection for First Sunday of Lent (Year A)

Into the Desert With Jesus

Each year, Lent invites us into a kind of desert — not a place of punishment, but a place of clarity. In the desert, distractions fade, and the deeper questions of the heart come to the surface. Today's readings remind us that the story of humanity is a story of trust: trust lost in the garden with Adam and Eve, and trust restored in the desert with Jesus.

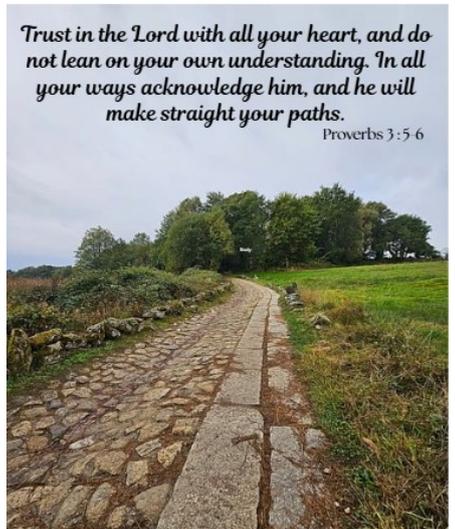
In Genesis, the serpent whispers the lie that God cannot be trusted. It's a lie that still echoes in our own hearts whenever we feel tempted to take control, to grasp at what seems good in the moment, or to believe we're on our own.

But in the Gospel, Jesus shows us a different way. Hungry and vulnerable, He refuses every shortcut. Instead, He anchors Himself in the Father's love. Where Adam fell, Jesus stands firm. His victory becomes our hope.

Lent is not about proving how strong we are. It's about discovering how faithful God is. It's the season to let Jesus lead us—step by step—toward deeper trust, deeper freedom, and a heart renewed by grace.

May this holy season be for us a time of honest reflection, courageous trust, and joyful return to the God who never stops drawing us back to Himself.

- Deacon John



Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.
 Proverbs 3:5-6

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.



Please Note:

There will be NO Mass and Confession on Wednesday February 25 . Fr Matthew has been requested to assist in the RCIA Reconciliation Service at St Philip Howard in Fareham.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CATECHISM SESSION

The fourth session will be on Saturday - March 7 in the parish hall. Let us keep in our prayers all the candidates for First Holy Communion within the pastoral area. **Parents, please note that the FHC parents' evening on March 3 is cancelled. New date will be provided soon.**

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.**

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The next Children's Liturgy session is on **March 15.** Children's Liturgy is offered to children aged 4 up to the FHC age.

SECOND COLLECTION UPDATE

Your generous donation raised:

£287.52 - for the Cathedral (25 Jan)

£230.16 - Racial Justice (01 Feb)

£202.55 - Crib Collection for Friends of the Holy Land

Next week's second collection is for CAFOD. This Lent, you can help families grow enough food to eat. Together, we can help our neighbours and answer Christ's call to love one another - until all of us have all we need. Collect a CAFOD envelope to bless others with your support, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. Text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10. You may also donate using our Dona Machine in the foyer.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

The Stations of the Cross, also called the Way of the Cross or Via Dolorosa, lead us through a time of prayer and meditation as we remember and reflect upon the passion (suffering) of Christ. **Please join Fr Matthew and Dcn John in praying the Stations of the Cross every Friday after the 12nn Mass. There is also Eucharistic Adoration from 10am to 12nn.**

REQUIEM MASS FOR BARBARA DAVIES

The Requiem Mass for Barabara Davies will be held on Wednesday, March the 4th at 1:00pm followed by a committal at Portchester Crematorium at 3:00pm Please note: the 1:00pm Requiem Mass will replace the usual 7:00pm Service.



CHOIR PRACTICE

Do you enjoy singing? We would love to welcome new members to our parish choir. No formal training required, just enthusiasm and a willingness to serve. Come and help us enrich our liturgy through music. **The next choir practice will be Sunday 1st of March at 10am.**

MASS INTENTIONS

To have a Mass offered for your intentions, kindly use the envelopes at the back of the church. Please book in advance.

SPONSOR A SANCTUARY LAMP

If you would like to sponsor a Sanctuary Lamp, envelopes are available in the church foyer. The cost of sponsoring a Lamp is £5. Your intentions will also be remembered during the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday.

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.

MESSAGE FROM DOUG SAVEGE & FAMILY

Doug, the former Parish Secretary would like to say: *"Thank you to everyone for your prayers, cards, and messages of support following the death of our beloved Mother, Georgina.*

We were pleased to see so many familiar faces at her Requiem Mass and would like to thank Fr Matthew for permitting Fr Victor to celebrate the Requiem, for serving the Mass himself, and for Fr Serafino being present in choir. Thank you to Clarinda for her assistance throughout and to Kieran who played the organ so beautifully. Please keep Georgina in your prayers and be assured of our ongoing prayers for all of you and indeed the wider parish.

SVP AND CAFOD WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITY

The St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD are working together to offer a week of free residential work experience for 20 young adults in England and Wales. The experience will run from 21 - 26 June in London. Candidates must be aged 18-25 years old and priority will be given to those in their first or second year at university. Applications close on 6 April. For more information, please contact KeziaH@svp.org.uk.

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.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

"Embrace Your Life Together In Love" | ME Weekend: February 27—March 01 . This is an invitation to Couples to get away together for a weekend to discover ways to grow deeper in love for a happier marriage and a happier life! Couples welcome whether married or in long term relationships. Please scan the QR code for more information or visit www.me.org.uk



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 ONQ. 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.

LENTEN CONFESSION TIMES WITHIN THE PASTORAL AREA

Gosport

Wednesday 6:15pm – 6:45pm

Saturday 12noon – 1pm

After Mass by request

Fareham - Sacred Heart Church

Thursday 19th Feb & 5th March - after Mass

Saturday Feb 21 & 28, Mar 14, 21, 28 - 5pm onwards

Stubbington

Tuesday 6pm – 6:45pm (Our Lady)

Saturday 4pm – 5:45pm (Our Lady)

After all weekday Masses

Park Gate

Saturday 5pm - 6pm

Other days by appointment

Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.
- Jeremiah 29:12-13