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

01 March 2026 - SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - Year A

28	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Rev John Martin 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></p> <p>Fri 10:00am—12:00nn <i>Rosary for the Unborn at 10am</i></p> <p>OUTREACH Thu from 1:00pm</p>
01	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>	Miss Mary Ann Cornelius RIP People of the Parish	
02	Mon	No Service			
03	Tue	12:00nn		Mrs Anne Cornelius RIP	
04	Wed	01:00pm	Requiem Mass	Barbara Davies RIP	
05	Thu	07:00pm		John Gerald Fleming RIP	
06	Fri	12:00nn		Agnes Clark RIP	
07	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Rev Canon Thomas Doyle RIP	
08	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>	Julia Holden RIP John Crowley RIP	

REFLECTION

The Promises of God

When God told Abraham to leave home, God was asking a lot of him. The world was not a global village then. Travel wasn't easy; there were no planes, taxis, or hotels. Furthermore, leaving home was a decisive break with all the good of home, because going back for a visit was difficult or just out of the question entirely. So leaving home then was a loss that we can't imagine well anymore, in our era of video calls and texting.

Still, when God told Abraham to leave, Abraham went.

Why did he go? Presumably because he wanted what God offered him. If Abraham left, God told him, then he would become a great nation, and all the communities of the earth would find blessing in him. That is a fairly stunning reward.

So Abraham, who had a great desire for that reward, obeyed God, left what was familiar and beloved to him, and wandered off as a stranger in a strange land.

And then notice what happened.

Abraham lived a very long time after this promise of God's and he stayed faithful to God's commands his whole life. But by the time Abraham died, this is all Abraham had: one son to carry on his posterity under this promise and two grandchildren. By anybody's estimation, this is a very small family. Certainly, one son and two grandsons is not a great nation.

Furthermore, hardly any communities knew Abraham at all, let alone found a blessing in him. The idea that all the communities of the earth would find blessing in Abraham really would have been completely laughable at that time, wouldn't it?

Of course, as we now see it, all Jews, Christians, and Muslims are the Abrahamic peoples. Many great nations are included among the Abrahamic peoples. All of them know Abraham and think that they find blessing in Abraham.

And so God's stunning promise to Abraham has been completely fulfilled.

But Abraham did not live to see it. He had to take the fulfillment of God's promise to him on faith.

So maybe Abraham is the father of faith because he was willing to stake his life on a promise whose fulfillment did not come in his lifetime on earth.

In this, he is not only the patriarch of the family of faith but also a pattern to follow for all those in his family.

Reflection by Eleonore Stump, *Glancing Thoughts*

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:

07 March Sat - NO 12nn Confession - Fr Matthew will be in St Philip Howard for the Confirmation Reconciliation Service.

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.**

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The next Children's Liturgy session is on **March 08**. Children's Liturgy is offered to children aged 4 up to the FHC age.

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 March 13-Fri from 7 - 8.30pm at St Philip Howard Church.**

Please pray for the many candidates to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation over the weekends of Eastertide. Please pray too for the clergy, catechists and others helping prepare our young for this Sacrament.

THIS WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION - CAFOD

This weekend's second collection is for CAFOD. 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 Barbara 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.*



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.

BETHANY BEREAVEMENT GROUP—GOSPORT

Beginning May 12, 2026 . We offer support for those experiencing the loss of a loved one. We help in providing comfort, support and friendship in a welcoming, safe space. Meetings are every second Tuesday of the month, from 1:00 - 3:00pm in St Mary's Hall. For more information, please contact Annette Hutchins at bethany.gosport@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.

SANCTUARY LAMP

This week's Sanctuary Lamp is donated by the Mansfield family for the intentions of William Walter Mansfield.



STAY AWAKE 2026

The 8th all-age, all-day Catholic Christian Conference with music and worship is happening on 2nd of May at the Thomas Hardy School in Dorchester, DT1 2ET from 10 am to 6 pm. The theme this year is: 'Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.' (Ps 51:10). Your place can be booked from www.stayawakejc.com now! This will be a fun faith-filled day with appropriate children's streams (so that adults can engage) and David Wells is the main keynote speaker! There will be a choice of workshops too and more! Refreshments supplied including home-made cakes and free pizza after Mass. Free for children and £12.50 for the grown ups!

STELLA MARIS EASTER CHOCOLATE APPEAL

For all your chocolate donations, please place them in the box provided in the church foyer. The chocolate Easter eggs are for all seafarers working over Easter and visiting the Southampton ports. Did you know that there will be about 400,000 seafarers working over Easter, separated from families and friends? Stella Maris meets and supports seafarers around the world.

CATECHISTS' FORMATION DAY - PASTORAL AREA

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.

CAFÉ "BELIEVE" COURSE

This is a Lenten course, consisting of five sessions, each on Wednesday morning following the 9.30am mass at Our Lady's in Bells Lane, Stubbington, with the final session taking place after Easter. The course is a reflection on the Creed, featuring Cardinal Arinze, Jean Vanier, Delia Smith, Fr Cantalamessa, Nicky Gumbel, Lord Alton and others. This invitation is open to everyone.

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.

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