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

08 March 2026 - THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - Year A

07	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Rev Canon Thomas Doyle 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>
08	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>	Julia Holden RIP John Crowley RIP	
09	Mon	No Service			
10	Tue	No Mass			
11	Wed	07:00pm		E.K. Molloy RIP	
12	Thu	07:00pm		John Horseman RIP	
13	Fri	12:00nn		Neville Saunders RIP	
14	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	John Fleming INT	
15	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>	People of the Parish Zied Solomon RIP	

REFLECTION

Water-Bearers and Water-Sharers - The story of The Cracked Pot

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on each end of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, and while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water in his master's house.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologise to you."

"Why?" asked the bearer. "What are you ashamed of?"

"I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your master's house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts." The pot said.

The water bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot, and in his compassion he said, "As we return to the masters house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path."

Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it some. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load, and so again the Pot apologised to the bearer for its failure.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of your path, but not on the other pots side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master's table. Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house."

Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots. But if we allow it, the Lord will use our flaws to grace His Fathers table. In Gods great economy, nothing goes to waste. Don't be afraid of your flaws. Acknowledge them, and you too can be the cause of beauty. Know that in our weakness we find our strength

Like the king's waterman, today's readings describe two water-bearers and sharers Moses and Jesus, who bring water to the thirsty.

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Dcn John

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:

10 March Tue - NO 12nn Mass - Fr Matthew will be away for clergy training

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CATECHISM SESSION

The next session will be on Saturday - March 14 in the parish hall.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The next Children's Liturgy session is on **April 12**. 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 27-Fri from 7 - 8.30pm at St Philip Howard Church.**

We wish Dcn John Cumpsty a very happy and blessed birthday. May the Lord continue to strengthen you in your ministry and grant you good health and joy in the year ahead.

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 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.

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.

LENT SCHEDULE AT ST MARY'S

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday after the 12nn Mass

28 March 9:30am Children's Station of the Cross

03 April 10:00am on Good Friday

29 March - Palm Sunday

Regular Sunday Mass schedule 6pm (Sat), 8:00am/11:15 (Sun)

31 March - Holy Tuesday - Chrism Mass

11:00am at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth

No 12:00nn Mass at St Mary's

01 April - Holy Wednesday - Spy Wednesday

07:00pm Mass

EASTER TRIDUUM

02 April - Maundy Thursday - The Lord's Supper

8:00pm Mass followed by Watching at the Altar of Repose with Night Prayer until 11:00pm

03 April - Good Friday

10:00am Stations of the Cross

3:00pm Liturgy

04 April - Holy Saturday

12nn Confession

8:00pm Easter Vigil

05 April - Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

(also Feast of the Annunciation)

8:00am Dawn Mass and 11:15am Day Mass

Lent schedule for other churches within the Pastoral Area (Park Gate, Fareham, Stubbington & Lee) will be available at St Mary's Facebook page, St Mary's website, and notice board.



NEXT WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION

The Clergy Assistance Fund contributes to the work of the Department for Clergy Team. The Clergy Support Team is responsible for looking after the welfare, ongoing formation and personal support of our clergy, such as the provision of spiritual direction, counselling, appraisal, ongoing formation and practical advice. It organises retreats, ministerial formation days, courses and sabbaticals. To donate, you may scan the QR code, use the parish DONA machine or visit the link: <https://tinyurl.com/fudb5jt7>



EASTER FLOWER APPEAL

Second collection for Easter Flowers will begin on the 22nd of March for two weeks. Envelopes will be available at the back of the church. If you wish to donate towards flowers to decorate the Church this coming season, there is an option on the DONA machine for this collection, too. Thank you.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE—GOSPORT

Gosport Section of the Catholic Women's League are meeting at 1.30 pm in the Hall of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Stubbington, on Wednesday 11th March. They will begin with the Stations of the Cross in the Chapel at 12.30pm, led by Fr Francis, so please bring your lunch with you. The group consists of members from all the parishes in this area and visitors are welcome. For further information, please contact Marguerite Boulter / 01489 575663 / margieboulter@aol.com or Maria Owen / 07790 378 097 / mariaeowen@gmail.com

STANDING ORDER AND GIFT AID

We continue to thank all parishioners for your kind support to our parish in many ways. If you haven't yet, **please consider donating via a Standing Order, and sign up for Gift Aid.** These are vital in helping to sustain the life and mission of our parish. They provide a more stable, and 25% extra, parish income. Forms are available at the back of the church and from the Parish Office. Contactless Giving is available at the back of the Church. You can also Gift aid your contactless donation. All you need to do is register once and all succeeding donations will be Gift Aided. Thank you!



FR DAVID CONROY CELEBRATING MASS NEXT WEEK

While Fr Matthew is away on his course next weekend, we are grateful to Fr David Conroy who will kindly celebrate Mass at St Mary's. We thank him for his kind assistance to the parish.

VOCATIONS

Sat - March 21 . 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.

OTHER DIOCESAN EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Sat - May 9 . To all our parish EMHCs and Readers, please consider attending these formation days. 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

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?