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

**29 March & 05 April 2026 - PALM SUNDAY & EASTER SUNDAY (Year A)**

28	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Paul Slater RIP	<p><b>CONFESSION TIMES</b>                  Wed 6:15pm-6:45pm                  (if Mass is celebrated)                  Sat - 12:00nn—1:00pm</p> <p><b>TO MAKE DONATIONS:</b>                  For BACS Transfer:                  Account Name:  <b>CDP Gosport</b>                  Account No.: <b>00878538</b>                  Sort Code: <b>30-93-04</b> .                  Make all cheques payable to  <b>CDP Gosport</b>                  or you may scan the QR code. Standing Order and Gift Aid forms are available in the office.</p> <p><i>Please Gift Aid your donations if possible.</i></p> 
29	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	John Fleming INT Joel Dino RIP	
30	Mon	<b>No Service</b>			
31	Tue	<b>11:00am - Chrism Mass at St Joh's Cathedral in Portsmouth</b>			
01	Wed	07:00pm		Klara Mansfield INT	
02	Thu	08:00pm	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	Private Intention PP	
03	Fri	03:00pm	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	Private Intention PP	
04	Sat	08:00pm	<b>HOLY SATURDAY</b>	People of the Parish	
05	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	Christin Kosche INT Emma Cliffe INT	
<b>No Services on Mon - 06 April to Fri - 10 April</b>					
11	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Hennie & Joe McGillivray RIP	
12	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<b>Second Sunday of Easter</b>	People of the Parish Zied Solomon RIP	

***This newsletter covers a two-week period. The next Newsletter will be issued on the 12th of April.***

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE** . The parish office will be closed on Good Friday - 03 April and Easter Monday 06 April. If you need assistance, please leave a voicemail message as this will be checked periodically during this period. Alternatively, you may send an email and this will be replied to as soon as possible. For urgent matters, please contact 07590643572.

**FR MATTHEW'S EASTER BREAK** . Fr Matthew will not be available from 06 to 10 April. Regular Mass schedule will resume on Saturday - 11 April.

**TEA & COFFEE** . There will be NO tea and coffee after the 11:15am Mass on Easter Sunday.

**STANDING ORDER AND GIFT AID**

Donating by standing order provides the parish a stable and predictable income. It also ensures continuity of donation even when you are away. If you haven't yet, **please consider donating via a Standing Order**. If you are a UK taxpayer, your donation can increase by 25% by **signing up for Gift Aid**. These are vital in helping to sustain the life and mission of our parish. Forms are available at the back of the church and from the Parish Office. Contactless Giving (DONA Machine) is also 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. We continue to thank all parishioners for your kind support to our parish in so many ways. Thank you!

*giftaid it*

**Saint Gregory's Easter Prayer** . *It is only right, with all the powers of our heart and mind, to praise You Father and Your Only-Begotten Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Dear Father, by Your wondrous condescension of Loving-Kindness toward us, Your servants, You gave up Your Son. Dear Jesus You paid the debt of Adam for us to the Eternal Father by Your Blood poured forth in Loving-Kindness. You cleared away the darkness of sin by Your magnificent and radiant Resurrection. You broke the bonds of death and rose from the grave as a Conqueror. You reconciled Heaven and earth. Our life had no hope of Eternal Happiness before You redeemed us. Your Resurrection has washed away our sins, restored our innocence and brought us joy. How inestimable is the tenderness of Your Love!*



**TO ALL VISITORS AND PARISHIONERS.**

**A warm welcome! Whether you are seeking spiritual growth, connection, or simply a place to belong, we hope you find our church a welcoming place. If you are new to the parish, please introduce yourself to Fr Matthew and/or Dcn John after Mass today.**

### Important Dates

10 April Fri - There will be **NO Eucharistic Adoration**  
11 April Sat - There will be **NO 12nn Confession**  
12 April Sun - **Children's Liturgy**. This is for all children aged 4 to First Holy Communion age.  
18 April Sat - **First Holy Communion programme** (7th Session) happening in St Mary's Hall from 9:00am

### SECOND COLLECTION - EASTER FLOWER APPEAL

Second collection for Easter Flowers will happen this weekend and the following weekend. Envelopes will be available at the back of the church. There is also an option to donate using the DONA machine under Easter Flowers. Thank you.

### GOOD FRIDAY SECOND COLLECTION - FOR HOLY PLACES

Every Good Friday, churches across the world collect donations that are sent to the Holy Land to support the care of its sacred places and the local Christian communities. Franciscan friars in the Holy Land look after many key Holy Places, including the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre, the Basilica of the Annunciation, the Basilica of the Nativity, and numerous other shrines. The Good Friday Second Collection helps provide "630 homes for families in need; 15 schools with 12,000 students; 1,100 jobs; 270 missionaries; 55 shrines; 6 pilgrim houses; 5 homes for the sick and orphans, and 3 academic institutions." The collection supports communities across a broad region that includes Jerusalem, Palestine, Israel, Jordan, Cyprus, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Turkey, Iran, and Iraq. Please visit the Press Release from the Holy See for more information: <https://tinyurl.com/4nxdxdv5>  
You may donate through this link: <https://tinyurl.com/42nw8fup> or by scanning the QR code.



### EASTER OFFERING

Any additional donations given on Easter Saturday and Sunday will be used to support the priests of the diocese. Every penny specifically donated over the said weekend (together with any Gift Aid on qualifying donations) will be used to support our local priest. You may donate using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/3a9jfb7>, the QR code, or via our Dona Machine at the back of the church. You may also use our Easter Offering envelopes (Gift Aid and Non-Gift Aid). Thank you.



### FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Patricia (Pat) Morrow** – at St Mary's Church, Requiem Mass on Wednesday 01 April at 10:30am.  
*Please pray for her family and friends at this difficult time. May God grant them eternal rest.*



### 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](mailto:bethany.gosport@gmail.com)



### YOUNG CATHOLIC ONLINE ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

**Are you a Catholic aged 18-35 who engages with your faith online?** We would love to hear from you. We are carrying out a short survey to better understand how young adults connect with their faith in the digital space. Your input will help shape and develop our parish's online presence. If you would like to take part, please pick up a form at the back of the church and return it via the post box. Thank you for your time and support.

### SANCTUARY LAMP

This week's Sanctuary Lamp is donated by Annette Reid for the Kosche and Schmitz family.



### MARRIAGE SUPPORT

From relationships that are 'Just in a Rut', needing some refreshment or more serious issues - If you are open to try again - Retrouvaille could be the solution. We have helped thousands of couples get their relationship back on track as they rediscovered hope and trust in the marriage. To find out more: [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) | 0797 338 0443

### MARRIAGE VOWS CONGRATULATIONS

A warm congratulations to Robert and Yvonne who convalidated their marriage vows this weekend. May their life together continue to be filled with love, joy, and God's abundant blessings.



### 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](mailto:mking@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

- Fr Matthew King

### 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.



### BAPTISM

Please contact the Parish Office for an application form. The dates for the next Baptism Preparation Programme are:  
Sat May 9 10am – Meet and Greet venue to be announced nearer the date (at a church in the Solent Pastoral Area of Gosport, Fareham, Stubbington and Lee-on-Solent)  
Tue May 12 8:00pm-9:30pm – Online Session  
Tue May 19 8:00pm-9:30pm – Online Session  
The closing date for registration is midday on Friday 24 April. Before applying, please make sure that you will be available to attend the sessions. Please contact the parish office for more information or visit <https://tinyurl.com/2vctjens>.

### 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.

### MASS INTENTIONS

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

### TURN YOUR ONLINE SHOPPING INTO GIVING

**Give as You Live (GAYL)**. With Give as You Live Online, every purchase you make helps support St Mary's without any extra cost to you. It is quick, easy and completely free. Shop as normal and raise vital funds for St Mary's. Use this link: <https://tinyurl.com/222ae5s5> or scan the QR code to access our parish's online shopping/giving page.



**There is 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.*



As we journey through Holy Week, we walk in the path Christ, tracing his footsteps over the final eight days of His earthly life – from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. Bishop Philip says, “Jesus invites us to go with Him to the Father, carrying with us the Cross of our sickness, suffering and sadness.” As we enter Holy Week, we bring our questions, our burdens, and our hopes with the opportunity to enter more deeply into the mystery of our faith. We begin with Palm Sunday as Jesus enters Jerusalem triumphantly to the cries of ‘Hosanna in the highest!’ On Spy Wednesday, Judas Iscariot, betrays Jesus, handing Him over to the chief priests for thirty pieces of silver. On Maundy Thursday, at the Last Supper, Jesus washes the feet of His apostles and institutes the Holy Eucharist. On Good Friday, the most solemn day of Holy Week, we commemorate the Passion of Jesus Christ when we venerate the Cross and receive Holy Communion – it is a day of quiet reflection and penance. Holy Saturday is a day of vigil – a period of waiting and anticipation. In the evening, the summit of the Paschal Triduum arrives with the Easter Vigil. An ancient tradition dating back to the fourth century – the most wondrous celebration of our Lord’s Resurrection from the dead. It is a journey from darkness to light, from death to new life in Christ and we sing with joy, ‘*Resurrexit Sicut Dixit!*’

### 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? Collection deadline: Easter Sunday

### DISCERNMENT RETREATS

These are for single catholic women aged 18-35 who are open to discerning a monastic vocation. The next Retreats are **7th-9th August & 9th-11th October at Minster Abbey, Benedictine Monastery**. For more information and to book a place, please contact Sister Walburga at [ministervocations@gmail.com](mailto:ministervocations@gmail.com). The website for the Monastery is [www.minsterabbeynuns.org](http://www.minsterabbeynuns.org)

### PILGRIMAGES

**Mon - July 6th until Friday the 10th - Lourdes** . To know more, please email [lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or visit <https://tinyurl.com/mv639mbz> for a booking form.

### 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.

### THANK YOU FROM CAFOD

Thank you for your generous support this Family Fast Day – your kindness is helping families like Shorai’s in Zimbabwe and Rejoice’s in South Sudan grow food, even in the face of drought and floods. You have shown what it means to love your neighbour this Lent – fasting, praying and giving so families can put food on the table. Find out how your donations are helping to build a better world at [cafod.org.uk/thankyou](http://cafod.org.uk/thankyou) PS It’s not too late to donate – pick up a CAFOD envelope in church or visit [cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope)

### THEOLOGY ON TAP AT ST JOHN’S CATHEDRAL

This free event will be at St John’s Cathedral on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 6:30pm. This month’s speaker will be Professor Maurice Whitehead MBE, emeritus professor of History at Swansea University and emeritus director of Heritage Collection at the Venerable English College, Rome. The topic will be *Martyrs, Music, & Mission: Richard Dering (1580-1630), a Hampshire Composer in Baroque Rome*. Professor Whitehead will give a lecture, which will be accompanied by live performances of a selection of Dering’s music. All are warmly invited to this special evening to learn more about and celebrate a local composer.

**PLEASE FOLLOW OUR FACEBOOK PAGE TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST NEWS, EVENTS, AND UPDATES FROM OUR PARISH.**

### ONLINE GIFT CARD FRAUD

Gift card fraud is an increasingly common way of tricking victims into purchasing gift cards and sharing their details, leading to financial loss. Please be aware that there have been scam messages circulating which appear to come from priests or diocesan staff, asking people to buy gift cards or provide financial help urgently. **The Diocese and its clergy will never ask for money, gift cards, vouchers, or personal details by email, text message, or social media.** If you receive a message of this kind, do not respond and do not send any money. Please report it to your parish office or to the [Diocese communications team](#) so that we can alert others. Thank you for your vigilance and for helping to protect our parish communities.

### 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](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

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

### AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

In response to a growing interest in the Catholic faith, the Archdiocese of Southwark has launched **Ambassadors for Christ**, a landmark apologetics project. This video series is designed to equip you with a deeper understanding of your faith, so you can confidently answer questions and be a joyful witness for the Lord Jesus and his Church.



**What is apologetics?** Apologetics means to defend and explain the teachings of the Catholic Church, using Scripture, the Church Fathers and Church Teaching. In our increasingly secularised world, followers of Christ more than ever need to be ready to speak confidently and accurately about the Lord Jesus and his saving work. **How will Ambassadors for Christ work?** The project will consist of 52 videos, posted every Monday on [www.youtube.com/@RCSouthwark1](http://www.youtube.com/@RCSouthwark1). To provide assurances for the viewer that the information is from a trusted source, each video will feature a Catholic priest. Please scan the QR Code for more information.

### 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](http://www.stayawakejc.com) now! There will be a choice of workshops too and more! Refreshments supplied after Mass. Free for children and £12.50 for the grown ups!

## PALM SUNDAY & HOLY WEEK

### **Palm Sunday and Blessing of the Palms**

For the 11:15am Mass, everyone is requested to gather in St Mary's Hall for the procession into the church.



### **Holy Tuesday - Chrism Mass - 11:00am St John's Cathedral**

The Mass is the special Liturgy in Holy Week during which the Bishop blesses the three Holy Oils for use in the Sacraments: the Oil of the Blessing of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens and the Oil of Chrism. The blessing of the Holy Oils is one of the most ancient ceremonies of the Church and it is always celebrated in the Cathedral with the priests, deacons, religious and lay people of the diocese. The Mass is one of the main diocesan events of the year and during it, all the priests make a renewal of their commitment to priestly service, "manifesting their communion with the Bishop" (Roman Missal). Everyone is encouraged to attend this special service.

### **Holy Wednesday - 7:00pm Mass**

#### **EASTER TRIDUUM (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday & Easter)**

*Sundown on Holy Thursday to sundown on Easter Sunday is considered the most solemn part of the liturgical year. This three-day period is referred to as the Easter Triduum, also known as the Sacred Triduum, or Paschal Triduum. The Triduum "reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil, and closes with evening prayer on Easter Sunday". The word "triduum" comes from the Latin word triduum, which comes from tris ("three") + dies ("day"). The Sacred Triduum is one great festival recounting the last three days of Jesus' life on earth, the events of His Passion and Resurrection, when the Lamb of God laid down his life in atonement for our sins.*

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY—The Lord's Supper - 8:00pm**

The evening Mass on Holy Thursday is referred to as *The Mass of the Lord's Supper*. This is where the Church re-lives the institution of the Eucharist and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the Last Supper, as well as the institution of the priesthood, which took place the evening before Jesus was crucified.

There will be **"washing of the feet" ceremony**, where Fr Matthew will wash the feet of others to signify his role as servant—just as Jesus did with His disciples. Extra hosts will be consecrated at this Mass to be used on Good Friday on which no Mass will be celebrated. **The Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday concludes with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the "altar of repose," a place where the consecrated Host is kept, away from the main altar where Mass is normally celebrated. The altar of repose will be at Our Lady Chapel. We encourage everyone to stay and pray with the reposed Eucharist at this altar of repose until 11:00pm, remembering Jesus' request in the Garden of Gethsemane for someone to "watch and pray" with Him.**

### **GOOD FRIDAY - 3:00pm Communion Service**

Good Friday is a mandatory day of fasting and abstinence. This is the day of the crucifixion—the day Jesus died for the sins of the world. **There will be Stations of the Cross at 10:00am. Please join us.**

On Good Friday, the parish altar will look very different: it is plain and bare. There is no consecrated Host in the tabernacle at the main altar of the church; It was carried away on Holy Thursday night to the "altar of repose" to signify Jesus' death. The candle by the tabernacle is blown out, and the tabernacle doors are left open to show that it is empty. Jesus is gone. This is a reminder that Good Friday is a solemn day of mourning and prayer. Good Friday is the only day of the year on which no Masses are offered.

Good Friday service will take place at 3 PM, the hour that Jesus breathed His last on the cross. Veneration of the Cross will also take place at this service, in which the priest and the faithful come before the cross and kiss it.

### **HOLY SATURDAY - 8:00pm (Easter Vigil)**

We recall, with Mary and the disciples, that Jesus died and was separated from them for the first time as He lay in the tomb. The faithful often continue their Good Friday fast through Holy Saturday. Easter Vigil is the most beautiful liturgy in the church. The vigil is divided into several parts: the Service of Light, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of Baptism, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. This is also the Mass in which our RCIA and RCIC catechumens and candidates will be brought into full communion with the Catholic Church.

### **EASTER SUNDAY - 8:00 (Dawn Mass) and 11:15am (Day Mass)**

Easter Sunday is what we've all been waiting for! The forty days of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during Lent was in preparation for this day, when our hearts and souls can drink in deeply the culmination of the Paschal mystery: the Resurrection.

*"Therefore Easter is not simply one feast among others, but the 'Feast of feasts', the 'Solemnity of solemnities', just as the Eucharist is the 'Sacrament of sacraments'. St. Athanasius calls Easter 'the Great Sunday' and the Eastern Churches call Holy Week 'the Great Week'. The mystery of the Resurrection, in which Christ crushed death, permeates with its powerful energy our old time, until all is subjected to him."*

*The Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1168 and 1169*

Reference: goodcatholic.com and wikipedia

## *April is the Month of the Most Holy Eucharist*

My Lord, I offer Thee myself in turn as a sacrifice of thanksgiving. Thou hast died for me, and I in turn make myself over to Thee. I am not my own. Thou hast bought me; I will by my own act and deed complete the purchase. My wish is to be separated from everything of this world; to cleanse myself simply from sin; to put away from me even what is innocent, if used for its own sake, and not for Thine. I put away reputation and honor, and influence, and power, for my praise and strength shall be in Thee. Enable me to carry out what I profess. Amen. --Cardinal Newman

