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

12 & 19 April 2026 - SECOND & THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year A)

11	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Hennie & Joe McGillivray RIP	<p>CONFESSION TIMES Wed 6:15pm-6:45pm (if Mass is celebrated) Sat - 12:00nn—1:00pm</p> <p>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION Thu—after the 7pm Mass Holy half hour with Night Prayer Fri 10:00am—12:00nn Rosary for the Unborn at 10am</p> <p>OUTREACH Thu from 1:00pm</p> <p>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.</p> 
12	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	 Second Sunday of Easter	Private Intention PP Zied Solomon RIP	
13	Mon	No Service			
14	Tue	12:00nn		Holy Souls in Purgatory	
15	Wed	07:00pm		Georgina Savege RIP	
16	Thu	07:00pm		Francis Savege RIP	
17	Fri	No Service			
18	Sat	06:00pm		Winifred Maria Evans RIP	
19	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Third Sunday of Easter	People of the Parish Miss Mary Ann Cornelius RIP	
20	Mon	No Service			
21	Tue	12:00nn	St Anselm	Holy Souls in Purgatory	
22	Wed	07:00pm		Wilma Jago RIP	
23	Thu	07:00pm	St George	Sadie & William Munro RIP	
24	Fri	12:00nn	St Adalbert	Neil Tanner RIP	
25	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Peter Tanner INT	
26	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Fourth Sunday of Easter	Harold Stonehouse RIP Christin Kosche INT	

4 Different names for the Second Sunday of Easter

The Second Sunday of the Easter season has been given at least four different names over the centuries. Did you know the link to Victor Hugo's fictional story?

While many Roman Catholics are familiar with Divine Mercy Sunday, this is a relatively new name given to the Second Sunday of Easter. Historically, this Sunday was known by a variety of names, and each points to a different aspect of this celebration.

Here are **four names for the Second Sunday of Easter** and their meanings.

Low Sunday . Traditionally the Second Sunday of Easter was nicknamed "Low Sunday." This name was meant to contrast the "High Sunday" of Easter Sunday.

Quasimodo Sunday . In the Middle Ages this Sunday was known as *Quasimodo* ("In the manner of") Sunday, from the Latin words that began the Introit, "Quasi modo geniti infantes" ("As newborn babes desire milk" - 1 Peter 2:2). It was on this day that **Victor Hugo's fictional hunchback infant** was abandoned on the steps of Notre Dame Cathedral, and given the name Quasimodo -- which can also mean "half-formed."

Sunday in Albis . According to the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, the Second Sunday of Easter "was consequently known as **dominica in albis (deponendis)**, the **Sunday of the (laying aside of the) white garments.**" In the early Church, the newly baptized at the Easter Vigil would wear their **baptismal gowns during the eight days** of the Easter Octave. They would then "lay them aside" on the Second Sunday of Easter.

Divine Mercy Sunday . In 2000, Saint John Paul II canonized the Polish religious mystic Faustina Kowalska, and during his homily **officially designated the Second Sunday of Easter "Divine Mercy Sunday."**

John Paul II did this to endorse Faustina's private revelations as well as to put more emphasis on Divine Mercy in the 21st century.

<https://aleteia.org> by Philip Kosloski - published on 04/14/23

To celebrate the Feast of the Divine Mercy, there will be Confession, Adoration and prayer of the Divine Mercy Chaplet at Our Lady of the Immaculate in Stubbington at 2:30 to 4:00pm. Everyone is invited to attend this special celebration.

Advance Notice

22 April - 08 May - Clarinda will be on annual leave. The parish office will be closed during this time. For all queries, please email the parish office or leave a voicemail message as these are going to be checked periodically. For urgent matters, please call 0759 064 3572

13 May - There will be NO Mass. Fr Matthew will be attending a clergy training day.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CATECHISM—7TH SESSION

18 April Sat - First Holy Communion programme (7th Session) happening in St Mary's Hall from 9:00am

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>.

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



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

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.

SUCCESSFUL TABLE TOP SALE!

Thanks to Annette and her team, **we had a successful spring Table Top Sale raising £209.93.** We thank everyone who has been part of this event, most especially those who donated cakes, bric-a-bracs, crocheted blankets, and many more. Thank you volunteers and donors!



STELLA MARIS EASTER CHOCOLATE APPEAL

Gregory Hogan, the Southampton Regional Port Chaplain of Stella Maris would like to thank all of you who generously donated Easter Eggs for their Easter appeal. He extends his gratitude to those who never cease to support seafarers from different parts of the world visiting our ports. Thank you!

SANCTUARY LAMP

- This week's Sanctuary Lamp is donated by Annette Reid for the Kosche and Schmitz family.
- Next week's Sanctuary Lamp is donated by Mozard and Anne Fernandes for the repose of the souls of Reggie and Clare Martins.



MARRIAGE VOWS CONGRATULATIONS

Our heartfelt congratulations to **Chris and Luann** who convalidated their marriage this weekend. May their union continue to be a source of lasting joy, strengthened by faith and sustained by God's love. We wish them every blessing.



FR BRUCE BARNES CELEBRATING MASS NEXT WEEK

While Fr Matthew is away on his course next weekend, we are pleased to welcome Fr Bruce Barnes who will be celebrating Mass with us. We thank Fr Bruce for his ministry and for assisting our parish.

Congratulations! AT EASTER, WE JOYFULLY WELCOMED OUR CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES INTO FULL COMMUNION WITH THE CHURCH. THROUGH THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION, THEY HAVE TAKEN AN IMPORTANT STEP IN THEIR JOURNEY OF FAITH. WE CONGRATULATE, BAILEY, BRADLEY ELOISE AND LUANN. LET US PRAY FOR THEM AS THEY CONTINUE TO GROW IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST. MAY THE RISEN LORD BLESS AND GUIDE THEM ALWAYS.

MAY IS THE MONTH OF MARY

May is a month of devotion to Our Lady, marked by processions and prayers. As part of our parish tradition, we will be praying the Holy Rosary before the Mass and we will also have our annual **High Street procession on the 10th of May.** If you wish to lead the Rosary before any of the weekend Masses, please speak to Clarinda in the parish office. We are also looking for volunteers who wish to help in the High Street procession. On the 10th of May. If you are interested, please speak to Elsie.



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.



YOUTH MINISTRY GAP YEAR OPPORTUNITY

Do you know anyone aged 18-25 who is looking for a new challenge? The Diocese of Lancaster has a Youth Ministry team based in Keswick in the Lake District. They run retreats at Castlerigg Manor and also work in Churches and schools around the area. The 'Youth Ministry Internship' scheme comes with high quality training, experience, and recognised qualifications and gives young people the chance to join a welcoming community and a vibrant team doing some amazing work. **Interested?** Contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk or www.castleriggmanor.com

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.

SECOND COLLECTION - DIOCESAN CLERGY TRAINING FUND

This collection is happening on the weekend of the 26th of April, designed to support the formation of seminarians preparing for priesthood, as well as the training of Permanent Deacons and ongoing formation of all clergy.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

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 | 0797 338 0443

LIGHT OF TRUTH - FORMATION FOR THE CWA

This is open to all. These online sessions on the first Friday evening of each month will cover a variety of topics related to the practice of our Catholic faith. *Next session Friday 17th April, 7pm-8pm, on 'What is the Church?' For more information, visit: [Short Courses | Light of Truth](#)*

PILGRIMAGES

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

• **1st - 7th October 2026 . Parish Pilgrimage to Fatima & Nazare** £895.00 sharing, £995.00 in single room

Return Flights - Lisbon (flight details to be confirmed)

Cost includes: -

Airport duty and passenger taxes

1 suitcase per person for the aircraft hold, 20kgs

3 night's dinner, bed and breakfast Fatima (Hotel to be confirmed)

3 nights dinner, bed and breakfast in Nazare (Hotel Praia)

Northern Star Travel representative to accompany the Pilgrimage.

Please contact Mary Woodhouse at kewhouse@uwclub.net

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. To provide assurances for the viewer that the information is from a trusted source, each video will feature a Catholic priest. Scan the QR Code for more information.



ADORE SPIRITUAL MINI-RETREAT

25th April 10.00-1.00 online. "SURRENDER TO LOVE." The Holy Spirit transforms us by helping us surrender to God's love. Mini retreat morning including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring talk from speaker Geoff Poulter, trainer in prophecy, healing and discipleship. **Attend in person** if possible at St. Joseph's, Christchurch, Dorset. Details at https://www.altonrenewal.com/this_month

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.stayawakeic.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!

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. The website for the Monastery is www.minsterabbeynuns.org

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

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

THEOLOGY ON TAP AT ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

This free event will be at St John's Cathedral on Friday 17th 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.

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!

Saint Gregory's Easter Prayer

A Heartfelt Thank You to All Our Parish Volunteers

We give thanks to God for each and everyone of you who generously give your precious time serving our parish. Whether your contributions are seen or unseen, public or quiet, your time, care, and dedication are a true gift to the life of St Mary's Church. Through your service, our liturgies are prayerful, our church is welcoming, our ministries flourish, and our community is strengthened. You reflect the love of Christ in countless ways, often without recognition, but never without value. We are deeply grateful for all that you do. Your generosity and willingness to serve are inspiring and a reminder that the Church is truly alive through its people.

May the Lord bless you all abundantly for your kindness, your commitment, and your service.

Choir **Altar Servers** **Church Cleaners** **Flower Arrangers**
Brass & Silver Cleaners **Sacristy Support**
Lectors **Linen & Vestment Care** **EMHC** **Safeguarding**
SOCIAL Media **Outreach** **Tea & Coffee** **Welcomers**
Repository **Parish Events Organisers** **Cultural Mass & Feast Day Organisers** **Rosary Group**
Children's Liturgists **RCIC** **RCIA** **Counters** **Gift Aid**
MC **Finance & Fabric Committee** **Special Collections Officer** **Parish Office Support**
Gardeners **H&S Volunteers** **Marshalls & Wardens**
Bethany Group **Bible Reflection Group** **Fundraising Team**
READERS **Choir Master & Organist** **Building & Church Caretaker**
EUCCHARIST ADORATION **EST** **Heritage Team**

Prayer For Volunteers

Dear Lord, we come before You in gratitude for the selfless hearts of our volunteers. We ask for Your divine guidance and strength to empower them in their noble service. May their efforts bring hope and transformation to those in need. Bless them abundantly with joy and fulfilment in their work.

We seek the grace to cultivate selfless hearts. Help us to love others as You love us, to serve without seeking reward, and to give generously from our abundance. May our actions reflect Your compassion and kindness, drawing others closer to Your light.

Fill us with Your Spirit, that we may embody true selflessness in all we do. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Adapted from <https://stmparish.org/prayer/prayers-for-society/prayers-for-volunteers/>

Did you know...?

Did you know that we are looking for more volunteers so that we can continue the mission of Bishop Philip Egan: "to bring people closer to Christ through his Church"?

Our parish is sustained by the generosity of so many who give their time and talents. From liturgy to hospitality, outreach to practical support, there are many ways, big and small, to get involved.

If you have ever thought about helping, now is a wonderful time to take that step. Whether you can offer a little or a particular skill, your contribution can make a real difference.

If you would like to find out more about volunteering, please speak to Fr Matthew, Dcn John or call in the parish office. Together, let us continue to build a welcoming and vibrant parish.

This is a double issue newsletter covering Second Sunday and Third Sunday of Easter. The next newsletter will be published on the 26th of April.