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

17 May 2026 - SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year A)

16	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Private Intention	CONFESSION TIMES Wed 6:15pm-6:45pm <i>(if Mass is celebrated)</i> Sat - 12:00nn—1:00pm 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> OUTREACH Thu from 1:00pm
17	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Seventh Sunday of Easter	People of the Parish Kathleen Bernadette Savage RIP	
18	Mon	No Service			
19	Tue	12:00nn	Dedication of the Cathedral of St John, Portsmouth	Wilma Jago RIP	
20	Wed	07:00pm	St Bernardine of Siena	Michael Denton RIP	
21	Thu	07:00pm		Moira Watson INT	
22	Fri	12:00nn	St Rita of Cascia	Dermot & Kitty Hayes RIP	
23	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	People of the Parish	
24	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Pentecost Sunday	Kathleen Bernadette Savage RIP Zied Solomon RIP	

REFLECTION

Today's reading is a prayer, which appears at the conclusion of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. At the end of the prayer, Jesus is arrested in the garden. The prayer might be read as Jesus' final commendation of himself to the Father. In the prayer, Jesus also expresses care and concern for his disciples.

Jesus' prayer reaffirms the complete union between Jesus and the Father. Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus has been presented as the Word, who pre-existed with the Father and was sent to do the Father's work on earth. In this prayer we learn that Jesus' life and ministry have been directed toward one purpose, revealing the Father. When this work is accomplished, Jesus is to return to the Father to be glorified. Regardless of what happens to Jesus, in John's Gospel, Jesus and the Father are in charge. Even in the description of Jesus' death, Jesus does not simply die but instead hands over his spirit.

In today's Gospel we also note the distinction found in John's Gospel between the world and the disciples. The disciples are in the world, but they are separate from it because they have been given to Jesus. They are chosen from the world to be in service to the world for its salvation. This salvation has been accomplished in Jesus because Jesus has revealed the Father to the world, but the disciples will be sent by Jesus to make both the Father and Jesus known to the world. Jesus' prayer is for the disciples' work in the world.

Source: Loyolapress.com

"Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you."

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. *Please Gift Aid your donations if possible.*



Advance Notice

25 May - Bank Holiday Monday. St Mary's Church and parish office will be closed.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CATECHISM SESSION

To parents of our FHC candidates, please take note of the following catechism dates for your diary.

23 May | 13 June | 27 June

02 June - Parents' Evening at 7pm

13 June - Sacrament of Reconciliation after the catechism class

05 July - First Holy Communion

11 July - Celebration Fun Day

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 2 choir practices will be on Sunday 24th May 10am and Sunday 31st May 10am.**

MAY HIGH STREET PROCESSION

31st May after the 11:15am Mass. We would like to invite you to our annual High Street procession as we pay homage to Mother Mary. If you wish to help in the preparations so that our procession runs smoothly, please speak to Elsie.

SECOND COLLECTION - WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

Sunday 17th May marks the 60th World Day of Social Communications. This year's theme is *Preserving Human Voices and Faces*.

The second collection on this day supports the work of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, particularly its websites, publications and social media channels. The Bishops' Conference works hard to foster positive relationships with media outlets to communicate the Good News of the Gospel. For more information, and to read Pope Leo's message for World Communications Day 2026, please visit: bccew.org.uk/wcd/ The link to the Give as you Live page is: <https://tinyurl.com/2bw7d38v>



MASS INTENTIONS

Of all the good deeds we can do for our deceased, the Church recommends the celebration of Mass as the most beautiful gift to offer for this intention. As a matter of fact, *"from the beginning the Church has honoured the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God. The Church also commends almsgiving, indulgences, and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead"* (CCC 1032) In addition to the Masses celebrated for our deceased, we can have Masses celebrated for the living. Let us not forget the intercessory dimension of the Mass, an impetratory sacrifice. Have a Mass celebrated on the occasion of a grace received ("in thanksgiving"), for a baptism or wedding anniversary, or to ask for healing or deliverance. The Roman Missal offers numerous forms for votive Masses or Masses for particular occasions.

<https://www.communautesaintmartin.org/>

To have a Mass offered for your intentions, kindly use the envelopes at the back of the church. Please book in advance. The next available dates are in June.

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.

Reminder: There will be NO TEA & COFFEE on the 24th of May due to a private event happening.

SANCTUARY LAMP

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



BETHANY BEREAVEMENT GROUP—GOSPORT

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



HEART TO HEART WOMEN'S RETREAT

19 - 22 June 2026 . A three-day retreat for women (whether single, married or religious), based on principles of Ignatian spirituality. Guided by Fr Bernard Murphy, CFR and Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal, the retreat will seek to draw participants closer to the Lord through a greater attentiveness to His will. Visit: <https://tinyurl.com/bdej7bcr>

PLEASE FOLLOW OUR FACEBOOK PAGE TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST NEWS, EVENTS, AND UPDATES FROM OUR PARISH.
www.facebook.com/catholicchurchingosport/

STELLA MARIS MASS

Monday 8 June 2026 at 12.15pm: the Stella Maris Mass for seafarers and fishers in St John's Catholic Cathedral, Portsmouth, followed by light refreshments. Please confirm your attendance by emailing roland.hayes@stellamarismail.org by Tuesday 28 May 2026.

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

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

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.
- **Mon - July 20th until Sun 26th July—Turin and Assisi** . Learn more about and experience the lives of our two newest saints, St Carlo Acutis and St Pier Giorgio Frassati. To visit St Pier's birth place and family house in the foothills of the alps and then to Assisi to visit the tomb of St Carlo Acutis. Contact Canon PJ Smith at fatherpj@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
- **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