

Priest-in-Charge: **Rev. Fr Matthew King**  
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**ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S**  
 The Catholic Church in Gosport

**21 June 2026 - TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)**

20	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	People of the Parish	<p><b>CONFESSION TIMES</b>                      Wed 6:15pm-6:45pm  <i>(if Mass is celebrated)</i>                      Sat - 12:00nn—1:00pm</p> <p><b>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION</b>                      Fri 10:00am—12:00nn  <i>Rosary for the Unborn at 10am</i></p> <p><b>OUTREACH</b>                      Thu from 1:00pm</p>
21	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	Beryl Jackson and Family INT Carolyne Lindsay INT	
22	Mon	<b>No Service</b>			
23	Tue	12:00nn	St Etheldreda	Holy Souls	
24	Wed	07:00pm	<i>The Nativity of St John the Baptist</i>	Stanislaw Skonieczny	
25	Thu	<b>8:00AM</b>		Christine Loveday INT	
26	Fri	12:00nn		Irene Cranstone RIP	
27	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Miss Mary Ann Cornelius RIP	
28	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>Ss Peter &amp; Paul</i>	Beryl Jackson & Family INT People of the Parish	

**REFLECTION**

Fr Paul Lyons, priest of Portsmouth Diocese, reflects on this Sunday's readings:

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Jeremiah 20:10-13

Prophetic figures of the Old Testament were conscious of their vocation to proclaim the word of God 'in and out of season'. Especially chosen by God for a specific time and purpose they were acutely aware of their vocation and the 'cost of their discipleship' due to opposition, persecution, and defamation of character in their vocational calling. The substance of this vocation, restoration of justice, religious consciousness, and communal solidarity with the poor, amongst other things, brought them into conflict with the status quo of their time.

In our first reading this Sunday we see these scenarios played out and the human impact of proclaiming the truth. Being consumed by God's calling (20:7) and the zeal of his proclamation, Jeremiah becomes a "laughing stock" and is rejected on the grounds of his persistence. Under such pressure, Jeremiah considers relinquishing his vocation (20:10) but he experiences "a fire burning in his heart" that restores his faith and commitment even though his detractors continue to denounce him, a further burden comes from friends who turn away from him.

Restoration and balance comes from his convictions that the Lord "is at my side a mighty hero....a dread warrior" who will overthrow all opposition. The message contained in this text is worthy of meditation for all those who are called to discipleship, where the experience of personal powerlessness is converted into a new sense of purpose, a grace that restores the original message of hope in the hearts of those who are oppressed. Keeping faith alive in this way restores the gift of vocation by way of memory and the assurance of God's prevailing spirit and fidelity.

Gospel: Matthew 10:26-33

Matthew provides a 'roadmap' for the disciple where the spirit of Jeremiah can be understood as a model - moving beyond fear to proclamation, under the influence of God's spirit. Matthew's message is for the disciple to proclaim the truth, and to uncover all that is hidden; Jesus assures the disciple that they are worth more than many sparrows, and the very hairs on their head are accounted for. The God of all life will protect, guide, console, and channel fear into deeper faith and commitment.

Source: [theliturgyproject.com](http://theliturgyproject.com)

**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.*



### THANK YOU, MGR VINCENT HARVEY!

We extend our deepest thanks to you for covering for Fr Matthew while he's away. The community of St Mary's will continue to keep you in our prayers as you continue your faithful service to the Church. We look forward to having you again in August. Thank you, Mgr Vincent!

### THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION - DAY FOR LIFE

Day for Life is dedicated to raising awareness about the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition. This year's theme is "The Wonder of the Child in the Womb".

### NEXT WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION - PETER'S PENCE

Peter's Pence is the name for the financial support offered by the faithful to the Holy Father as a sign of their sharing in the concern of the Successor of Peter for the many different needs of the Universal Church, and for the relief of those most in need. The faithful's offerings to the Holy Father are destined to Church needs, humanitarian initiatives and social promotion projects, as well as to the support of the Holy See. The practice of providing material support to those charged with preaching the Gospel is as old as Christianity itself. Scan the QR code to donate or use our digital collection plate located in the church foyer. Thank you.



### SUMMER TABLE TOP SALE IN SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH

**4th July 2026, from 10am - 1pm**. Set up from 8.30am. Donations of cakes, biscuits, jams, and preserves are very welcome. If anyone wants to lend a hand in setting up and/or manning a stall and packing away, please contact Annette at 07930833971. Please support this fundraising initiative.

### VOTIVE CANDLE DONATION UPDATE

Effective this week, the suggested donation for votive candles has increased to 50p. This modest increase is necessary to help the ongoing needs of our parish. Thank you for your understanding.

### NEW BIBLE REFLECTION GROUP

You are warmly invited to join our new Bible Reflection Group which will meet on the first Friday of every month following the 12nn Mass in the upper room of the Parish Hall. Together, we will reflect on God's Word, share insights, and grow in faith. We look forward to seeing you there.

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CATECHISM SESSION

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

27 June - Catechism Session

04 July - Rehearsals at 10am

05 July - First Holy Communion at 11:15am

11 July - Celebration Fun Day

### SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Young people from Year 8 are encouraged to join the "Chosen Group". They will engage in a two-year Programme which they can join whenever they feel ready. Year A, focuses on preparation for Confirmation, using the "Chosen Confirmation Programme". Year B focuses on living out one's faith using the "Faith in Action (love in action) Programme". We also use the Diocesan Youth Awards to reach out to those who are engaged in other youth ministries. For enquiries, please contact the parish office.

### HOLY SACRAMENTS ENQUIRY

For Holy Sacraments like Baptism, Confirmation, First Holy Communion, Anointing of the Sick, and Marriage, please contact the parish office at [office@stmarysgosport.org.uk](mailto:office@stmarysgosport.org.uk) or speak to Fr Matthew or Dcn John after the Mass.

**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.

### PRAYER & FASTING FOR END OF ABORTION & EUTHANASIA

On Tuesday 23rd June, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed. For information on the days of Prayer and Fasting contact The Good Counsel Network on 020 7723 1740, or via [www.goodcounselnetwork.com](http://www.goodcounselnetwork.com).

*"And the people of Ninevah believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least...God saw their efforts to renounce their evil ways. And God relented about the disaster which He had threatened to bring on them, and He did not bring it." (Jonah 3:5,10)*

### MISSIO BOX AND THE MILL HILL MISSIONARY

In England and Wales, this year marks 90 years of a special partnership between Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries, united through the Red Box. It is a powerful reminder that God is at work through hundreds of thousands of missionaries living within communities from Malawi to Myanmar, and Pakistan to Peru. As many know, the Red Box has been a familiar presence in Catholic homes across England and Wales. More than a collection box, it is a symbol of faith, hope and love – uniting the vision of Blessed Pauline Jaricot and the missionary initiative of Mill Hill Missionary. **If you haven't yet, it is not too late to return your Missio boxes. Just bring them at the 11:15am Mass on Sunday or drop them off in the parish office in the morning during the week.**

### FORMATION DAY FOR READERS

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

### LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Many parishioners choose to leave a gift to their parish in their will. These gifts are greatly appreciated and make a real difference to parish life. To support parishioners in planning ahead, we have created a range of helpful resources to assist with getting personal affairs in order. These include: An Asset Inventory Record, A Will Planner, Instructions for a Catholic Funeral, and Guidelines for Funerals and the care of the terminally ill

These materials are designed to provide practical support and peace of mind when making important plans for the future. These resources are available on the diocesan website at <https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/legacy>

### FILIPINO MASS AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH IN LEE

**4 July | Saturday at 1pm.** Everyone is invited to a Filipino Mass at St John the Evangelist Church, South Place, Lee-on-Solent PO13 9AS. The Mass will be officiated by Fr Claro Conde.

### ADOREMUS - NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

**Adoremus** is a National Eucharistic Congress initiated by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to deepen devotion to the Eucharist and encourage adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The next **Adoremus** event is due to take place in London on **Saturday 10th October 2026**, with Mass, a Eucharistic Procession and Benediction. You may attend on your own, or if you wish to attend as a parish group, please let Canon Michael Dennehy ([mdennehy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:mdennehy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)) know **by Wednesday 1st July 2026**, so that we can co-ordinate travel and book places.

### ROAD CLOSURE NOTICE

HMS SULTAN 70th Anniversary Notice—Wed 24 June 2026  
Traffic Management will be closing Mumby Road/South Street for a short period due to the Parade in David Lawrence Square which will commence at 11:00 and is expected to last approximately 30 minutes. For more information, please see our notice board.

### Advance Notice:

**27 July to 03 September**. Fr Matthew will be on his annual break. There won't be weekday Services during this period but our church will be open for private prayer.