

Priest-in-Charge: **Rev. Fr Matthew King**
 Parish Secretary: **Clarinda Mansfield**
 Deacon: **Rev Dcn John Cumpsty**
 Office Hours: **Mon to Fri 9am—12pm**
 Email: **office@stmarysgosport.org.uk**
 Telephone: **(023) 9258 0119**



Safeguarding Officer: **Maureen Williams**
 Email: **safeguarding@stmarysgosport.org.uk**
 @catholicchurchingosport
 www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/gosport/



ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S

The Catholic Church in Gosport

28 June 2026 - SAINTS PETER & PAUL (YEAR A)

27	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Miss Mary Ann Cornelius RIP	CONFESSION TIMES Wed 6:15pm-6:45pm <i>(if Mass is celebrated)</i> Sat - 12:00nn—1:00pm
28	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>Ss Peter & Paul</i>	Beryl Jackson & Family INT People of the Parish	
29	Mon	No Service			
30	Tue	12:00nn	First Martyrs of the church of Rome	Monica Carolan RIP	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION Fri 10:00am—12:00nn <i>Rosary for the Unborn at 10am</i>
01	Wed	07:00pm	St Oliver Plunkett	Georgina Savage RIP	
02	Thu	8:00AM		Martin Duffy INT	
03	Fri	12:00nn	St Thomas	Mrs Dugmore RIP	OUTREACH Thu from 1:00pm
04	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Mary Hathaway RIP	
05	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	Paul Duffy RIP People of the Parish	

REFLECTION

Reflection on Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

The feast of Saints Peter and Paul celebrates two foundational figures of the Church whose lives reveal the **dual nature of its mission: stability and renewal**. Though very different in temperament and role, together they embody the fullness of the Church's life and work.

Peter represents stability, unity, and continuity.

He stands for the Church's rootedness in tradition, the preservation of its teaching, and the structures that hold it together across time, cultures, and nations. His role, continued in the ministry of the Pope, is a sign that the Church remains one, grounded in the faith first handed on by Christ. Without this anchoring presence, the Church risks fragmentation and loss of identity.

Paul, by contrast, represents mission, outreach, and renewal.

He is the voice that pushes the Church outward - geographically, culturally, and intellectually. Paul reminds us that the Gospel must always be proclaimed anew, in ways that speak to the realities of each age. The Church must continually adapt how it communicates, not by changing its core truth, but by expressing it in ways people can understand and engage with.

Together, Peter and Paul show that the Church must hold **tradition and change in creative tension**. If it clings only to the past, it becomes rigid and unable to speak to the present. If it abandons its roots, it loses depth and truth. The call is to be both **faithful and responsive**—"ever old and ever new."

The readings reinforce this message through the lives of the apostles:

- **Peter's imprisonment and release (Acts)** reveal God's faithful protection. Even in persecution, the mission continues - nothing can imprison the Word of God.
- **Paul's testimony (2 Timothy)** shows a life poured out in service: faithful, courageous, and complete. He faces death with peace because his life has been anchored in Christ.
- **The Gospel (Matthew)** affirms Christ's promise that the Church, built on Peter's faith, will endure. God's presence sustains it through every trial.

A key insight is that **God accompanies the Church in all circumstances**. Despite challenges, failures, and persecution, it endures because it is rooted in Christ's truth and love - realities that cannot ultimately be overcome.

Pastoral Invitation This reflection calls us personally to:

- **Value the Church's tradition** while remaining open to renewal.
- **Avoid extremes:** neither rigid defensiveness nor careless abandonment of faith.
- **Trust in God's presence**, especially in times of difficulty.
- **Strive, like Paul, to live a life that can say:** "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Ultimately, the feast reminds us that **the Church's mission continues through us** - called to be both **grounded in faith and alive to the needs of the world**, carrying forward the unchanging message of Christ in ever-new ways.

The full form of this Reflection can be reached at <https://livingspace.sacredspace.ie/f0629r/>

THIS WEEK'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.



FUNERAL - TERENCE MILES RIP

8th of July | Wednesday at 11:30 A Funeral Service will be held for Terence George Miles at St Mary's Church followed by a committal at Portchester Crematorium. Let us include Terence and his bereaved family in our prayers.



SUMMER TABLE TOP SALE IN SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH

4th July | Saturday 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.

BETHANY BEREAVEMENT GROUP—GOSPORT

7th July | Tuesday from 1:00 - 3:00pm. 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. For more information, please contact Annette Hutchins at bethany.gosport@gmail.com

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. The next session is on the 3rd of July. We look forward to seeing you there.

BAPTISM

The next Parents' Preparation Programme starts on **4th July**.

Meet & Greet, in person **Saturday 4th July, 10am**

Online Session 1 **Tuesday 7th July, from 8pm**

Online Session 2 **Tuesday 14th July, from 8pm**

Please contact the parish office for more information.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CATECHISM SESSION

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

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.

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.*



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.

PARISH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

8:00am Mass Readers. Could you help proclaim the Word of God at our Sunday 8:00am Mass? Additional readers are required. Training and support will be provided.

Second Collection Coordinator. We are looking for a volunteer to help coordinate our second collections and appeals throughout the year.

To find out more about the roles, please speak to Fr Matthew or contact the parish office. Thank you.

HELP US PRESERVE THE STORY OF ST MARY'S

As part of our parish heritage project, we are seeking old photographs, documents, and memories that help tell the story of St Mary's and the Catholic community in Gosport. Do you have old photographs of our church, clergy, photographs of baptisms, First Holy Communion, Confirmations, weddings, parish celebrations, or other special occasions connected with St Mary's? Even seemingly ordinary photographs can provide valuable insights into our parish history. If you are willing, we will keep your photographs for scanning and will be returned to you as soon as possible. If you have items that you would be willing to share, or stories and memories that you would like recorded for future generations, please contact the parish office.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

12th July | Sunday. The next Children's Liturgy session will be on the 12th of July during the 11:15am Mass. This activity is for all children aged 4 and up to First Holy Communion age.

ANNUAL NAVAL MASS

5th July 2026 at 10:00am | St John's Cathedral. Serving Personnel, Veterans and their families are invited to come together at the Annual Naval Mass to celebrate their identity as members of the Armed forces in the wider Catholic Community. For more details, please contact the Royal Navy Catholic chaplaincy Dominic.Washington101@mod.gov.uk

ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Sat 18th July 11am | Cathedral, Portsmouth PO1 3HG. Dcn Jack Ryan from our Pastoral Area, will be ordained by Bishop Philip in July. Everyone is warmly invited.

NEW! ENQUIRERS' JOURNEY IN FAITH GROUP

ENQUIRERS' JOURNEY IN FAITH GROUP | Session #3 Wed 17th June | 7.30pm Our Lady's, Stubbington. Contact Dcn Larry: lmurawski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

SPUC - FIGHTBACK DAY 2026

SPUC – FIGHTBACK DAY '26 www.spuc.org.uk/campaign/join-the-fightback/ Parliament has removed legal consequences for self induced labour on up to birth. We are deeply concerned by this change, please join the campaign to restore greater protection for unborn children. Cards are at the back of the church.

MAN: THE IMAGE OF GOD

Endowed with a spiritual soul, with intellect and with free will, the human person is from his very conception ordered to God and destined for eternal beatitude. He pursues his perfection in "seeking and loving what is true and good. In man, true freedom is an "outstanding manifestation of the divine image. Man is obliged to follow the moral law, which urges him "to do what is good and avoid what is evil". This law makes itself heard in his conscience. Man, having been wounded in his nature by original sin, is subject to error and inclined to evil in exercising his freedom. He who believes in Christ has new life in the Holy Spirit. The moral life, increased and brought to maturity in grace, is to reach its fulfilment in the glory of heaven. CCC | Part 3 | Chapter 1 | Article 1—In Brief

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.