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ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S

The Catholic Church in Gosport

05 July 2026 - FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

04	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Mary Hathaway RIP	CONFESSION TIMES Wed 6:15pm-6:45pm <i>(if Mass is celebrated)</i> Sat - 12:00nn—1:00pm
05	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	Paul Duffy RIP People of the Parish	
06	Mon	No Mass			
07	Tue	12:00nn		Georgina Savege RIP	
08	Wed	07:00pm		Terence George Miles RIP	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION Fri 10:00am—12:00nn <i>Rosary for the Unborn at 10am</i>
09	Thu	No Mass			
10	Fri	12:00nn		Georgina Savege RIP	
11	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	People of the Parish	OUTREACH Thu from 1:00pm
12	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	Ms Mary Anne Cornelius RIP Julieta Fleat INT	

REFLECTION

If we were asked to identify the greatest treasures in our lives, most of us would place people near the very top of the list. Family members, close friends, those who have accompanied us through life's joys and sorrows... these are the relationships that give meaning and depth to our lives. Material possessions have their place, but it is human relationships that truly sustain us.

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks of the most precious relationship of all: His relationship with His heavenly Father. He describes it as a profound mutual knowing: "No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son." In the language of Scripture, to know someone is far more than simply to possess information about them; it means to be united in love.

Yet this divine relationship is not closed in on itself. God's desire is not to keep the love between Him and His Son to Himself, but to draw us into it. There is an important lesson here for our own friendships and relationships. Deep friendships are among God's greatest gifts, and there is nothing wrong with having a small circle of people to whom we are especially close. Yet authentic friendship should never become exclusive or closed in on itself. True friendship expands the heart rather than narrowing it. Just as the love between the Father and the Son overflows towards others and invites others into that communion, so our friendships should make us more welcoming, more generous and more attentive to those around us. The strongest friendships are not those that build walls around themselves, but those that become a source of encouragement, hospitality and kindness for others. Love, by its very nature, is always seeking to be shared.

Source: www.christian.art

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the gift of friendship. You know the heart of my friend — their joys, struggles, and needs. Pour out Your blessings upon them today. Fill their life with peace, hope, and strength. Protect them from harm, comfort them in sorrow, and draw them ever closer to Your Sacred Heart. May Your light guide their steps, and may Your grace sustain them in every trial. Help me to love and support them as You have loved and supported me. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Source: <https://catholicbros.com/prayers/prayer-for-a-friend/>

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:

09 July Thu & 14 July Tue . There will be **NO Masses** on these days.

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.

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION—STELLA MARIS

Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all our lives, but they often work in difficult and dangerous conditions. Conflicts around the world are increasing risks to their safety, especially for crews travelling through regions such as the Strait of Hormuz. Many also face abandonment by employers, long separations from family, stress, and poor mental health. Stella Maris (formerly known as Apostleship of the Sea) is the maritime charity of the Catholic Church. Its chaplains and ship visitors provide practical help and pastoral care to seafarers and fishers in the UK and around the world.

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.

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.

Congratulations to our First Holy Communicants!

*We warmly congratulate **Ann Mary, Christy, Edwina, Eloise, and Lorraine** on receiving their Sacrament for the first time. May Jesus, whom you receive in the Holy Eucharist always be your guide, your strength, and your closest friend. May He bless you and your families abundantly as you continue to grow in faith.*

To celebrate, all Communicants will meet up in the parish hall on the 11th of July for a 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.

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.

THANK YOU TO OUR GIFT AID DONORS

It is that time of year again when we show appreciation to our Gift Aid donors. A 'Thank You' letter from our Finance Chair, Tony, is available at the back of the church for you. It is not too late to further your donation by giving via Standing Order and Gift Aiding it, if at all possible. Gift Aid Declaration Forms and Standing Order Forms will be available at the back of the church.

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.

MISSIO BOXES NOW AVAILABLE

Your Missio Boxes are now available at the back of the church for collection. We thank you all for your generous donation to Missio. **You have donated a total of £941.99** . Thank you!

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.

BETHANY BEREAVEMENT GROUP—GOSPORT

14th 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

Have you been coming to Mass for a while but are not a Catholic? Have you ever considered becoming a Catholic or perhaps felt drawn to taking a deeper look into the Catholic faith? Perhaps you are a Catholic but have never got around to being confirmed? If so, Fr Matthew or Deacon John would very much like to hear from you. Why not arrange an informal chat by initially emailing the parish office or calling 02392 580 119.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE - GOSPORT

8 July | 1:30pm | Our Lady Church - Stubbington . Gosport Section of the Catholic Women's League consists of members from all the parishes in this area and we would welcome visitors, so come and see what we do. For further information, please contact Marguerite - 07751 435 487 margieboulter@aol.com / Maria - 07790 378 097 mariaeowen@gmail.com

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.

CAFOD APPEAL FOR VENEZUELAN EARTHQUAKE

Our thoughts and prayers are with all the people of Venezuela after two devastating earthquakes near Caracas. Many of our neighbours have been killed or injured, and buildings, including churches, seminaries and Caracas Cathedral, have been damaged. **Our parish's support will reach families affected by the earthquakes. To donate, please scan the QR code.**

