

Priest-in-Charge: **Rev. Fr Matthew King**
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 www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/gosport/



ST MARY'S WEBSITE



ST MARY'S FACEBOOK

ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S

The Catholic Church in Gosport

19 July 2026 - SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

18	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Molly Hughes RIP	CONFESSION TIMES Wed 6:15pm-6:45pm <i>(if Mass is celebrated)</i> Sat - 12:00nn—1:00pm
19	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	People of the Parish Zied Solomon RIP	
20	Mon	No Service			
21	Tue	No Mass			
22	Wed	07:00pm	St Mary Magdalene	Holy Souls in Purgatory	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION Fri 10:00am—12:00nn <i>Rosary for the Unborn at 10am</i>
23	Thu	8:00AM	St Bridget of Sweden	Georgina Savege RIP	
24	Fri	12:00nn	St Sharbel Makhuf	Paul Slater RIP	
25	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Holy Souls in Purgatory	OUTREACH Thu from 1:00pm
26	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	Martin Duffy INT People of the Parish	

REFLECTION

You Reap What You Sow by Jerry Robinson

Sunday morning's Gospel, Matthew 13:24-43, was the parable about the weeds being sown with the wheat. As I made my morning prayers, I asked what message God was trying to send me. I came up with an answer in short order and then readied myself to go to mass.

Come to find out, our priest's interpretation of that passage of scripture was no where near what I came up with. Not even on the same continent. His was philosophically much deeper and, of course, right on the money. The only thing his and mine had in common were the words *reaping* and *sowing*.

Turns out that my take is more from Galatians 6:7. Oh, well.

Since I was a child I've heard the adage, "You reap what you sow". When I hear it, it's usually with a negative connotation. Frequently, someone discovers, in hindsight, that they screwed up. They're ruing about a choice they made sometime way back in the past that has resulted in unfortunate circumstances for them. Too often, the regret is over a relationship with another – a matter of the heart.

I usually hear, "If only...." somewhere in there.

Sometimes it's me speaking those words. But, my epiphany from this reflection was, "Why can't it be the other way around?" Why can't I, instead of regretting the seeds I've already sown, focus on the reaping before I sow them?

Why don't I learn to ask, "What do I need to do now in order to reap what I desire later on?" Why don't I have that foresight?

Then, I had an epiphany on top of my epiphany. In thinking about that last question, I realized there were too many "I's" in there. And, that's the problem.

What I need to do is ask God what the right thing to do is; pay attention and listen to Him; and then do it. Forget about the reaping and trust that there will be a harvest. That which I eventually reap, whether it's what I desire or a surprise, will be His gift to me for sowing the right seeds.

"Loving and Gracious God, I give you thanks for the bountiful harvest of blessings you've bestowed on me. Please help me to discern your will, to sow the good seeds, in the decisions I make, and then trust in You for the harvest. Amen."

Source: <https://reflectionsofalaycatholic.com/2017/07/24/you-reap-what-you-sow/>

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.*



FR MATTHEW IS LEAVING IN SEPTEMBER

Last weekend, Fr Matthew shared the news that Bishop Philip has appointed him to a new assignment in Thatcham, Berkshire, beginning in September. He will be succeeding Fr Kevin O'Brien, who is retiring. While we will dearly miss Fr Matthew, we remain deeply grateful for his four years of dedicated ministry and spiritual leadership among us here in Gosport.

We are truly blessed to welcome Fr Nishan Mohanraj Edward as our new parish priest. Fr Nishan brings a wealth of pastoral experience, currently ministering on the Isle of Wight, and having previously served as assistant priest in Guernsey and at the Cathedral in Portsmouth.

Fr Matthew will be away visiting family from 27 July to 03 September. We will have an opportunity to say a personal farewell to him upon his return.

Please keep both Fr Matthew and Fr Nishan in your prayers during this season of change. May the Lord bless Fr Matthew in his new assignment, and may we open our hearts to give Fr Nishan a joyful and warm welcome to our parish family this September.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WHILE HE IS AWAY

- During the absence of Fr Matthew, there will be no weekday Services at St Mary's. Weekday Mass, Adoration, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will resume upon his return.
- Parishioners are warmly encouraged to attend weekday Mass at one of our neighbouring churches within the pastoral area.
- Weekend Masses in August will be officiated by Fr Vincent Harvey (first 3 weekends) and Fr John Adikwu (last 2 weekends)
- St Mary's Church will be open during office hours for private prayer.

SCHOOL LEAVERS' MASS

21 July | 1:30pm | St Mary's Primary School - Anns Hill Rd, Gosport PO12 3NB . The Mass is open to anyone who wishes to attend.

PARISH OUTREACH—SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRISIT

25 July | Saturday | 10:30—1:00pm . In addition to the weekly Thursday Outreach, Mike and Anne - our Outreach Coordinators, are pleased to introduce a monthly Outreach on the last Saturday of each month. Our Outreach ministry offers a welcoming presence on Gosport High Street where we meet people from all walks of life, backgrounds, faiths and belief. This ministry is about building relationships within our community, offering a compassionate ear, answering questions about our faith where appropriate, and inviting people to discover the life of our parish. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact Mike and Anne through the parish office. Thank you.

BETHANY BEREAVEMENT GROUP—GOSPORT

11 August | Tuesday | 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. Bethany group meets every second Tuesday of the month. For more information, please contact Annette Hutchins at bethany.gosport@gmail.com

NEW BIBLE REFLECTION GROUP

07 August | Friday | from 1:00pm . 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. Please contact the parish office for more information.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be no Children's Liturgy in August to give our Liturgists and families a break. Next session will be the 13th of September.



St Patrick's Missionary Society is an international missionary Society that has worked for over ninety years in various countries in Africa, South America and the Caribbean. Founded on St Patrick's Day 1932, they continue the work of spreading the Gospel, following the words of Jesus: *Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And look I am with you always; yes, to the end of time. (Matt 28:19-20)*

The Society involve themselves in any aspiration that aims to advance people's lives, both spiritually and materially, having great concern for everyone, but especially for those whose lives are affected by poverty, disease, famine or displacement.

Thank you, Fr Damian Martell for your visit and for sharing your Ministry in Gosport.

ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL OPEN MORNING

St Edmund's Catholic School is holding an Open Morning for Year 6 pupils and parents on Saturday 3rd October 2026 between 9am and 1pm. We hope you will come to get an insight into life at St Edmund's.

Booking will be required.

Session 1 - 9:00am - 11:00am

Session 2 - 11:00am - 13:00pm

Further details will become available on the school website.

<https://www.saintedmunds.org.uk/>

'CELEBRATE' FESTIVAL

15-19 August 2026 - CELEBRATE Festival returns to West Sussex. The Festival, one of the UK's leading Catholic family events, returns to Worth School in West Sussex and tickets are now available. The Festival expects to welcome around 1,000 attendees for five days of worship, teaching and community with the theme 'Let There Be Light'. For more information, go to: <https://www.celebratefestival.org/>

STANDING ORDER AND GIFT AID

Donating by standing order provides the parish a stable and predictable income. It also ensures continuity of donation even when you are away. **Please consider donating via a Standing Order.** If you are a UK taxpayer, your donation can increase by 25% by **signing up for Gift Aid.** These are vital in helping to sustain the life and mission of our parish. Forms are available at the back of the church and from the Parish Office. Contactless Giving (DONA Machine) is also available at the back of the Church. You can also Gift Aid your contactless donation. All you need to do is register once and all succeeding donations will be Gift Aided. We continue to thank all parishioners for your kind support to our parish in so many ways. Thank you!

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.

POPE LEO XIV'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

FOR RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE . LET US PRAY FOR THE RESPECT AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN LIFE IN ALL ITS STAGES, RECOGNIZING IT AS A GIFT FROM GOD.

Diocesan Prayer: July 19 – CWL | July 20 – Welcomers in our churches | July 23 – All Gift Aid organisers