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ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S

The Catholic Church in Gosport

26 July 2026 - SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

25	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Holy Souls in Purgatory	CONFESSION TIMES No Confessions at St Mary’s during this period. EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION Not available during this period 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	
27—31 July Monday - Friday No Mass					
01	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	People of the Parish	
02	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	Clarinda Mansfield INT George Turuta RIP	

REFLECTION

Matthew 13:44-52 (shorter form: Matthew 13:44-46) Jesus teaches about the Kingdom of Heaven

This parable is the third of three parables Jesus tells in a row. The first compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a “treasure buried in a field.” When a person finds it, they sell everything they have so as to buy that field. The second parable likens the Kingdom of Heaven to a merchant who is in search of fine pearls. “When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.” In both of these parables, the discovery of the Kingdom of Heaven is a great joy. The person discovering the treasure or the pearl is so elated that he is willing to trade all that he has so as to obtain it.

The third of these three parables, however, is much different. In this case, the Kingdom of Heaven is likened to a net that gathers all people at the end of the age and separates them, the good from the bad. The parable then concludes with a frightening image. The wicked will be thrown “into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.”

In the end, for those who enter the glories of Heaven, there will be unending joy. And this fact must be understood so as to draw us into those riches of grace. Anticipation of such a gift should motivate us to diligently seek out the many graces our Lord wishes to bestow upon us. But sometimes we need a bit more of a nudge. We can easily become complacent in our life of faith and our search for God's will. For that reason, Jesus includes the third parable, outlining the consequences some will endure at the end of time. Though it might not be a happy thought, it is a holy thought because it reveals God's definitive justice and judgment at the end of time.

Do you believe in the Justice of God? Do you believe that He will exact definitive judgment upon those who reject His holy will in this life? Do you believe that Hell is real and is a possibility for us all? If this thought is difficult to accept, then it might be worth further prayerfully pondering this third parable. Justice and judgment are real. If we are not fully motivated in life to diligently seek out the glory of the Kingdom of Heaven, then we should at least honestly face the reality of the consequences that await.

Reflect, today, upon the glory, beauty and splendor of God. Try to put your eyes of faith upon the Treasure of the Kingdom of Heaven. Allow this prayerful meditation to inspire you to make obtaining the Kingdom of Heaven your sole mission in life. But if you struggle with this joyous discovery, then do not hesitate to reflect upon the potential consequences. The Lord speaks of these consequences of God's justice and judgment for our good so as to keep them from becoming our reality.

My just Judge, You see all things and know all things. You know my heart through and through. Please cleanse me of every sin and all complacency in life. Fill me with a holy zeal for Your Kingdom. May the joy of the discovery of You fully motivate me to remain diligent in my journey to Heaven. Jesus, I trust in You.

Source: <https://mycatholic.life/books/catholic-daily-reflections-series-two/ordinary-time-weeks-1-17-series-two/seventeenth-week-in-ordinary-time/>

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.*



IMPORTANT NOTICE

- 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 in September.
- 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)

QUINQUENNIAL (QQ) INSPECTION

Every five years, all churches are required to undergo a Quinquennial (QQ) Inspection. This is a comprehensive survey carried out by a qualified architect or building surveyor to assess the condition of the church and parish hall, and identify any repairs or maintenance needed to protect our buildings. The inspection is an essential part of caring for St Mary's and helps us plan and prioritise future maintenance, preventing more costly repairs in the long term. As a Grade II listed church, the inspection must be undertaken by a suitably qualified professional with expertise in historic buildings. The inspection will be conducted next month and the cost is £4,650 plus VAT. The cost of the inspection is a significant but necessary expense, and we thank you for your continued generosity in helping us care for our beautiful church for future generations.

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

04 September | 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. **The group is having a break this August.** 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.

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.

GOSPORT HERITAGE OPEN DAYS (GHODs)

We are pleased to inform you that St Mary's is joining the GHODs celebration in September (11th to the 20th). We will open the church to visitors where they can learn more about the history of our church. We are now in the process of preparing information materials to assist visitors during their visit. If you think you can spare an hour or two in any of the dates mentioned, and help either in the church or the parish hall, please speak to Clarinda.

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.



Fr Damian Martell of the St Patrick's Missionary Society has had a very successful visit. Because of your generosity, **we managed to raise £311.40 for the mission. He left a limited number of Perpetual Mass Cards and they are available to those who are interested. A donation of £10 is suggested. Thank you.**

'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/>

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/>

This Sunday, 26 July, is the
World Day for
Grandparents and the Elderly



RETRouv AILLE - FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Marriage in a rut? Or need help with deeper issues? Retrouvaille has helped thousands of couples find hope and healing in their marriage. Next dates: 2nd - 4th Oct. www.retrouvaille.org.uk/
info Tel: 0788 7296983

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) know **by Wednesday 1st July 2026**, so that we can co-ordinate travel and book places.

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>

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