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ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S

The Catholic Church in Gosport

02 & 09 August 2026 - EIGHTEENTH & NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

01	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	People of the Parish	CONFESSION TIMES No Confessions at St Mary's during this period. EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION Not available during this period OUTREACH Thu from 1:00pm ROSARY FOR THE UNBORN Fri at 10:00 except when parish office is closed
02	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	Clarinda Mansfield INT George Turuta RIP	
03—07 August Monday - Friday No Mass					
08	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Paul Slater RIP	
09	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	People of the Parish AV Joseph RIP	
10—14 August Monday - Friday No Mass					
15	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Amy Mary Duffy RIP	
16	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	Dalli, Taboni & Teuma Family RIP People of the Parish	

REFLECTION

Gospel Reflection: (Matthew 14:13-21)

But they said to him, 'Five loaves and two fish are all we have here.' Then he said, 'Bring them here to me,'"

The disciples looked at the crowd, looked at their inventory, and did the maths. Their calculation wasn't wrong - it was just incomplete. They operated from a **mindset of scarcity**, a deeply human survival mechanism that tells us if we don't have enough to solve a problem completely, we shouldn't bother trying to solve it at all. We do this constantly in our own lives: we withhold our time, our money, or our emotional energy because we feel our small contributions won't make a dent in the massive problems around us.

Jesus completely upends this logic. He doesn't look at the five loaves and two fish and say, "You're right, that's pathetic, let's wait until we have more." He says, "*Bring them here to me.*"

The lesson here is that God does not demand that we possess total adequacy before we act; He demands our availability. The miracle doesn't happen in a vacuum; it requires the vulnerability of handing over what little we have. When we stop staring at what we *lack* and *instead offer what we have*, we give the Divine space to multiply our meagre efforts. Your small gesture of kindness, your imperfect apology, or your modest donation doesn't need to be enough on its own - it just needs to be placed in His hands.

The miracle of multiplication never happens in a vacuum; it requires the courage to stop staring at what we lack and start offering what we have.



Commentary by Hector Molina Catholic Evangelist <https://thewordthisweek.net/commentary-18th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-a/>

Oh Lord, You have placed in me gifts that are to be shared. Like the bread and the fish, it may not look like much to begin with. But You do not make mistakes. Your plan and Your purposes are true. What matters is not what things look like here on earth through man's eyes. What matters is that the gifts are available to be used by You.

So Father, I offer what I have here. I look to You with thanksgiving in my heart, asking that You bless me and break me to spread the gifts You have placed in me to others. Use what You have given me, Lord, to make a blessing for others that will bring honour and glory to Your name.

<https://dailybibleprayer.wordpress.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.*



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.

SATURDAY OUTREACH - A SUCCESS!

We give thanks to God for a very successful **Last Saturday of the Month High Street Outreach** which happened last weekend. Our volunteers spent time meeting and talking with people in the community, inviting and welcoming them in the church to light a candle and spend a few minutes of their time with our Lord in prayer. Our volunteers listened to their stories and where appropriate, shared the message of faith and hope. Over 70 candles were lit that day. The Outreach has provided wonderful opportunities for conversations with people who may not normally come through our church doors. Some encounters have been brief, while others have led to deeper conversations about loss, faith, and prayer. Evangelisation is not only about inviting people into the church but also about taking Christ's love out into the community. Thank you to everyone who gave their time and helped make the outreach possible. Please continue to pray for all those we meet on the High Street, that these encounters may plant seeds of faith and open hearts to God's love.

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 are preparing materials to assist visitors during their visit. If you think you can help in manning some tables in the church and the hall at certain periods during these days, please speak contact the parish office.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Pastoral Area Baptism Preparation Programme is now open. The three important dates for the September session are:

- Meet and Greet (face-to-face) - Sat 26th Sept (morning)
 - Two online sessions - Tues 29th Sept and Tues 6th Oct (evening)
- Please note that the deadline for registration is the 11th of September.** Please contact the parish office for more information.

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.

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/>

DIOCESAN FORMATION DAYS

Saturday 10 October | 9:30am-1:30pm | St Bede's, Basingstoke - Catechists' Formation Day. Are you involved in passing on the faith in your parish? Join catechists from across the Diocese for a morning of prayer, inspiration, and practical formation as we reflect on our shared mission to **form missionary disciples**. Whether you are an experienced catechist or new to the ministry, you are warmly invited to attend. To register your interest please go to <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/RFGROzEzDh> or email Meghan, Formation for Mission Team Leader at ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Alternatively, contact the parish office for more information.

Saturday 17 October | Winchester | Formation day for Readers
Email: liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk to book.

MGR VINCENT HARVEY . WE WELCOME BACK MGR VINCENT TO OUR PARISH AS HE IS HERE TO SUPPLY FOR FR MATTHEW WHO WENT ON HOLIDAY LAST WEEK AND RETURNS IN SEPTEMBER. MGR VINCENT WILL BE WITH US FOR THREE WEEKENDS THIS MONTH.

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**

LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

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>

DISCERNMENT RETREATS

These are for single catholic women aged 18-35 who are open to discerning a monastic vocation. The next Retreats are **7th-9th August & 9th-11th October at Minster Abbey, Benedictine Monastery**. For more information and to book a place, please contact Sister Walburga at ministervocations@gmail.com. The website for the Monastery is www.minsterabbeynuns.org

CATHOLIC WOMENS' LEAGUE - GOSPORT

Gosport Section of the Catholic Women's League are meeting at 1.30 pm in the Hall of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Stubbington, on Wednesday 12th August. Our group 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 or Maria | 07790 378 097 | mariaeowen@gmail.com

This newsletter covers a two-week period. The next issue will be on the 16th of August
Diocesan Prayer Aug 3: Retired or Sick Clergy of the Diocese Aug 4: Bishop Philip (ordained priest 4.8.1984)