

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

### 16 August 2026 – THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (YEAR A)

|                                            |     |                    |                                                         |                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15                                         | Sat | 06:00pm            | <i>Vigil</i>                                            | Amy Mary Duffy RIP                                       | <b><u>CONFESSION and EUCHARISTIC ADORATION</u></b><br><br>Not available during this period<br><b><u>OUTREACH</u></b><br>Thu from 1:00pm<br><b><u>ROSARY FOR THE UNBORN</u></b><br>Fri at 10:00 |
| 16                                         | Sun | 08:00am<br>11:15am | <b><i>The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i></b> | Dalli, Taboni & Teuma Family RIP<br>People of the Parish |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 17 to 21 August  Monday - Friday   No Mass |     |                    |                                                         |                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 22                                         | Sat | 06:00pm            | <i>Vigil</i>                                            | Briget RIP                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 23                                         | Sun | 08:00am<br>11:15am | <b><i>Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></b>      | People of the Parish<br>John Crowley RIP                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                |

### REFLECTION

#### The Assumption of the Mother of God

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his Name.” Luke 1:46–49**

Today we celebrate one of seventeen different memorials, feasts and solemnities in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary that are found on the Roman Liturgical Calendar. Today’s celebration is one of the four great Solemnities by which our Blessed Mother is honoured. Obviously, no other person other than our Lord is honoured and celebrated with as much solemnity as the Mother of God.

The Solemnity of the Assumption honours the fact that when the Blessed Virgin Mary completed her life on earth, she was taken body and soul into Heaven to be with her resurrected Son so as to adore the Most Holy Trinity forever. It’s an amazing fact to consider that she retains her body and soul, united as one in Heaven, in anticipation of that glorious day when the new Heavens and Earth will be created and when all the faithful will rise so as to live in a new bodily form forever with God.

Though this dogma of our faith had been held and believed by the faithful from the earliest times of our Church, especially since it was witnessed by those closest to our Blessed Mother at the time of her glorious Assumption, it wasn’t until November 1, 1950, that Pope Pius XII solemnly proclaimed it to be so, raising this teaching of our faith to the level of a dogma, meaning, it must be held and believed by all. In part, the Holy Father declared, “...we pronounce, declare, and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma: that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory.”

The Gospel passage quoted above comes from the beginning of Mary’s song of praise, her *Magnificat*, by which she not only gives the greatest glory to God but also reveals who she is. She is the one whom “all generations” will call “blessed.” She is the one for whom “the Almighty has done great things.” She is the one who will eternally proclaim “the greatness of the Lord” and whose spirit will forever rejoice in God her Saviour. And she is that lowliest of servants whom God has raised up to the greatest glory.

Reflect, today, with the whole Church, upon the Most Glorious Ever-Virgin Mary who was conceived without sin, remained sinless throughout her life, and was taken body and soul into Heaven where she now adores the Most Holy Trinity and intercedes for you and for the whole Church. This is a Solemnity of great rejoicing! Share in this joy with the whole Church and with all the saints in Heaven!

*Most glorious and Ever-Virgin Mary, I rejoice today with you and with the whole Church for the most glorious things that God has done for you. You are beauty beyond beauty, Immaculate in every way, and worthy of our deepest love. As you now share body and soul in the glories of Heaven, please pray for me and for all your dear children on earth. Cover us with your mantle of love and pour forth the mercy of God upon us always. Mother Mary, assumed into Heaven, pray for us who have recourse to thee. Jesus, I trust in You.*

Source: <https://catholic-daily-reflections.com/2023/08/14/the-assumption-of-the-mother-of-god-2/>

#### 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 from next week will be officiated by Fr John Adikwu (last 2 weekends of August)
- St Mary's Church will be open this August from 9am to 12nn on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays only. The parish office will remain open during office hours during the week.
- 31 August is Bank Holiday Monday. The church and the parish office will be closed.

### THANK YOU, MGR VINCENT!

Thank you so much, Mgr Vincent, for your presence in our parish while Fr Matthew is on his annual leave. We are truly grateful for your time, your beautiful homilies, and your wonderful presence among us during these three weekends. *Please keep Mgr Vincent in your prayers, and may God bless him richly.*

### 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 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 26<sup>th</sup> Sept (morning)
- Two online sessions - Tues 29<sup>th</sup> Sept and Tues 6<sup>th</sup> Oct (evening)

**Please note that the deadline for registration is the 11th of September.** Please contact the parish office for more information.

### SCHEDULE OF PARISH ACTIVITIES AT ST MARY'S

- **Bethany Bereavement Group . 08 September | 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](mailto:bethany.gosport@gmail.com)
- **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. Everyone is welcome.
- **Children's Liturgy . 13 September | during the 11:15am Mass .** This is offered for children aged 4 up to First Holy Communion age.

### MEMORIAL MASS FOR RAYMOND EXTANCE RIP

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of August, a burial service was held for Raymond Extance at Anns Hill Cemetery. **On the 11<sup>th</sup> of September Friday at 12nn, there will be a Memorial Mass at St Mary's for Raymond.** To those who knew him, he was a beloved Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Please remember him in your prayers.



### ADULT JOURNEY IN FAITH - ENQUIRY SESSIONS

Are you a non-Catholic who would like to become one? Are you a baptised Catholic adult who has started coming back to the Church after some years away? If so, we have a programme just for you. A set of weekly enquiry sessions will start on 7<sup>th</sup> October. This is the first stage of our Journey in Faith series which will lead into full communion with the Catholic Church, if so desired. Please email Deacon Larry: [lmurawski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lmurawski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### PILGRIMAGE

**1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2026 . Parish Pilgrimage to Fatima & Nazare** £895.00 sharing, £995.00 in single room | Return Flights – Lisbon(flight details to be confirmed) | Cost includes: - Airport duty and passenger taxes, 1 suitcase per person for the aircraft hold, - 20kgs, 3 night's dinner, bed and breakfast Fatima (Hotel to be confirmed), 3 nights dinner, bed and breakfast in Nazare (Hotel Praia), Northern Star Travel representative to accompany the Pilgrimage. Please contact Mary Woodhouse at [kewhouse@uwclub.net](mailto:kewhouse@uwclub.net)

### RETRouvaille – 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 - 4<sup>th</sup> Oct. [www.retrouvaille.org.uk/info](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk/info) Tel: 0788 7296983

### SECOND COLLECTIONS UPDATE

Once again, we would like to thank all our donors for assisting the diocese in supporting charities. Below shows how much we raised during the last few months:

£107.80 – World Communications | 17 May 2026

£143.67 – Day for Life | 21 June 2026

£210.81 – Peter's Pence | 28 June 2026

£941.99 – Missio Box Collection

Thank you once again for your generosity!

### 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.

### REPOSITORY

We have various religious items available in our Repository. These are great ideas if you are looking for gifts. Please have a browse after Mass or contact the parish office. If you require any items and would like to place an order through the parish, please notify the office or get in touch with Elsie Miller.

### DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

Did you know that you can receive a copy of the parish newsletter straight into your email inbox? Preferring it this way saves our parish printing costs. Please email the parish office [office@stmarysgosport.org.uk](mailto:office@stmarysgosport.org.uk)

*Diocesan Prayer*

16 August: In Thanksgiving to Our Lady, Mother of God

21 August: All Sacristans

**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 from this become part of the building fund.*