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ST MARY'S WEBSITE



ST MARY'S FACEBOOK

ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S
 The Catholic Church in Gosport

23 August 2026 – TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) p.120 in parish Mass Book

22	Sat	06:00pm	Vigil	Briget RIP	<u>CONFESSION and EUCHARISTIC ADORATION</u> Not available during this period <u>OUTREACH</u> Thu from 1:00pm <u>ROSARY FOR THE UNBORN</u> Fri at 10:00
23	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time	People of the Parish John Crowley RIP	
24 to 28 August Monday - Friday No Mass					
29	Sat	06:00pm	Vigil	Katie Cashman RIP	
30	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	People of the Parish Zied Solomon RIP	

REFLECTION – Matthew 16:13-20

Introductory Prayer: Jesus, I believe in you. I believe that you came into this world to suffer and die to give me a chance at eternal salvation. I want to draw close to you in this prayer. May this time I spend with you be an expression of my love.

Petition: Help me, Lord, to enter into a deeper, personal relationship with you.

1. Identity Crisis: Jesus isn't interested in what "others" think of him. He wants to know what I think of him. The test of any relationship is how committed people are to each other. At some point a young woman will wonder, how serious is her boyfriend? After a few weeks of class, a professor wants to know, who are the serious students here? On the eve of battle a soldier might wonder, can I count on my buddies when the bullets start flying? Likewise, Our Lord wonders about us. What does Christ mean to me? Is he just a picture on a holy card? A dimly perceived do-gooder from the past? Or does he have a real place in my life? He is, after all, the Second Person of the Trinity who came into the world in order to save us. How does that truth affect my faith?

2. Heavenly Revelation: Peter professes that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah. And Jesus in turn tells him that this knowledge doesn't come from the world. It comes from God the Father. Recognition of Jesus as the Christ involves an act of faith. Throughout history, sceptics have tried to figure out Jesus, using just their reason and tools of research. But since when do we try to understand the totality of a person with reason? Learning about another person can often require personal contact, above all, listening to him or her. Do I try to listen to Jesus in prayer, in Scripture? Or do I simply try to "figure him out"?

3. Binding and Loosing: Keys were a symbol of authority. Our Lord had all authority on earth (see Matthew 28:18 and Mark 2:10). Authority implies the ability to delegate it; hence, Jesus gave Peter, as the first pope, the power to bind and loose, that is, to make disciplinary rules within the Church. A child who disobeys a licit command from its mother is committing a sin. Why? Not because Mom is God, but because Mom has authority from God. Authority, in this case papal authority, is not an imposition but rather a service. The Pope's unique authority gives us a sure guide on moral questions. The Pope doesn't have the power to make morality but rather to define authoritatively on issues at hand. How well do I know papal teaching? Do I make an effort to learn why he teaches as he teaches? When a difficulty arises, do I consult Church teaching? "Whoever listens to you listens to me. Whoever rejects you rejects me" (Luke 10:16).

Conversation with Christ: Lord, help me to love my faith as an expression of my personal relationship with you. Keep me from ever growing cold in my faith. Grant me a renewed appreciation for the gift of papal authority.

Source: <https://catholic.net/op/articles/3981/cat/1185/rock-of-peter.html>

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.
- 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.

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.

WELCOME TO GOSPORT, FR JOHN!

Let us welcome Fr John Adikwu. He is here to lead our Services for two weekends while Fr Matthew enjoys a well-deserved holiday. Let us give Fr John a warm welcome and make him feel at home during his time with us.

IMPORTANT!

"CHURCHSUITE" – OUR NEW PARISH DATABASE

We are currently Populating ChurchSuite, our new parish database, which will help us keep parish records organised and up to date. Once ChurchSuite is up and running, we will provide full information through the newsletter on how you can access your details, check the information we hold, and keep your records up to date. There will be more information to follow, so please watch this space!

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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The First Holy communion registration forms will soon be available for children in year 4 and above. Please contact the parish office to register your interest.

Memorial and Feast Days:

22 August: The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

27 August: St Monica

28 August: St Augustine, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

Diocesan Prayer

22 August: All who maintain our churches

MARRIAGE VOWS CONGRATULATIONS

We are delighted to announce that Holly and Jordan will celebrate their Convalidation of Marriage at St Mary's Church on Saturday 29th of August at 1:00pm. We invite everyone to keep them in your prayers, asking our Lord to bless them with love, joy, faith and lasting commitment.



SANCTUARY LAMP

This week's Sanctuary Lamp is donated in memory of Gerard Combes. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. ✠

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
- **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.

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.

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 7th 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

SEASON OF CREATION

The Season of Creation runs from the World Day of Prayer for Care for Creation on 01 September until the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on 04 October. It is an annual event and a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. It is also a time where we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home. The theme of this year is 'Living Water' drawn from Ezekiel 47:9, 12 who gives a description of the Living Water we receive from God. The image of which seems more meaningful as we experience this very dry summer.

A CATHOLIC FUNERAL

Guidelines for Funerals and for the Care of the Terminally Ill. The Guidelines should be followed in our Diocese when planning a funeral for a Catholic person who has died. The leaflet which you can find here: <https://tinyurl.com/mpyje57d>, also enables Catholics to leave instructions about their own funeral for their next of kin, and in addition, some notes are given for the care of Catholics who are terminally ill. When a Catholic dies, it is the usual custom of the Catholic Church for them to be brought to their parish church & for a Requiem Mass to be offered up for them. This is the case even for those who during their lifetime rarely practiced their Catholic faith. **For the guidelines, please contact the parish office.**