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ST MARYS WEBSITE



ST MARYS FACEBOOK

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

30 August 2026 – TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) *p.122 in Parish Mass Book*

29	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Katie Cashman RIP	<u>CONFESSION and EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION</u> Not available during this period <u>OUTREACH</u> Thu from 1:00pm <u>ROSARY FOR THE UNBORN</u> Fri at 10:00 am
30	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	People of the Parish Zied Solomon RIP	
31 August Monday – 04 September Friday No Mass					
05	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Miss Mary Ann Cornelius RIP	
06	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	James Loveday RIP People of the Parish	

REFLECTION

Faith as Self-Surrender

Most of us have at least one habit or vice we struggle to let go of. It clings to us, resists change, and becomes part of our daily rhythm. Paul's words in Romans 12:1–2 speak directly into this struggle. He invites believers to see faith not simply as belief, but as **self-surrender** – a daily offering of ourselves to God so that He can reshape us from within.

Paul begins by urging the Christian community to “present your bodies as a living sacrifice.” In Semitic thought, the “body” meant the whole person – one's entire self. God has shown mercy in ways that overturn human expectations: wrath replaced by compassion, sin transformed into salvation, death turned into life. If God acts with such unexpected generosity, Paul argues, then the believer's response must mirror Christ's own self-giving. To offer oneself to God becomes a form of worship that unites the believer to Christ's sacrifice on the cross. In the light of God's mercy, this is the most reasonable way to serve Him.

But how does one live as a “living sacrifice”? Paul's answer is simple yet demanding: **seek God's will**. God's will is good, pleasing, and complete – just as Christ's offering was. Yet discerning God's will is not easy. We are prone to self-deception, weakness, and the influence of the world around us. Paul knows this, and so he gives the key: transformation. The believer must allow God to renew the mind, reshaping the way we think, judge, and choose. This renewal is not achieved by effort alone; it begins with surrender. The Christian gives himself to God and trusts that God will lead.

A familiar analogy compares the Christian life to riding a tandem bicycle. At first, we want to steer. We want control, predictability, and reassurance. But true discipleship means letting Christ take the front seat. We pedal, but He directs. The ride may be fast, bumpy, or frightening, yet the believer's task is not to control the journey but to trust the One who guides it. In surrendering pride and self-determination, we discover the freedom of living in God's will.

God's ways remain surprising. He offers mercy where none is deserved, and He invites us to respond by placing our daily lives in His hands. To become a living sacrifice is not dramatic or heroic; it is practical, steady, and daily. It means beginning each morning with openness: “Lord, this day is yours.” It means allowing God into the places where our habits, fears, and vices live. It means trusting that His will is not only good, but good for us.

So the question becomes: how do we offer our day to God? How do we make seeking His will a daily rhythm rather than an occasional effort? And how do we bring our stubborn habits – the ones we struggle to release – into our prayer of surrender?

adapted from word-sunday.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.
- 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.

THANK YOU, FR JOHN ADIKWU!

Thank you, Fr John, for celebrating Mass here in Gosport for two weeks while Fr Matthew is away on his annual leave. We will remember you and your St Vincent de Paul Ministry and as a beloved chaplain in QA. Thank you very much and God bless.

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!

THANK YOU TO OUR CLEAN SWEEP TEAM!

A huge thanks to Annette R and Catherine for helping last week in clearing the presbytery courtyard of weeds, a massive task, and it now looks tidy. An extra elbow grease they have put in other areas is truly appreciated. We are looking for more volunteers. Please speak to Annette R or Clarinda.

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:

29 August: The Passion of St John the Baptist

Diocesan Prayer

30 August: Parish Bereavement Support Group

31 August: Parish Hospitality Organisers

LET US PRAY ARDENTLY THAT MANY HEAR THE MASTER'S CALL FOR VOCATION AND PRAY THAT MORE GENEROUS SOULS ANSWER WITH A COURAGEOUSLY JOYFUL "YES".

SCHEDULE OF PARISH ACTIVITIES AT ST MARY'S

- **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 in the upper room of the Parish Hall following the 12nn Mass. Everyone is welcome.
- **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
- **Children's Liturgy . 13 September | during the 11:15am Mass .** This is offered for children aged 4 up to First Holy Communion age.

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.**

DIOCESAN FORMATION DAYS

Catechists' Formation Day. Saturday 10 October | 9:30am-1:30pm | St Bede's, Basingstoke - Are you involved in passing on the faith in your parish? 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/RFGR0zEzDh> 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.