

Priest-in-Charge: **Rev. Fr Matthew King**
 Parish Secretary: **Clarinda Mansfield**
 Deacon: **Rev Dcn John Cumpsty**
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ST MARYS WEBSITE



ST MARYS FACEBOOK

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

13 September 2026 – TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) *p.128 in Parish Mass Book*

12	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Bridget Fry RIP	CONFESSION TIMES Wed 6:15pm – 6:45pm <i>(if Mass is celebrated)</i> Sat – 12:00nn – 1:00pm ROSARY Rosary for the Unborn at 10:00am OUTREACH Thu from 1:00pm
13	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	Ms Mary Anne Cornelius RIP Fr Matthew King INT	
14	Mon	No Service			
15	Tue	12:00nn	Our Lady of Sorrows	Cecille Caringal INT	
16	Wed	07:00pm	Ss Cornellius & Cyprian	Clarinda & William Mansfield INT	
17	Thu	No Service			
18	Fri	No Service			
19	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Miss Mary Ann Cornelius RIP	
20	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	<i>Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	People of the Parish Zied Solomon RIP	

REFLECTION

Finding the right words for goodbye is difficult, so let me tell you a story instead – one I may have shared before. When I was about nine years old in South Africa, I used to attend evening catechism at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Amanzimtoti. One evening, our teacher must have been running very late because our parish priest had to begin the lesson. Unexpectedly faced with a room full of children and without a lesson plan, he surely had to think quick on his feet. So, he got us up and marched us out towards the church entrance. Standing together at the threshold and peering in, we couldn't see a thing: the rows of pews, the altar, even the big painting of Our Lady I'd spent hours staring at during long Sunday homilies were all in total darkness. It was pitch black. The priest turned to us and asked if we were afraid to go in. Clearly, we were. Then he pointed into the darkness, "Look into the dark, slightly up, what do you see?" There, in the distance, slightly to the right, was a tiny flickering red light. I was amazed, I hadn't noticed the sanctuary lamp burning next to the tabernacle. Before I saw only darkness but now it was unmistakable: the tiny red light shone out through the darkness. It was invincible! The priest said, "That light tells you Jesus is here. He is here with you. You don't need to be afraid, not even of darkness."

This very short and simple catechism lesson had a big impact on me and has remained with me all these years. Light disperses darkness. The darkness of sin, fear, confusion and doubt. To be honest, when I first arrived here in Gosport, I felt I was lost in a type of darkness – unprepared, uncertain, heavy with self-doubt. I was afraid and daunted by the challenges before me. But I relearned that same simple, wonderful catechism lesson - not as a child this time but as a priest. First, that God is faithful! God is Good! He holds us, sustains us, we are never alone. He is the Light overcoming the darkness. Second, I realise that He sent you to me rather than me to you. You, the parishioners of Gosport, have been a light to me. You have shown me such kindness, supported me and taught me a great deal of life and faith – of light. I am deeply grateful for our four years together. I think I will always be grateful. Please pray for me and I will pray for you.

I look forward to all the wonderful things you will do, working with Fr Nishan your new priest, continuing the building up of God's Kingdom in Gosport. May Almighty God shine upon you always, and may His light shine out from within you to all those whom you meet. Do not be afraid!

Love, Fr Matthew

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.*



GOSPORT HERITAGE OPEN DAYS (GHODs)

11 – 20 September. Doors are now open, history is waiting! St Mary's is thrilled to be part of Gosport Heritage Open Days (GHODs) this year, welcoming neighbours, history buffs, and families into our beautiful church.

Whether you have walked past our doors a hundred times or are visiting the area for the first time, we would love to share our rich local history, unique architecture, and community stories with you. Our volunteer parishioners are running a series of guided tours throughout the event. You can check out our complete tour schedule at the door entrance to find the day and time that works best for you. No booking is required, and entry is completely free. Bring your friends and family and come discover the heritage right on your doorstep.



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!

SECOND COLLECTION

This weekend - Catholic Education Service. Our Catholic schools in the Diocese are a vital part of the Church's mission to evangelise, form disciples, and serve the wider community. There are 67 Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Portsmouth providing education and faith formation to around 30,000 pupils.

You may also donate using our electronic collection plate which is at the back of the church. Thank you for your generosity!

20 September – Home Missions

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.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2027

Calling all young people in years 8 and above. Do join us as we explore this important sacrament under the "Chosen" programme. We meet twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Fridays from 7 - 8:30pm. An information evening will be held at Immaculate Conception Church, Bells Lane Stubbington on Friday 25th September at 7pm. To register your interest or for more information, please contact Dcn Andrew Collins on 07485422473 or acollins@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. The first session for chosen for both new and returning members will be on Friday 9 October. Venu to be confirmed.

SCHEDULE OF PARISH ACTIVITIES AT ST MARY'S

- **Bethany Bereavement Group | Every second Tuesday of the month | 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. For more information, please contact Annette Hutchins at bethany.gosport@gmail.com
- **Bible Reflection Group | Every first Friday of the month | from 1:00pm**. You are warmly invited to join our new Bible Reflection Group in the upper room of the Parish Hall following the 12nn Mass. Everyone is welcome.
- **Children's Liturgy | Every second Sunday of the month | during the 11:15am Mass**. This is offered for children aged 4 up to First Holy Communion age.

Tea and coffee are available 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.

REMINDER! WEEKDAY MASS TIME CHANGES

This is taking effect from the 21st of September.

	Adoration & Confession	Mass
Monday	-	6pm
Tuesday	11am – 11:45	12nn
Wednesday	-	No Service
Thursday	11am – 11:45	12nn
Friday	11am – 11:45	12nn
Saturday	-	6pm
Sunday	-	8am & 11:15am

CARING FOR ST MARY'S – OUR CHURCH, OUR HERITAGE

Following our recent Quinquennial inspection, a number of areas within the church, presbytery, and parish hall have been identified as needing repair, maintenance or some much-needed attention. Some works will be relatively small while others will need to be planned and funded over the coming months and years. Caring for our church is an ongoing responsibility, particularly as we seek to preserve St Mary's for future generations. We hope, with the support of everyone, to gradually raise the funds needed to undertake these essential works. Every contribution, however small, will help us care for the parish we all share. More information about the works and ways you can support them will follow. Thank you.

A CATHOLIC FUNERAL & CARE FOR THE TERMINALLY ILL

Guidelines for Funerals and for the Care of the 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. We believe that when a person dies, it is a priority to offer Mass, because it is the Sacrifice of Christ & in the Mass the Church pleads to the Lord, asking him to forgive the sins and weaknesses of the deceased. **Copies are available at the back and/or request a copy in the parish office.**

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

ST MARGARET MARY SVP QUIZ NIGHT

St Margaret Mary SVP will be holding a quiz night on Friday 25th September at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. SO31 7GH. Tickets are £5 each (bring your own snacks and drinks). Teams of up to 8. We will make up teams if you haven't enough members. Money raised will go towards the SVP Christmas Hampers and helping disadvantaged families. Contact joan.brown750@btinternet.com

Memorial and Feast Days:

14 September: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

15 September: Our Lady of Sorrows

Diocesan Prayer

13 September: Staff and pupils, governors, parents & chaplains in our Primary and Secondary Schools

14 September: The Holy Father (born 14.09.1955)

18 September: Teams of Our Lady

Pope's Prayer Intention for the month of September

For the care of water. Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.