

Priest-in-Charge: **Rev. Fr Nishan Edward**
 Parish Secretary: **Clarinda Mansfield**
 Deacon: **Rev Dcn John Cumpsty**
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ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S

The Catholic Church in Gosport



20 & 27 September 2026 – TWENTY-FIFTH and TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

19	Sat	06:00pm	Vigil	Miss Mary Ann Cornelius RIP	CONFESSION TIMES Tue, Thu & Fri 11:00am – 11:45am EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION Tue, Thu & Fri 11:00am – 11:45am ROSARY for the unborn Fri – from 10:00am OUTREACH Thu from 1:00pm & last Saturday of the month 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. <i>Please Gift Aid your donations if possible.</i>
20	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	People of the Parish Zied Solomon RIP	
21	Mon	6:00pm	St Matthew	Anderton, Turner & Ashworth Family RIP	
22	Tue	12:00nn		Peter Boniface RIP	
23	Wed	No Service			
24	Thu	12:00nn	Our Lady of Walsingham	Deceased of the Bay Family	
25	Fri	12:00nn		Elsie & Barbara Hill RIP	
26	Sat	06:00pm	Vigil	David Cashman RIP	
27	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Miss Mary Ann Cornelius RIP People of the Parish	
28	Mon	6:00pm	St Lorenzo Ruiz & Companions	Miss Mary Ann Cornelius RIP	
29	Tue	12:00nn	The Holy Angels Michael, Gabriel & Raphael	Holy Souls in Purgatory	
30	Wed	No Service			
01	Thu	12:00nn	St Teresa of the Child Jesus	Miss Mary Ann Cornelius RIP	
02	Fri	12:00nn	The Holy Guardian Angels	George Turuta RIP	
03	Sat	06:00pm	Vigil	People of the Parish	
04	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	Holy souls in Purgatory Crispo Alvarez RIP	

A Warm Welcome to Father Nishan Edward!

We are absolutely delighted to welcome Father Nishan Edward (also known officially as Rev. Mohanraj Edward) to St Mary's parish! Father Nishan joins us as the Priest-in-Charge following a series of diocesan clergy moves announced by Bishop Philip Egan, taking over the care of our community from Father Matthew.

Father Nishan comes to Gosport after a highly successful and deeply impactful ministry on the Isle of Wight. There, he served as the Priest-in-Charge for the communities of St Thomas of Canterbury in Newport and St Saviour in Totland Bay, working closely alongside Rev. Steven Restori. During his time on the Island, Father Nishan became a treasured pillar of the parish. He was deeply involved in local Catholic education, serving as a Foundation Governor with functional responsibility for Catholicity at St. Saviour's Catholic Primary School. His dedication to youth engagement programs, support networks for the elderly, and local outreach was so profoundly valued that parishioners even launched a community petition hoping to keep him on the Island!

Before his time on the Isle of Wight, Father Nishan also gained extensive pastoral experience right across the water as an Assistant Priest at St John's Cathedral in Portsmouth.

As Father Nishan settles into his new home and ministry here in Gosport, please make sure to introduce yourself and give him a true, warm Gosport welcome after Mass this weekend.

Please keep Father Nishan, Father Matthew, and all the parishes undergoing transitions in your prayers during this season of moves.



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

A WONDERFUL HERITAGE OPEN DAYS AT ST MARY'S

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Gosport Heritage Open days (GHODs) at St Mary's such a success. It was wonderful to welcome visitors through our doors and to share the rich history, heritage and beauty of our church with the wider community. Our sincere thanks go to the Heritage Committee whose preparation, research and enthusiasm helped bring our church's story to everyone, and to all our volunteer guides who so generously gave their time to welcome visitors and share the fascinating history of St Mary's. A special thank you to Bill, Libby, Peter, Doug, Clare and Annette for all their help and support and also to all who worked behind the scenes and to the people who donated the leaflets and information materials. Most of all, thank you to everyone who visited St Mary's. Heritage Open Days gave us a wonderful opportunity to evangelise, share our Catholic faith, and bring to the people the history of our beautiful church.



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 our 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!

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.

ADULT JOURNEY IN FAITH - ENQUIRY SESSIONS

Rite of Catholic Initiation of Adults (RCIA), also known as Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is the structured process used to welcome adult converts, unbaptised individuals, and baptised Christians seeking full communion with the Catholic Church. 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, if so desired. Please email Deacon Larry: lmurawski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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.

THIS WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION

Home Mission Sunday is the day we ask parishes to pray for the work of evangelisation and to support this vital work through a second collection. The bishops of England and Wales ask the faithful to look for ways in which we can all do our part in sharing the beauty and joy of knowing Jesus Christ. Your donations go towards evangelisation projects that help promote the Catholic vision of proclamation, dialogue and catechesis. It also supports programs that encourage Catholics to share their faith within their local communities, workplaces, and daily lives. You may also use our DONA machine located in the church foyer to donate.

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.

FAREWELL FOR NOW, FR MATTHEW.

As Fr Matthew begins his new mission and a new chapter in his priestly ministry, we say a heartfelt thank you and farewell after four years of serving our parish. St Mary's is truly grateful for his priestly ministry and his friendship. Also, a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to making the occasion such a success: to those who prepared and decorated the hall, brought a variety of food, served and tidied afterwards, and to those who contributed in so many ways. Your generosity made the celebration memorable. *And so, Fr Matthew, this is not quite a goodbye, but farewell for now. We send you to your new parish with our prayers, gratitude and every good wish for the ministry that lies ahead. May God bless you and strengthen you and guide you always. Thank you for everything, Fr Matthew, from all of us here at St Mary's. Farewell for now, until we meet again. Fr Matthew would like to say thank you for all your prayers, well-wishes, cards and letters.*



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.

ARE YOU NEW TO THE PARISH? *WELCOME!* PLEASE INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO FR NISHAN AFTER MASS AND REGISTER BY FILLING OUT A REGISTRATION FORM FROM THE BACK OF THE CHURCH. *WHETHER YOU ARE SEEKING SPIRITUAL GROWTH, CONNECTION, OR SIMPLY A PLACE TO BELONG, WE HOPE YOU FIND OUR CHURCH A WELCOMING PLACE.*

Memorial and Feast Days:

21 September: St Matthew – Apostle and Evangelist
23 September: St Pio of Pietrelcina
24 September: Our Lady of Walsingham
28 September: St Lorenzo Ruiz & Companions
29 September: Ss Michael, Gabriel and Raphael – Archangels
01 October: St Therese of the child Jesus
02 October: The Holy Guardian Angels

Diocesan Prayer

24 September: Bishop Philip (ordained Bishop & installed 24.09.2012)

28 September: Filipino Chaplaincy

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.

Pope's Prayer Intention for the month of October

For mental health ministry. Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

CAN YOU CROCHET? WE NEED YOUR HELP!

In preparation for Remembrance Sunday, we would love to have more hand-crocheted poppies for this year's display. This is a special act of remembrance for all those who gave their lives in war and conflict. We would be delighted if you could make and donate some poppies. You may drop off the poppies anytime in the parish office during office opening hours. Feel free to make one or two or more!

CALLING OUR YOUNG SINGERS

Sunday 11 October | after the 11:15am Mass | Parish Hall | Meet and Greet. Following the lovely singing by some of our children at Fr Matthew's farewell gathering last Sunday, a couple of our parishioners have been inspired to start a Children's Choir at St Mary's. If your child is aged 6 or over and enjoys singing, we would love to hear from you. No previous choir experience is needed, just an enthusiasm for singing and being part of something fun. We invite interested children and their parents to a Meet and Greet in the parish hall to meet with our volunteers and to learn more information. Alternatively, please email the parish office.

COME PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US

The Rosary group meets every night at 8pm on WhatsApp. If you would like to join, please contact Anthonia 07773185812 or Clare 07774664409. Thank you.

MASS INTENTIONS

To have a Mass offered for your intentions, kindly use the envelopes at the back of the church. Please book in advance. The earliest available date commences from 19 October.

SPONSOR A SANCTUARY LAMP

If you would like to sponsor a Sanctuary Lamp with a thoughtful intention, simply fill in a sponsor envelope that is available in the church foyer. The cost of sponsoring a Lamp is £5 per week. Your intentions will also be remembered during the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday. Please use the envelope provided at the back of the church. 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.**

HIGH MASS OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

Saturday 26 September | St Agatha's Church | 11am. Setting: Mozart Miss Brevis in D Major (KV194) with guest speaker, Dom Cuthbert Brogan OSB. Refreshments to follow. Address is Cascades Approach, Portsmouth PO1 4RL.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY APPEAL

Please donate to our *Family Fast Day* parish collection. Put your faith into action and share the Lord's love by supporting our global neighbours experiencing shortages of food and safe water. Your gift can support children like Tayla in Zimbabwe to stay in school by helping communities and schools provide nourishing meals, improve access to water and grow food in school gardens. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or scan the QR Code.



LEPROSY APPEAL

04 October | The Leprosy Mission. There will be an appeal during this weekend focusing on the mission's goal to break the chains of leprosy and empower people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness. The priority of the mission is to end the transmission of leprosy by increasing awareness and challenge cultural misconceptions. *Let us pray for people affected by leprosy, challenge the stigma that still surrounds the disease and support those living with its long-term consequences.*

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 St Margaret's 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

FORMATION DAY FOR READERS

17th October 2026 Saturday. It is not too late to sign up for the Formation Day for Readers being organised by the Diocesan Liturgy Team on 17th October 2026 at the Pastoral Centre in Winchester. All the details can be found on the attached PDF. Anyone wishing to attend is kindly asked to email liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.

DIOCESAN DAY FOR CATECHISTS

10th October 2026 Saturday | 9:30am-1:30pm | St Bede's Basingstoke. Whether you are a parish catechist, sacramental preparation leader, RCIA team member, children's liturgy volunteer, youth catechist, or involved in any ministry of faith formation, you are warmly invited on this day. Email ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk to register.

PARISH EVANGELISATION CELL FORMATION DAY

31st October 2026 Saturday | 9:30am-1:30pm | Christ the King, Reading. Are you passionate about sharing your faith? Would you like to see St Mary's become a place where people encounter Christ, grow in discipleship, and reach out to others? Then come to this event where an inspiring day of teaching, prayer, practical information, and fellowship are designed to equip clergy and laity to build a vibrant parish evangelisation cell. To register please email ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

God's Generosity and Our Sense of Fairness

The readings this Sunday invite us to look honestly at the difference between **our sense of fairness** and **God's way of justice**. We often assume that fairness means everyone gets exactly what they deserve. But God's justice is rooted not in strict calculation, but in mercy, generosity, and a desire to draw every person into His life.

Isaiah sets the tone immediately: "Seek the Lord where he can be found." His message is urgent, hopeful, and unsettling. God's ways are not our ways; His thoughts are not our thoughts. Isaiah reminds us that God does not operate according to human systems of reward, comparison, or entitlement. He acts out of love, and His justice flows from compassion rather than competition.

Psalms 145 continues this theme with its hymn of praise. Its poetic style may stand out, but its substance is unmistakable: God is gracious, tender, slow to anger, rich in mercy. If this is who God is, then His justice must reflect His character. It is not about keeping score; it is about lifting up the lowly, healing the broken, and welcoming the latecomer with joy.

St Paul, writing from prison, reveals a deeply human struggle. He longs to be with Christ in glory, yet he also longs to remain with the people he loves and serve them. Beneath his dilemma — God or others? — lies a profound truth: serving others *is* serving God. Paul's life shows us that God's justice is not about what we receive, but about how we give ourselves in love.

And then we come to Matthew's parable of the vineyard labourers. A businessman hires workers throughout the day, promising each of them a fair wage. At sunset, he pays everyone the same amount — whether they worked twelve hours or one. Those who laboured all day are outraged. They feel cheated, even though they received exactly what they were promised. Their anger comes not from injustice, but from envy.

This parable exposes something uncomfortable in all of us. We often measure fairness by comparison: *Why should they get what I get? Why should someone who came late receive the same reward as someone who has been faithful for years?* But Jesus gently turns the question around: *Why should God's generosity offend us? Why should mercy trouble us?*

The vineyard belongs to God. The harvest belongs to God. The reward belongs to God. And God chooses to be generous. The real challenge of the parable is not understanding it — it is accepting it. Can we rejoice when God blesses someone who arrived late, repented late, or changed late? Can we celebrate grace that is given freely, even when it seems to level the field?

Jesus invites us to see justice not as a competition, but as a gift. God's generosity is not unfair — it is abundant. And it is offered to each of us, not because we have earned it, but because He loves us.

Dcn John

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26th Sunday OT Year A

The Importance of Sincere Obedience to God's Will

The significance of our words and actions, and the need for ongoing repentance and faithfulness.

The Parable of the Two Sons and Its Meaning:

Jesus questions about obedience and change of heart through the parable of two sons. The second son initially refuses but later obeys, illustrating true obedience. Pharisees are challenged to reflect on their outward appearances versus true actions. Doing God's will is more important than merely saying yes or appearing religious.

The Contrast Between Pharisees and Sinners:

Pharisees believed they were spiritually elite because of their outward actions. They rejected John the Baptist and Jesus, showing a lack of genuine obedience. Prostitutes and tax collectors, despite past sins, showed repentance and entered God's kingdom. True obedience involves a change of heart, not just external compliance.

The Importance of Repentance and Personal Commitment:

Ezekiel emphasizes that turning away from sin leads to life and salvation. God forgives those who sincerely repent and renounce their sins. Our present commitment to God's will is what truly matters. Human weaknesses are acknowledged, but turning to Jesus for help is always possible.

The Role of Jesus as an Example of Obedience:

Jesus' obedience unto death exemplifies perfect commitment to God's will. His human and divine nature makes Him the best guide for us. Following Christ requires sincere effort and constant repentance. We should emulate Jesus in our thoughts, words, and actions.

Outcome

Over and over in our daily lives let Christ be the example we follow in all that we think and say ... and especially ... in what we do.

Dcn John

Heavenly Father, Lord of the Vineyard, grant us the grace to labour joyfully in Your service without envy, always rejoicing in Your boundless and unexpected generosity to others. Forgive the times our actions have fallen short of our words, and grant us the true conversion of heart needed to do Your will. Amen.

Coming up **later this year**

Essential Training for Catechists

Weekly from Saturday December 5th, 9am-12midday

A short course of three morning sessions to discover: the essential nature and principles of catechesis, the sources of catechesis, and the best ways to prepare and deliver our catechesis. Open to everyone involved or interested in any kind of catechesis for adults, young people or children. [Register here.](#)

Online Advent Retreat

Weekly from Wednesday December 2nd, 7pm-8pm

Three sessions each Wednesday evening of Advent, to discover the three virtues that connect us to God - Faith, Hope, and Charity - and so prepare for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus Christ. [Register here.](#)

Tea and coffee is 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.

