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ST MARY'S WEBSITE



ST MARY'S FACEBOOK

ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S

The Catholic Church in Gosport

04 OCTOBER 2026 – TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

03	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	People of the Parish	CONFESSION TIMES Tue, Thu & Fri 11:00am – 11:45am Sun 10:30 – 11:00am 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
04	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	Holy Souls in Purgatory Crispo Alvarez RIP	
05	Mon	6:00pm	St Faustina Kowalska	Captain Dugmore RIP{	
06	Tue	12:00nn		Aliyamma RIP	
07	Wed	No Service			
08	Thu	12:00nn		Elsie Moran RIP	
09	Fri	12:00nn	St John Henry Newman	Logan Reaside-Cleeve RIP	
10	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Charles Halford INT	
11	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	People of the Parish Penny Lavers RIP	

REFLECTION

God's Vineyard and the Fruit We Bear

This Sunday's readings present us with one of the most beautiful images in Scripture: God's vineyard.

The prophet Isaiah begins not with a warning or a command, but with a song. He sings of a vineyard lovingly planted and carefully tended by its owner. Every detail has been attended to. The soil has been prepared, the vines planted, and everything necessary has been provided for a rich harvest. Yet when the time comes, the vineyard produces wild grapes instead of good fruit. Isaiah's listeners would have understood immediately. The vineyard represents God's people. The Lord had blessed them abundantly, guided them through every trial, and entered into a covenant relationship with them. Yet they failed to respond with faithfulness, justice, and love.

The message remains as relevant today as it was centuries ago. We, too, are God's vineyard. Each of us has received countless blessings from the Lord: the gift of life, the love of family and friends, the support of our parish community, and above all the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. God continues to nourish us through his Word, the Eucharist, the sacraments, and the daily workings of his grace. The question these readings place before us is both simple and challenging: What kind of fruit is my life producing?

Do our words and actions reflect kindness, patience, generosity, and forgiveness? Are we helping to build peace in our homes, workplaces, and communities? Are we living as disciples whose faith shapes the way we treat others? Or have resentment, indifference, selfishness, and complacency begun to take root?

In the Gospel, Jesus develops the vineyard image even further. He tells the parable of the tenants who reject the servants sent by the landowner and finally kill his son. Through this story, Jesus points to his own rejection and death. Yet what appears to be a story of failure becomes a story of victory. The son who is rejected becomes the source of new life. As the psalm proclaims: "The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone." Human sin brought Christ to the Cross, but God's love transformed that suffering into the means of our salvation. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus opened the way to forgiveness, reconciliation, and eternal life. These readings invite us to examine our lives honestly. God is not seeking perfection, but faithfulness. He never abandons his vineyard. Instead, he continues to care for us patiently, calling us to repentance whenever we wander and encouraging growth wherever his grace finds room to work.

As we reflect on these readings, perhaps we might ask ourselves: What fruit is the Lord looking for in my life today? A kind word, an act of generosity, a willingness to forgive, a deeper commitment to prayer, or a renewed trust in God may be precisely the fruits he seeks. May we respond generously to the Lord's care, so that our lives may bear the fruits of faith, hope, love, and justice, and bring glory to the One who lovingly tends his vineyard.

Deacon John Paraphrased from <https://thewordsonunday.blogspot.com/> with the use of AI

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!

"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 is now open. You may email the parish office at office@stmarysgosport.org.uk for a form or ask Fr Nishan for a copy after one of the Masses. This sacrament preparation is open to children in year 4 and above. Deadline for Registration is 23 October

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

Memorial and Feast Days:

05 October: St Faustina Kowalska

07 October: Our Lady of the Rosary

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.

October is Month of the Holy Rosary

We encourage all families to pray the Rosary, and here are St Mary's, we will pray the Rosary before the start of the Sunday Mass. If you have time, please be in church at 10:45 to join in honouring Our Lady through prayer. **On the 11th of October, we would like to invite all families with children to join us as we offer the Rosary for unity and world peace. Pope Leo started this on the 1st of October praying with thousands of children in Rome, Ireland is scheduling it on the 7th. Let our children join the world Rosary for peace and unity.**

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! **We need them by the 25th of October. Thank you.**

CALLING OUR YOUNG SINGERS

NEW DATE: Sunday 01 November | 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.

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.

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
- **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.

BISHOP'S PASTORAL LETTER

Following Bishop Egan's Pastoral Letter last weekend, we encourage everyone to complete a short anonymous questionnaire about our Holy Habits and the diocesan mission plan. If you have access to St Mary's Facebook page, the link is there or you may scan the QR code that links directly to the questionnaire. Alternatively, use the QR code on our notice board. Thank you.



NEW PARISH MASS BOOK

It is that time already for the new parish Mass book (Year B Volume 1) to start on the First Sunday of Advent – 29 November. There are three cycles according to the Lectionary: The Church's organised selection of scripture passages appointed for the celebration of Mass throughout the liturgical year. We are currently in Year A which is principally centred on the gospel according to Matthew. For Year B starting on the First Sunday of Advent, this follows the gospel according to Mark. Mark is the shortest of the four canonical Gospels and presents the ministry of Jesus with a strong sense of movement toward His Passion, death and resurrection. As Mark's is shorter, Year B also makes substantial use of John's Gospel, particularly John 6, alongside the readings proper to the season. So Year B is not simply Mark from beginning to end. It is a carefully arranged cycle in which Mark has the principal place while other Gospel passages are used where the Church's Lectionary calls for them. **If you wish to donate towards the purchase of Year B Volume 1, contact the parish office. We continue to thank our parishioners who generously donated the Parish Mass Books we use on Sundays.**



CHILDREN'S MASS

Fr Nishan would like to introduce a monthly 11:15am Children's Mass at St Mary's to be celebrated on the 4th Sunday of each month. Our first Children's Mass will be on Sunday - 25th of October led by the children of St Mary's Primary School. In the following months, the school children and our parish children will take turns in helping lead and take part in the Mass. We hope this new initiative will encourage our children to become more involved in the life of our parish and provide a wonderful opportunity for families, school and parish to come together in faith and service.

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 THIS WEEKEND

The Leprosy Mission. The appeal will focus 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.*