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ST MARY'S WEBSITE



ST MARY'S FACEBOOK

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

11 OCTOBER 2026 – TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

10	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Charles Halford INT	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
11	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	People of the Parish Penny Lavers RIP	
12	Mon	6:00pm		Betty Hawks RIP	
13	Tue	12:00nn	St Edward the Confessor	Sam Reaside-Cleeve INT	
14	Wed	No Service			
15	Thu	12:00nn	St Teresa of Avila	Sofia Tiberio INT	
16	Fri	12:00nn	St Margaret Mary Alacoque	Peter Reaside-Cleeve RIP	
17	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Paul Keates INT	
18	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time	People of the Parish Iwuchukwu Family INT	

REFLECTION

Matthew 22:1 - 14

The parable of the wedding banquet reminds us of the extraordinary invitation God offers to each of us. A king prepares a magnificent wedding feast for his son's marriage, yet many of those invited refuse to come. Some ignore the invitation altogether, while others even mistreat the king's messengers. Jesus uses this striking story to show how foolish it is to reject God's invitation.

The feast in the parable is much more than a wedding celebration. It points to the heavenly banquet, the fulfilment of God's promise of eternal life. Throughout Scripture, God's kingdom is often described as a joyful feast, with abundant food, fine wine, friendship, and celebration. It is an image of the happiness and fullness of life that God wants to share with us.

This Gospel continues a theme from last Sunday's parable. In both stories, those who were first invited or entrusted with God's gifts fail to respond. As a result, others are welcomed in their place. The message is not simply one of judgement but also of opportunity. God's invitation remains open, and he continually reaches out to new people, calling them into his kingdom.

It is easy to focus on the more difficult parts of this Gospel, such as the king's anger and the consequences faced by those who reject him. Yet the heart of the story is not punishment but generosity. The king wants his banquet hall to be filled. God desires that all people share in his joy. Again and again, he invites us, even when we ignore him or turn away.

The image of the banquet is especially important in the Bible. The coming of the Messiah was often pictured as a great feast of celebration. Jesus is the long-awaited bridegroom, and his arrival brings joy, hope, and new life. The wedding banquet therefore becomes a powerful symbol of God's kingdom, where all are invited to share in his love.

The first reading and the psalm echo this message. God is the host who provides rich food and choice wine. He is the shepherd who spreads a table before his people. Everything is prepared by God's generosity; all that remains is for us to accept the invitation.

In Jesus' time, wedding celebrations often lasted several days. Those who missed the beginning could still come later and join the feast. This offers a comforting message for us. God does not give up on people easily. He continues to call, invite, and welcome. No matter how far we have wandered, there is still time to respond.

The banquet is ready, the invitation has been sent, and the door remains open. The question Jesus leaves with us is simple: how will we respond?

Don John

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.*



SACRAMENT OF THE 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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Parents who want to have their child baptised at St Mary's are asked to attend a programme to help them prepare for this important sacrament. We generally run four or more preparation programmes a year. The next one will be held in November 2026. The closing date for applications is midday on Friday 29 October 2026. Before filling in the online Baptism Preparation Form, please ensure that you will be available to attend the following events: *Meet and Greet introduction – 07 November 10am Exact venue to be announced nearer the date.*

Online Session 1 – Tuesday 10 November 8:00pm – 9:30pm

Online Session 2 – Tuesday 17 November 8:00pm – 9:30pm

Please contact the parish office for more details.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

If you are in the hospital or will be admitted in the hospital, please call the following Chaplaincy Nos: QA 02392 286 408 | War Memorial 02382 318 000 | Southampton Hospital 02381 206 049, and ask of a Roman Catholic Priest. **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick,** please contact the parish office if you know of any elderly or housebound people who would appreciate being offered the sacraments at home. **If you or a loved one is sick or housebound** and are unable to participate in the Sunday Eucharist, please contact the parish office and arrangements will be made for you to receive Holy Communion.

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 starts this month. 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

CALLING OUR YOUNG SINGERS

Sunday 01 November | after the 11:15am Mass | Parish Hall | Meet and Greet. 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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

25 Oct Sun	Children's Mass (Parish-led)
01 Nov Sun	All Saint's Day
02 Nov Mon	All Soul's Day
09 Nov Sun	Remembrance Sunday
27 Nov Fri	Evening Mass for the Faithful Departed 6pm
04 Dec Fri	Advent Service – Preparing the Way 6pm
13 Dec Sun	Parish Christmas Party 4pm
19 Dec Sat	Filipino Christmas Mass (Simbang Gabi) 6pm
22 Dec Tue	Bringing the Joy of Christmas (visit to care homes)
24 Dec Thu	Christmas Eve Mass 5pm & 9pm
25 Dec Fri	Christmas Day Mass 11am
Further details will be provided soon.	

WELCOME TO GOSPORT, FR TOM KLEINSCHMIDT!

Due to Fr Nishan's previously scheduled commitment, Fr Tom from St Boniface in Southampton will celebrate the Saturday Mass at 6pm here at St Mary's. Thank you, Fr Tom, for supplying in our parish. We are very grateful for your time and continued ministry.

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. 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. **If you wish to donate towards the purchase of Year B Volume 1, you may 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 Church.** 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.

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION

World Mission Sunday – Missio. Next week is our chance to show love and solidarity to our brothers and sisters overseas. In offering our prayers, we join with missionaries everywhere in communion and compassion to support them in spreading the Good News, and by giving a donation we respond to Christ's call to share our faith in Jesus so that all may experience God's love. **If donating by card, you may use our card machine at the back of the church. Thank you.**

LEPROSY MISSION UPDATE

Gabby would like to thank everyone who generously donated towards the Leprosy Mission. She would like to inform us that **St Mary's donated £565.41 to the Mission.** Gabbie is now in India visiting Leprosy Mission projects. **Thank you to all the donors!**

October is Month of the Holy Rosary

We encourage all families to pray the Rosary, and here at St Mary's, we will pray the Rosary before the start of the Sunday 11:15am Mass. If you have time, please be in church at 10:45 to join in honouring Our Lady through prayer.

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.**

STAR OF THE SEA MARIAN CONCERT

Join St Boniface parish for their Star of the Sea Marian Concert and Exhibition on **Saturday 10th October.** The afternoon gala concert will be held from 2pm at St Boniface church (413 Shirley Road SO15 3JD) and the Exhibition opens at 10:00am in the Margaret Clitherow Room. For tickets please contact Mae Felongco on 07403 096372.

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.