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ST MARYS WEBSITE



ST MARYS FACEBOOK

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

18 OCTOBER 2026 – TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

17	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Paul Keates 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
18	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time	People of the Parish Iwuchukwu Family INT	
19	Mon	6:00pm	St Paul of the Cross	Miss Mary Ann Cornelius RIP	
20	Tue	12:00nn		William Noonan RIP	
21	Wed	No Service			
22	Thu	12:00nn	St John Paul II	Laura Tiberio INT	
23	Fri	12:00nn	St John of Capestrano	Chiara Tiberio INT	
24	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	People of the Parish	
25	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Brian Davies RIP Zied Solomon RIP	

REFLECTION

29th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A

The Gospel reading begins with the Pharisees trying to trap Jesus into saying something that can be construed as rebellion against the Romans. “Shall we give tribute to the Romans,” they ask Jesus.

Jesus’ answer calls attention to the fact that the common currency of the time was Roman and so had Caesar’s image stamped on it. The image of Caesar on the coin is an indication that the money is Caesar’s. “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s”, Jesus says, “and give to God what is God’s.”

Just as Caesar’s money belongs to Caesar, so we belong to God.

But the point of Jesus’ line is also that each one of us is God’s because each of us bears, stamped in his / her soul, the image of God.

It is an honour and a glory to us that each one of us without exception is in the image of God. But it is also an awesome responsibility. When the face of a body is disfigured by self-indulgence in food or drinking or smoking, when the face of a soul is twisted by envy or hatred, the image of God in that person is warped. When others look at the face of that person they will see only a distortion of God’s image.

And so our sins ought to grieve us. Who wants to be a person whose soul shows a distorted image of God?

But the same line of Christ’s that leads to this worry and sorrow also gives the consolation for it. Just as Caesar’s money belongs to Caesar, so we belong to God. We are his own. The God who made us in his image will not leave us in our sins. Through the redemption of Christ, God will make his image lovely in each one of us.

That is why Scripture says that when Christ comes again, each one of the faithful will be found in the image of Christ. We wait in hope for that time.

Provided by Dcn John

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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.*



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. *Thank you to our anonymous donor who donated £100 towards the purchase of Mass Books.* We normally order 100 copies at £4.95 per copy. Even the smallest of donations help!



CHILDREN'S MASS NEXT WEEK

Our first Children's Mass will be on Sunday - 25th of October led by the children of St Mary's Church. Children's Mass will be a monthly 11:15am Service on the 4th Sunday of each month. We wish for this new initiative to 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.

THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION

World Mission Sunday – Missio. This week is our opportunity 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.

CROCHETED POPPIES

We are still collecting! In preparation for Remembrance Sunday, we would love to have more hand-crocheted poppies for this year's display. 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.**

Parish Office will be closed on the 22nd of October Thu, Clarinda will be attending the Employee Conference

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

We are in need of any unwanted gifts, and donations for our Christmas Raffle. If you have any that you wish to donate, kindly drop them off in the parish office during office hours or you may bring it at any of the Masses and give it to Fr Nishan. Thank you.

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
08 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.	

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. **Thank you to those who already expressed interest! We need more children!**

VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO COUNT COLLECTION

Following the recent retirement of our longtime counter, Doug Sherley, we are looking for a trustworthy individual with strong attention to detail to help count our weekly collections. To find out more, please speak to Anne Berger, Mike Slater or to Clarinda.

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES REMINDER

November 1 Sun – All Saints Day | We would like to request children to dress up as Saints on this Day. Please speak to Elsie or Clarinda for more information.

November 2 Mon – All Souls Day | As a tradition, votive candles will be available at the back of the church where you can write the names of your deceased loved ones you wish to remember. The candles will be lit at the 6pm Mass on this day. We request a £1 donation for each votive candle.

November 8 Sun – Remembrance Sunday and Blessing of Graves | The Service will start outside the church by the War Memorial for a 2-minute silence followed by the Mass. At 2pm, there will be a blessing of graves at Anns Hill Cemetery.

SACRAMENT OF THE FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Forms are available in the parish office or from Fr Nishan after the Mass. **Deadline for Registration is 23 October 2026**

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 numbers: 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. Please email Deacon Larry: lmurawski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

CURRY & QUIZ NIGHT AT ST PHILIP HOWARD

To celebrate and raise funds for the 150th Anniversary of Sacred Heart Church, there will be a curry & quiz night on Friday 20th November at St Philip Howard Church Hall, Bishopsfield Road, Fareham - 7 – 10pm | £10 per person. Bring your own refreshments (or you can order a tasty £10 curry too!). Contact Quiz Master – David B-P david@barnsley-parsons.co.uk

THE JOY OF HOPE

A 4-part CaFE series. Each part comprises of a video session followed by a short discussion. In the run up to Advent, the above sessions will be at Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Bells Lane, Stubbington PO14 2PL after the 09.30am Wednesday morning Mass, from 10.00-11.15am on 4,11,18 and 25 November and repeated at St John's, South Place, Lee-on-the-Solent PO13 9AS after 12.15pm Sunday Mass at 13.15-14.30pm on 8,15,22 and 28 November. Please join us for any one or all 4 of these sessions. All are welcome.