Priest-in-Charge: **Rev. Fr Nishan Edward**
Parish Secretary: **Clarinda Mansfield**
Deacon: **Rev Dcn John Cumpsty**
Office Hours: **Mon to Fri 9am—12pm**
Email: **office@stmarysgosport.org.uk**
Telephone: **(023) 9258 0119**



Safeguarding Officer: **Maureen Williams**
Email: **safeguarding@stmarysgosport.org.uk**
@catholicchurchingosport
www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/gosport/

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

ST MARYS WEBSITE

ST MARYS FACEBOOOK

01 November 2026 – ALL SAINTS (YEAR A)

31	Sat	06:00pm	*Vigil*	Angela Stubbins RIP
01	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	***All Saints***	Cecil Frank Wallace RIP People of the Parish
02	Mon	6:00pm	***Commemoration of All Souls***	Holy Souls
03	Tue	**10:00am**		John Fleming RIP
04	Wed	***No Service***		
05	Thu	**10:00am**		Stanislaw Skonieczny RIP
06	Fri	12:00nn		Martin Duffy INT
07	Sat	06:00pm	*Vigil*	Wilma Jago RIP
08	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	***Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time***	Georgina Savege RIP For the Fallen

CONFESSION TIMES
Tue & Thu: 9-9:45am
Fri: 11 – 11:45am
Sun: 10:30 – 11:00am

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
Tue & Thu: 9am
Fri: 11 – 11:45am

ROSARY for the unborn
Fri – from 10:00am

OUTREACH
Thu from 1:00pm & last Saturday of the month

REFLECTION

Today we honour those holy men and women who have gone before us in faith and have done so in a glorious way. As we honour these great champions of faith, let's reflect upon who they are and what role they continue to play in the life of the Church…

The Church Triumphant: Those who have gone before us and now share in the glories of Heaven, in the Beatific Vision, are not gone. Sure, we do not see them, and we cannot necessarily hear them speak to us in the physical way they did while on Earth. But they are not gone at all. St. Thérèse of Lisieux said it best when she said, "I want to spend my Heaven doing good on Earth."
The saints in Heaven are in full union with God and make up the Communion of Saints in Heaven, the Church Triumphant! What's important to note, however, is that even though they are enjoying their eternal reward, they are still very much concerned about us.

The saints in Heaven are entrusted with the important task of intercession. Sure, God already knows all our needs, and He could ask us to go directly to Him in our prayers. But the truth is that God wants to use the intercession, and therefore, the mediation of the saints in our lives. He uses them to bring our prayers to Him and, in return, to bring His grace to us. They become powerful intercessors for us and participators in God's divine action in the world.

Why is this the case? Again, why doesn't God just choose to deal with us directly rather than go through intermediaries? Because God wants all of us to share in His good work and to participate in His divine plan. It would be like a dad who buys a nice necklace for his wife. He shows it to his young children, and they are excited about this gift. The mom comes in and the dad asks the children to bring the gift to her. Now the gift is from her husband, but she will most likely thank her children first for their participation in giving this gift to her. The father wanted the children to be part of this giving and the mother wanted to make the children a part of her receiving and gratitude. So, it is with God! God wants the saints to share in the distribution of His manifold gifts. And this act fills His heart with joy!

The saints also give us a model of holiness. The charity they lived on Earth lives on. The witness of their love and sacrifice was not just a one-time act in history. Rather, charity is living and continues to have an effect for the good. Therefore, the charity and witness of the saints lives on and affects our lives. This charity in their lives creates a bond with us, a communion. It enables us to love them, admire them and want to follow their example. It is this, coupled with their continuing intercession, that establishes a powerful bond of love and union with us.

Lord, as the saints in Heaven adore You for eternity, I beg for their intercession. Saints of God, please come to my aide. Pray for me and bring to me the grace I need to live a holy life in imitation of your own lives. All saints of God, pray for us. Jesus, I trust in You.

Source: https://catholic-daily-reflections.com/2022/10/31/all-saints-day/

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.*

LAST SUNDAY'S CHILDREN'S MASS

Fr Nishan would like to thank all the parents and children who attended the Children's Mass last Sunday. It was a wonderful sight to see all our children get together for this special Service. Next month, the school children of St Mary's Primary School will lead the Children's Mass scheduled o the 22nd of November.

NEW PARISH MASS BOOKS – THANK YOU!

Thank you to two of our generous donors, we are now able to purchase the next set of Parish Mass Books, Year B Vol 1 which we are going to use from the Frist Sunday of Advent. Thank you!

SECOND COLLECTION – BAMENDA SUNDAY

Bamenda Sunday, a celebration of a partnership between our two dioceses where we learn, pray and support each other. An important part of the link has been the support we have sent over the years. Your generosity has made a huge impact on the lives of many of the poorest and most vulnerable people in Bamenda, and it most sincerely appreciated by them. Please give as generously as your contributions really do transform lives. Follow https://portsmouth.org.uk/bamenda/donate/ or use the QR code to see the different donation options and gift aid if you can. Thank you.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR – MEET & GREET – 01 NOVEMBER

We would like to request parents and children of those who would like to join the Children's Choir to please stay after Mass to meet the coordinators for an informational meeting about our new choir group, registration, and a quick Q&A before practice.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

08 Nov Sun	Remembrance Sunday
27 Nov Fri	Special Service of Remembrance | 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.	

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES REMINDER

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.***

There will also be a Pastoral Area evening Mass at St Margaret Mary in Parkgate at 7:30pm. All those who died over the last 12 months will be remembered and read out during Mass and there will be an opportunity to light a candle at Mass for them.

November 8 Sun – Remembrance Sunday and Blessing of Graves | We invite all parishioners to the Remembrance Service and observance of the 2-minute silence starting at 11am by St Mary's War Memorial. This will be followed by the 11:15am Mass.

At 2pm, there will be a blessing of graves at Anns Hill Cemetery. Do join us.

SPECIAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE – 27TH NOVEMBER

We would like to invite everyone to join us for a special Service of Remembrance on the 27th of November at 6pm, as we come together in prayer to remember our loved ones. During the service, the names of our departed parishioners will be called, and a family member or representative will be invited to come forward to light a candle in their memory. If you wish to take part in the candle-lighting, **please register the name of your loved ones on the register sheet available at the back of the church.** This will help us make the necessary arrangements for the Service. All are welcome to join us.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Our parish still needs volunteers. We are looking for:

- **Church Cleaners:** Pairs or families who can spare a couple of hours every two weeks to help clean the church. More teams mean less work for everyone.
- **Maintenance Team:** Fr Nishan would like to create a team of handymen, electricians, builders, or DIY enthusiasts willing to handle minor repairs and help us save money. If you have the skills, please join the team. We need you!
- **Counters:** anybody who can give a couple of hours once every 3 weeks or once a month to count weekly cash collections
- **Grounds Maintenance Team:** This would be a team of men and women who are garden enthusiasts who could help with the cleaning of the grounds, clearing of the brambles and tending to the plants around the church. If you have an hour or two to spare in your free time, please speak to Fr Nishan. The brambles are starting to take over the church garage and the back of the parish hall. Please help!
- **And many others.** Please speak to Fr Nishan or Dcn John.

1 Peter 4:10: *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*

REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES

Bethany Bereavement Group – Every 2nd Tuesday of the month
Bible Reflection Group – Every 1st Friday of the month
Children's Liturgy – Every 2nd Sunday of the month
Children's Mass – Every 4th Sunday of the month

REQUIEM MASS

Richard O'Callaghan RIP. The Requiem Mass for Richard is going to be held on the 5th of November at 11am followed by a committal at Portchester Crematorium at 1:30pm. Let us pray for Richard and his bereaved family and friends.

CANON DAVID MAHY – RIP

Of your charity, please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Canon David Mahy who died on Monday 26th October 2026, a priest of our Diocese of Portsmouth for 66 years. May he rest in peace.

DONATIONS NEEDED

- **Christmas Raffle Prizes.** 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.
- **Children's Musical Instruments.** Do you have any musical instruments at home that are collecting dust, e.g. old electronic keyboard, maracas, tambourines, shakers, triangles, finger cymbals? Our parish children need them for the Children's Choir

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Last call to all parents whose children are of communion age, we request that you register them for this special sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

LOST AND FOUND

We have in the office a coupler of rings, a chain with cross pendant, and a key. If you believe it is yours, please contact the parish office with a description to claim it.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY DISPLAY

We would like to thank all the people who donated crocheted poppies for this year's Remembrance display. Your crocheting skills really made a big difference as this poppy display grows year after year. We would also like to thank Elsie for creating this year's beautiful display.





This Monday, 2nd November is All Souls Day, when we honour and pray for the dead, especially for our own departed loved ones. It is definitely a day when, if we can, we should attend Mass, offering it for the faithful departed. *YouCat*, the *Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church* (London, CTS: 2011) explains well what we pray for on 2nd Novem-ber in two of its questions.

159 *What is purgatory*? **Purgatory, often imagined as a place, is actually a condition. Someone who dies in God's grace (and therefore at peace with God and people) but who still needs purification before he can see God face to face is in purgatory.**

160 *Can we help the departed who are in the condition of purgatory*? **Yes, since all those who are baptized into Christ form one communion and are united with one another, the living can also help the souls of the faithful departed in purgatory.** When a man is dead, he can do nothing more for himself. The time of active probation is past. But we can do something for the faithful departed in purgatory. Our love extends into the afterlife. Through our fasting, prayers, and good works, but especially through the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, we can obtain grace for the departed.

GUTTER CLEANING AND CHURCH ACCESS

The cleaning of the gutters at St Mary's and the parish hall is scheduled on the **11th of November Wednesday from 8am**. This means that the church will be inaccessible at this time. The alleyway will be closed whilst the work is being done. Thank you.

GOING TO HOSPITAL?

It is crucially important that when a Catholic is admitted to hospital, the family ensure that the Catholic Chaplaincy is contacted so that appropriate support can be given. One suggestion is that the patient carries a note to give to hospital staff on admission notifying staff that they are Catholic and that they would really appreciate the Catholic chaplaincy service. This could be followed up by a call from the family to the ward, making the request. Hospital staff are often under immense pressure and a person's religious details and requests may be overlooked. Let us pray for all the medical staff who are caring for the sick – and also for our magnificent chaplains in their irreplaceable work. Let us pray too that no Catholic dies without the sacramental care of Mother Church.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE - GOSPORT

Wednesday 11th November, Gosport Section of the Catholic Women's League are meeting at Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Stubbington. Mass at 12 noon will be for the intention of CWL Members past and present. Visitors will be very welcome to bring a packed lunch and stay for our Annual Review Meeting which will begin at 1.30pm. Please contact Marguerite Boulter | 01489 575663 | margieboulter@aol.com or Maria Owen | 07790 378 097 | mariaeowen@gmail.com

ANNUAL MASS FOR THE DECEASED CLERGY

The annual Mass for deceased clergy will take place on **Thursday 5th November 2026** at 12:15pm at St John's Cathedral. All are welcome to join us for this Mass.

DIOCESE LAY LEADERS CONFERENCE

Saturday 21 November . Inspired by our ten-year Mission Plan, *You Will Be My Witnesses,* the Lay Leaders Conference will take place at the Solent Hotel Whiteley near Southampton and run from 9.00am to 3.30pm. It will offer an opportunity to share experiences, explore fresh ideas and consider how clergy and laity can work together to strengthen our parishes and bring more people to know Jesus Christ. We want as many people as possible to be part of this important conversation. Whether you are involved with liturgy, catechesis, pastoral councils, outreach or any other aspect of parish life, then this is for you.

PILGRIMAGES

- **St Edmund's Pilgrimage | Saturday 14th November.** £18 pp. To celebrate the feast day of St Edmund of Abingdon. Walking from St Edmund's, Southampton, to St John's, Portsmouth. Limited tickets, early booking recommended. Contact www.pietasproject.com/events
- **Pilgrimage to Norwich & Walsingham | Monday 26th April - Thursday 29th April 2027.** *St Swithun Wells parish invites you to join their Parish Pilgrimage to Norwich & Walsingham from* Monday 26th April - Thursday 29th April 2027. Walsingham is a village in Norfolk, home of the Catholic National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady. Fr Raffaele and Fr Mario will lead us through a spiritual and prayerful time during our stay, with daily Mass and the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.Accommodation is at Elmham House, Walsingham, and we will spend a day and a half at the Shrine of Our Lady. We will travel by coach to Norwich for a full day, visiting the city's two cathedrals and the Shrine of Julian of Norwich, who is best known for writing the earliest surviving book in English by a woman. Cost: £450 ensuite, half board & coach travel per person. Deposit: £115 with booking form by 28th November 2026. Balance: £335 by 4th March 2027. More information on the poster.

FAITH SECURITY TRAINING (FST)

A new training scheme available for faith communities in England & Wales. Learn how to reduce the risk of hate crime, anti-social behaviour, and serious threats.

FST supports faith communities to:

- Gain practical knowledge to protect their congregation and premises.
- Learn how to identify and reduce risks before they become threats.
- Access expert-led training, developed with input from faith and security specialists.

The training is available through:

- Face-to-face or virtual classroom sessions, with direct access to security experts.
- E-learning modules, available soon via ProtectUK, for flexible learning.

More infomration can be found here: https://fst.cdssupport.uk/

NEEDED – PARISH CARITAS REPRESENTATIVE

The Parish Caritas Representative is a new volunteer role to support the Church to reach out to those in need in the wider community. You will connect the parish/pastoral area with Caritas Portsmouth to enable the sharing information, campaigns, initiatives and support. You will also the point of contact within a parish that will enable to the Church to respond to urgent or newly emerging needs in these unpredictable times. No experience is needed for the role, just a passion to put faith into action and to make a difference. More information can be found here: https://tinyurl.com/4zrc88jx or you can use the QR code. If you have any questions or want to apply,

A CATHOLIC FUNERAL

The ***Guidelines for Funerals and for the Care of the Terminally Ill.*** should be followed in our Diocese when planning a funeral for a Catholic person who has died. The leaflet also enables Catholics to leave instructions about their own funeral for their next of kin, and in addition, some notes are given for the care of Catholics who are terminally ill. You may find them here. https://tinyurl.com/mpyje57d. If you wish to have a copy of the guidelines, please contact the parish office at office@stmarysgosport.org.uk.

CHURCHSUITE – OUR NEW PARISH DATABASE
HOW TO ACCESS AND UPDATE YOUR PERSONAL DETAILS

ChurchSuite is a church management system — software designed specifically to help parishes and churches manage the administrative side of community life. It handles contacts, events, rotas, groups, giving, and communications in one place, accessible from any device, by as many people as need it.

Step 1 – Scan the QR Code

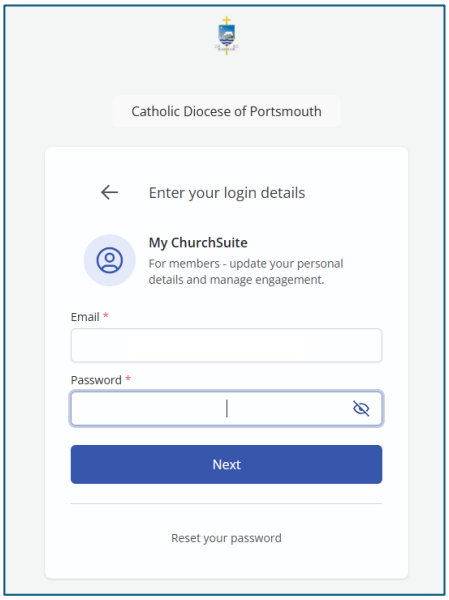
Scan the QR code using your mobile phone or tablet. This will take you to the ChurchSuite login page.

Step 2 – Log In to ChurchSuite

Enter your email address.

If this is your first time accessing ChurchSuite, or if you have forgotten your password, click **"Reset your password"** and follow the instructions to set a new password.

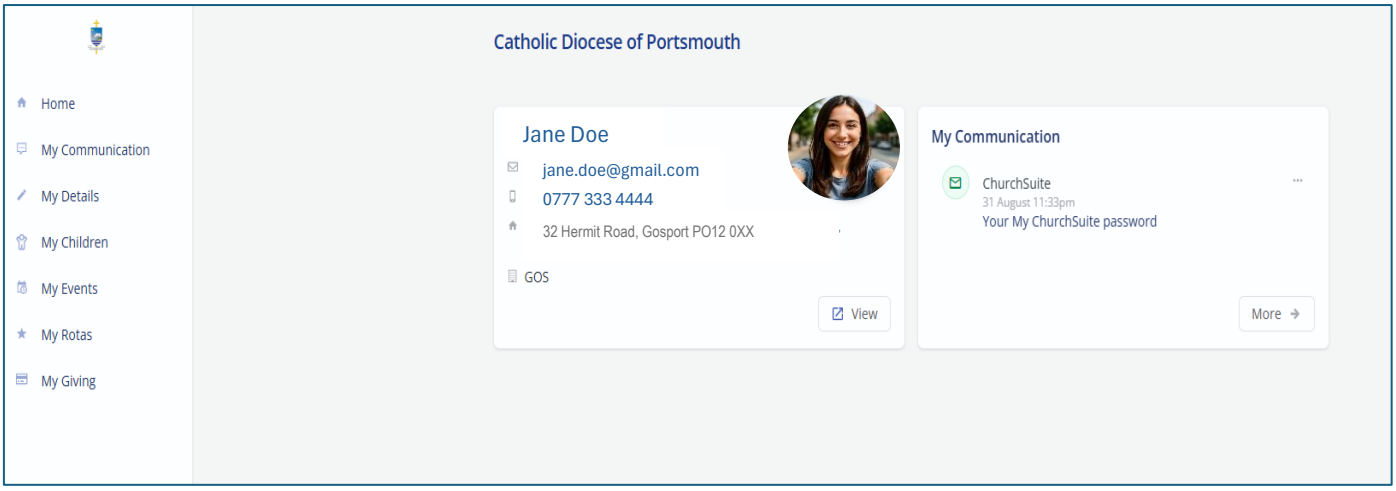
Once your password has been set, return to the login page and enter your email address and password to log in.



Step 3 – View and Update Your Details

Once logged in, you will see your personal ChurchSuite homepage, similar to the example shown below.

- **My Details:** View and update your personal information.
- **My Children:** If applicable, view and update your children's details.



The information displayed is based on the details you provided when you completed your Parishioner Registration Form.

Please check that your information is correct and up to date.

Please note: Some sections of ChurchSuite are still being set up and may not yet contain information.

Need help?

If you have difficulty logging in or accessing your details, please contact Clarinda at the parish office or email **office@stmarysgosport.org.uk**.

Thank you for helping us keep our parish records accurate and up to date.