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

08 November 2026 – THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

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
09	Mon	6:00pm	Lateran Basilica Dedication	Joe Rice INT
10	Tue	10:00am	St Leo the Great	Sr Mary Gratiana RIP
11	Wed	***No Service***		
12	Thu	10:00am	St Josaphat	Georgina Savege RIP
13	Fri	12:00nn		Dalli, Taboni & Anderton Family RIP
14	Sat	06:00pm	*Vigil*	People of the Parish
15	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	***Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time***	Jemima Campbell RIP Theresa Wall INT

CONFESSION TIMES
Tue & Thu: 9-9:45am
Fri: 11 – 11:45am
Sat: 5 – 5:45pm
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

The Foolish

In the parable, there are ten women waiting for the Lord. But when the Lord comes, half of these women are rejected. As the parable explains it, the problem is that five of the women are off shopping for oil when the Lord comes, and so they're left out. They are the foolish ones. The other five women are the wise ones, welcomed by the Lord.

How are we to understand this parable?

Love for others isn't one of the virtues of the foolish either.

Well, notice that when the ten women originally arrived at the place where they were to wait for their Lord, the five foolish women did notice that the wise women had brought extra oil with them. But humility doesn't seem to have been one of the virtues of the foolish women. When they saw that the wise women had brought extra oil for their lamps, the foolish ones apparently just felt they knew better than the wise: the oil in their lamps would not run out.

And maybe, after all, it didn't seem very important to the foolish women whether the oil in their lamps would last. When the foolish discovered that they were wrong and were short on oil, they didn't lament their mistake. Their first thought was just to demand some of the oil of the wise.

The foolish didn't care if the wise suffered in consequence. The foolish were willing to risk the welfare of the wise, provided only that the foolish had a chance of getting something for themselves. Love for others isn't one of the virtues of the foolish either.

What would have happened if the foolish women had not risked missing the Lord by going after the oil they wanted but had just waited for him instead, without oil? What would have happened if their Lord had found them in darkness but also in humility, not trying to climb to safety on the backs of others, but just acknowledging their mistakes and hoping in the Lord? Does anyone really think that their Lord would have cast them out?

Their folly lies in their insistence on having just what they want when they want it, no matter what the risk or the cost to anyone else. And that is why they are cast out.

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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.*

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND RCIC

To all the parents of our First Holy Communion and RCIC candidates, an email will be sent to you this week with all the programme schedules.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

We are looking for more children to join the children's Choir. Rehearsals happen after the 11:15am Mass on Sundays for 45 minutes. Parents can enjoy tea and coffee in the parish hall while waiting.

THE CHILDREN'S FAITH PASSPORT INITIATVE

Starting next weekend, we are introducing the Faith Passport where every child can pick up their very own blank Faith Passport. All the parents need to do is to bring your children to any of our scheduled Saturday/Sunday Mass and they can earn a weekly sticker right after the Service. The children will receive small gifts at every milestone achieved.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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.	

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.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE – GUTTER CLEANING

The guttering of St Mary's Church and parish hall will be cleaned on the 11th of November – Wednesday. The Church will be closed, the alleyway will be inaccessible, and our limited parking spaces will not be available. Apologies for the inconvenience. **The total cost to clear the guttering and flush the downpipes: £1,554.00**

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK

On the weekend of **14th/15th November**, the Second Collection will be for the Priests' Retirement Fund. This is an opportunity to support the priests who have faithfully served our parishes and communities throughout their lives. After decades of ministry, our retired priests deserve the security of knowing that the care and support they may need in later life will always be available. Your donation will help ensure that they can live with dignity and peace of mind in retirement. You can also give using the Dona contactless terminal in church by selecting Priests' Retirement Fund. Please support this appeal as generously as you can.

FLAME 2027: NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH GATHERING

Saturday 6 March 2027 | OVO Arena, Wembley

Calling all young people in Year 9 and above (up to age 21). Join over 10,000 young Catholics from across England and Wales for Flame 2027, the largest national Catholic youth event in the country. The theme is "Take Courage", mirroring the upcoming World youth Day in Seoul. **Spaces are limited, so please contact Clarinda in the parish office to find out more and to secure your place. Early Bird tickets are available, and we need names and numbers by 2nd week of December. Thank you.**

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

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE TICKETS GO ON SALE NEXT WEEK!

Don't miss your chance to win while supporting St Mary's, with a prize of £100 and £50 in cash donated by our parishioners, alongside a variety of hampers and brilliant gifts. Tickets will be available to purchase before and after Sunday Services starting this week. Look out for our fundraising volunteers. The big draw will be on the 13th of December during the Parish Christmas Party. Thank you for your wonderful support!

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

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.

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

YOUR SUNDAY COFFEE AT WORK!

Did you know that every single penny you donate during tea and coffee after the 11:125am Mass goes directly into our building fund? These donations are used exclusively for vital church repairs. Thank you for helping keep St Mary's safe and standing!