

Parochial Admin: **Rev. Fr Matthew King**  
 Parish Secretary: **Clarinda Mansfield**  
 Deacon: **Dcn John Cumpsty**  
 Office Hours: **Mon to Fri 9am—12pm**  
 Email: **office@stmarysgosport.org.uk**  
 Telephone: **(023) 9258 0119**



Chaplain War Memorial: **(023) 9258 0119**  
 Chaplain QA Hospital: **(023) 9228 6408**  
 Safeguarding Officer: **Tom Farrell**  
**safeguarding@stmarysgosport.org.uk**

 @catholicchurchingosport

 www.stmarysgosport.org.uk

## ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S

*The Catholic Church in Gosport*

### 16 June 2024 - ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

15	Sat	06:00pm	St Columba's	<i>Vigil</i>	People of the Parish
16	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	St Mary's	<b><i>Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></b>	V Rev Canon Thomas Doyle RIP Zied Solomon RIP
<b>17 Monday - 21 Friday : No Service <i>Fr Matthew is away on retreat.</i></b>					
22	Sat	06:00pm	St Columba's	<i>Vigil</i>	Gerald Quigg RIP
23	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	St Mary's	<b><i>Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></b>	Brian Smith INT People of the Parish

#### REFLECTION

Our society, someone has suggested, is suffering from “jumbootis”. We need the biggest car, the biggest house, the biggest business, and so forth. We’ve got bigger and bigger buildings, cities, and even churches. “The bigger, the better” and “the more, the merrier” seem to be the adages that govern us. But are they really true?

Many don't think so - including Jesus. In the Gospels we find Jesus giving high praise for just a cup of water, two copper coins, five measly old barley loaves and two dried up fish, little children, crowds of only two or three being gathered together, and services rendered for even the least of our brothers and sisters.

Today's Gospel account has two brief parables, both about tiny things – little seeds. The first is apparently about wheat and the second about mustard seeds, the smallest of all seeds. We're hearing a warning, a warning that tells us that we ought not to confuse size with importance.

We all know quite well that what ‘everybody is doing’ isn't necessarily healthy, or good for us, or morally right. Don't confuse large numbers with what's right or what's good for your soul. Consider your choices carefully. Don't allow yourself to be stampeded by the crowd. Jesus is giving us fair warning.

As Christians we ought to know by now that alone we can do nothing, but with God there's nothing we cannot do. So very often it is little things that grow into big things. Even though we may think we have little faith God can take it and make something wonderful out of it. God is always taking small and seemingly insignificant things and turning them into infinite worth.

We should stop selling ourselves short, selling ourselves cheaply, considering ourselves to be of little worth in the big scheme of things. We are all very important, so important in fact that God's only begotten Son died for us. Take to heart Jesus' word for you today. Live by it. God is always making big things (a whole universe in fact!) from small beginnings.

So it is that with God we walk by faith not by sight, because God is in control when we let go and let God, when we nurture and care for what He has mysteriously planted deep inside us. We will not see instant results, something for which our surrounding culture has little patience because the world only understands immediate productivity. What we will see is the tremendous things God can produce from what little we have.

*Dcn John*

#### HERE'S A STORY ABOUT A MAN WHO HAD A DREAM:

He walked into a marketplace and saw a stall with a sign, ‘Gifts of God’. He stopped, astonished, and saw an angel at the counter. ‘What are you selling?’ he asked. ‘Every gift that God gives,’ the angel replied.

‘Are they expensive?’

‘No, the gifts of God are free.’

He looked at the shelves. There were jars of joy, bottles of patience, packets of wisdom. Then he saw the gift he wanted. ‘Please give me the gift of serenity,’ he said. The angel placed it in a small gift box. It was tiny. Smaller than the man's heart.

He asked, ‘Are you sure the gift is in there?’ ‘Oh, yes,’ replied the angel. ‘At God's stall we don't sell ripe fruit. Only seeds that you need to grow.’

#### CONFESSION TIMES

Wed 06:15pm - 06:45pm St Mary (if Mass is celebrated)  
 Thu 10:30am - 11:30am St Columba (if Mass is celebrated)  
 Sat 12:00pm - 01:00pm St Mary's

#### ADORATION TIMES

Thu 10:30am—11:30am St Columba  
 Fri 10:00am - 12:00nn St Mary



## KEY DATES

### **NO MASS**

**17-21 June** - Fr Matthew will be away on retreat. There will be no weekday Masses. St Mary's will be open for private prayer and the parish office will be open except on the **21st of June Friday when both St Mary's Church and the parish office will be closed.**

**25 June – Tuesday** Fr Matthew to officiate a funeral at Sacred Heart, in Fareham

**27 June – Thursday** Fr Matthew on clergy duties

### **Every Sunday after the 11:15am Mass . Children's Rosary**

This is open to all children aged 4 to 14. This takes place in St Mary's Parish Hall—Upper Room during tea and coffee.

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

To all the parents of our FHC candidates, please take note of the following dates:

29 June - Sat 10:00am Rehearsals, St Mary's Church

**30 June - Sun 11:15am First Holy Communion Mass, St Mary's**

01 July - Mon 6:00pm FHC Catechism Session, Parish Hall

07 July - Sun 11:15am Going Forth Mass at St Mary's followed by a celebration in the parish hall

## INVESTITURE IN THE BROWN SCAPULAR

**Feast of Our Lady of Mt Carmel.** We wish to invite everyone to the Investiture in the Brown Scapular at St Mary's on the 16th of July—Tuesday after the 12nn Mass. The Brown Scapular is a symbol of Marian devotion. It is a "universal devotion" because numerous popes and saints have urged all Catholics to wear it.

## THIS WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION

**Day for Life** is the day in the Church's year dedicated to raising awareness about the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition. A debate on end-of-life issues has been in the headlines in recent months with calls for assisted suicide being expressed, especially by celebrities, a view that opposes the Catholic view that life is a gift and that we are called to care for others at the end of their lives. Link to Second Collection Day for Life fundraising page: <https://tinyurl.com/3jz9rx6e>

## NEW SUNDAY MISSAL FOR PERSONAL USE

If you wish to pre-order new Sunday Missals through the parish, please write your name, contact information, and enclose your payment of £19.95 in an envelope. The deadline is 16 June. Alternatively, you may order your Sunday Missal directly from Catholic Truth Society (CTS). Thank you.

## TAKE ACTION

We would encourage Catholics in England and Wales to respond positively to this consultation. The Government has opened a consultation on lifting the cap that for the last 14 years has limited the number of Catholic children that can be admitted into any new Catholic school. Please open the link and respond to the consultation (only name and email address are required). Responses are crucial if Catholic families throughout the country are not to continue to be deprived of a Catholic education. <https://tinyurl.com/4zbze8d2> . The consultation closes on 20 June.

Everyone is welcome for Tea and Coffee in St Mary's Hall after the 11:15am Mass. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know your fellow parishioners.

## GENERAL ELECTIONS ON 4 JULY

The Prime Minister has called a General Election for 4th July 2024. The Bishops' Conference have a webpage about the issues important to Catholics. More information can be found by following this link <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/election24/> Also, St Vincent de Paul (SVP) Society and CAFOD have produced a guide for Catholics for the General Election, with suggested questions to ask candidates. Please see [cafod.org.uk/encounter](https://cafod.org.uk/encounter) or [svp.org.uk/encounter](https://svp.org.uk/encounter) for more information.

## EVENTS AND UPDATES WITHIN THE DIOCESAN

**Pilgrimage to Lourdes . 22nd—26th July 2024.** Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, facilitated by Bishop Egan. £859 per person sharing. Please see notice board or contact [lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) for more details.

**Significant Wedding Anniversary Mass.** Are you celebrating a 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> or anniversary over 60 years? If so, Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of celebration. This will take place at St Bede's church in Basingstoke on **Saturday 7th September at 2pm**. It is a wonderful occasion to celebrate and witness to Marriage. Please send an email to [anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) to request a form for you to complete and return. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the Parish office.

## MISSIO

Many thanks to everyone for their ongoing support of Stella Maris. Our Missio Secretary, Antony Cruddas, have put some copies of the Annual Review 2023 at the back of the church for anyone who would like more information. In addition, he has a copy of "At Sea Awaiting Orders" by Fr Colum Kelly who was a Stella Maris chaplain for 16 years. Please let Antony or the parish office know if you'd like to borrow this revealing and entertaining book. Thank you.

## CARITAS PORTSMOUTH - REFUGEE WEEK

The theme for Refugee Week is 'Our Home' and they are holding an online networking event on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June from 12:30-1pm** to hear from a parish project working with refugees and asylum seekers. Everyone welcome. Please register via their website <https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk>

## PRAYER AND FASTING FOR LIFE

On **Saturday 22nd June**, the Eve of the Vigil of the Feast of St John the Baptist, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia. This is the last monthly day of prayer and fasting for life before the General Election. An election which could well result in an even more pro-abortion government than we have currently had. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed.

## A CATHOLIC FUNERAL

In 2014, Bishop Philip issued to the clergy and people of the Diocese some **Guidelines for Funerals and for the Care of the Terminally Ill**. The Guidelines 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>. When a Catholic dies, it is the usual custom of the Catholic Church for them to be brought to their parish church & for a Requiem Mass to be offered up for them. This is the case even for those who during their lifetime rarely practiced their Catholic faith. Catholics believe that when a person dies, it is a priority to offer Mass, because it is the Sacrifice of Christ & in the Mass the Church pleads to the Lord, asking him to forgive the sins and weaknesses of the deceased & to admit them into the communion of the saints.

## PARISH FINANCE

Bank Details for BACS Transfer:

Account Name: **CDP Gosport**

Account No.: **00878538**

Sort Code: **30-93-04**

Cheques payable to **CDP Gosport**.

Standing Order or GA forms are available in the office.

*Please Gift Aid your donations if possible.*



Scan the QR code  
to donate