

# THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN GOSPORT



Saint Mary's High Street  
Saint Columba's Nobes Avenue



28th/29th JULY 2018

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Sunday Readings: Year 2 (B); Weekdays: Year II; Prayer of the Church: Week I

SAT 28	Seventeenth Sunday	St Columba's	6pm	
SUN 29	" " Latin Mass	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's	9.15am 11am 5pm	Mr N.O. Abraham RIP People of the Parish Anne Lane RIP
Mon 30	Latin Mass	St Columba's	10am	Dalli & Anderton Families RIP
Tue 31	St Ignatius of Loyola	St Mary's	12 noon	George Turuta RIP
Wed 1	St Alphonsus Liguori	St Mary's	7pm	Paul Francis D'Mello (Health & Conversion)
Thu 2	St Eusebius of Vercelli	St Columba's	10am	Emma Cecilia Lane F/M
Fri 3	Feria	St Mary's	12 noon	William John Louis Joseph Cornelius F/M
Sat 4	Latin Mass Eighteenth Sunday	St Mary's St Columba's	9.30am 6pm	Mary Hathaway RIP Annamkutty Jose RIP
Sun 5	" " Latin Mass	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's	9.15am 11am 5pm	People of the Parish Owen Dugan (Vocation) Joe Cox & Family RIP

Priest-in-Charge: Fr Serafino M. Lanzetta  
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Mass at 7pm on Wednesday is preceded by the Holy Rosary at 6.30pm.

In addition to the Masses listed above, Latin Mass in the Extraordinary Form will usually be celebrated in St Mary's Church at 7am, Monday to Friday.

# PARISH NOTICES

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**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE:**

in St Mary's Church on Saturdays from 12 noon until 1pm, or by appointment.

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**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:**

on Thursdays in St Mary's Church from 8am, concluding with Pro-Life Holy Hour at 7pm. Also in St Columba's Church on Thursdays after the 10am Mass until 12 noon.

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED:**

Please pray for those who have died recently, and for those we are remembering at this time.

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL:**

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**ST MARY'S RENOVATIONS:**

Thank you to everyone who has made a contribution to the St Mary's Beautification Fund. If you have not yet made a donation, please consider doing so, as we are still a long way from reaching our fundraising goal. Cheques should be made payable to "PRCDTR-Gosport".

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**ADORATION OUTREACH:**

Every Thursday, between 1pm and 3pm, a group of parishioners go out onto the high street to invite passers-by into St Mary's to light a candle and spend some time in the presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. If you are available on Thursday afternoons, if only for half an hour or so, why not come along and take part?

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**FIRST FRIDAY & SATURDAY DEVOTIONS:**

Next month's First Friday devotions take place at Sacred Heart Church in Fareham on Friday 3rd August, beginning at 9am with the Holy Rosary. Holy Mass follows, after which there is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until Benediction at 10.30am. During Adoration, there will be a meditation on the Resurrection of Jesus and Sacred Heart devotions. The Sacrament of Penance is available after Mass. Then, on Saturday 4th August, join us at St Mary's Church for First Saturday devotions, which begin with a sung Traditional Latin Mass at 9.30am, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a meditation on the Carrying of the Cross, the Holy Rosary, and Immaculate Heart devotions. Confessions can be heard throughout the morning. After Benediction at 12 noon, the Marian Group will meet as usual in the Upper Room of St Mary's Hall for a shared lunch and a talk by one of the friars.

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**ROSARY BIKE RIDE:**

Good Counsel Network supporter Les Whittaker is undertaking a 400-mile sponsored bicycle ride to Walsingham, whilst praying 150 Rosaries in reparation for the sin of abortion, to raise funds for the GCN's important pro-life work. You can sponsor Les by visiting [justgiving.com/rosarybikeride](http://justgiving.com/rosarybikeride) or by sending a cheque to GCN (Bike Ride), PO Box 46679, London NW9 8ZT. Cheques must be payable to "The Guild of Our Lady of Good Counsel".



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**DIVINE MERCY RETREAT:**

On Saturday 18th August, from 11am to 4.30pm, the Marian Fathers from London will be leading a Divine Mercy mini-retreat at St John's Cathedral in Portsmouth. All are welcome.

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**SAINT MONICA GROUP:**

The next meeting of the St Monica Mothers' Prayer Group will be on Tuesday 7th August at 7pm in St Mary's Church.

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**MOBILITY SCOOTER FOR SALE:**

A parishioner is selling a mobility scooter in excellent condition, bought for £1,795 only three and a half years ago, for £550 (or nearest offer). If you are interested in purchasing it, please call 07710 533385 or 02392 501711.

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**FIRST COMMUNION PHOTOGRAPHS:**

are now available for the parents of this year's First Communicants to collect from the parish office. Any donations will be gratefully received.

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**PARISH WALKING PILGRIMAGE:**

Over the weekend of 18th/19th August, Father Pio will be leading a pilgrimage along the Way of Saint Augustine (Canterbury Cathedral to the Shrine of St Augustine in Ramsgate), to commemorate the 6th Century journey undertaken by St Augustine, the Apostle of England. The walk is around 19 miles long. This pilgrimage is open to all who are able to maintain a good walking pace over the required distance. For more details, to sign up, or kindly to sponsor the walk, please speak to Father Pio or call the parish office on 02392 580119. The cost of the pilgrimage is £20 per person.

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**CARE HOME VACANCIES:**

Maryfield Convent Residential Home in Hook, Hampshire (RG27 9LA) is a Roman Catholic care home for the elderly run by the Dominican Sisters of Malta. Holy Mass is celebrated daily in the convent chapel. The sisters and staff provide continuous, quality care, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. They currently have vacancies for new residents. If you would like to arrange a visit, or require further information, please call 01256 762394 and ask for Trish Davies.

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**LMS WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE:**

Every year, the Latin Mass Society organises a walking pilgrimage from Ely to Walsingham (59 miles) for the conversion of England and in honour of Our Lady of Walsingham. This year's pilgrimage takes place over the August bank holiday weekend, beginning with registration in Ely on Thursday 23rd August, and concluding with devotions in Walsingham on Sunday 26th August (although there is also a Sung Latin Mass in the Slipper Chapel on the Monday for those who are staying overnight). Traditional Solemn High Latin Mass is celebrated every day, and the Holy Rosary, traditional devotions, chants and songs are offered up along the way. For more information, please email [info@lms.org.uk](mailto:info@lms.org.uk) or telephone 02074 047284. Sponsors and volunteers are also needed.

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**FATHER SERAFINO'S NEW BOOK:**

Father Serafino's latest book, *Fatima at the Heart of the Church: God's Vision of History and Oblative Spirituality*, is now available to buy from [Amazon.co.uk](http://Amazon.co.uk). A Kindle edition is also available for download. All parishioners are warmly invited to the official book launch, which will be held in St Mary's Hall on Friday 26th October at 7pm.

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**TABLE TOP SALE:**

Back by popular demand, the wildly successful Table Top Sale that raised over £1,000 towards the St Mary's Beautification Project back in March will return to St Mary's Hall on Saturday 22nd September. If you have items to sell and would like to book up to three tables at a cost of £10 per table, please contact Tammy on 02392 520166, or email her at [tammylbt@sky.com](mailto:tammylbt@sky.com).



# The Heavenly Banquet Of Eternal Life

by Fr George M. Roth



In today's reading, we have the essential truth of God's care for His children. First, there is the Divine Providence that fulfils our bodily needs, and then there is the care that St Paul alludes to in our spiritual call from God. Earlier in his Epistle to the Ephesians, St Paul spoke of the great spiritual blessings that come to us through Jesus Christ: **"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with spiritual blessings in heavenly places, in Christ: As he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and unspotted in his sight in charity."** (Eph 1:3-4) In today's Gospel, we have one of Jesus' most important miracles, the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes, by which He feeds five thousand men (not counting the women and children). Such a miracle made all the Jews exclaim that He was indeed the prophet who was to come: **"Now those men, when they had seen what a miracle Jesus had done, said: This is of a truth the prophet, that is to come into the world."** (Jn 6:14) Jesus, of course, is more than a prophet; He is the Son of God, who has come to give us heavenly food and life more abundantly in this life and eternal happiness hereafter.

We see in today's Gospel how the multitude of people had been following Jesus for three days. No doubt they had been given many miracles and believed that Jesus would perform even more for the sick and needy. Elsewhere in the scriptures, the evangelists said that Jesus healed all the sick placed before Him: **"And all the multitude sought to touch him, for virtue went out from him, and healed all."** (Lk 6:19) These were not just a few isolated healings; everyone was cured. We also learn from the other parts of the Gospel that the people were astonished at what Jesus did and said. This, of course, is why they follow Him; they are interested in what He can do for them.

Jesus looked at the great multitude of people who had been following Him for three days, and He had compassion on them. Jesus tells His disciples to have the men recline in grass in groups of fifty and He takes the loaves and fishes, which a boy had brought, and blesses them. He tells His disciples to distribute the food to the people. When all have eaten, He instructs His disciple to collect the fragments and they filled twelve baskets full of the leftover loaves and fishes. Never before had so many people been fed in this manner. True, in today's First Reading, the prophet Elisha multiplies food to feed a hundred men: **"They shall eat, and there shall be left."** (IV Kgs 4:43) We also know that God fed the Israelites in the desert for forty years. All this notwithstanding, God feeds the whole world every day with food grown with the aid of the land, water and sun. Who can comprehend the mysteries of God's creation?

Jesus knows this, and after the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes, He leaves the people who are more interested in what He could do for them, whether materially and politically (i.e. freedom from Roman oppression): **"Now those men, when they had seen what a miracle Jesus had done, said: This is of a truth the prophet, that is to come into the world. Jesus therefore, when he knew that they would come to take him by force, and make him king, fled again into the mountain himself alone."** (Jn 6:14-15) Jesus performed this great miracle primarily to remind the people of the true bread of heaven. The next day, after walking on water across the lake, He promises to give them this true bread: **"I am the bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the desert, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven; that if any man eat of it, he may not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever; and the bread that I will give, is my flesh, for the life of the world."** (Jn 6:48-52) Jesus wanted the Jews to realise that there was power in His words. That is why He performed this spectacular miracle for all to see! Certainly, if Jesus could cure all the sick, and multiply food for thousands and walk on water, then He could give His own flesh and blood to eat and drink. This is the spiritual food, just as His words **"are spirit and life"** (Jn 6:64): **"Except you eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, you shall not have life in you. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath everlasting life: and I will raise him up in the last day."** (Jn 6:54-55) Still, many of His own disciples did not believe: **"Many therefore of his disciples, hearing it, said: This saying is hard, and who can hear it?"** (Jn 6:61-62)

Let us say with St Paul, as we see in today's Second Reading: **"I therefore, a prisoner in the Lord, beseech you that you walk worthy of the vocation in which you are called."** (Eph 4:1) We, like the multitude, have followed Jesus and have been called to the Catholic Church. We are living, as it were, in the world in preparation for the heavenly banquet where we will feast every day by seeing God, the Most Holy Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – **"face to face."** (II Jn 1:12) We have been fed on the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of our spouse, Jesus Christ, during this life as a preparation for the heavenly food. Our heavenly Father cares for us as Jesus cared for the multitude that followed Him into the desert. The promise of the Eucharist in today's Gospel is a foretaste of this heavenly banquet which will be ours for all eternity. Let us adore God in the Holy Eucharist now as a preparation for our eternal happiness in the marriage feast of heaven.