

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN GOSPORT



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



13th/14th OCTOBER 2018

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

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

SAT 13	Twenty-Eighth Sunday	St Mary's	6pm	George & Margaret Hemel RIP
SUN 14	"	St Mary's	9.15am	Charles Halford (Birthday)
	"	St Mary's	11am	People of the Parish
	Latin Mass	St Mary's	5pm	Joseph & Paul Apap & Family RIP
Mon 15	Latin Mass	St Columba's	10am	Friends of the Suffering Souls (FOSS)
Tue 16	St Hedwig	St Mary's	12 noon	
Wed 17	St Ignatius of Antioch	St Mary's	7pm	
Thu 18	Feast of St Luke	St Columba's	10am	
Fri 19	Ss John de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues & Co.	St Mary's	12 noon	
Sat 20	Latin Mass	St Mary's	9.30am	William Noonan RIP
	Twenty-Ninth Sunday	St Columba's	6pm	Betty Mapley RIP
Sun 21	"	St Mary's	9.15am	People of the Parish
	"	St Mary's	11am	Sr Charlotte McNeill
	Latin Mass	St Mary's	5pm	Joseph & Paul Apap & Family RIP

Priest-in-Charge: Fr Serafino M. Lanzetta
Parish Secretary: Jacob Campbell
Maryhouse, 32 High Street Gosport PO12 1DF
Tel: (023)92580119
Email: gosport@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Website: www.stmarysgosport.org.uk

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

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE:

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

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

on Thursdays in St Mary's from 8am, concluding with Pro-Life Holy Hour at 7pm. Also in St Columba's on Thursdays after the 10am Mass until 12 noon. **In addition, Exposition also now takes place at St Mary's every weekday morning, from 9am until 12 noon in the Holy Cross Chapel, for the needs of Holy Mother Church in these times of great turbulence.**

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED:

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL:

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?

DAY FOR CATECHISTS:

Led by the Diocesan Formation for Mission Team, the Day for Catechists takes place on Saturday 20th October in St John's Cathedral, from 10am to 4pm. Bishop Philip will celebrate the Mass, and lunch will be provided. Everyone involved or interested in catechesis and/or children's liturgy is welcome. To book your place, visit portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/catechists or call the Formation for Mission Team on 01590 681874.

ISLE OF WIGHT RETREAT:

Father Serafino will be leading a three-day retreat at the Verbum Dei Centre (PO30 1YR) on the Isle of Wight from Friday 16th to Sunday 18th November. The price per person, which includes two nights in shared accommodation and all meals, is £116. Alternatively, if you would prefer to attend only the Saturday (7am to 6pm), the price is £60, which includes three meals but no overnight accommodation. To register, please email infantjesus.retreats@gmail.com or call Marissa on 0744 5848 941.

SCIENCE OR RELIGION?:

A big diocesan symposium on the subject of science and religion is taking place on Saturday 3rd November, from 10am to 4pm, at the Winchester Discovery Centre (SO23 8SB). Two leading scientists will address the question of whether recent research into the origins of the universe suggests the existence of a creator. There will also be a series of workshops led by experts on such topics as extra-terrestrial life, artificial intelligence and human consciousness. Please register your attendance at portsmouthdiocese.eventbrite.co.uk.



CHILDREN'S CATECHISM:

Saturday 20th October, 9am

Catechism for First Communion

Monday 5th November, 7pm

Meeting for Catechists

Tuesday 6th November, 7pm

Meeting for Parents

HEADTEACHER VACANCY:

St Mary's Catholic Primary School is seeking to recruit a new headteacher to begin in September 2019. If you are interested in applying for this role, please visit tinyurl.com/stmaryshead and download the application form.

SAFEGUARDING COURSES:

Everyone in the parish who works with children and/or vulnerable adults, including all Eucharistic Ministers and Children's Catechists, **must** take the full Child Protection Course and/or the Vulnerable Adults Course every five years. These courses will be delivered in St Mary's Hall, from 7pm to 9pm, on Thursday 8th November (Child Protection) and Thursday 15th November (Vulnerable Adults). If you work with children and/or vulnerable adults, please call Barbara Davies on 02392 521686 to register your attendance at one or both of these training sessions.

FATHER SERAFINO'S NEW BOOK:

The official launch of Father Serafino's latest book, *Fatima at the Heart of the Church: God's Vision of History and Oblative Spirituality*, will be held on Friday 26th October at 7pm in St Mary's Hall, where Fatima expert Donal Foley will be the special guest speaker. All parishioners are warmly invited, and there will be a free buffet.

GUILD OF SAINT CLARE:

The next children's arts and crafts group will be held on Saturday 20th October, between 3pm and 5pm, in the Upper Room of St Mary's Hall.

PRO-LIFE APPEAL:

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) has produced postcards for you to send a message to your MP urging him/her to vote against a dangerous new bill that seeks to decriminalise abortion completely, thereby removing the few remaining legal protections for unborn babies in this country. The bill will be put before the House of Commons for a vote on Tuesday 23rd October. Please make sure you take one of these postcards, which are available at the back of the church, and send it to Caroline Dinenage, the MP for Gosport.

BRIDGEMARY RETREAT DAY:

Father Serafino's next mini-retreat at St Columba's Church will take place on Saturday 20th October, beginning at 9am with the Holy Rosary and ending by 5pm. Everyone is welcome.

LATIN AMERICAN/SPANISH NIGHT:

On Saturday 3rd November, from 7pm until 11pm, a Spanish- and Latin American-themed fundraising dinner and social evening will take place in St Mary's Hall. Tickets cost £10 per person, and can be purchased from the parish office or on the night. All monies raised will go towards the St Mary's Beautification Project.

TREE STUMP REMOVAL:

If you know anything about uprooting tree stumps, please speak to the friars, as they are in need of some expertise in the matter.

SECOND COLLECTION:

Next weekend, 20th/21st October, there will be a retiring collection for Foreign Missions.

OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY:

A Fareham parishioner is organising a pilgrimage to see the world-famous once-a-decade Oberammergau Passion Play in May 2020. For details, please call Yvette on 01329 832781.

True Wisdom

by Fr George M. Roth



In today's readings, we encounter true wisdom: **"And I preferred her before kingdoms and thrones, and esteemed riches nothing in comparison of her."** (Wis 7:8) Oh, how the present world needs to hear this! We see a world going out of control in search of pleasures and riches. These passing things of earth always leave the possessor empty and dissatisfied. Once pleasures and riches are obtained, we want more. Nothing on earth can compare to true wisdom, which is the knowledge of God. This is why the Gospel story of the Rich Young Man is so sad, because he preferred his possessions to Christ, who is Divine Wisdom Incarnate. Jesus Christ is both God and Man, and as God, He is the Word of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, who has been hidden from all eternity. Now, finally, **"the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us..."** (Jn 1:14) Jesus assumed a human nature by the power of the Holy Ghost in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We can now see God in a physical form as Man. We would never be able to comprehend the divinity of God, but we can see it reflected in Jesus, who shows us His divinity in all that He does here on earth. That is why Jesus looked upon the Rich Young Man with love, because he had kept the commandments all his life: **"And Jesus looking on him, loved him..."** (Mk 10:21)

St Paul, in today's Second Reading, from the Epistle to the Hebrews, tells us that the **"the word of God is... more piercing than any two edged sword."** (Heb 4:12) God's word penetrates the very insides of every man, his joints and the marrow of his bones: **"...and reaching unto the division of the soul and the spirit, of the joints also and the marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."** (Heb 4:12) There is nothing hidden from God! That is why, in today's Gospel, Jesus penetrates the man with a look of love. He sees that the Rich Young Man is a good man who has kept the commandments from his youth. However, Jesus also knows that he is attached to his riches and will not give them up. He loves his riches more than he loves Jesus.

Each of us receives a personal call to follow Christ. If we respond to Jesus' invitation, we will be filled with peace and joy. We have to choose God in preference to all the riches and pleasures of this world. What a contrast this is with the Rich Young Man, who went away sad, for he had **"great possessions."** (Mk 10:32) St Mark does not tell us Jesus' reaction to him, but we can imagine that Jesus must have been very disappointed, even saddened. Jesus would have given him so much more, even a hundredfold more: **"Amen I say to you, there is no man who hath left house or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or children, or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who shall not receive an hundred times as much, now in this time; houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions: and in the world to come life everlasting."** (Mk 10:29-30)

When the Rich Young Man walks away from Jesus, Jesus tells His Apostles, **"Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches, to enter into the kingdom of God?"** (Mk 10:24) Jesus does not condemn the possession of riches, but only those who **"trust in riches."** Those who use their riches for the benefit of others will save their souls. Witness the recent canonisation of St Katharine Drexel, one of the richest women in America in the nineteenth century; she used her inheritance for the good of others in her missionary work for the Indian and African-American children of the United States, establishing many schools and orphanages. Now she is a saint in heaven with so many other saints, like St Francis and Clare of Assisi, who also gave up their riches to serve Jesus Christ in the religious life.

But for those who trust in riches, living for this world and all that money can buy, it will be very difficult – if not impossible – to save their souls: **"It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."** (Mk 10:25) The metaphor of camel and the eye of a needle refers to the gate in Jerusalem known as "the Eye of the Needle." In order for the camel to pass through the gate, it would first have to be relieved of all its cargo. Similarly, if we want to enter heaven, we have to rid ourselves of all our worldly possessions. Needless to say, the Apostles were very worried and asked Jesus, **"Who then can be saved? And Jesus looking on them, saith: With men it is impossible; but not with God: for all things are possible with God."** (Mk 10:26-27)

Today, more than ever in the history of the world, we see the truth of St Paul's words: **"For the desire of money is the root of all evils..."** (1 Tim 6:10) Everyone wants the good life with all that money can buy! It has been such a problem that social commentators have invented a new word by combining the words "affluent" with "influenza" to form "affluenza"! It is an apt commentary on the disease of our time, which is as fatal to the soul as influenza is to the body. For most people being rich is all important; being rich and successful is desired, while being poor is a disgrace. We ought often to ask ourselves, **"For what doth it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and suffer the loss of his own soul?"** (Mt 16:26)