

# THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN GOSPORT



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



8th/9th SEPTEMBER 2018

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

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

SAT 8	Twenty-Third Sunday	St Columba's	6pm	Blake Alistair Keates (Birthday)
SUN 9	" " Latin Mass	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's	9.15am 11am 5pm	Mary Charlton RIP People of the Parish Keki Stock & Family RIP
Mon 10	Latin Mass	St Columba's	10am	Oscar Knight (Birthday)
Tue 11	Feria	St Mary's	12 noon	Patrick & Margaret McGuigan RIP
Wed 12	The Most Holy Name of Mary	St Mary's	7pm	Special Intention
Thu 13	St John Chrysostom	St Columba's	10am	
Fri 14	Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross	St Mary's	12 noon	Jack Pirie F/M
Sat 15	Latin Mass  Twenty-Fourth Sunday	St Mary's  <b>St Mary's</b>	9.30am  6pm	Paul & Joseph Apap & Family RIP
Sun 16	" "  Latin Mass	St Mary's St Mary's  St Mary's	9.15am 11am  5pm	People of the Parish Owen Dugan (Vocation) Paul & Joseph Apap & 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 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, Adoration will now take 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.**

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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, which so far stands at just over **£20,000**. 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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## GUILD OF ST CLARE:

The next children's arts and crafts group will be held from 3-5pm on Saturday 15th September in the Upper Room of St Mary's Hall.

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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 in paperback (£13) or Kindle (£5.14) format. A few copies are also on sale in the repository at a discounted price of £11. 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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## ST MONICA'S GROUP:

will meet again in St Mary's Church at 7pm on Tuesday 11th September. All mothers, whether Catholic or not, are welcome at this monthly prayer group.

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## SECOND COLLECTIONS:

This weekend's second collection is for the Catholic Education Service.



### **IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM FATHER SERAFINO:**

"We are facing a moment of great turbulence in the Church due to the plague of sexual abuse and coverups by Church authorities. These abuses are not primarily paedophilic, but are for the most part ephhebophilic (involving sexual interest in adolescents) and homosexual; more than 80% of clerical sexual abuses involve adolescent boys. These abuses, which are always delicts (crimes) in the eyes of Church law, seem now quite widespread. They have been perpetrated not only in the USA, as we know from the McCarrick case and the Pennsylvania grand jury report, but also in Ireland, Australia, Chile and Honduras, and very soon there will be an independent report into child sexual abuse in England and Wales as well. In the meantime, an 11-page letter, written by a former Apostolic Nuncio to the USA, Msgr Carlo Maria Vigano, who is accusing Pope Francis of covering up the McCarrick case, has come out. Vigano is known to be a trustworthy person, and the American Cardinal DiNardo has stated that 'the questions raised [by Vigano] deserve answers that are conclusive and based on evidence.' Let us all pray in this moment of dismay that truth and justice may soon triumph, and that the Immaculate Church will emerge victorious over impurity and corruption. You can find the Vigano letter at [tinyurl.com/y9d4tqag](http://tinyurl.com/y9d4tqag). There is also an excellent interview with the American Bishop Robert Barron, who speaks candidly of the issues at stake, which you can find at [youtu.be/ncMEXr60AeI](http://youtu.be/ncMEXr60AeI)."

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### **NIGHTFEVER:**

Our next NightFever is on Saturday 15th September, starting at 7.30pm (after the 6pm Mass at St Mary's). NightFever is a wonderfully simple way of reaching out to others and bringing them into the presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Everyone is warmly invited to come along and spend some time – even just a few minutes – in the calm and quiet of our church, to light a candle and say a prayer, to experience the love and mercy of God. Volunteers are always needed; if you can help out for 30 minutes or longer, please call Mike on 02392 554537. NightFever ends with Benediction at 10.30pm.

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### **TABLE TOP SALE:**

Back by popular demand, the 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).

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### **APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA:**

On Tuesday 18th September, a special Mass in honour of the Our Lady Stella Maris (Star of the Sea) will be celebrated by Bishop Philip at 12.15pm in St John's Cathedral, followed by a reception. All are invited to come along and pray for seafarers and the important work of the Apostleship of the Sea. Please RSVP by emailing [salvina@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk](mailto:salvina@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk).

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### **ADULT CATECHISM CLASSES:**

The new RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) programme will begin on Friday 14th September, from 6.30-8pm in the Upper Room of St Mary's Hall. The purpose of these weekly classes is to educate those interested in learning about the Faith, to catechise new candidates for reception into the Church, and to re-catechise the faithful of the parish who would like to explore the Faith more deeply. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to attend, please contact Friar Philomeno or the parish office.

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### **FESTIVAL OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM:**

takes place at St Agatha's Church in Portsmouth (PO1 4AD) on Saturday 29th September. Solemn High Mass will be celebrated according to the Ordinariate Use of the Roman Rite at 11am, followed by a buffet lunch. The Mass setting will be Mozart's Sparrow Mass, and the sermon will be preached by Fr Anthony Glaysher of St Joseph's Church in Aldershot.

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### **CHILDREN'S CATECHISM:**

Catechism classes for the children of our parish will begin again on Saturday 13th October. If you would like your child to take part in these, please fill out one of the parental consent forms available at the back of the church. These classes are for children ages four and up.



# The Miracle of God's Grace

by Fr George M. Roth



In today's readings, we see the great transformation that will come to a person because of the presence of the Divine Messiah, Jesus Christ. First, the prophet Isaiah in the First Reading prophesies to the Jewish people that the time of the Messiah will be one in which great miracles will happen. The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dumb will speak and the lame will walk. Truly, these will be great times! In the Gospel, we see the fulfilment of these prophecies in the person of Jesus Christ, who came to give all an abundance of life. The Jews and Gentiles praise Jesus as someone very special: **"And so much the more did they wonder, saying: He hath done all things well; he hath made both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak."** (Mk 7:37)

While the miracles of Jesus astound the people, the real transformation of Jesus' miracles is in the soul. Jesus frees us from sin, which blinds us and makes us deaf to spiritual things. Jesus opens our ears to hear the Word of God, and loosens our tongue to praise and proclaim the miraculous works of God. He opens our eyes to see the truths of our faith. How many of us are blind, deaf and dumb to the truths of the Catholic faith! How many are bound up in sin and in great darkness! They are spiritually blind, deaf to truth, and too ignorant to speak of God's truth.

St Augustine, in commenting on today's Gospel, says **"that the tongue of someone united to God will speak of the good, will bring to agreement those who are divided, will console those who weep. God will be praised, Christ will be announced."** When the truth of God comes into our lives, we will enjoy the fruits of the Holy Ghost: charity, peace, joy, patience, kindness, gentleness, generosity, goodness, faithfulness, chastity, modesty and continence (cf. Gal 5:22-24). These fruits will only come into the lives of those who live in sanctifying grace by obeying God's Commandments. To be in God's friendship, we must avoid mortal sin, which destroys the life of grace in the soul. This is the miracle of which Isaiah speaks when he says of the coming of the Messiah, **"Then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall be free; for waters are broken out in the desert, and streams in the wilderness. And that which was dry land, shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water."** (Is 35:6-7) Jesus Christ brings us springs of living water with His grace to give us an abundant life in our souls: **"He that believeth in me, as the scripture saith, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."** (Jn 7:38) St James tells us in the Second Reading, **"Hearken, my dearest brethren: hath not God chosen the poor in this world, rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which God hath promised to them that love him?"** (Jas 2:5)

These rivers of living water (grace) that Jesus promises us will be for eternal life. This is what Jesus promised us in the Gospels for the last few weeks: **"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 6:51-52) Jesus will give us eternal life if we eat of His Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist. No longer will we be blind, deaf, dumb or lame, as we are in this life. Whatever earthly suffering we have endured will be turned into heavenly glory. There will be no mourning, no sickness, and no suffering in heaven. We will see God face-to-face and praise Him for His goodness in redeeming our souls from sin. In heaven, we will have a multitude of delights, as St Paul tells us: **"That eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man, what things God hath prepared for them that love him."** (I Cor 2:9) What the prophet Isaiah says of the coming of the Messiah for the Jewish people is only a foreshadowing of the heavenly banquet that God has in store for those who love Him and keep His Commandments. At present, in this life, we do not see truly as we are blind, deaf, dumb and lame to the wonderful life God has prepared for us in eternity. We need to pray that all souls will be transformed by the miracle of God's grace and become pure of heart, that they might see God in this life: **"Blessed are the clean of heart: for they shall see God."** (Mt 5:8)