

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN GOSPORT



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



18th/19th AUGUST 2018

TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

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

SAT 18	Twentieth Sunday	St Columba's	6pm	Anne Lane RIP
SUN 19	"	St Mary's	9.15am	People of the Parish
	"	St Mary's	11am	Owen Dugan (Vocation)
	Latin Mass	St Mary's	5pm	Andrew Kale & Family RIP
Mon 20	Latin Mass	St Columba's	10am	Special Intention for Conversion
Tue 21	St Pius X	St Mary's	12 noon	Vicente Canciller RIP
Wed 22	Queenship of Mary	St Mary's	7pm	Briget
Thu 23	St Rose of Lima	St Columba's	10am	George Notley RIP
Fri 24	Feast of St Bartholomew	St Mary's	12 noon	Special Intention for Conversion
Sat 25	Latin Mass	St Mary's	9.30am	Anne Lane RIP
	Twenty-First Sunday	St Columba's	6pm	Elaine Udall RIP
Sun 26	"	St Mary's	9.15am	Theodora Wall RIP
	"	St Mary's	11am	People of the Parish
	Latin Mass	St Mary's	5pm	Ken Stephenson & 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

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 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.

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:

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 £17,000. 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".

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?

CATHOLICS IN HEALTHCARE:

The Catholic Medical Association invites all young (18-35yrs) Catholics in healthcare (doctors, nurses, medical students, student nurses, pharmacists, etc.) to the Third Annual CMA Youth Conference at St Aloysius' Church in London (NW1 1TA) on Saturday 29th September. Speakers and a panel will explore the meaning of the culture of life in relation to healthcare and how to live by that culture in professional and personal life. There will be a small fayre to showcase the work of lay and religious organisations related to healthcare. Entry is by donation. Please be generous in order to enable the continued work of the Catholic Medical Association's New Evangelisation (CMANE). The CMANE supports young Catholics in healthcare. The suggested donation is £5, payable at the door. To register, please visit buildingacultureoflife.eventbrite.co.uk.

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 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".



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.

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.

LMS WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE:

Every year, the Latin Mass Society organises a walking pilgrimage from Ely to Walsingham (59 miles) for the conversion of England. This year's pilgrimage begins on Thursday 23rd August and ends 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 or telephone 02074 047284. Sponsors and volunteers are also needed.

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.

OUR LADY'S BIRTHDAY:

On Saturday 8th September, we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To mark this happy occasion, Father Serafino and Father Pio will be giving a special conference on St Maximilian Kolbe and the Immaculate Heart in St Mary's Hall following the 9.30am Latin Mass. Afterwards, at about 12.30pm, there will be a Marian procession around Gosport high street, followed by refreshments back at St Mary's Hall. All are welcome.

FATIMA PILGRIMAGE:

Between Tuesday 11th and Monday 17th September, the Divine Mercy Apostolate of the Marian Fathers will be leading a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal. The £795 per person package includes return flights from Heathrow, 6 nights of half board accommodation in an en suite twin room, all travel expenses and guided tours. To book, or for more information, please call 020 8998 0925 or email info@divinemeracy.org.uk.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR VACANCY:

The Parish of Fareham & Portchester is seeking an experienced person with excellent secretarial, interpersonal and workload management skills to become their new parish administrator. To find a full job description and application form, please visit portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/vacancies. Applications must be submitted by 5pm on Monday 20th August. Interviews will be held on the afternoon of Wednesday 29th August.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS:

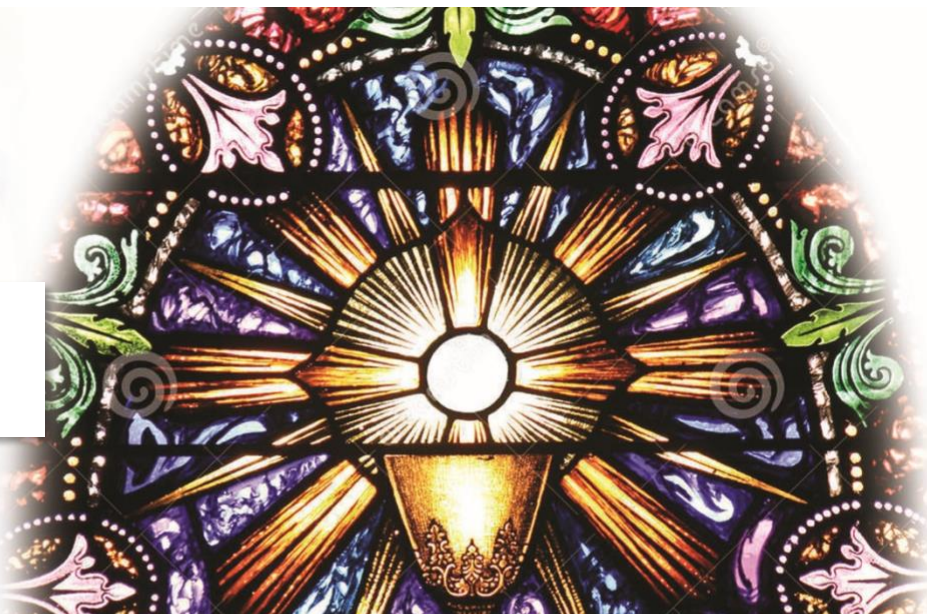
take place at St Mary's Church on Saturday 1st September. Latin Mass at 9.30am, followed by Adoration with the Holy Rosary, a meditation on the Crucifixion and Immaculate Heart devotions until Benediction at 12 noon. The Marian Group then meets in the Upper Room of St Mary's Hall for a shared lunch and a talk by Father Serafino. Confession is available.

ST MARY'S BLOG:

Have you visited the parish blog yet? You can find it at stmarysgosport.org.uk/blog. Recent articles include Father Serafino's introduction to the Marian spirituality of St Maximilian Kolbe, and an ancient and beautiful but little-known account of Our Lady's Dormition.

A Divine Invitation

by Fr George M. Roth



The First Reading from today's Mass, from the Book of Proverbs, includes the Lord's timeless invitation to all souls: **"Whosoever is a little one, let him come to me. And to the unwise she said: Come, eat my bread, and drink the wine which I have mingled for you."** (Prov 9:4-5) The banquet is an image frequently found in the Sacred Scripture. It is used to announce the coming of the Messiah, full of good things and blessings; Francis Fernandez, in his *Conversation with God*, tells us that, **"in a special way, the banquet is a prefiguring of the Holy Eucharist wherein Jesus Christ gives Himself to us as food."** In the Gospel for today, St John records Jesus' words in the Synagogue of Capharnaum, where He promises to give the Jews the true bread of heaven, His own flesh, for their salvation: **"He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath everlasting life: and I will raise him up in the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed: and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, abideth in me, and I in him."** (Jn 6:55-57) Jesus gives us His Body and Blood to eat and drink, and promises all those who do so eternal life: **"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)

As food for the soul, Holy Communion enhances the supernatural life of the soul and protects it from evil. It helps to combat our evil inclinations and strengthens us against sin. It enkindles our charity and inspires us with contrition for our sins. It also erases the effects of the venial sins that we have confessed, and preserves us from mortal sin. In addition, we have in the Holy Eucharist this pledge of Jesus Christ that we will have eternal life: **"He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath everlasting life: and I will raise him up in the last day."** (Jn 6:55) In an ancient antiphon used in Eucharistic devotion, we pray, **"O Sacred Banquet, in which Christ is received... the soul is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory to us is given."**

The image of the banquet or marriage feast is used in Sacred Scripture to describe the great joy and happiness for the union of the soul with God. Jesus Himself announces that He will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine: **"And I say to you, I will not drink from henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I shall drink it with you new in the kingdom of my Father."** (Mt 26:29) This is the new wine to which the prophet Isaiah alludes: **"And the Lord of hosts shall make unto all people in this mountain, a feast of fat things, a feast of wine, of fat things full of marrow, of wine purified from the lees."** (Is 25:6) We have a foretaste of this new wine in Holy Communion, when we have the happiness of being able to be with Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament and enter in some way into heaven while still on earth. **"Build up a faith in the Holy Eucharist,"** says St Josemaria Escriva. **"Be filled with wonder before the ineffable reality. We have God with us; we can receive Him every day and, if we want we can speak intimately with Him, just as we talk with a friend, as we talk with a brother, as we talk with a father, as we talk with love itself."**

St Paul warns us in today's Second Reading to combat evil by being filled with the Holy Spirit: **"But as wise: redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore become not unwise, but understanding what is the will of God. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is luxury; but be ye filled with the holy Spirit."** (Eph 5:16-18) It is so easy to be caught up in the wickedness of the world; this is why St Paul enjoins us to be **"filled with the holy Spirit, speaking to yourselves in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual canticles, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to God and the Father."** (Eph 5:18-20) We need to use time well; St Augustine would have us **"purchase eternity with the coin of time."** The Holy Eucharist is a foretaste of our eternal glory. The more we partake of the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ in the Holy Eucharist, the more we will grow in grace and achieve heavenly glory. St John Marie Vianney, the Cure of Ars, speaks of the Holy Eucharist as **"an eternal pledge to us. It assures us of heaven. This is the dowry sent to us by heaven as a promise that one day it will be our resting place. What is more, Jesus Christ will cause our bodies to rise again with greater glory, insofar as we have frequently and everlastingly received Him in Holy Communion."**