

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN GOSPORT



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



16th/17th JUNE 2018

ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

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

SAT 16	Eleventh Sunday	St Mary's	6pm	People of the Parish
SUN 17	" " Latin Mass	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's	9.15am 11am 5pm	Alexander Wall RIP George Notley RIP Owen Dugan (Vocation)
Mon 18	Latin Mass	St Columba's	10am	Stanislaw Skonieczny RIP
Tue 19	St Romuald	St Mary's	12 noon	Vowles Family RIP
Wed 20	St Alban	St Mary's	7pm	Ian & Bernadette Knight RIP & Holy Souls
Thu 21	St Aloysius Gonzaga	St Columba's	10am	George Notley RIP
Fri 22	Ss John Fisher & Thomas More	St Mary's	12 noon	William McGrath RIP
Sat 23	Latin Mass Twelfth Sunday	St Mary's St Columba's	9.30am 6pm	Private Intention Brian Extance RIP
Sun 24	" " Latin Mass	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's	9.15am 11am 5pm	William Cliffe RIP People of the Parish Anthony Miles RIP

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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:

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

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, who was sent by Pope Gregory the Great to bring the Faith to the English. The walk is around 19 miles long. Upon arriving at the Shrine of St Augustine, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered. 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.

SACRED HEART OF JESUS:

Throughout June, which is the month dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Litany of the Sacred Heart is prayed in St Mary's Church every day during Holy Hour (7-8pm), except on Wednesdays, when it is prayed after the 6.30pm Rosary.

HANDYMAN NEEDED:

We currently have a few odd jobs around St Mary's Church and Hall that need doing. If you think you might be able to help, please contact the parish office.

FIRE DRILLS:

The diocese now requires parishes to hold annual fire drills. Next weekend, 23rd/24th June, there will be a short fire drill at the end of each Sunday Mass (6pm, 9.15am, 11am and 5pm). Once the Mass has ended, please remain in your seats and wait for the alarm to be raised, then simply follow the fire wardens' instructions. This will take five minutes at most.



CHILDREN'S CATECHISM:

Monday 18th June, 7pm

Meeting for Catechists

Saturday 23rd June, 9am

First Communion & Confirmation Catechism

GLASTONBURY PILGRIMAGE:

On Sunday 8th July, a group of parishioners and two friars will be participating in the Diocese of Clifton's annual pilgrimage to Glastonbury, which is led by Bishop Declan Lang. A minibus will leave from outside St Mary's Hall at 9am, to return at about 7pm (times TBC). The day begins at the Shrine of Our Lady with the Holy Rosary at 11.30am, and ends with the Pilgrimage Mass at 3.30pm. The procession, led by the Bishop, commences at 2.15pm. The Sacrament of Penance will be available from 12 noon until 3pm. If you would like to join the pilgrims travelling from Gosport, please contact the parish office.

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. This has proven to be a very successful outreach, and a very rewarding ministry for those involved. If you are available on Thursday afternoons, if only for half an hour or so, why not come along and take part?

FLAME 2019:

Booking for Flame, which takes place on 2nd March 2019, is now open. This is a highlight national event for Catholic youth (ages 18-25) in Wembley Arena, featuring inspirational speakers and award-winning music. Last year 350 young people attended from the Diocese of Portsmouth, joining more than 8,000 others from across the United Kingdom. To book, please call Tom Sellars on 01329 318869.

SACRED HEART MINI-RETREAT:

Fr Desmond Connolly will lead a day of reflection, "Reflections on the Sacred Heart of Jesus from the French School of Spirituality", at the Saint Joseph Centre in Ashurst (SO40 7DU) on Sunday 24th June. The day runs from 10am to 4pm, and includes Holy Mass and a simple lunch. A voluntary donation of £22.50 would be greatly appreciated. To book your place, please email fatherdes@icloud.com or leave a voicemail message on 02380 292337.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE:

From Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th August, the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph will be leading the annual St John Paul II Pilgrimage for the New Evangelisation. This is a 50-mile walking pilgrimage from Bury St Edmunds to Walsingham, so participants must be able to walk long distances at a steady pace. To book, visit www.dominicansistersofstjoseph.org/JPII or call 01590 681874.

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

This weekend's second collection is in aid of Day for Life. Next weekend, 23rd/24th June, there will be a second collection for the First Holy Communion flowers fund.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING:

The parish finance committee will meet again next week, Wednesday 20th June, at 10.45am in the Upper Room of St Mary's Hall.

PRO-LIFE DAY OF FASTING:

Please pray and fast on Saturday 23rd June for the end of abortion in the British Isles. In light of the disastrous result of the Irish abortion referendum, it is more important than ever to call on God's grace. For more information, visit www.goodcounselnetwork.com.

ANNUAL NAVAL MASS:

takes place in St John's Cathedral at 10am on Sunday 8th July, followed by a drinks reception in the Cathedral Discovery Centre. Please call 02392 723660 for details.

The Mystery Of God's Grace In The Soul

by Fr George M. Roth



Today's readings tell of the growth of plants in nature. Jesus uses nature in parables to make us see the great mysteries that the visible creation can explain to us. St Paul says, **"For the invisible things of him, from the creation of the world, are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made; his eternal power also, and divinity."** (Rom 1:20) In the First Reading, the Prophet Ezekiel tells us of the magnificence of the great cedars of Lebanon, which God has created for us as an illustration of His mighty power and wisdom: **"I myself will take of the marrow of the high cedar, and will set it: I will crop off a tender twig from the top of the branches thereof, and I will plant it on a mountain high and eminent."** (Ez 17:22) In the Gospel reading from St Mark, Jesus uses the growth of the seed to illustrate the mystery of the Kingdom of God: **"And he said: So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the earth... For the earth of itself bringeth forth fruit, first the blade, then the ear, afterwards the full corn in the ear."** (Mk 4:26-28)

Jesus uses the Parable of the Mustard Seed to reveal the mystery of the grace in the soul: **"It is as a grain of mustard seed: which when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that are in the earth: And when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs..."** (Mk 4:31-32) Like the mustard seed, which grows mysteriously into a large plant, the soul grows spiritually with the divine life of God (i.e. sanctifying grace) that comes into the soul at Baptism. The Holy Spirit infuses into every soul in the state of grace the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven infused virtues, the blessings of the Eight Beatitudes, and the twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit. The growth of holiness is due to the Holy Spirit's action with grace and accompanying virtues and blessings in each soul.

The Holy Spirit continues to sanctify every soul every minute of the day. He does this through innumerable inspirations, which are, as St Francis de Sales tells us, **"the attractions, motions, rebukes, and interior compunctions, lights and intuitions which God works in us. So He strengthens our heart with His blessings, with His care and fatherly love, so as to arouse us, move us, impel us and draw us to holy virtues, to heavenly love, to good resolution: in short, to all that leads to our eternal life."** The Holy Spirit does this by means of many graces in the form of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, which effect the action of grace in soul. These gifts are fear of the Lord, piety, counsel, fortitude, wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.

The gift of fear enlightens us to understand, as Pope St John Paul II says, that **"sin is at the root of the moral evils which divide and ravage society."** The gift of piety enables us to have the ardent desire to please God in all things, and to devote ourselves wholeheartedly to the service of God. If we wish to respond to the inspirations of the gift of piety, we must make every effort to be kind and gentle, and to form the habit of seeing in everyone a child of God and our brother. The essence of the gift of piety concerns our relationship to God, our Father, as His sons and daughters. In his book *In Conversation with God*, Fr Francis Fernandez explains the gift of counsel: **"The gift of counsel is like a supernatural instinct for knowing which way gives glory to God... The Paraclete inspires us when we choose the means to carry out God's will. He leads us along paths which involve charity, peace, joy, sacrifice, fulfilment of duty, and faithfulness in small things. He marks the path for us at every instant."** The theologian and mystic Matthias Scheeben explains the gift of fortitude: **"The gift of fortitude assists and quickens the virtues of fortitude and patience, that even in the greatest dangers it may not fail. It animates our courage in order that we may, out of love for God, undertake ever greater and more difficult works and never relax or despair in our high endeavours."** By the gift of knowledge, the Holy Spirit helps us to see the nothingness of this world and of creatures: **"For what doth it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and suffer the loss of his own soul?"** (Mt 16:26) By the gift of understanding, we come to a deeper knowledge of the mysteries of the Faith. Our faith is limited in understanding the mysteries of God. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can penetrate God's mysteries with His enlightenment of our minds in a supernatural way. While the gift of understanding enables us to penetrate God's mysteries, the gift of wisdom gives us a delightful knowledge of them, allowing us to taste and savour them. Through this gift, we experience God through love: **"O taste, and see that the Lord is sweet."** (Ps 33:9)

Like the seed in nature, the growth of sanctifying grace in the soul begins with the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. Thereafter, the soul receives the seven infused virtues (faith, hope, charity, prudence, justice, temperance and fortitude) and the blessings of the Eight Beatitudes: **"Blessed are the poor in spirit... Blessed are the meek... Blessed are they that mourn... Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice... Blessed are the merciful... Blessed are the clean of heart... Blessed are the peacemakers... Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice's sake..."** (Mt 5:1-10) From these gifts, virtues and blessings, the soul is given the twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit: charity, goodness, peace, joy, kindness, patience, faithfulness, generosity, gentleness, modesty, chastity and continence. The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that these fruits are **"the first fruits of eternal glory"** even here on earth. How blessed we are to receive sanctifying grace, which is the seed in our soul for eternal life.