

# THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN GOSPORT



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



17th/18th MARCH 2018

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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

|        |  |   |                       |  |
|--------|--|---|-----------------------|--|
| SAT 17 | Fifth Sunday of Lent                   | St Columba's  | 6pm                   | Peter Sewell (Health)  |
| SUN 18 | "<br>"<br><br>Latin Mass               | <b>St Columba's</b><br><b>St Columba's</b><br><br><b>St Columba's</b> | 9.15am<br>11am<br>5pm | People of the Parish<br>Joseph & Catherine<br>Gonsalves (Health)<br>Friends of the Suffering<br>Souls (FOSS) |
| Mon 19 | Latin Mass<br>(Solemnity of St Joseph) | St Columba's  | 10am                  | George Notley RIP  |
| Tue 20 | 5th Week of Lent                       | <b>St Columba's</b>   | 12 noon               | Francis 'Bob' Ody RIP  |
| Wed 21 | 5th Week of Lent                       | <b>St Columba's</b>   | 7pm                   | William Cornelius F/M  |
| Thu 22 | 5th Week of Lent                       | St Columba's  | 10am                  | George Notley RIP  |
| Fri 23 | 5th Week of Lent                       | <b>St Columba's</b>   | 12 noon               | Peter Sewell (Health)  |
| Sat 24 | Latin Mass<br>Palm Sunday              | <b>St Columba's</b><br>St Columba's                                   | 9.30am<br>6pm         | John Connolly RIP<br>Lynsey Norris RIP   |
| Sun 25 | "<br>"<br><br>Latin Mass               | <b>St Columba's</b><br><b>St Columba's</b><br><b>St Columba's</b>     | 9.15am<br>11am<br>5pm | Margaret Parrotta RIP<br>People of the Parish<br>Fr Serafino Lanzetta<br>(Ordination Anniversary)            |

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:**

in St Columba's Church on Thursdays after the 10am Mass until 12 noon. There will be no Exposition at St Mary's Church while the work on the floor is ongoing.

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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:**

***The work on the new floor at St Mary's is taking longer than expected, so the church is unlikely to reopen until Wednesday 28th March at the earliest.*** Thank you to everyone who has donated to help fund this ongoing renovation project. 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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**MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE:**

On Saturday 14th April, there will be a Marriage & Family Life Seminar in St Mary's Church and Hall from 9.30am (beginning with the Latin Mass) until 2.30pm. Topics include marriage preparation/enrichment, Natural Family Planning (NFP), and Catholic grandparents.

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**VISITS TO THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND:**

Father Pio will be visiting parishioners in nursing homes throughout next week. The following week, Father Serafino will visit those who are housebound.

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**MARCH FOR LIFE:**

If you are interested in attending either of the following two pilgrimages, please register on the parish website ([www.stmarysgosport.org.uk](http://www.stmarysgosport.org.uk)):

- 1) March for Life in London, Saturday 5th May. We are planning to take the Pro-Life and Marian Groups together. Since this is a First Saturday, a Holy Mass will be celebrated in St Mary's Church at 8.30am. We will then travel to London by minibus, arriving well before the march sets off from Parliament Square at 2pm.
- 2) March for Life in Rome, Saturday 19th May. Together with flights and accommodation, this will cost in the region of £300 per person for 5 days in Rome. We plan to leave on Thursday 17th May and return on Monday or Tuesday, 21st/22nd May. The trip will also include visiting many of the wonderful sites that the Eternal City has to offer.

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**EASTER FLOWERS FUND:**

There will be a second collection for flowers at all Sunday Masses this weekend and next.



### CHILDREN'S CATECHISM:

Monday 19th March, 7pm

Meeting for Catechists

Saturday 24th March, 9am

First Communion & Confirmation Catechism

Monday 16th April, 7pm

Meeting for Catechists

### LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE:

On Monday 26th March, there will be a special penitential service at 6.30pm in St Mary's Hall. This is specifically aimed at children, although everyone is welcome. The children are then invited to stay for a screening of the movie "Marcelino", the heart-warming tale of a miracle experienced by an orphan boy raised in a monastery.

### 40 DAYS FOR LIFE:

ends on Sunday 25th March. You are invited to stand and pray peacefully during a forty-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside St Mary's Community Health Campus on Milton Road in Portsmouth (PO3 6AD) and/or the BPAS clinic in Bournemouth (BH8 8LS). To sign up, please visit [40daysforlife.com/Portsmouth](http://40daysforlife.com/Portsmouth) or [40daysforlife.com/Bournemouth](http://40daysforlife.com/Bournemouth).

### PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE:

will meet again at 10.45am on Friday 23rd March in the Upper Room of St Mary's Hall.

### TABLE TOP SALE:

On Saturday 24th March, between 10am and 3pm, St Mary's Hall will host a Table Top Sale. There will be an entrance fee of just 20p (for adults only; no charge for children). If you have items to sell, please contact the parish office to book up to three tables at a charge of £10 per table. Bottles of any shape, size or contents are needed for a tombola/bottle stall; please bring these to the parish office or leave them in the collection box at St Columba's. Tea, coffee, homemade soups, noodles, cakes and freshly-baked cream teas will be available on the day. Cake donations are very welcome.

### SERVICE TIMES DURING HOLY WEEK

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|------------------------|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK    | St Columba's              | Holy Mass<br>(Latin in Extraordinary Form)   | 10am                        |
| TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK   | Cathedral                 | Chrism Mass  | 11am                        |
| WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK | St Mary's                 | Holy Rosary<br>Holy Mass   | 6.30pm<br>7pm               |
| MAUNDY THURSDAY        | St Mary's                 | Office of Tenebrae<br>(Psalms & Prayers in Gregorian Chant)<br>Mass of the Lord's Supper<br>(Latin in Extraordinary Form)<br>Mass of the Lord's Supper<br>(Followed by Adoration until Midnight) | 7am<br>4pm<br>8pm           |
| GOOD FRIDAY            | St Mary's                 | Office of Tenebrae<br>Stations of the Cross<br>Solemn Liturgy<br>Solemn Liturgy<br>(Latin in Extraordinary Form)   | 7am<br>2.15pm<br>3pm<br>5pm |
| HOLY SATURDAY          | St Mary's                 | Office of Tenebrae<br>Easter Vigil<br>(Latin in Extraordinary Form)<br>Easter Vigil  | 7am<br>2pm<br>8pm           |
| EASTER SUNDAY          | St Columba's<br>St Mary's | Holy Mass<br>Holy Mass<br>Holy Mass<br>(Latin in Extraordinary Form)   | 9am<br>11am<br>5pm          |

# God's Great Plan Of Salvation

by Fr George M. Roth



The lesson for today's reading is very special, as it reveals to us the whole key to why Jesus Christ became Man. He is our salvation! There is no other way to eternal salvation but through Him. If we want to save our soul, we need to put all our trust in Jesus Christ, as today's Gospel tells us, because He is the one who already purchased our redemption by His suffering on the Cross: **"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all things to myself. (Now this he said, signifying what death he should die.)"** (Jn 12:32-33) Before the coming of Jesus, Satan – the prince of this world – had mankind in his hands, but Jesus conquered sin and Satan: **"Now is the judgment of the world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out."** (Jn 12:31) The Father has glorified Jesus, who in obedience to the Father fulfilled His plan of salvation: **"Father, glorify thy name. A voice therefore came from heaven: I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again."** (Jn 12:28) The Father speaks these words as Jesus is about to begin His hour of suffering on the Cross.

In today's First Reading from the prophet Jeremiah, we see how God was planning a new covenant with the Jewish people. It is, as we see in today's Gospel, the unbelievable event of God becoming Man for the forgiveness of sins. All will know God, as they will see God's Son in the flesh: **"And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying: Know the Lord: for all shall know me from the least of them even to the greatest, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."** (Jer 31:34) Could anything be more consoling than God forgiving our sins and no longer remembering them?

In today's Second Reading, St Paul tells us that Jesus' suffering in obedience to His Father is the cause of our salvation: **"And whereas indeed he was the Son of God, he learned obedience by the things which he suffered: And being consummated, he became, to all that obey him, the cause of eternal salvation."** (Heb 5:8-9) All who follow Jesus Christ and obey Him are assured of their eternal salvation.

Jesus' glory will come now with the hour of His suffering and death: **"...The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. Amen, amen I say to you, unless the grain of wheat falling into the ground die, itself remaineth alone. But if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit..."** (Jn 12:23-25) This can only happen by Jesus' sacrifice of His own life on the Cross; just as the seed must die in order for plant to live, so Jesus must die for us to live: **"Amen, amen I say to you, unless the grain of wheat falling into the ground die, itself remaineth alone. But if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit..."** (Jn 12:24-25) Jesus also reminds His followers that they too must lose their lives if they wish to follow Him: **"...He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world, keepeth it unto life eternal."** (Jn 12:25) Jesus gives us His own example in obedience to the Father; He does not want to be delivered from the hour of suffering, as this is why He came into this world: **"Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour. But for this cause I came unto this hour. Father, glorify thy name. A voice therefore came from heaven: I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again."** (Jn 12:27-28) Jesus' whole life was to give the Father the greatest honour and glory. This is why He is the firstborn of all creation, because He gives the Father such great glory. By glorifying the Father, Jesus will in turn be glorified by the Father, because of the unity of love within the Blessed Trinity. There is no more sublime a teaching in the world than Jesus' offering of Himself to the Father on the Cross for the Father's glory and the salvation of our souls.

God the Father loves mankind so much that He offers His own son for our salvation. The Son, in obedience to the Father, offers Himself for our salvation: **"For God so loved the world, as to give his only begotten Son; that whosoever believeth in him, may not perish, but may have life everlasting."** (Jn 3:16) St Peter, in his First Epistle, tells us how precious is the price of our redemption: **"Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things as gold or silver, from your vain conversation of the tradition of your fathers: but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb unspotted and undefiled."** (1 Pt 1:18-19) Let us be grateful to God for redeeming us at such a great price. Let us pray and sacrifice for the salvation of souls, as Our Lady requested at Fatima, with the Holy Rosary and penance: **"Many souls go to hell because they have no one to pray for them or make sacrifices for them."**