

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN GOSPORT



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



29th/30th SEPTEMBER 2018

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

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

SAT 29	Twenty-Sixth Sunday	St Columba's	6pm	
SUN 30	" " 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
Mon 1	Latin Mass	St Columba's	10am	Rev John Martin F/M
Tue 2	The Holy Guardian Angels	St Mary's	12 noon	George Turuta RIP
Wed 3	Feria	St Mary's	7pm	
Thu 4	St Francis of Assisi Solemn High Latin Mass (St Francis of Assisi)	St Columba's St Mary's	10am 7pm	Thanksgiving to St Francis (Prayers Answered)
Fri 5	Feria	St Mary's	12 noon	
Sat 6	Latin Mass Twenty-Seventh Sunday	St Mary's St Columba's	9.30am 6pm	Alban Connolly (Birthday) Aleyamma
Sun 7	" " Latin Mass	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's	9.15am 11am 5pm	Alban Connolly (Birthday) People of the Parish Captain Dugmore F/M

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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 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:

TABLE TOP SALE:

Thank you to everyone who took part in last Saturday's Table Top Sale, which raised a very respectable £926 in spite of the bad weather. With this contribution, the St Mary's Beautification Fund now stands at just under £22,000. Thanks are due in particular to Tammy and Jim, who organised the event.

A DAY WITH MARY:

is coming to St John's Cathedral, led by Father Serafino and Father Pio, on Saturday 13th October, from 9.45am to 5.15pm. A Day With Mary emphasises worship of the Blessed Sacrament and devotion to Our Lady. It includes Mass, the Rosary, Adoration and Benediction, Acts of Consecration, Confession, Enrolments in the Brown Scapular and the Miraculous Medal, and much more.

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.

NEW PAINTING IN ST MARY'S HALL:

Our parish is blessed to have among its members a very gifted artist in Clare Fox, who has recently produced a truly magnificent painting of Our Lady with the Child Jesus. The image, entitled *Mary, Mother of the Infant Saviour*, which Clare has so kindly donated to the parish, is now on display in St Mary's Hall. Parishioners are warmly invited to come and view it for themselves, and it is hoped that all who see it will be inspired to a greater love for and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. We are very grateful to Clare for this beautiful gift.



CHILDREN'S CATECHISM:

Monday 8th October, 7pm

Meeting for Catechists

Saturday 13th October, 9am

Catechism for All Children

Saturday 20th October, 9am

First Communion & Confirmation Catechism

It is not too late to register your child for these classes. If you wish to do so, please visit the parish office to complete a parental consent form.

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.

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 in St Mary's Hall on Friday 26th October at 7pm. All parishioners are warmly invited.

PARISH FILM NIGHT:

The next parish film, *Je M'appelle Bernadette* ("My Name Is Bernadette"), a French biopic about St Bernadette Soubirous, the seer of Lourdes, will be shown in St Mary's Hall on Friday 5th October at 7.30pm.

PRO-LIFE APOSTOLATE:

Sunday 7th October is the Annual Parish Pro-Life Pilgrimage to Walsingham, which, as usual, will depart at 6am from outside St Mary's Hall.

NEW COUNTERS' ROTA:

for October-December has now been published. If you are a counting volunteer, you will find your copy in an envelope addressed to you at the back of St Mary's Church.

HUMANAE VITAE CONFERENCE:

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, a conference on "The Church's Solution to the Sexual Revolution" will be held at the Church of Our Lady of Peace & Blessed Dominic Barberi in Reading (RG6 7DA). The day begins at 9am and ends with Holy Mass at 3.30pm. Among the speakers will be Catholic Universe columnist Caroline Farrow.

MISSIO BOXES:

It is time again to empty the red boxes. If you normally have yours collected, expect to hear from your usual collector. Otherwise, please bring your box to the parish office.

The Salvation Of Souls Is The Father's Business

by Fr George M. Roth



Today's scriptures relate to the primary business of God, which is the salvation of souls. When Jesus was found after being lost in the temple for three days, He answered His Mother, **"How is it that you sought me? Did you not know, that I must be about my father's business?"** (Lk 2:49) The Father's business is the salvation of souls. God uses men as His instruments to help souls to salvation. In today's First Reading, from the Book of Numbers, we see how God gave His Spirit to the seventy elders. Moses understood the reason why even the two elders who were not at the tabernacle were given the Spirit. To those who objected, he said: **"Why hast thou emulation for me? O that all the people might prophesy, and that the Lord would give them his spirit!"** (Num 11:29) In a similar circumstance in today's Gospel, Jesus answers His disciples when they complained that others who were not His disciples were also casting out devils: **"Do not forbid him. For there is no man that doth a miracle in my name, and can soon speak ill of me. For he that is not against you, is for you."** (Mk 9:38-39)

All those who are inspired by the Spirit of God work for the salvation of souls. St Paul, who persecuted the early Christians, was chosen by Jesus to be an instrument in the salvation of the gentiles in the early Church. Filled with the Holy Spirit, he spoke out boldly to remind both Jew and Gentile that no unrepentant sinner will enter heaven: **"Know you not that the unjust shall not possess the kingdom of God? Do not err: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor the effeminate, nor liars with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor railers, nor extortioners, shall possess the kingdom of God."** (1 Cor 6:9-10) St Mark, in today's Gospel, tells us that we need to do violence to ourselves to rid ourselves of every sin or vice which could cause our eternal damnation: **"And if thy hand scandalise thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life, maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into unquenchable fire."** (Mk 9:42)

Jesus repeats this phrase three times, as it is an essential teaching of two of the punishments of hell; there will be fire for all eternity, and there will be the terrible pain of remorse. For all eternity the damned soul will suffer the pain of having lost God, and the realisation that if he had only kept the commandments and lived with charity to God and to his neighbour, he would not be in hell but in heaven. It is hard for us to imagine that these two punishments are of such intensity; all in hell will never be at peace, and will suffer reproaches for the evil that they have done from all the other lost souls there. In addition to regret for having lost God, there will be everlasting reproach and perpetual shame, as the prophet Jeremiah said: **"And I will bring an everlasting reproach upon you, and a perpetual shame which shall never be forgotten."** (Jer 23:40) There is no friendship in hell, only shame: **"You were a Catholic, a first Communicant, a priest, a bishop, a preacher..."** There will be reproach for all unforgiven sins: **"You lied, you stole, you committed adultery, you contracepted, you killed your baby, and you cheated your neighbour."** The shame and pain of these punishments will not be for a minute, but for every minute of every day, morning, noon and night, year in and year out, for centuries and for all eternity.

Anyone who thinks that that these punishments are an exaggeration should consider the words of Jesus in today's Gospel: **"And whosoever shall scandalise one of these little ones that believe in me; it were better for him that a millstone were hanged around his neck, and he were cast into the sea."** (Mk 9:41) A millstone is about two to three thousand pounds. To have one around one's neck and to be thrown into the sea would be better than what will happen to anyone who causes a little one – either a child or a "little one" in faith – to sin! St James, in today's Second Reading, gives us additional sins that could cause one to lose his soul: **"Behold the hire of the labourers, who have reaped down your fields, which by fraud has been kept back by you, crieth: and the cry of them hath entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. You have feasted upon earth: and in riotousness you have nourished your hearts, in the day of slaughter."** (Jas 5:4-5)

These punishments of hell are a reminder of the absolute truth of hell's existence so that you will do all in your power to save your soul and the souls of others. Nowadays, no one believes in hell! They think that everyone is saved and in heaven! Padre Pio told one woman who said that she did not believe in hell, **"You will believe when you get there!"** They used to say that the road to hell is paved with good intentions. Many souls are there who promised to be good and repent, but never did. Our Lady of Fatima showed the three little children the fires of hell: **"You have seen hell, where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to My Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace."** She also told them, **"Many souls go to hell because there is no one to pray and sacrifice for them."** At every one of the six monthly apparitions at Fatima, She beseeched the children to pray daily the Holy Rosary. Our Lady promised to assist all those who practise the devotion of the First Saturdays on five consecutive months with all the graces necessary for salvation at the hour of their death.