

# THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN GOSPORT



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



7th/8th APRIL 2018

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

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

SAT 7	Divine Mercy Sunday	St Columba's	6pm	People of the Parish
SUN 8	"	St Mary's	9.15am	Mary Sewell (Health)
	"	St Mary's	11am	Jean Barratt RIP
	Latin Mass	St Mary's	5pm	(Easter Novena)
Mon 9	Latin Mass (Annunciation)	St Columba's	10am	(Easter Novena)
	<b>Requiem Mass</b> <b>Solemnity of the</b> <b>Annunciation</b>	<b>St Mary's</b> <b>St Mary's</b>	<b>11.30am</b> <b>7pm</b>	<b>Anne Lane RIP</b> Pamela & Michael O'Farrell (Wedding Anniversary)
Tue 10	2nd Week of Easter	St Mary's	12 noon	O'Brien Family RIP
Wed 11	<b>Requiem Mass</b> St Stanislaus	<b>St Mary's</b> St Mary's	<b>10.30am</b> 7pm	<b>Thomas Stark Burns RIP</b> Mary Sewell (Health)
Thu 12	2nd Week of Easter	St Columba's	10am	Beryl Evans (Intentions)
Fri 13	St Martin I	St Mary's	12 noon	Anne Guttridge RIP
Sat 14	Latin Mass	St Mary's	9.30am	Janette Phelan (Birthday Intentions)
	Third Sunday of Easter	St Columba's	6pm	Christina Sewell (Health)
Sun 15	"	St Mary's	9.15am	People of the Parish
	"	St Mary's	11am	Anna Hill (Birthday)
	Latin Mass	St Mary's	5pm	Friends of the Suffering Souls (FOSS)

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 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.

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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 donated to help fund the renovation work, which is now complete. 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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**GUILD OF ST CLARE:**

will meet for the first time on Friday 20th April, between 4pm and 6pm, and again on Saturday 21st April, between 10am and 12 noon. Donations of arts and crafts tools and materials are very welcome and most appreciated.

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**ADORATION OUTREACH:**

Last Thursday, between 1pm and 3pm, over 70 people accepted an invitation to come into St Mary's to light a candle and pray before the Blessed Sacrament. How many hearts were touched, only God knows. Three parishioners, supported by Father Serafino, covered those two hours. It was so rewarding. If you are available on Thursday afternoons, if only for half an hour or so, why not come along and take part? With your help, who knows how many more hearts will be touched... and lives changed?

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**ST MONICA'S PRAYER GROUP:**

meets every Tuesday at 7pm in St Mary's Church. This is an opportunity for mothers of the parish to come together to pray the Holy Rosary and participate in a short Bible study session. All mothers – whether Catholic or not – are warmly invited.

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**SECOND COLLECTION:**

The next second collection is for the Clergy Training Fund on Sunday 22nd April.

**CHILDREN'S CATECHISM:**

Monday 16th April, 7pm

Meeting for Catechists

Tuesday 17th April, 7pm

Meeting for Parents

Saturday 21st April, 9am

Catechism for All Children

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**DONATION ENVELOPES:**

Boxes of envelopes for Sunday offerings and special collections for the new financial year are now available from the back of the church for those who have registered for them.

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**ROSARY ON THE COAST:**

The "Rosary on the Coast" campaign is lay initiative to invite the faithful of all the nations of the British Isles to gather at various sites along the coast and pray the Holy Rosary at 3pm on Sunday 29th April for faith, life and peace in the British Isles. The rectors of our two national Marian shrines have given "Rosary on the Coast" their full backing and encouragement. Please put the date in your diary, and visit [www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk](http://www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk) for more information, including details of the designated gathering points along the coast.

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**PARISH BINGO NIGHT:**

On Saturday 21st April, from 7pm to 11pm, there will be a parish bingo evening with a buffet in St Mary's Hall, to raise money for the St Mary's Beautification Project. Tickets cost £8 for adults and £3.50 for children (5-12yrs), and are available to purchase from the parish office. A free taxi service will be available for the elderly; please call the parish office to book.

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**ITEMS FOR SALE:**

A parishioner is selling an 18 month-old 32" Hitachi TV for £70, a 3 year-old mobility scooter for £795, and a 6 month-old recliner chair for £795 (bought for £4,500). If you are interested in purchasing any of these items, please call Sandra on 02392 501711 or 07710 533385.

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**RED MISSIO BOXES:**

If you have a red Missio box, please bring it to the parish office on or after Sunday 15th April.

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**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](http://www.dominicansistersofstjoseph.org/JPII) or call 01590 681874.

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**DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS:**

Since today is Divine Mercy Sunday, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be sung in St Mary's Church at 3pm, followed by selected readings from the Diary of St Faustina and Veneration of the Image. There will then be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 4pm until the Latin Mass begins at 5pm. Confession will be available.

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**WITNESS TO LIFE IN THE SHADOW OF DEATH:**

This is a nine-day novena of prayer and witness outside the abortion centre at 108 Whitfield Street, London W1T 5BE (the nearest tube station is Warren Street), between 8am and 4pm each day from Wednesday 18th April until Thursday 26th April (only 12 noon to 1pm on Sunday 22nd April). The Good Counsel Network invites you to come with a loving and prayerful attitude to bear peaceful witness to the sanctity of life. Visit [www.goodcounselnetwork.com](http://www.goodcounselnetwork.com) for more information.

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**HOMEMADE INDIAN FOOD:**

The Nelson and Jason families have kindly offered to help raise funds for the St Mary's Beautification Project by preparing delicious homemade Indian takeaways for parishioners at St Columba's on Saturday 5th May. Meals must be pre-ordered by calling the parish office, and can be collected and paid for (£5 per head) as you leave the 6pm Mass.

# Divine Mercy

by Fr George M. Roth



The words of today's Gospel – **“Because thou hast seen me... thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and have believed”** (Jn 20:29) – are very appropriate for today's Feast of Divine Mercy. We have to trust in the words of Jesus both in the Gospel and also to St Faustina. Jesus frequently spoke of mercy during His earthly life. He went so far, as we see in today's Gospel, to ordain His Apostles and their successors in the priesthood to forgive sins: **“Receive ye the Holy Ghost. Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained.”** (Jn 20:22-23) The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance/ Confession) is so necessary to our salvation, yet there are so many who do not believe. This is why Jesus came to us with the message of Divine Mercy, which He gave to St Faustina in Poland just before the Second World War. This is a most important message for our times, which are in such great darkness.

Our Holy Father Pope St John Paul II gave us this Feast of Divine Mercy, and has written much about the need to go to the fount of mercy by reciting the Chaplet of Divine Mercy: **“At no time... especially at a moment as critical as our own, can the Church forget the prayer that is a cry for the mercy of God... The Church has the right and the duty to appeal to the God of mercy ‘with loud cries’.”** Our Blessed Lord told St Faustina that He cannot refuse a soul who begs for mercy: **“Souls that make an appeal to My mercy delight Me. To such souls I grant even more graces than they ask. I cannot punish even the greatest sinner if he makes an appeal to My compassion, but on the contrary, I justify him in My unfathomable and inscrutable mercy.”** Jesus tells us to **“beg for mercy for the whole world... No soul that has called upon My mercy has been disappointed or brought to shame.”**

Jesus told St Faustina that souls who come to Him with trust receive such an abundance of graces that they radiate them to others: **“When a soul approaches Me with trust, I fill it with such an abundance of graces that it cannot contain them within itself, but radiates them to other souls.”** How is this done? **“You are to show mercy to your neighbours always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it.”**

Sanctifying grace is one of the most important doctrines of our Faith. To be ignorant of divine grace is to be ignorant of the Catholic faith. At the Last Supper, Jesus told us, **“I am the vine: you the branches: he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same beareth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing.”** (Jn 15:5) We can only grow in holiness and bear much fruit with the grace of God. We received this sanctifying grace at our baptism, when we were made children of God, heirs of heaven, and sharers in God's divine nature. We were also called to be spouses of Christ – our eternal destiny in heaven. Grace is nothing other than sharing in God's love. In fact, another name for sanctifying grace is love: **“God is love.”** (1 Jn 4:16) So when we share in God's love, we share in all the perfections of God: His goodness, charity, patience, generosity, gentleness, purity, joy, and so many other wonderful virtues. This is sharing in the divine nature of God. This is why, when we practice virtue, pray, do good works, and receive the sacraments, we grow in grace and merit more eternal glory. Our eternal glory will depend upon the amount of grace in our soul when we die: **“But they that are learned shall shine as the brightness of the firmament.”** (Dan 12:3) Those who lose this grace through mortal sin can have it restored through the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). How blessed we are to have God's Feast of Divine Mercy!

Jesus asked St Faustina to promote the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, which should be said frequently, especially at the hour of Divine Mercy (3pm): **“As you hear the clock strike the third hour, immerse yourself completely in My mercy, adoring and glorifying it... In this hour you can obtain everything for yourself and for others for the asking; it was the hour of grace for the whole world – mercy triumphed over justice.”** He also promised, **“In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of me in virtue of My Passion.”** This is why, when we pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, we say, **“For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.”**

Speaking of the image of Divine Mercy, Jesus said, **“The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous (Baptism). The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls... These two rays issued forth from the very depths of My tender mercy when My agonised Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross. These rays shield souls from the wrath of My Father. Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him... Not in the beauty of the colour, nor of the brush lies the greatness of this image, but in My grace.”**

Jesus Himself requested the Feast of Divine Mercy on the first Sunday after Easter (during the Easter Octave). He promised, **“The soul that will go to Confession (within eight days before or after the Feast) and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened... My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity.”**