

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN GOSPORT



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



15th/16th SEPTEMBER 2018

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

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

SAT 15	Twenty-Fourth Sunday	St Mary's	6pm	
SUN 16	" " 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 17	Latin Mass	St Columba's	10am	Bosoni, Chiesa & Wilson Families RIP
Tue 18	Feria	St Mary's	12 noon	Anderton & Dalli Families
Wed 19	St Januarius	St Mary's	7pm	
Thu 20	Ss Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang & Co.	St Columba's	10am	
Fri 21	Feast of St Matthew	St Mary's	12 noon	
Sat 22	Latin Mass Twenty-Fifth Sunday	St Mary's St Columba's	9.30am 6pm	
Sun 23	" " Latin Mass	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's	9.15am 11am 5pm	People of the Parish Paul & Joseph Apap & Family 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 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, Adoration will now take 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:

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 **£20,000**. 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".

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. The deadline for bookings is Sunday 30th September.

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.



PRO-LIFE APOSTOLATE:

Two things of note. First up, 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. Second, a big thankyou to all those who got involved in the SPUC Postcard Appeal and wrote to the Home Secretary, Sajid Javid, who has since announced before Parliament: "Having considered the evidence... I have reached the conclusion that introducing national buffer zones [around abortion clinics] would not be a proportionate response [to pro-life prayer vigils], considering the experiences of the majority of hospitals and clinics, and considering that the majority of [pro-life] activities are more passive in nature." This is a great victory for the pro-life movement and freedom of expression in this country. Thanks be to God.

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.

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.

Donations of cakes and bottles for the tombola are much appreciated.

APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA:

On Tuesday 18th September, a special Mass in honour of the Our Lady Stella Maris (Star of the Sea) will be celebrated by Bishop Philip at 12.15pm in St John's Cathedral, followed by a reception. All are invited to come along and pray for seafarers and the important work of the Apostleship of the Sea. RSVP by emailing salvina@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk.

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.

FESTIVAL OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM:

takes place at St Agatha's Church in Portsmouth (PO1 4AD) on Saturday 29th September. Solemn High Mass will be celebrated according to the Ordinariate Use of the Roman Rite at 11am, followed by a buffet lunch. The Mass setting will be Mozart's Sparrow Mass, and the sermon will be preached by Fr Anthony Glaysher of St Joseph's Church in Aldershot.

CHILDREN'S CATECHISM:

Catechism classes for the children of our parish will begin again on Saturday 13th October. If you would like your child to take part in these, please fill out one of the parental consent forms available at the back of the church. These classes are for children ages four and up.

SECOND COLLECTION:

This weekend's collection is for the Home Missions.

The Cross: 'The Greatest Secret Of The King'

by Fr George M. Roth



The most important question that we can answer is, "Who is Jesus Christ?" We have to answer, like St Peter in today's Gospel, **"Thou art the Christ."** (Mk 8:29) Jesus is the Anointed One, the Messiah, the only Begotten Son of God, the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, and Our Lord and Redeemer. He is the One who is the greatest priority in my life; He is my happiness, my success, and my hope in all my struggles. Like St Francis, we should exclaim continually, **"My God and my All!"** Like St Paul, we should also say, **"But the things that were gain to me, the same I have counted loss for Christ. Furthermore I count all things to be but loss for the excellent knowledge of Jesus Christ my Lord; for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but as dung, that I may gain Christ."** (Phil 3:7-8) There should be nothing more important to us than Jesus Christ. When we have Him and His sanctifying grace, we have everything.

In today's Gospel, Jesus reveals for the first time to the Apostles that He must suffer and die and rise again: **"And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the ancients and by the high priests, and the scribes, and be killed: and after three days rise again."** (Mk 8:31) This revelation was strange to the Apostles, since they had witnessed His miracles and, like the Jews, were looking for a political Messiah to liberate the Jewish people from Roman oppression. When St Peter objects to this troubling revelation, Jesus rebukes him: **"Go behind me, Satan, because thou savorest not the things that are of God, but that are of men."** (Mk 8:33) Here Jesus uses the same words, **"Go behind me, Satan,"** as He does during His temptation in the desert (cf. Mt 4:10). Jesus will not be prevented from doing His Father's will. This is why He has come into the world. All of Scripture foretells of His Passion, Crucifixion and Death on the Cross. This is what Isaiah says in the First Reading: **"I have given my body to the strikers, and my cheeks to them that plucked them: I have not turned away my face from them that rebuked me, and spit upon me."** (Is 50:6) This is how God the Father shows His love for men, by sending His only Son into the world to die for men's sins and restore the life of grace in the soul: **"By this hath the charity of God appeared towards us, because God hath sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we may live by him. In this is charity: not as though we had loved God, but because he hath first loved us, and sent his Son to be a propitiation for our sins."** (1 Jn 4:9-10) This life is the sacramental life of the Church, which Jesus merited for us on the Cross; this is why **"blood and water,"** (Jn 19:34) symbolising the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Baptism, flowed from His side when the Roman soldier pierced it with a lance. St Anselm said that sin is such an infinite offense against God that only a God could repair it. But God cannot suffer! Therefore, God must become a man and suffer for our sins on the Cross. This is the great mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God as Man. Without His death on the Cross, the gates of heaven would never have been opened to us. The Psalmist says, **"Sacrifice and oblation thou didst not desire; but thou hast pierced ears for me. Burnt offering and sin offering thou didst not require: Then said I, Behold I come."** (Ps 39:7-8)

Jesus tells His Apostles and all of us who are His followers that we, too, must take up our cross each day. After His sharp rebuke to Peter, Jesus says, **"If any man will follow me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life, shall lose it: and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel, shall save it."** (Mk 8:34-35) If we want to be faithful followers of Christ, then we, too, must carry our cross. This message was dramatically expressed by Pope St John Paul II on Youth Day 2000 at the Colosseum in Rome before an audience of two million people, which was the largest gathering of people in European history: **"Dear friends, to believe in Jesus today, to follow Jesus as Peter, Thomas, and the first Apostles and witnesses did, demands of us, just as it did in the past, that we take a stand for Him, almost to the point at times of a new martyrdom... It is not by chance, dear young people, that I wanted the witnesses to the Faith in the twentieth century to be remembered at the Colosseum during this Holy Year. Perhaps you will not have to shed your blood, but you will certainly be asked to be faithful to Christ!"** The message of Jesus two thousand years ago and of our Holy Father today is the same. It takes sacrifice to follow Christ, especially in a world that preaches self-satisfaction and pleasure. St Padre Pio said that if we knew the value of suffering, we would beg for it! St Rose of Lima said of suffering, **"All men throughout the world would seek trouble, infirmities and torments, instead of good fortune, in order to attain the unfathomable treasure of grace. This is the reward and the final gain of patience. No one would complain about his cross or about troubles that may happen to him, if he would come to know the scales on which they are weighed when they are distributed to men."**