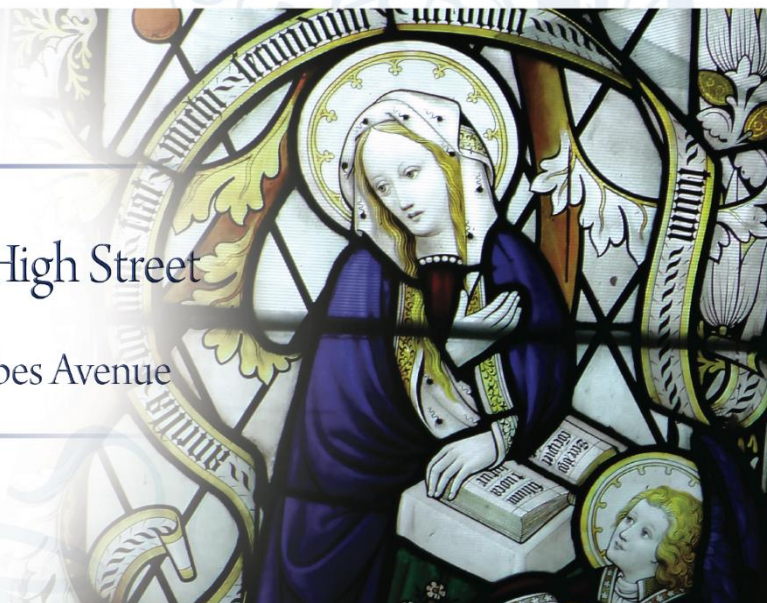


THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN GOSPORT



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



21st/22nd APRIL 2018

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

SAT 21	Fourth Sunday of Easter	St Columba's	6pm	Christina Sewell (Health)
SUN 22	" " Latin Mass	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's	9.15am 11am 5pm	People of the Parish George Notley RIP Suor Maria Luisa RIP
Mon 23	Latin Mass (St George)	St Columba's	10am	Fitzgerald F/M
Tue 24	St Fidelis of Sigmaringen	St Mary's	12 noon	Sewell Family (Health)
Wed 25	Feast of St Mark	St Mary's	7pm	Elizabeth Phelan (Birthday Intentions)
Thu 26	4th Week of Easter	St Columba's	10am	Marian Franciscans of Bridgemary (Intentions)
Fri 27	4th Week of Easter	St Mary's	12 noon	Richard Dugan (Birthday Intentions)
Sat 28	Latin Mass Fifth Sunday of Easter	St Mary's St Mary's	9.30am 6pm	Maria RIP Thanksgiving to St Joseph (Prayers Answered)
Sun 29	" " Latin Mass	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's	9.15am 11am 5pm	People of the Parish Owen Dugan (Vocation) Marcella 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 FILM NIGHT:

Our next parish film night will be on Friday 25th May, beginning at 7.30pm in St Mary's Hall. The film is "Siege Lord II: Day of the Siege", an historical epic about the 1683 Battle of Vienna, in which the armies of the Holy Roman Empire fought to defend Christian Europe against a massive Ottoman invasion force.

PARISH WALKING PILGRIMAGE:

Over the weekend of 18th/19th August, Father Pio will be leading a pilgrimage along the Way of Saint Augustine, a path that runs from Canterbury Cathedral to the Shrine of St Augustine in Ramsgate, to commemorate the ancient journey undertaken by St Augustine, the Apostle of England, in the 6th Century, when he was sent by Pope Gregory the Great to bring the Faith to England. The walk is around 19 miles long, along which we will recite the Holy Rosary, sing hymns and have the chance to speak with others. Then, on 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.

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.

SECOND COLLECTION:

This weekend's second collection is for the Clergy Training Fund.



CHILDREN'S CATECHISM:

Saturday 28th April, 9am

First Communion & Confirmation Catechism

Monday 7th May, 7pm

Meeting for Catechists

Tuesday 8th May, 7pm

Meeting for Parents

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.

ROSARY ON THE COAST:

The "Rosary on the Coast" campaign is a 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. In our parish, the main gathering point will be St Mary's Church, but there will also be a smaller group gathering on the beach in Alverstoke (please call the parish office for details). For more information, visit www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk.

FIRST SATURDAY/MARCH FOR LIFE:

Since the London March for Life falls on a First Saturday (5th May), the usual 9.30am Latin Mass will be celebrated instead at 8.30am, and all other devotions will take place on the coach, which leaves from outside St Mary's Hall at 9.30am. (If you have not yet registered, please call the parish office to do so.) There will be no meeting of the Marian Group.

PLANT & FLOWER STALL:

After the 9.30am Mass on Saturday 28th April, and after the 9.15am and 11am Masses on Sunday 29th April, Annette Reid will be selling various plants and flowers from a stall by the entrance to the church to help raise funds for the St Mary's Beautification Project.

RED MISSIO BOXES:

are now due for collection. Please bring yours to the parish office as soon as possible.

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.

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 for more information.

NIGHTFEVER:

Our next NightFever is on Saturday 28th April, starting at 7.30pm (after the 6pm Mass) in St Mary's Church. As Catholics, it is so important for us to share the amazing love and mercy of our God with those who do not know Him, and NightFever is such a wonderfully simple way of doing this. Everyone is warmly invited to come and just sit or kneel and be still in the presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. NightFever is such a special and precious time with so many blessings available to us if we just open our hearts to God and allow ourselves to experience His love. The evening ends at 10.30pm with Benediction. If you are able to assist at NightFever in any way, please contact Mike Slater on 02392 554537. Even just 30 minutes of your time could change lives forever!

The Good Shepherd

by Fr George M. Roth



Today, we are given the image of the Good Shepherd in the Gospel from St John. We all know the difference between the Good Shepherd and the hireling who does not care for the sheep properly. He is a bad shepherd because he is only interested in himself. When he sees danger, he flees because he does not want to risk his life when any danger comes, as when a wolf comes to attack the sheep. The Good Shepherd, however, is willing to risk his life for the sheep. Jesus, who in reality is the Good Shepherd, mentions this fact four times: ***"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd giveth his life for his sheep. But the hireling, and he that is not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and flieth: and the wolf catcheth, and scattereth the sheep: and the hireling flieth, because he is a hireling: and he hath no care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know mine, and mine know me. As the Father knoweth me, and I know the Father: and I lay down my life for my sheep."*** (Jn 10:11-15)

Although Jesus is speaking about being the Good Shepherd, He is in reality uttering divine truths of salvation: ***"And other sheep I have, that are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice, and there shall be one fold and one shepherd. Therefore doth the Father love me: because I lay down my life, that I may take it again. No man taketh it away from me: but I lay it down of myself, and I have power to lay it down: and I have power to take it up again. This commandment have I received of my Father."*** (Jn 10:16-18) As the Son of God, He has been sent by the Father to redeem all men. This is why He must bring other sheep into His fold. To redeem man, Jesus will have to lay down His life, which He does willingly; He is not under the power of those who wish to take His life, as He gives His life willingly for His sheep. We see the goodness of the Good Shepherd in His love for His sheep (all men) and in His willingness to lay down His life for them: ***"Greater love than this no man hath, that a man lay down his life for his friends."*** (Jn 15:13)

In another passage from St John, we are reminded that God the Father loved the world so much that He sacrificed His only-begotten Son for men: ***"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) From this, we can see how the Good Shepherd is willing to sacrifice Himself for us, His sheep, out obedience to His Father. This is what St Peter means in the First Reading when he says in his speech before the Jewish leaders that only in Jesus' name is there salvation: ***"Neither is there salvation in any other. For there is no other name under heaven given to men, whereby we must be saved."*** (Acts 4:12) St Peter also told the Jews that in rejecting Jesus, they fulfilled their own scriptures: ***"The stone which the builders rejected; the same is become the head of the corner."*** (Ps 117:22) Jesus, who is the cornerstone, is the most important stone in the building that represents man's salvation.

In today's Second Reading, from St John's First Epistle, the same message of how the world rejected Christ is reiterated. He tells us that we are children of God, but that the world does not know this because they did not know Jesus Christ: ***"Behold what manner of charity the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called, and should be the sons of God. Therefore the world knoweth not us, because it knew not him."*** (1 Jn 3:1) We are children of God because Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, laid down His life for us! We are children now, St John reminds us, but later we will be something better. This is the salvation that Jesus has won for us. In His Name, we have gained our salvation: ***"Dearly beloved, we are now the sons of God; and it hath not yet appeared what we shall be. We know, that, when he shall appear, we shall be like to him: because we shall see him as he is."*** (1 Jn 3:2) St John goes on to remind us that everyone who has hope in Jesus makes himself holy because Jesus is holy: ***"And every one that hath this hope in him, sanctifieth himself, as he also is holy."*** (1 Jn 3:3) We need to be holy like Jesus, who did the Father's will in dying for His sheep. If we love the Good Shepherd, we will hear His voice and keep His commandments as good sheep who have been brought into His sheepfold: ***"And other sheep I have, that are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice, and there shall be one fold and one shepherd."*** (Jn 10:16)