

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN GOSPORT



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



1st/2nd SEPTEMBER 2018

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

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

SAT 1	Twenty-Second Sunday	St Columba's	6pm	Bernadette & Ian Knight RIP
SUN 2	" " Latin Mass	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's	9.15am 11am 5pm	People of the Parish Dolores Cumbo RIP Agnes Poore F/M
Mon 3	Latin Mass	St Columba's	10am	
Tue 4	St Cuthbert	St Mary's	12 noon	Thanksgiving for Healing
Wed 5	Feria	St Mary's	7pm	Reverend Drake RIP
Thu 6	Feria	St Columba's	10am	
Fri 7	Feria	St Mary's	12 noon	Thanksgiving for Healing
Sat 8	Latin Mass Twenty-Third Sunday	St Mary's St Columba's	9.30am 6pm	Joseph & Paul Apap & Family RIP Blake Alistair Keates (Birthday)
Sun 9	" " Latin Mass	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's	9.15am 11am 5pm	Mary Charlton RIP People of the Parish Keki Stock & Family RIP

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

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:

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".

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?

GUILD OF ST CLARE:

The next children's arts and crafts group will be held from 3-5pm on Saturday 15th September in the Upper Room of St Mary's Hall.

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.

ST MONICA'S GROUP:

will meet again in St Mary's Church at 7pm on Tuesday 11th September. All mothers, whether Catholic or not, are welcome at this monthly prayer group.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE:

The Gosport branch of the CWL will meet again in St John the Evangelist's Church, Lee-on-the-Solent, at 1.30pm on Wednesday 5th September. There will be a short talk by Sue Malpas on her experiences in Israel/Palestine. For details, please call Marguerite on 01489 575663.



IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM FATHER SERAFINO:

"We are facing a moment of great turbulence in the Church due to the plague of sexual abuse and coverups by Church authorities. These abuses are not primarily paedophilic, but are for the most part ephhebophilic (involving sexual interest in adolescents) and homosexual; more than 80% of clerical sexual abuses involve adolescent boys. These abuses seem now quite widespread. They have been perpetrated not only in the USA, as we know from the McCarrick case and the Pennsylvania grand jury report, but also in Ireland, Australia, Chile and Honduras, and very soon there will be an independent report into child sexual abuse in England and Wales as well. In the meantime, an 11-page letter, written by a former Apostolic Nuncio to the USA, Msgr Carlo Maria Vigano, who is accusing Pope Francis of covering up the McCarrick case, has come out. Vigano is known to be a trustworthy person, and the American Cardinal DiNardo has stated that "the questions raised [by Vigano] deserve answers that are conclusive and based on evidence." Let us all pray in this moment of dismay that truth and justice may soon triumph, and that the Immaculate Church will emerge victorious over impurity and corruption. You can find the Vigano letter at tinyurl.com/y9d4tqag. There is also an excellent interview with the American Bishop Robert Barron, who speaks candidly of the issues at stake, which you can find at youtu.be/ncMEXr60AeI."

NIGHTFEVER:

Our next NightFever is on Saturday 15th September, starting at 7.30pm (after the 6pm Mass at St Mary's). NightFever is a wonderfully simple way of reaching out to others and bringing them into the presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Everyone is warmly invited to come along and spend some time – even just a few minutes – in the calm and quiet of our church, to light a candle and say a prayer, to experience the love and mercy of God. Volunteers are always needed; if you can help out for 30 minutes or longer, please call Mike on 02392 554537. NightFever ends with Benediction at 10.30pm.

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.

OUR LADY'S BIRTHDAY:

On Saturday 8th September, we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To mark this happy occasion, Father Serafino and Father Pio will be giving a special conference on St Maximilian Kolbe and the Immaculate Heart in St Mary's Hall following the 9.30am Latin Mass. Afterwards, at about 12.30pm, there will be a Marian procession around Gosport high street, followed by refreshments back at St Mary's Hall. All are welcome.

ADULT CATECHISM CLASSES:

The **new RCIA** (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) programme will begin on Friday 14th September, from 6.30-8pm in the Upper Room of St Mary's Hall. The purpose of these weekly classes is to educate those interested in learning about the Faith, to catechise new candidates for reception into the Church, and to re-catechise the faithful of the parish who would like to explore the Faith more deeply. Everyone is welcome.

ROSARY UNDER THE CROSS:

The Holy League of Nations has called for a worldwide day of prayer on the Feast of the Holy Rosary, Sunday 7th October. The faithful are urged to come together and pray the Rosary with Our Lady at the Foot of the Cross on this day. Accordingly, there will be an afternoon of prayer, reparation and witness at Sacred Heart Church, Fareham from 2.30pm.

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.

“Blessed Are The Clean Of Heart”

by Fr George M. Roth



In today's Gospel, Jesus answers the Pharisees who wondered why His Apostles did not follow the Jewish traditions in washing before meals: ***“And the Pharisees and scribes asked him: Why do not thy disciples walk according to the tradition of the ancients, but they eat bread with common hands?”*** (Mk 7:5) Jesus answers them, ***“Well did Isaias prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. And in vain do they worship me, teaching doctrines and precepts of men.”*** (Mk 7:6-7)

Jesus knew how their hearts were far from Him, as they taught the precepts of men and not those of God: ***“For leaving the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men, the washing of pots and of cups: and many other things you do like to these.”*** (Mk 7:8) Jesus knew that their manmade traditions did not understand that the true spirit that God required of them was to live according the Commandments with purity and righteousness in their hearts: ***“Hear ye me all, and understand. There is nothing from without a man that entering into him, can defile him. But the things which come from a man, those are they that defile a man... For from within out of the heart of men proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and defile a man.”*** (Mk 7:14-23) Fr Francis Fernandez, in his *Conversation with God*, explains that ***“what Jesus rejects is the mentality behind all those prescriptions; by them they had completely lost their original purpose. Instead, He teaches us to love that purity of heart where we are enabled to see God in our daily lives. He has told us so very often that He wants to reign in our feelings, to be with us at all times, to give a new meaning to everything we do.”***

In answer to the Jews who criticise the Apostles for not washing before eating, Jesus upbraids them for taking too much concern for the external observance of the law, and not being concerned for the evil that comes from the heart of man. ***“Purity of soul (chastity in the area of sensuality, and rectitude in our feelings and inclinations) has to be really appreciated and joyfully sought after, basing our efforts always on grace of God,”*** writes Fr Fernandez. In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus had proclaimed the importance of being pure: ***“Blessed are the clean of heart: for they shall see God.”*** (Mt 5:8) Only those who are pure and chaste will be able to see God in all things. They are the ones who will live according to the law, which pertains to that which is within man's heart. In the First Reading, Moses tells the Israelites the importance of keeping God's Commandments: ***“You shall not add to the word that I speak to you, neither shall you take away from it: keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.”*** (Deut 4:2) Jesus reminds the Jews of this when He upbraids them for their many laws concerning externals. In the Second Reading, the Apostle James reminds the Christians that they must be observers of the law of liberty and not just hearers: ***“But he that hath looked into the perfect law of liberty, and hath continued therein, not becoming a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work; this man shall be blessed in his deed.”*** (Jas 1:25) Men must observe the Commandments, which govern their obligations to God and man, and not allow sin to enter their hearts, from which all defilement comes. Fr Fernandez puts it this way: ***“We are not expected to ‘wash’ our hands and plates and leave our hearts unclean.”***

Jesus is concerned with the interior purity of the soul and not with externals: ***“For from within out of the heart of men proceed evil thoughts...”*** (Mk 7:21) These are the root of all impurity, selfishness and malicious intentions that inspire man's conduct and defile him. The Pharisees were more concerned with outward appearances than they were with their interior dispositions. This is why they attacked Jesus and His disciples. They could not see the goodness of Jesus because their hearts were not pure. Only the clean of heart can recognise God in the person of Jesus Christ and in His creation. This is why Jesus blessed the clean of heart in the Sermon on the Mount: ***“Blessed are the clean of heart: for they shall see God.”*** (Mt 5:8) If we wish to see God in our lives and in creation, we need interior purity. We need to examine our consciences and go to Confession at least once a month. Then, with a clean conscience, we will see God in all things here on earth and be happy with Him for all eternity, where we will see Him face to face.