

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN GOSPORT



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



10th/11th MARCH 2018

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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

SAT 10	Fourth Sunday of Lent	St Columba's	6pm	Jessica (Healing)
SUN 11	“ “ Latin Mass	St Columba's St Columba's St Columba's	9.15am 11am 5pm	People of the Parish George Notley RIP De Souza Family RIP
Mon 12	Latin Mass	St Columba's	10am	Eleanor De Melo (Special Intention)
Tue 13	4th Week of Lent	St Columba's	12 noon	Georgina Savege (Intentions)
Wed 14	4th Week of Lent	St Columba's	7pm	Lake & Wallace Families RIP
Thu 15	4th Week of Lent	St Columba's	10am	Olivia Dugan (Birthday Intentions)
Fri 16	4th Week of Lent	St Columba's	12 noon	Beryl Talhar RIP
Sat 17	Latin Mass Fifth Sunday of Lent	St Columba's St Columba's	9.30am 6pm	Eleanor De Melo (Special Intention) Peter Sewell (Health)
Sun 18	“ “ Latin Mass	St Columba's St Columba's St Columba's	9.15am 11am 5pm	People of the Parish Joseph & Catherine Gonsalves (Health) Friends of the Suffering Souls (FOSS)

Priest-in-Charge: Fr Serafino M. Lanzetta
Parish Secretary: Jacob Campbell
Maryhouse, 32 High Street Gosport PO12 1DF
Tel: (023)92580119
Email: gosport@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Website: www.stmarysgosport.org.uk

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:

in St Columba's Church on Thursdays after the 10am Mass until 12 noon. There will be no Exposition at St Mary's Church while the work on the floor is ongoing.

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:

Work on the new floor began on Thursday 8th March, so St Mary's Church is now closed until Friday 23rd March, weekends included. Thank you to everyone who has donated to help fund this ongoing renovation project. 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".

ALTAR SERVERS' PILGRIMAGE:

The Guild of St Stephen is organising an altar servers' pilgrimage to Rome, from Monday 30th July to Friday 3rd August. Prices begin at £659 per person. For more information, or to book, visit www.paxtravel.co.uk. (Please note that this is not a parish pilgrimage.)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

are prayed every Friday (after the 12 noon Mass) and Saturday (half an hour before the 6pm Mass) for the duration of Lent.

MARCH FOR LIFE:

If you are interested in attending either of the following two pilgrimages, please register on the parish website (www.stmarysgosport.org.uk):

- 1) March for Life in London, Saturday 5th May. We are planning to take the Pro-Life and Marian Groups together. Since this is a First Saturday, a Holy Mass will be celebrated in St Mary's Church at 8.30am. We will then travel to London by minibus, arriving well before the march sets off from Parliament Square at 2pm.
- 2) March for Life in Rome, Saturday 19th May. Together with flights and accommodation, this will cost in the region of £300 per person for 5 days in Rome. We plan to leave on Thursday 17th May and return on Monday or Tuesday, 21st/22nd May. The trip will also include visiting many of the wonderful sites that the Eternal City has to offer.

SECOND COLLECTION:

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



CHILDREN'S CATECHISM:

Monday 19th March, 7pm

Meeting for Catechists

Saturday 24th March, 9am

First Communion & Confirmation Catechism

Monday 16th April, 7pm

Meeting for Catechists

LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE:

On Monday 26th March, there will be a special penitential service at 6.30pm in St Mary's Church. This is specifically aimed at children, although everyone is welcome. The children are then invited to St Mary's Hall for a screening of the movie "Marcelino", the heart-warming tale of a miracle experienced by an orphan boy raised in a monastery.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE:

From Wednesday 14th February to Sunday 25th March, join us in another "40 Days for Life" campaign of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You are invited to stand and pray peacefully during a forty-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside St Mary's Community Health Campus on Milton Road in Portsmouth (PO3 6AD) and/or the BPAS clinic in Bournemouth (BH8 8LS). To sign up, please visit 40daysforlife.com/Portsmouth or 40daysforlife.com/Bournemouth. If you are attending Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament this Thursday, please pray especially for the success of the pro-life vigil in Bournemouth.

TABLE TOP SALE:

On Saturday 24th March, between 10am and 3pm, St Mary's Hall will host a Table Top Sale. There will be an entrance fee of just 20p (for adults only; no charge for children). If you have items to sell, please contact the parish office to book up to three tables at a charge of £10 per table. All funds raised from table bookings will go towards the St Mary's floor and heating renovation project. Please also contact the parish office if you are able to volunteer in the kitchen to serve tea and coffee. Cake donations are very welcome.

SERVICE TIMES DURING HOLY WEEK

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK	St Columba's	Holy Mass (Latin in Extraordinary Form)	10am
TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK	Cathedral	Chrism Mass	11am
WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK	St Mary's	Holy Rosary Holy Mass	6.30pm 7pm
MAUNDY THURSDAY	St Mary's	Office of Tenebrae (Psalms & Prayers in Gregorian Chant) Mass of the Lord's Supper (Latin in Extraordinary Form) Mass of the Lord's Supper (Followed by Adoration until Midnight)	7am 4pm 8pm
GOOD FRIDAY	St Mary's	Office of Tenebrae Stations of the Cross Solemn Liturgy Solemn Liturgy (Latin in Extraordinary Form)	7am 2.15pm 3pm 5pm
HOLY SATURDAY	St Mary's	Office of Tenebrae Easter Vigil (Latin in Extraordinary Form) Easter Vigil	7am 2pm 8pm
EASTER SUNDAY	St Columba's St Mary's	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass (Latin in Extraordinary Form)	9am 11am 5pm



Be Joyful In The Lord

by Fr George M. Roth

Today's Liturgy for the Fourth Sunday of Lent reminds us to be joyful in the Lord, who redeemed us from our sins. It is also Laetare Sunday, which is the midpoint of Lent, from which point we see the lessening of the penitential aspect of the readings. This is why we have rose-coloured vestments, which signify peace, instead of the usual Lenten purple, which signifies penance. We are rapidly approaching the Easter Triduum of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. If we are experiencing some Easter Joy, we will still have to undergo Good Friday and suffer with Jesus on the Cross. Jesus had to die to redeem us: ***"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. For God sent not his Son into the world, to judge the world, but that the world may be saved by him."*** (Jn 3:16-17)

In today's First Reading, we see how the Lord punished the Jews for seventy years by exiling them to Babylon. Not only were they exiled, but their temple was destroyed and their houses burned. Finally, after seventy years of exile, the Lord inspired King Cyrus to free them and rebuild the temple. Their punishment and deliverance are a microcosm/foreshadowing of our punishment and deliverance by Jesus Christ; we sinned and were redeemed by Christ. We lost paradise, but are now destined for heaven. We should be joyful today, as we are all destined for eternal glory because of Jesus' death.

In today's Second Reading, St Paul reminds us that we have been saved by the grace of God: ***"For by grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, for it is the gift of God."*** (Eph 2:8) How blessed we are with God's grace! We were dead by our sins, but we were brought to life by Christ, and we will be raised up and seated in heavenly glory: ***"But God (who is rich in mercy) for his exceeding charity wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together in Christ (by whose grace you are saved) and hath raised us up together, and hath made us sit together in the heavenly places, through Christ Jesus. That he might shew in the ages to come the abundant riches of his grace, in his bounty towards us in Christ Jesus."*** (Eph 2:4-7)

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the Jews how He will be lifted up like the Brazen Serpent that Moses used to save the Jews from the poisonous bite of the snake: ***"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him, may not perish; but may have life everlasting."*** (Jn 3:14-15) The Brazen Serpent is a figure of Jesus Christ, who was sent by His Father to save all men from their sins and bring them eternal life. The world was saved only through Jesus Christ; if we do not believe in Jesus, we hate and deny the light: ***"And this is the judgment: because the light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than the light: for their works were evil. For every one that doth evil hateth the light, and cometh not to the light, that his works may not be reprov'd."*** (Jn 3:19-20)

We must keep the Commandments because Jesus said: ***"If you love me, keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he shall give you another Paraclete, that he may abide with you for ever."*** (Jn 14:15-16) Those who keep the Commandments will be in the light and filled with the Holy Spirit and His seven gifts, His twelve fruits, His seven infused virtues, and His seven blessings of the Eight Beatitudes. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus promised: ***"Blessed are the clean of heart: for they shall see God."*** (Mt 5:8) All who keep the Commandments are the "clean of heart" who will see God in this life and in eternity.