

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN GOSPORT



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



4th/5th AUGUST 2018

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

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

§SAT 4	Eighteenth Sunday	St Columba's	6pm	Annamkuty Jose RIP
SUN 5	" " Latin Mass	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's	9.15am 11am 5pm	People of the Parish Owen Dugan (Vocation) Joe Cox & Family RIP
Mon 6	Latin Mass (Transfiguration)	St Columba's	10am	Abigail Calland & Family RIP
Tue 7	St Sixtus II & Co.	St Mary's	12 noon	Louise
Wed 8	St Dominic	St Mary's	7pm	Philip Lawrence RIP
Thu 9	Feast of St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross	St Columba's	10am	A.V. Joseph
Fri 10	Feast of St Laurence	St Mary's	12 noon	Mary Charlton RIP
Sat 11	Latin Mass Nineteenth Sunday	St Mary's St Columba's	9.30am 6pm	George Clements RIP
Sun 12	" " Latin Mass	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's	9.15am 11am 5pm	People of the Parish Rev Fr Thomas Foley (70th Ordination Anniversary) Sante (Holy Death)

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:

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 £17,000. 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?

CATHOLICS IN HEALTHCARE:

The Catholic Medical Association invites all young (18-35yrs) Catholics in healthcare (doctors, nurses, medical students, student nurses, pharmacists, etc.) to the Third Annual CMA Youth Conference at St Aloysius' Church in London (NW1 1TA) on Saturday 29th September. Speakers and a panel will explore the meaning of the culture of life in relation to healthcare and how to live by that culture in professional and personal life. There will be a small fayre to showcase the work of lay and religious organisations related to healthcare. Entry is by donation. Please be generous in order to enable the continued work of the Catholic Medical Association's New Evangelisation (CMANE). The CMANE supports young Catholics in healthcare. The suggested donation is £5, payable at the door. To register, please visit buildingacultureoflife.eventbrite.co.uk.

ROSARY BIKE RIDE:

Good Counsel Network supporter Les Whittaker is undertaking a 400-mile sponsored bicycle ride to Walsingham, whilst praying 150 Rosaries in reparation for the sin of abortion, to raise funds for the GCN's important pro-life work. You can sponsor Les by visiting justgiving.com/rosarybikeride or by sending a cheque to GCN (Bike Ride), PO Box 46679, London NW9 8ZT. Cheques must be payable to "The Guild of Our Lady of Good Counsel".



DIVINE MERCY RETREAT:

On Saturday 18th August, from 11am to 4.30pm, the Marian Fathers from London will be leading a Divine Mercy mini-retreat at St John's Cathedral in Portsmouth. All are welcome.

SAINT MONICA GROUP:

The next meeting of the St Monica Mothers' Prayer Group will be on Tuesday 7th August at 7pm in St Mary's Church.

MOBILITY SCOOTER FOR SALE:

A parishioner is selling a mobility scooter in excellent condition, bought for £1,795 only three and a half years ago, for £550 (or nearest offer). If you are interested in purchasing it, please call 07710 533385 or 02392 501711.

FIRST COMMUNION PHOTOGRAPHS:

are now available for the parents of this year's First Communicants to collect from the parish office. Any donations will be gratefully received.

PARISH WALKING PILGRIMAGE:

Over the weekend of 18th/19th August, Father Pio will be leading a pilgrimage along the Way of Saint Augustine (Canterbury Cathedral to the Shrine of St Augustine in Ramsgate), to commemorate the 6th Century journey undertaken by St Augustine, the Apostle of England. The walk is around 19 miles long. 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.

CARE HOME VACANCIES:

Maryfield Convent Residential Home in Hook, Hampshire (RG27 9LA) is a Roman Catholic care home for the elderly run by the Dominican Sisters of Malta. Holy Mass is celebrated daily in the convent chapel. The sisters and staff provide continuous, quality care, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. They currently have vacancies for new residents. If you would like to arrange a visit, or require further information, please call 01256 762394 and ask for Trish Davies.

LMS WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE:

Every year, the Latin Mass Society organises a walking pilgrimage from Ely to Walsingham (59 miles) for the conversion of England and in honour of Our Lady of Walsingham. This year's pilgrimage takes place over the August bank holiday weekend, beginning with registration in Ely on Thursday 23rd August, and concluding with devotions in Walsingham on Sunday 26th August (although there is also a Sung Latin Mass in the Slipper Chapel on the Monday for those who are staying overnight). Traditional Solemn High Latin Mass is celebrated every day, and the Holy Rosary, traditional devotions, chants and songs are offered up along the way. For more information, please email info@lms.org.uk or telephone 02074 047284. Sponsors and volunteers are also needed.

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. A Kindle edition is also available for download. 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.

TABLE TOP SALE:

Back by popular demand, the wildly successful 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.

The Promise Of Heavenly Bread

by Fr George M. Roth



This Sunday we continue Jesus' revelation of the Holy Eucharist, which we began last Sunday. After the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes, Jesus and His disciples crossed the Sea of Galilee, to Capharnaum. The disciples went first by boat, and Jesus followed during the night by walking on the water. When the people discovered that Jesus had left, they got into their boats and sailed to Capharnaum. It was there that Jesus revealed His intention of giving His own flesh in the Holy Eucharist. The enthusiasm of the crowd in their pursuit of Jesus was to make Him their king. Upon meeting them again in Capharnaum, Jesus says, ***"Amen, amen I say to you, you seek me, not because you have seen miracles, but because you did eat of the loaves, and were filled. Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that which endureth unto life everlasting, which the Son of man will give you."*** (Jn 6:26-27) St Augustine comments on these words, ***"You seek me for worldly motives, not for spiritual ones. How many people there are who seek Jesus solely for worldly ends... Rarely does someone look for Jesus for the sake of Jesus."***

Jesus knows why the Jewish people are following Him, and He wanted to bring them to a fuller understanding of His purpose in feeding them with the loaves and fishes by revealing to them the mystery of the true bread from heaven that He would give them. He wants them to believe in Him: ***"This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he hath sent."*** (Jn 6:29) Ironically, many of the Jews, even after witnessing the miracle of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes, still ask for a sign: ***"They said therefore to him: What sign therefore dost thou shew, that we may see, and may believe thee? What dost thou work? Our fathers did eat manna in the desert, as it is written: He gave them bread from heaven to eat."*** (Jn 6:30-31) Today's First Reading, from the Book of Exodus, speaks about how Yahweh (God) manifested His providence by sending down manna from heaven to feed the Israelites. This manna is a symbol of the Holy Eucharist: ***"Then Jesus said to them: Amen, amen I say to you; Moses gave you not bread from heaven, but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven."*** (Jn 6:32)

When the Jews tell Jesus that Moses had given them the bread of heaven, Jesus retorts that it was not Moses but His Father who gave them the true bread of heaven: ***"For the bread of God is that which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life to the world. They said therefore unto him: Lord, give us always this bread. And Jesus said to them: I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall not hunger: and he that believeth in me shall never thirst."*** (Jn 6:33-35) St Augustine tells us how Jesus is superior to Moses: ***"The Lord presents Himself as superior to Moses. Not even Moses had had the audacity to claim that he himself gave the food which never perishes, which lasts unto eternal life. Jesus promises much more than Moses. Moses promised a kingdom, a land of milk and honey, earthly peace, numerous sons, physical health and all the other earthly goods... Thus you will fill your bodies here on earth with perishable goods. In contrast, Christ promised a food which would never perish but would last forever."*** The Jews knew that the manna was a symbol of messianic goods, but they had no idea that it was indeed a figure of the great messianic good of the Holy Eucharist. This is why they ask for a sign. Jesus tells them that the manna was not the true bread from heaven, because those who ate of it died; rather, the Father will give them the true bread of heaven. They reply, ***"Lord, give us always this bread."*** (Jn 6:34) Jesus then answers them, ***"I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall not hunger: and he that believeth in me shall never thirst."*** (Jn 6:35) Our Lord leaves no room for doubt that this bread is a reality. He repeats the verb "eat" eight times! Christ becomes food so that we might gain a new life, the life that He has brought to us. This is not a bread from the earth; it is a bread from heaven: ***"Then Jesus said to them: Amen, amen I say to you; Moses gave you not bread from heaven, but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life to the world."*** (Jn 6:32-33)

In the Holy Eucharist, according to St Cyril of Jerusalem, ***"we become 'flesh of His flesh and blood of His blood.'"*** St Paul, in today's Second Reading, from the Epistle to the Ephesians, sums up the essential meaning of Jesus' message to the Jews at Capharnaum: ***"To put off, according to former conversation, the old man, who is corrupted according to the desire of error. And be renewed in the spirit of your mind: And put on the new man, who according to God is created in justice and holiness of truth."*** (Eph 4:22-24) Jesus has given the Jews the promise of His greatest miracle and His most important teaching, which is that He is the Eucharistic bread of life: ***"And Jesus said to them: I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall not hunger: and he that believeth in me shall never thirst."*** (Jn 6:35)