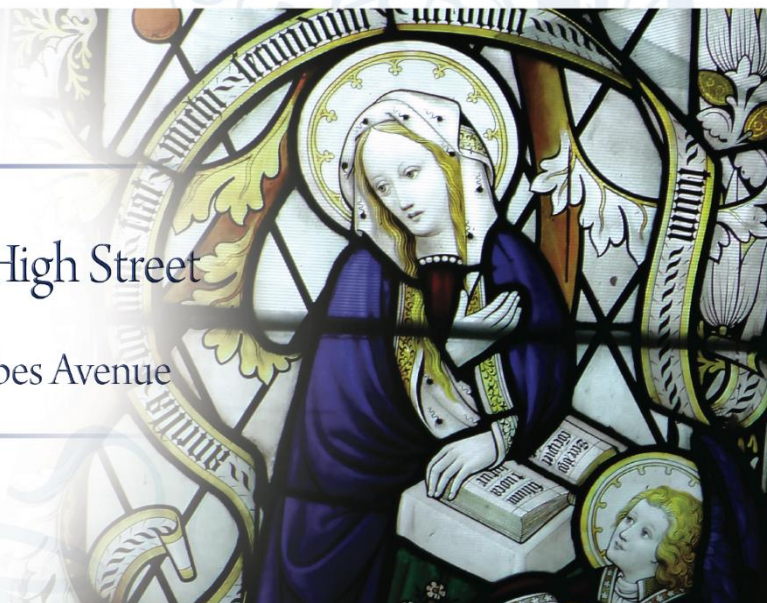


THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN GOSPORT



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



28th/29th APRIL 2018

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

SAT 28	Fifth Sunday of Easter	St Mary's	6pm	Thanksgiving to St Jude (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
Mon 30	Latin Mass (St Catherine of Siena)	St Columba's	10am	Michael Mark Palmer F/M
Tue 1	St Joseph the Worker	St Mary's	12 noon	Dugan Family (Thanksgiving)
Wed 2	St Athanasius	St Mary's	7pm	Marie-Claire Calvet (Special Intention)
Thu 3	Feast of Ss Philip & James	St Columba's	10am	Arthur Slater RIP
Fri 4	Feast of the English Martyrs	St Mary's	12 noon	Kennedy Family RIP
Sat 5	Latin Mass Sixth Sunday of Easter	St Mary's St Columba's	8.30am 6pm	Trevor Washington RIP People of the Parish
Sun 6	" " Latin Mass	St Mary's St Mary's St Mary's	9.15am 11am 5pm	Pio Flores & Baby Eunice RIP Dolores Cumbo RIP Stan Reidy F/M

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:

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:

The next collection will be for the Catholic Communications Network on 12th/13th May.



CHILDREN'S CATECHISM:

Monday 7th May, 7pm	Meeting for Catechists
Tuesday 8th May, 7pm	Meeting for Parents
Saturday 12th May, 9am	Catechism for All Children

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 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 this Sunday for faith, life and peace in the British Isles. ***In our parish, the main gathering point will be in front of the Pebbles Fish & Wine Bar on Stokes Bay (PO12 2BL), not at St Mary's Church as previously advertised.*** Please arrive early, as prayers will begin at 3pm sharp. 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. The suggested donation is £20 per adult. Children go free, and will receive a free pro-life hooded sweatshirt, but must be accompanied by a parent.) There will be no meeting of the Marian Group on that day.

EUCCHARISTIC CONFERENCE:

Next Saturday, 5th May, the Portsmouth Diocesan Eucharistic Conference will take place at the New Theatre Royal in Portsmouth (PO1 2DD). This event is an opportunity to engage with likeminded families in prayer, fellowship and joy. Come and spend time with Jesus, friends, inspirational speakers and interactive workshops. To book your ticket now, call 07780 221 686.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE:

The next meeting of the CWL Gosport branch will be at 1.30pm on Wednesday 2nd May in St John the Evangelist's Church, Lee-on-the-Solent, after the 12 noon Mass. All women of the area are very welcome; just come along and bring your own lunch. For more information, call Marguerite on 01489 575663 or email her at margieboulter@aol.com.

200 CLUB:

The parish finance committee has agreed that all proceeds from the 200 Club should go to the St Mary's Beautification Project. The 200 Club sells the numbers 1 to 200 for 25p each per week for the chance to win a quarterly prize of £100. You can buy as many numbers as you like, and there are also weekly and monthly consolation prizes of £10 and £5 to be won. If you would like to join the 200 Club, please contact the parish office.

FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS:

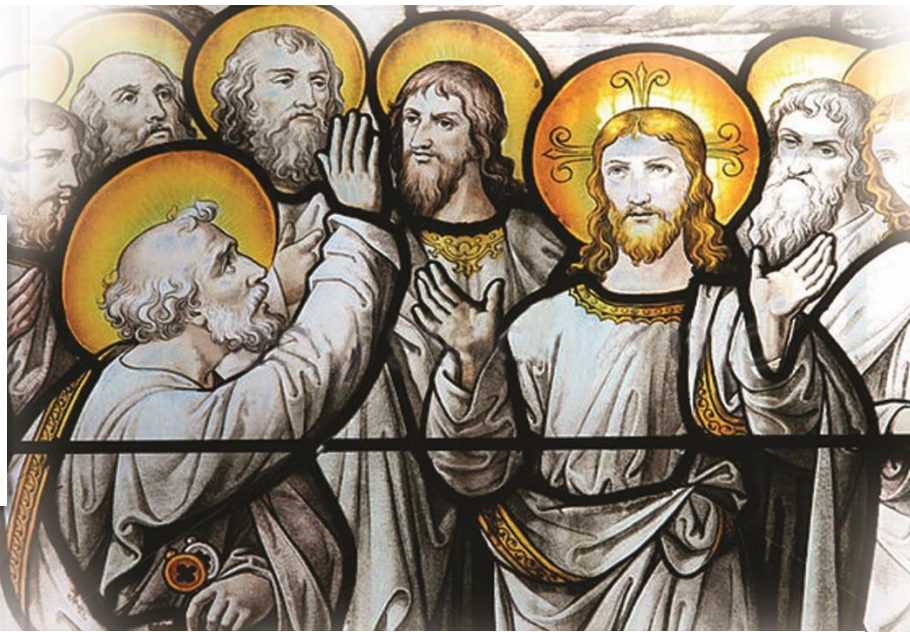
This month's First Friday devotions take place at Sacred Heart Church, Fareham, on Friday 4th May, beginning with the Rosary at 9am. Mass follows, and afterwards there is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, during which there will be a meditation on the Crowning with Thorns and Sacred Heart devotions. Confessions will be heard after Mass, up until the devotions end with Benediction at 10.30am. For more details, please call 02392 381802.

GK CHESTERTON TALK:

On Thursday 14th June, the 82nd anniversary of the great GK Chesterton's death, a talk will be given by Canon John Udris, who is investigating the cause for Chesterton's beatification, from 7pm to 9pm at the Centre for Catholic Formation in London (SW17 8BS). To claim your free ticket, please telephone the Centre on 020 8672 7684.

The Immeasurable Fruitfulness of God's Grace

by Fr George M. Roth



The Servant of God Fr John A. Hardon, the renowned American Jesuit of the late twentieth century, says that if we are to understand the Catholic Faith, we need to see how important sanctifying grace is in the spiritual life. Grace is God's gift to the soul, and is nothing other than His own divine life. God shares His Divine Nature with each soul; we participate in God's inner life when God enters the soul who loves Him: **"If you keep my commandments, you shall abide in my love; as I also have kept my Father's commandments, and do abide in his love."** (Jn 15:10) God comes to every soul and abides in the souls who love him: **"Abide in me, and I in you..."** (Jn 15:4) We can only have the life of sanctifying grace if we abide in God: **"I am the vine: you the branches: he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same beareth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing."** (Jn 15:5) This life-giving sap in the soul, which we received in Baptism, is sanctifying grace. This grace is also known as habitual grace, as it always resides in the soul that is in the state of grace (i.e. without any mortal sins).

If the branch is not united to the vine, it will not bear any fruit. The same is true of Catholics who are not united to Christ by grace. Everything in the spiritual life comes from God's grace, for without Him, we can do nothing: **"For without me you can do nothing."** (Jn 15:5) St Paul tells us that God gives us all graces both to will and accomplish good works: **"For it is God who worketh in you, both to will and to accomplish, according to his good will."** (Phil 2:13) These graces, which come and go when we need them, are called actual graces, and God gives us countless graces every day to do good and avoid evil.

One of the many blessings of being in the state of grace and abiding in God's friendship and love is that God will always answer our prayers. As God is infinite love, it goes without saying that He will bless the soul in sanctifying grace by answering his prayers: **"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you shall ask whatever you will, and it shall be done unto you."** (Jn 15:7) God may not give him everything that he wishes, but He will give him whatever is good for his eternal life. When Jesus spoke to the Jews about eating His body and blood, He said, **"He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath everlasting life: and I will raise him up in the last day."** (Jn 6:55) What is more important than eternal life? God will give us this supreme good of eternal life with the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

The soul in the state of grace gives glory to God, who is glorified in His saints. St Paul would say that all those who keep the Commandments (i.e. those in the state of grace) are **"the praise of his glory."** (Eph 1:14) God is glorified in their lives because they honour and praise Him by their obedience to His Commandments, by which they prove their love for Him.

Those who do not keep the Commandments are like the branches not attached to the vine. Because of mortal sin, the soul prefers its own will to God's, and disobeys the Commandments: **"Every branch in me, that beareth not fruit, he will take away..."** (Jn 15:2) These souls who do not bear fruit by living in mortal sin will be cast into the fires of hell for all eternity. Many people today do not believe in hell, yet the New Testament mentions hell thirty-eight times! A woman once told St Pio of Pietrelcina that she did not believe in hell, to which the great saint retorted, **"You will when you get there!"**

The soul that abides in Jesus Christ bears such an abundance of blessings because it is united to Jesus Christ in love. Not only does it receive the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (holy fear, piety, fortitude, counsel, wisdom, knowledge and understanding), it also receives the seven infused virtues (faith, hope, charity, prudence, justice, temperance and fortitude) as well as the twelve fruits (charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and chastity) and the blessings of the Eight Beatitudes. All these gifts and blessings are a foretaste of eternal life, which Jesus has promised to all those who love Him and keep His Commandments. There is no greater blessing in life than sanctifying grace, by which we have many blessings here in this life and eternal happiness in heaven.