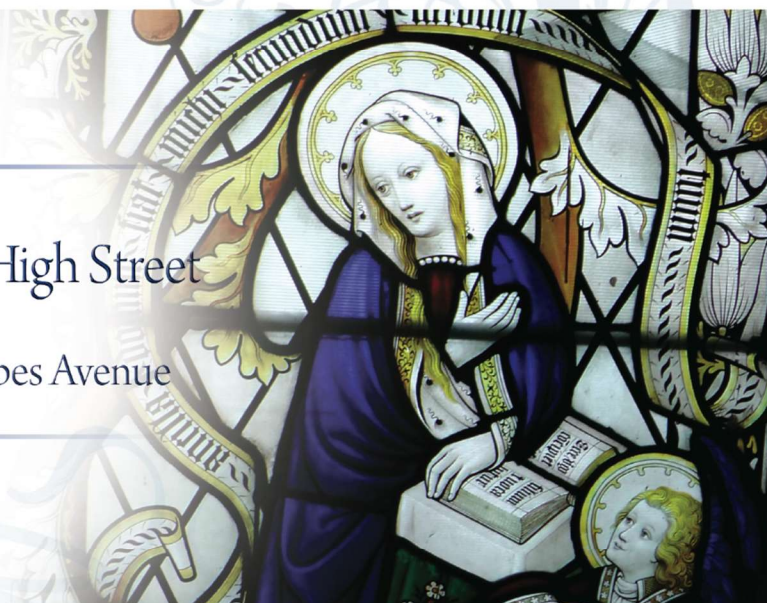


THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN GOSPORT



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



31st/1st APRIL 2018

EASTER SUNDAY

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

SAT 31	Holy Saturday	St Mary's	8pm	(Easter Vigil)
SUN 1	Easter Sunday	St Columba's	9am	People of the Parish Richard Dugan (Birthday Intentions) (Easter Novena)
	"	St Mary's	11am	
	Latin Mass	St Mary's	5pm	
Mon 2	Latin Mass	St Columba's	10am	(Easter Novena)
Tue 3	Octave of Easter	St Mary's	12 noon	Mary Sewell (Health)
Wed 4	Octave of Easter	St Mary's	7pm	Sarah Keates (Birthday)
Thu 5	Octave of Easter	St Columba's	10am	Peter Sewell (Health)
Fri 6	Latin Requiem Mass	St Columba's	9am	David Barlow RIP
	Octave of Easter	St Mary's	12 noon	Francis 'Bob' Ody RIP
Sat 7	Latin Mass	St Mary's	9.30am	Sameena Ansari
	Divine Mercy Sunday	St Columba's	6pm	People of the Parish
Sun 8	"	St Mary's	9.15am	Mary Sewell (Health)
	"	St Mary's	11am	Jean Barratt RIP
	Latin Mass	St Mary's	5pm	(Easter Novena)

Priest-in-Charge: Fr Serafino M. Lanzetta
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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 donated to help fund the renovation work, which is now complete. 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".

MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE:

On Saturday 14th April, there will be a Marriage & Family Life Seminar in St Mary's Church and Hall from 9.30am (beginning with the Latin Mass) until 2.30pm. Topics include marriage preparation/enrichment, Natural Family Planning (NFP), and Catholic grandparents.

GUILD OF ST CLARE:

will meet for the first time on Friday 20th April, between 4pm and 6pm, and again on Saturday 21st April, between 10am and 12 noon.

EASTER OFFERINGS:

All collections at Easter Masses this weekend will be for Father Serafino and the Marian Franciscans. The friars are extremely grateful for the great generosity of our parishioners.

EASTER NOVENA:

From Easter Sunday until Monday 2nd December, an Easter Novena of Traditional Latin Masses will be offered for all parishioners, and for all the benefactors, friends and relatives of the Marian Franciscans. If you have any special intentions that you would like to be prayed for, please write them down and hand them to one of the friars.

FIRST FRIDAY & SATURDAY DEVOTIONS:

This month's First Friday devotions begin with the Rosary at 9am on Friday 6th April at Sacred Heart Church in Fareham. First Saturday devotions take place on Saturday 3rd March at St Mary's Church, beginning with the Latin Mass at 9.30am. The Marian Group then meets at 12 noon in the Upper Room of St Mary's Hall for a shared lunch and Marian catechesis with one of the friars. Confession is available on both days.



CHILDREN'S CATECHISM:

Monday 16th April, 7pm

Meeting for Catechists

Tuesday 17th April, 7pm

Meeting for Parents

Saturday 21st April, 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, with the support of the clergy, 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. The rectors of our two national Marian shrines – Walsingham and Our Lady of the Taper, in England and Wales respectively – have given "Rosary on the Coast" their full backing and encouragement. Please put the date in your diary, and visit www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk for more information, including details of the designated gathering points along the coast.

PARISH BINGO NIGHT:

On Saturday 21st April, from 7pm to 11pm, there will be a parish bingo evening with a buffet in St Mary's Hall, to raise money for the ongoing church renovations. Tickets cost £8 for adults and £3.50 for children (5-12 years old), and are available for purchase from the parish office.

NEW COUNTERS' ROTA:

for April-June has now been published. Those who have volunteered can find copies of the new rota in envelopes addressed to them at the back of the church.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE:

The AGM of the CWL's Gosport branch will be on Wednesday 4th April at 1.30pm, after the 12 noon Mass at St John the Evangelist's Church in Lee-on-the-Solent.

TABLE TOP SALE:

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in and helped make the Table Top Sale the great success that it was, and especially to those who so kindly donated their takings to the St Mary's Beautification Project. We raised a very respectable £1,021.53 to help pay for the new floor and heating system in St Mary's Church.

ITEMS FOR SALE:

A parishioner is selling an 18 month-old 32" Hitachi TV for £70, a 3 year-old mobility scooter for £795, and a 6 month-old recliner chair for £795 (bought for £4,500). If you are interested in purchasing any of these items, please call Sandra on 02392 501711 or 07710 533385.

RED MISSIO BOXES:

It will soon be time again to empty the red Missio boxes. If you have one of these, please bring it to the parish office on or after Sunday 15th April. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

AN EASTER MESSAGE FROM FATHER SERAFINO:

Dear Parishioners,

In order to wish you a very blessed Easter in this special time of the Liturgical Year, I would like to guide you through a reflection, based on two beautiful liturgical Hymns. One praises the Mystery of the Holy Cross; the other, the Paschal Victim, now risen and glorious. The first is *Vexilla Regis* ('The Banners of the King', i.e. the Holy Cross) composed by Venantius Fortunatus (530-609) in honour of the relic of the True Cross arriving in France; the second is the *Victimae Paschali* ('To the Paschal Victim', i.e. Christ Our Lord), the sequence for Easter Sunday, composed later, in the 11th Century in Germany.

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Sheep Are Ransomed By The Lamb: Now Shines The Cross' Mystery

by Fr Serafino M. Lanzetta

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Let us see the internal mysterious connection of the two Hymns: the first leads us harmoniously to the second. The start of *Vexilla Regis* points out the mystery of the Cross as the royal throne of the Lord. From the Cross, the Victory of Christ over death already shines forth. God rules over all nations from a Tree! The first three verses read as follows:

ABROAD the regal banners fly,
now shines the Cross's mystery:
upon it Life did death endure,
and yet by death did life procure.

Who, wounded with a direful spear,
did purposely to wash us clear
from stain of sin, pour out a flood
of precious water mixed with blood.

That which the prophet-king of old
hath in mysterious verse foretold,
is now accomplished, whilst we see
God ruling the nations from a Tree.

After having prayed this Hymn during Vespers, from Passion Sunday to Maundy Thursday, the Liturgy lets us sing, on Easter Sunday and throughout the Octave, the praise to the Paschal Lamb, our Victorious Sacrifice. Its first three verses prominently show us the intersection of death and life, Cross and Love. They read:

CHRISTIANS, to the Paschal Victim
offer sacrifice and praise.

The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;
and Christ, the undefiled,
hath sinners
to his Father reconciled

Death with life contended:
combat strangely ended!
Life's own Champion, slain,
yet lives to reign.

What can we learn from this? Easter is a time of joyful praise to God for the Resurrection of Jesus, the sacrificed Lamb of God, who ransomed us from eternal punishment. Resurrection does not only follow the Cross, but it can never happen without the Cross. In fact, it is this Royal Banner that conquers sin and death. It is on the Cross indeed that the battle between the devil and Christ is fought and won. The Risen Lord holds forever in his luminous Body the wounds of his love for us. What a price to pay to bring us back to life! Let us rejoice in the Lord, but let joy never distract us from considering how we were saved. Only faith, hope and love are an adequate response. Happy Easter to you all, on behalf of all my confreres too!