



# The Catholic Church in Gosport

Portsmouth Diocesan Trust Regd Charity No: 246871/2



St Columba's, Nobes Avenue; St Mary's, High Street; St Joseph's, Anns Hill Rd

Parish Priest: Peter Glas                      Parish Administrator: Doug Savege  
Maryhouse, 32 High Street Gosport PO12 1DF.    Tel: Gosport (023) 92580119

Parish Website: [www.gosportcatholics.org.uk](http://www.gosportcatholics.org.uk)

Email: [gosport@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:gosport@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008 – TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

Sunday readings: Year 1 (A); Weekdays: Year II; Prayer of the Church: Week 1

## **CELEBRATIONS OF THE EUCHARIST FOR SUNDAY**

<b>SATURDAY 20<sup>th</sup></b>	6.00pm	St. Columba's	Parish Intentions
<b>SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup></b>	9.00am	St. Joseph's	Parish Intentions
	11.00am	St. Mary's	Parish Intentions

**Sacrament of Reconciliation available by request after each Mass during September.**

## **CELEBRATIONS OF THE EUCHARIST WEEKDAYS 22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

	<b><u>Liturgy</u></b>	<b><u>St Mary's 10am</u></b>	<b><u>St Columba's 10am</u></b>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>of the day</b>	No service	No service
<b>Tue</b>	<b>St Pio of Pietrelcina</b>	Mary Anne Cornelius <b>F/M</b>	No service
<b>Wed</b>	<b>Our Lady of Walsingham</b>	Word & Communion	No service
<b>Thu</b>	<b>of the day</b>	No service	Parish Intentions
<b>Fri</b>	<b>of the day</b>	No service	No service

**Parish Mass Intentions for this week:** For all Parishioners of Gosport & Mbetta, Joseph & Mary Azzopardi (50<sup>th</sup> Wed anniv), Ellen Hackett RIP, Shelley McKenzie (Health), O'Connell family (Intentions), Bridget Sheppard RIP, Lorna Woodrow RIP.

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Next weekend the retiring collection after all Masses will be for Fr Tony Day. Please remember Fr Tony does not have the financial support of a parish and anything we are able to give will be a contribution towards his living expenses.

Autumn Fast Day will be on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October** and there will be a collection for Cafod after all Masses on the weekend of **4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> October**. Our Parish Cafod Representative, Michael Heaps, will give a very brief talk after all Masses next weekend.

The retiring collection for the Cathedral will now be on the weekend of **11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> October**. Thank you.

## PARISH NOTICES

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL:**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED:** please pray for those who have died recently and all who are being remembered at this time: *see the names on the front sheet.*

**PRAYER BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:** at St Mary's on **Tue 23<sup>rd</sup> Sep** after 10am Mass until 11.30am. The duty Eucharistic Minister will be Joe Barrett. The following week the duty minister will be Libby Beasley. Also at St Columba's on **Thu 25<sup>th</sup> Sep** after 10am Mass until 12 noon.

**PARISH DAY RETREAT – SPREADING THE WORD:** at St Joseph's Church, Ann's Hill on **Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Oct** to be led by John Vaughan-Neil, author of the programme 'Sons and Daughters of the Living God' (on living in the power of the Holy Spirit) and co-leader with his wife Mary of parish evangelisation cell groups in the Sacred Heart parish Wimbledon.

Evangelising others is for most of us too daunting for words. In his first talk, John examines what may be holding us back. In his second talk he will share with us some of the basic principles which he learned from his own early experience – which will show just how easy and natural evangelisation is meant to be and, hopefully, will get us off the starting blocks!

The day begins with tea and coffee at 10am and should finish by no later than 3.30pm. All are very welcome to come along. Please bring a packed lunch and a friend!

**NO HOUSE-NO HOME:** find out more about the organisations helping tackle homelessness in the Portsmouth area, on **Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Sep** in St John's Cathedral, Edinburgh Road, Portsmouth from 3 – 5pm. All are welcome.

**JUNIOR JOURNEY IN FAITH:** the programme for 2008/09 begins shortly and the dates are as follows:

Catechists' Meeting	St Mary's Hall	<b>Tue 30<sup>th</sup> Sep</b> at 7.30pm
Initial Parents' Meeting	St Mary's Hall	<b>Tue 7<sup>th</sup> Oct</b> at 7.30pm
Children's Session	St Joseph's Church	<b>Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Oct</b> , 9 - 11am
Celebration Service	St Joseph's Church	<b>Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Oct</b> at 9am

**PARISH MAGAZINE:** the second edition of our parish magazine, Triangle, is now available in all churches. It is an excellent read and reflects the hard work put in by our magazine team. Please do take a copy home with you but remember it can also be viewed on our parish website at [www.gosportcatholics.org.uk](http://www.gosportcatholics.org.uk)

**MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT COLLECTION:** the amount collected in memory of Maureen Nobes RIP was £611.27p. Thank you to everyone for your generous contributions.

**ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN EVENING:** on **Wed 24<sup>th</sup> Sep** from 6.30pm – 9pm with an address by the Headteacher at 6.40pm. All parents welcome. St Edmund's is a specialist Humanities college.

## **ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL – VACANCIES FOR FOUNDATION**

**GOVERNORS:** Bishop Crispian is seeking applications from committed baptised Catholics who wish to be considered. In addition to the legal responsibilities of the Governing Body, the Foundation Governors have a responsibility for preserving the religious character of the school, sustaining and developing the school as a Catholic educating community in accordance with Church law and the teaching of the Catholic Church, and giving clear witness, as individuals and as a team, to the Gospel message and to the Church's teaching. Appropriate training is available during the period of service. Application packs are available from Doug in the Parish Office, the School Office or from the Dpt for Schools Governance, Park Place Pastoral Centre, Winchester Road, Wickham PO17 5HA. Closing date for receipt of applications is 17<sup>th</sup> October.

### **OAKLANDS CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE OPEN**

**EVENING:** on **Thu 25<sup>th</sup> Sep** from 6pm – 8pm. All parents are invited to come and visit the school. Prospective parents are especially welcome. The Governors are now considering applications for 11+ entry in Sep 2009. Please contact Mrs Linda White, Admissions Secretary on 023 9225 9214. Closing date for 2009 applications is **24<sup>th</sup> October 2008**.

**RETURN TO ROMANCE – WALK TO ROME:** Nigel Hearnden would like to thank all parishioners for their donations which have now been received. The next step is to reclaim the gift-aid element from the taxman! Nigel would like to publicly thank Kate Talbot and Linda Taylor for their support. Not only did they join him during his walk and lifted his spirits but they also added around £1000 to the total through additional sponsorship. If we have sufficient numbers Nigel is happy to give another evening presentation about his walk. Please let Doug know if you would like to attend.

**WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING:** we are once again hosting a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support as part of the *World's Biggest Coffee Morning*. This will take place on **Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Sep** in St Mary's Church Hall from 9.30am – 12.30pm. We would welcome any donations of cakes for this event, and we are trying to cater for diabetics and allergy sufferers such as those with gluten free requirements. There will be bacon butties, a grand raffle and hand made cards on sale. Any help you can give either in donations or assistance on the day will be gratefully received. Please contact Jean Watson on 023 9252 1985. All are welcome.

**MESSAGES FROM MBETTA AND MAMFE:** Fr Julius Agbortoko, Parish Priest of Mbetta, Fr David Fomanka, Education Secretary of Mamfe Diocese, and Fr Anselm Lungla, Financial Secretary of Mamfe Diocese extend their greetings and best wishes to Fr Peter Glas and Fr David Adams and to all parishioners of Gosport and express their gratitude for our support. In addition the Bishop of Mamfe, Bishop Francis T. Lysinge imparts his Episcopal blessing upon us. Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Cameroon.

**KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA:** this weekend the Gosport and District Council 499 has mounted an exhibition in St Mary's Church to publicise how they serve God by serving others. Do stop and have a look if you can.

## Reflection

We are shocked to read of unscrupulous gang masters exploiting immigrant workers. Before the growth of trades unions (encouraged by Catholic social teaching) casual labour was general for most workers. So what do we think of this parable? Jesus is describing a system where the employer was king: 'Have I no right to do what I like with my own?' So was Jesus saying that this was right?

But parables are not about the rights and wrongs of collective bargaining any more than about farming or wine making. They teach us about the ways of God with human beings – and this employer is no normal employer – he is God. So what does the parable teach us?

Matthew links this parable with arguments about rewards and status in the kingdom, teaching that money can be a barrier to receiving God's gift. And the parable is followed by the argument about sitting at Jesus' right and left hand in the kingdom of heaven. In the early Church the parable spoke to disputes between Jewish Christians and gentile converts. The Jewish Christians had done a heavy day's work in the heat, keeping God's law while the gentiles had been fornicating and worshipping idols. And now God was giving this wonderful gift of new life to them no more and no less than to pious Jews. 'That's not fair!' they said.

This parable is intended to make *us* say, 'Not fair'. But although a human employer has a debt in justice to his workers, God doesn't owe anything to the righteous any more than he owes to the sinner. The parable punctures any smugness we might have about our own efforts at being Christians. It teaches us that grace is all. God owes us nothing and gives us everything. He gives us himself. Isaiah tells us to seek the Lord while he is to be found. However late we are, the reward is the same and the reward is undeserved.

From the Pastoral Review by Duncan Macpherson, Permanent Deacon)