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ST MARY'S & ST COLUMBA'S
 The Catholic Church in Gosport

07 DECEMBER 2025 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

06	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	People of the Parish	CONFESSION TIMES Wed 6:15pm-6:45pm (if Mass is celebrated) Sat - 12:00nn—1:00pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION Thu—after the 7pm Mass Holy half hour with Night Prayer Fri 10:00am—12:00nn Rosary for the Unborn at 10am OUTREACH Thu from 1:00pm
07	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Second Sunday of Advent	Carmelo & Marianna RIP Zied Solomon RIP	
08	Mon	No Service			
09	Tue	12:00nn		Varkey RIP	
10	Wed	07:00pm	Our Lady of Loreto	Dean A Carlin RIP	
11	Thu	07:00pm	St Damasus I	Ms Mary Anne Cornelius RIP	
12	Fri	12:00nn	Our Lady of Guadalupe	Martin Conway RIP	
13	Sat	06:00pm	<i>Vigil</i>	Elizabeth Extance & Family RIP	
14	Sun	08:00am 11:15am	Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete)	Susannah Bernadette Burrows RIP Parish Volunteers INT	

PLEASE NOTE: THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON THE 9TH AND THE 10TH OF DECEMBER. IF YOU NEED TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE, PLEASE CALL 02392 580119 AND LEAVE A MESSAGE. THE CALLS WILL BE MONITORED FROM TIME TO TIME.

REFLECTION FOR THE 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 2025

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The First Reading is the source for the Christian tradition about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. There are seven of them: *pietas*, fortitude or courage, fear of the Lord, wisdom, understanding, counsel, and knowledge. The last six are all listed in this Reading (Isaiah 11:1-16). The first one, *pietas*, is the spiritual virtue described in the verse about taking care of the poor and afflicted.

Every one without exception is the beloved child of our Father.

There is a version of all these virtues that you can get all by yourself. You can practice being brave, for example, and your practice will build a kind of habit in you. There is also a kind of courage that the Lord can put into a person. The apostle Peter wasn't a particularly brave person, as you can see in his denial of the Lord, but the Lord gave him such courage when he had to face the Jewish authorities after Christ's resurrection that they marvelled at him (Acts 4:13).

But the gifts of the Holy Spirit are different from both these kinds of virtues, the acquired ones and the ones God infuses. You can see the difference clearly if you look at *pietas*.

In Roman times, *pietas* was a virtue having to do with fathers and sons. A son owed his father reverence, and a father owed his son care. There is also *pietas* towards your community or country. This is still a virtue having to do with fathers. The idea is that every citizen owes reverence and care toward his or her fatherland

In Christian times, *pietas*, as a virtue infused by God, had to do with taking care of your own, your own parents, your own children, your own community, your own country. Paul says that if any person does not take care of his own, he is worse than an infidel (1 Tim 5:8).

But that *pietas* is still not the same as the *pietas* that is a gift of the Holy Spirit.

Pietas that is a gift, is the love of God as our Father in heaven, and it includes the recognition that every human being who crosses our path - every one *without exception* is the beloved child of our Father. And so every human being - the sinful, the annoyingly stupid, the derelict, the afflicted - is one of our own. And this is *pietas* as a gift of the Holy Spirit.

And all the gifts of the Holy Spirit are like this. If we do not refuse them, they kindle in us the fire of love for God and for his people.

Eleonore Stump. Professor of Philosophy, Saint Louis University

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TO MAKE DONATIONS:

For **BACS Transfer**: Account Name: **CDP Gosport** Account No.: **00878538** Sort Code: **30-93-04** . Make all cheques payable to **CDP Gosport**, or you may scan the QR code. Standing Order and Gift Aid forms are available in the office.

Please Gift Aid your donations if possible.



IMPORTANT - DECEMBER PARISH SCHEDULE

14 Sun	11:15am	Parish Volunteers' Mass & Get-together
18 Thu	05:00pm	St Mary's Primary School Carol Service
19 Fri	06:00pm	Simbang Gabi (Filipino Mass)
21 Sun	after 11:15am Mass	Christmas Raffle Draw
	05:00pm	Children's Nativity Play
Christmas Services		
24 Wed - Eve Mass	05:00pm	Children's Mass
	09:00pm	Night Mass
25 Thu - Day Mass	08:00am	Dawn Mass
	11:15am	Day Mass
26 Fri	12:00pm	(St Stephen's Day)
27 Sat	06:00pm	Regular Vigil Service
28 Sun	11:15am	Altar Servers' Mass & Get-together

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Any additional donations given on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be used to support the priests of the diocese. Every penny specifically donated over this weekend (together with any Gift Aid on qualifying donations) will be used to support our local priest. Envelopes will be available from next week. You may also donate using our DONA machine or by scanning this QR Code. Online, you can donate through GAYL <https://tinyurl.com/3vp55f99>. Thank you for your generosity.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER APPEAL

The second collection on the 14th and 21st of December will be for the Christmas Flower Fund. Envelopes will be available from next week. **We continue to thank our donors and our wonderful Flower Arrangers for giving their time for decorating our church.**

HOUSE CALLS DURING ADVENT

Over the Advent and Christmas season, Fr Matthew & Deacon John will be visiting sick and housebound parishioners to offer the Sacraments in preparation for Christmas. If you know of someone who is housebound or in hospital, and is not currently on the parish sick list, please notify the parish office as soon as possible.

13 DECEMBER TABLE TOP SALE

The date has been changed from 6th of December to **13th of December - Saturday from 10am**. This is to raise funds for St Mary's. If you enjoy baking, we kindly welcome donations of cakes and all kinds of baked goods to add an extra touch to our sale. Your generous support is always very much appreciated. Extra pair of hands needed on the day, too!

BAPTISM

The dates for the next Baptism Preparation Programme are:
Meet & Greet - in person Saturday 14th Feb, 10am
Online Session 1 Tuesday 17th Feb, from 8pm
Online Session 2 Tuesday 24th Feb, from 8pm
Welcome & Anointing Sunday 1st March
Closing date for this Preparation Pathway - Fri. 30th January
Please contact the parish office for more information or visit <https://tinyurl.com/2vctjens>.

CHOIR PRACTICE

The next Choir practice dates in St Mary's Church are:
Saturday 20th December 2pm Sunday 21st December 10am
Mass setting this Sunday: Heritage Mass in English

THANK YOU TO FR BENEDIKT!

We would like to express our deepest thanks to Fr Benedikt Timpe for presiding at several Masses here in Gosport during Fr Matthew's study course in London. Fr Benedikt has now taken up his own parish in Southampton, and we offer him our heartfelt thanks and best wishes. **Thank you, Fr Benedikt!**

Prayer to St Joseph in Advent

*Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph,
whose power makes the impossible possible,
come to my aid in these times of anguish and
difficulty.*

*Take under your protection the serious and
troubling situations that I commend you,
that they may have a happy outcome.*

*My beloved Father, all my trust is in you.
Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain,
and since you can do everything with Jesus
and Mary,
show me that your goodness is as great as your
power. Amen*

SANCTUARY LAMP

This week, the Sanctuary Lamp is being sponsored by the Fox Family for their intentions.



ST MARY'S NATIVITY PLAY

To parents of young children, we are still looking for young participants to join the Nativity play. The play is happening on the **21st of December at 5pm in the parish hall**. **Rehearsal dates are: 13 Dec from 2 - 4pm and 20 Dec from 4-6pm**. Children of all ages are welcome to take part. Come and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with carols, mince pies and plenty of festive cheer! Please speak to Elsie after the 11:15am Mass or contact the parish office for more information.

NATIVITY SET COMPETITION!

This Christmas season, we invite all parish families to take part in our Family Nativity Set Competition. Use any materials you wish, and let your display reflect the true joy and meaning of Christmas. **Submission date is 13 December** ready for display on the Third Sunday of Advent. There will be winners. For more information, please speak to Annette after the 11:15am Mass or email her: ahkosche@gmx.com

ST MARY'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

We still have tickets available for those who wish to avail of them. We kindly ask everyone to take a book or two to sell to your friends, families, and neighbours. Many thanks as always for your outstanding support. *We accept prize donations and also appealing to local businesses to offer a prize. Thank you for your generosity.*

PARISH VOLUNTEERS' CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER!

This invitation is for past, present and future volunteers! The 11:15 Mass on the 14th of December - Sunday will be offered for the intention of all our church volunteers in gratitude for everything they do throughout the year. After Mass, we will gather in the hall for a small celebration. **Please bring a plate of food to share. Thank you for all that you do!**

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

We are inviting all children to join us for a Christmas Party in the hall on the 20th of December from 6pm. Parents are required to register their children by filling in a form available in the church foyer with a £3 donation per child to cover food and refreshments. Thank you.

ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PASTORAL AREA

Everyone is cordially invited to the following events happening within our pastoral area:

08 Dec . Mon - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. There will be Mass at 7pm at Our Lady in Stubbington followed by a Filipino Supper and entertainment in their parish hall

14 Dec . Sun - Pastoral Area Carol Service at St Philip Howard - Fareham at 3pm