St Mary's Parish Newsletter



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MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS
w/c Sunday 15th November, 2026
33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(A2) (Psalter Week 1)

Saturday	**Our Lady on Saturday**	
	5.30pm	Matt Marsh, RIP
Sunday	**33rd Sunday of the Year**	
St. Lucy's	**9.00am**	Thomas Thomas RIP
St. Mary's	**11.00am**	Augustine Thomas RIP
Monday	**St Edmund of Abingdon**	
	9.30am	Names in the Book of the Dead
Tuesday	**Feria**	
	NO MASS	
Wednesday	**Feria**	
	NO MASS	
Thursday	**Feria**	
	NO MASS	
Friday	**Feria**	
	9.30am	**COMMUNION SERVICE**
Saturday	**The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**	
	5.30pm	The People of the Parish
Sunday	**Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of The Universe**	
St. Lucy's	**9.00am**	Names in the Book of the Dead
St. Mary's	**11.00am**	John McGinty RIP

Confessions Saturday 4.45pm, and by request

33rd Sunday of the Year—15th November, 2026

Entrance Antiphon

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you and I will lead back your captives from every place.

First Reading *Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31*

Responsorial Psalm

Blessed are all who fear the Lord.

Second Reading *1 Thessalonians 5:1-6*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia ! Abide in me, and I in you, says the Lord. Whoever abides in me bears much fruit. **Alleluia !**

Gospel *Matthew 25:14-30*

Communion Antiphon:

To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.

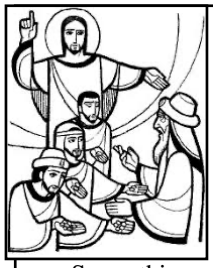
POLISH MASS AT ST MARY'S

Commencing on 6th December there will be a weekly Mass celebrated in Polish, at 1.00pm.

Fr Wojciech from Milford will be the celebrant.

Bishop Philip writes: *"I am very happy to grant my episcopal blessing and to give permission for the restoration of the regular celebration of Mass in Polish at St Mary's Catholic Church, Alton at 1pm each Sunday."*

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD GOD OF HOSTS
HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY



33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 15th November, 2026

We must be very careful that the real point of today's first reading is not washed away in genuine concerns over what one can and cannot say about the responsibilities of wives. This is not, in fact, a recipe for 'the perfect wife', but an illustration, from one age, of the virtue of fully employing the talents God gives us. Some things are timeless, such as holding out a hand to the poor, while other talents shift and change. The point is that all of us are gifted in varying ways and degrees: none of us should begrudge anyone else their talents, for fear that we overlook our own. We work wisely and well, looking forward to the master's return, when we can hand over to him not just what he gave us, but also the fruits that our labours have gained.

The kingdom of God is among you

A Pope's Reflection—*Pope Benedict*

The Word of God this Sunday the second to the last Sunday of the liturgical year invites us to be vigilant and hardworking, in the expectation of the Lord's return at the end of time. The Gospel passage recounts the famous Parable of the Talents, related by St Matthew. The "talent" was an ancient Roman coin, of great value, and precisely because of this parable's popularity it became synonymous with personal gifts, which everyone is called to develop. In fact, the text speaks of "a man going on a journey [who] called his servants and entrusted to them his property". The man in the parable represents Christ himself, the servants are the disciples and the talents are the gifts that Jesus entrusts to them. These gifts, in addition to their natural qualities, thus represent the riches that the Lord Jesus has bequeathed to us as a legacy, so that we may make them productive: his Word, deposited in the Holy Gospel; Baptism, which renews us in the Holy Spirit; prayer the "Our Father" that we raise to God as his children, united in the Son; his forgiveness, which he commanded be offered to all; the Sacrament of his Body sacrificed and his Blood poured out; in a word: the Kingdom of God, which is God himself, present and alive in our midst. This is the treasure that Jesus entrusted to his friends at the end of his brief life on earth. Today's parable stresses the inner disposition necessary to accept and develop this gift. Fear is the wrong attitude: the servant who is afraid of his master and fears his return hides the coin in the earth and it does not produce any fruit. This happens, for example, to those who after receiving Baptism, Communion and Confirmation subsequently bury these gifts beneath a blanket of prejudice, beneath a false image of God that paralyzes faith and good works, thus betraying the Lord's expectations. However, the parable places a greater emphasis on the good fruits brought by the disciples who, happy with the gift they received, did not keep it hidden with fear and jealousy but made it profitable by sharing it and partaking in it. Yes, what Christ has given us is multiplied in its giving! It is a treasure made to be spent, invested and shared with all, as we are taught by the Apostle Paul, that great administrator of Jesus' talents. The Gospel teaching that the liturgy offers us today has also had a strong effect at the historical and social level, encouraging an active and entrepreneurial spirit in the Christian people. The central message, however, concerns the spirit of responsibility with which to receive God's Kingdom: a responsibility to God and to humanity. This attitude of the heart is embodied perfectly in the Virgin Mary who, on receiving the most precious gift of all, Jesus himself, offered him to the world with immense love. Let us ask her to help us to be "good and faithful servants" so that we may one day enter "into the joy of our Lord".

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS

"What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see the misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like." "God loves each of us as if there were only one of us."

– St. Augustine

Saints of the Week



St Edmund of Abingdon 16th November

St Edmund Rich was born in Abingdon, on 20th November, probably in the year 1175. His father was a rich merchant, hence the surname (which he never in fact used himself). But it was under his mother's influence that he began to lead an ascetic life. He studied at Oxford and Paris, and became a teacher. For six years he lectured on mathematics and, apparently dividing his time between Oxford and Paris, and winning distinction for his part in introducing the study of Aristotle. He is the first known Oxford Master of Arts, and the place where he taught was eventually renamed St Edmund Hall. Between 1205 and 1210 he changed direction, studying theology and being ordained a priest. He took a doctorate in divinity, and soon won fame as a lecturer on theology and as an extemporaneous preacher. He was appointed vicar of the parish church of Calne in Wiltshire and Treasurer of Salisbury Cathedral, and finally he became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1233. He was a notable and effective reforming Bishop. His love for discipline and justice aroused opposition, and he found himself ranged against Rome as champion of the national Church. Like his predecessors St Thomas Becket and Stephen Langton, he retired eventually to Pontigny, where he is buried. He died at Soisy-Bouy on 16th November 1240. Devotion to him grew and was especially marked at Abingdon and at Catesby where his sisters were both nuns. Edmund was canonised in 1246, and is the Joint-Principal Patron of the Diocese of Portsmouth. He is venerated as a vigorous and reforming bishop and very much as a peacemaker, as well as being a distinguished commentator on the Scriptures and an effective spiritual writer.



The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mary's presentation was celebrated in Jerusalem in the 6th century. A church was built there in honour of this mystery. The Eastern Church was more interested in the feast, but it does appear in the West in the 11th century. Although the feast at times disappeared from the calendar, in the 16th century it became a feast of the universal Church. As with Mary's birth, we read of Mary's presentation in the temple only in apocryphal literature. In what is recognized as an unhistorical account, the Proto-evangelium of James tells us that Anna and Joachim offered Mary to God in the Temple when she was 3 years old. This was to carry out a promise made to God when Anna was still childless. Though it cannot be proven historically, Mary's presentation has an important theological purpose. It continues the impact of the feasts of the Immaculate Conception and of the birth of Mary. It emphasizes that the holiness conferred on Mary from the beginning of her life on earth continued through her early childhood and beyond.

Reflection: It is sometimes difficult for modern Westerners to appreciate a feast like this. The Eastern Church, however, was quite open to this feast and even somewhat insistent about celebrating it. Even though the feast has no basis in history, it stresses an important truth about Mary: From the beginning of her life, she was dedicated to God. She herself became a greater temple than any made by hands. God came to dwell in her in a marvellous manner and sanctified her for her unique role in God's saving work. At the same time, the magnificence of Mary enriches her children. They—we—too, are temples of God and sanctified in order that we might enjoy and share in God's saving work.

The next Second Collection- (from Heather Hauschild)

On the weekend of **14/15 November,** we will hold our first Second Collection for the Priests' Retirement Fund. This is an opportunity to support the priests who have faithfully served our parishes and communities throughout their lives. After decades of ministry, our retired priests deserve the security of knowing that the care and support they may need in later life will always be available. Your donation will help ensure that they can live with dignity and peace of mind in retirement.

"In Paradisum" Prayer for the Holy Souls

May angels guide you and bring you into paradise:
and may all the martyrs come forth to welcome you home;
and may they lead you into the holy city, Jerusalem.
May the angel chorus sing to welcome you, and like Lazarus,
forgotten and poor, you shall have everlasting rest.

Voices of Hope — an Advent Retreat.

This Advent you are warmly invited to Voices of Hope, a four-session contemplative retreat with the men and women of Scripture who waited for Christ — Eve and Job, Ruth and David, Hannah and Isaiah, Simeon and Anna. Join the open online retreat on the Sundays of Advent (29 November – 20 December, 7:00–8:15pm), live on Zoom and recorded so you can catch up at any time. It is completely free to join; an optional donation supports the work. Offered by the Centre for Applied Carmelite Spirituality. Details and registration:

https://cacs.org.uk/voices-of-hope/

An invitation

Learn to wait with a burning heart

Advent is the Church's great school of waiting — and waiting is the very posture of Carmel. Long before the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, generations of men and women carried a burning expectation. They lived through heartbreak, exile, vulnerability and long silence — and still they held to God's promise that a Deliverer was coming. Over four Sundays we listen to eight of these voices, a woman and a man each week, and discover that their ancient waiting speaks with startling directness to our own. And in the Carmelite way, we do not only listen and reflect. Each session we fall silent together and wait, so that the Christ they longed for may be born a little more deeply in us.
Come as you are, and come expectant.

Christmas Gift Bags

Very soon we shall be asking for small items for our Christmas Gift Bags to distribute to Parishioners who are not able to attend Mass. Please keep us in mind when you are shopping and perhaps add an extra item to your basket. We hope to have the bags ready for distribution by the 6th December.

St Mary's Car Park

The new Car Park arrangements are now in place.
If you attend a weekend Mass on Saturday or Sunday, there is **no need** to enter your registration on the Terminal.
If you attend a weekday Mass **you will need** to do so.
The Terminal is in the main Church by the doors.
The Car Park is managed by Horizon Parking and is a number plate recognition system. The new tariff boards are in place. Pay before leaving to avoid a penalty notice. The new system will calculate the length of time you have parked and charge you accordingly. The new payment kiosk accepts credit/debit cards. Payment can also be made by using the **Mobon App on a phone** .

WORDS OF COMFORT FOR THE BEREAVED

"Grief never ends....but it changes. It's a passage, not a place to stay. Grief is not a sign of weakness, nor a lack of faith, It is the price of love."

S	E	L	P	I	C	S	I	D	E
S	W	E	T	N	A	V	R	E	S
E	T	O	D	W	A	E	D	M	F
N	D	R	N	S	O	E	O	M	A
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H	E	E	H	T	F	E	L	U	U
R	Y	R	T	N	U	O	C	O	L

DISCIPLES SERVANT THOUSAND
COINS COUNTRY MASTER
MONEY EARNED MORE
WONDERFUL FAITHFUL HAPPINESS



Please remember in your prayers



Baby Polly Phillips, Matthew & Duncan Graham,
John D., Mary McGinty, Regina Elliot,
Francesca Adams, Mary Hall, Michael Power
Annie Tomlinson, Rita Rawling, Kate Cradock,
Alex Smith, Jonathan & Lindy Wiltshire,
Simon Wilder, Mary Sturgess, Theresa Davies,
Flavia Stampa Gruss, Kay Hulbert, Pam Barbour,