



The Catholic Church in Park Gate St Margaret Mary

www.stmargaretmary.co.uk



If I do not go,
THE ADVOCATE
will not come to you

John 16 v 5-11

Sunday 17th May

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Psalter Week 3)

8.30am Maureen T & Family Intention

10.30am Bridget McLaughlin RIP

6.30pm People of the Parish

Monday 18th

9.30am Private Intention

7pm Adoration

Tuesday 19th

9.30am John Meehan Intention

Wednesday 20th

9.30am Holy Souls

Thursday 21st

7pm **No Mass**

Friday 22nd

9.30am **No Mass**

Sunday 24th

PENTECOST SUNDAY

8.30am Exams Intention

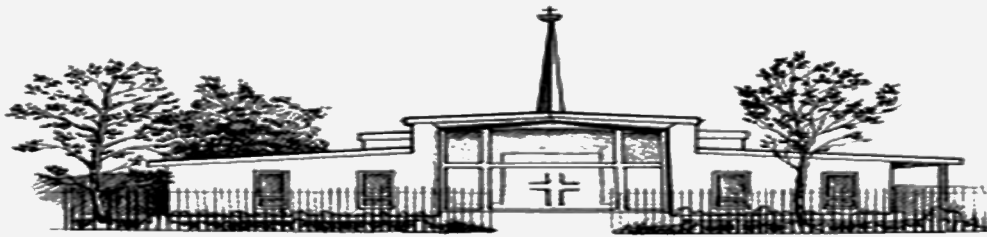
10.30am Annie & Gregory Bonavia RIP

6.30am People of the Parish

Our thanks to Mgr Vincent Harvey coming to celebrate Mass at 8.30am and 10.30am and also thanks to Fr Tom Kleinschmidt coming to celebrate Mass at 6.3pm.

Refreshments are served in the Parish hall after the 10.30am Mass on Sunday.

2026



Fr Ansel's day off is Wednesday, so he will be unavailable on this day.

For any urgent sick calls on this day, please contact Cn John Cooke at Sacred Heart, Fareham on 01329 318869. The Church will be open from 9am-1.30pm for private prayer.

Advance Notice: Fr Ansel will be away from the Parish from Thursday 21st May to Thursday 4th June, returning to the Parish on Friday 5th June for 9.30am Mass.

Reflection on this weeks Gospel—John 16 v 5-11

“But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.”

But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart: Jesus excused their lack of interest in His fate, knowing their great sorrow. They had sorrow at the moment, but their future was brighter. The disciples could only see the sorrow of Jesus leaving; but Jesus' departure was an essential step in their growth as disciples.

Nevertheless: This word meant a challenge to their sorrow and even their unbelief. **Nevertheless** is one of the great words of the Bible, meaning despite all of that. Jesus knew they were filled with sorrow because of what He told them. But, despite all of that He wanted them to know that it was **to their advantage**.

For if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you: Jesus had a plan, but they couldn't understand it. With 2,000 years of hindsight, we see that when Jesus went away, He sent the Spirit of God, Who had and has a broader and more effective ministry in the entire world.

I will send Him to you: Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to His disciples when He departed. This is what would make it to their advantage that He departed from them. Jesus meant that the presence and work of the Holy Spirit would actually be better for believers than the physical, bodily presence of Jesus.

It was better because now we can understand Jesus better. If Jesus were present bodily on this earth, there would be no end to His words for us. We wouldn't have a Bible; we would have the library of congress. Secretaries would follow Him constantly to record His every word. It would all be written down and preserved. We would have all of it, and the mass of it would be just plain unmanageable. Truly, it was all to your advantage.

It was better because now we can have a more trusting relationship with God. If Jesus were present bodily on this earth, there would be a great challenge to our walk of faith. Paul said, Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. (2 Corinthians 5:16) God wants us to walk by faith, and not by sight, and if Jesus were here bodily, there would be great temptation to walk by sight, and not by faith. Truly, it was all to your advantage.

It was better because Jesus' work is better understood as He is enthroned in the heavens. If Jesus were present bodily on this earth, it would be confusing to us. Jesus does not continue to suffer; He finished His work on the cross. Yet it might be difficult for us to see a Savior who never suffered when we are in distress; it might make us think that Jesus was unsympathetic. God didn't want us to struggle with this dilemma, so Jesus is no longer bodily on this earth. He is enthroned in the heavens. Truly, it was all to your advantage.

Mass Intentions. To book a Mass intention/s please contact the Parish office by phone, email or in person. If you leave an envelope outside office hours, please put all your details on envelope. The most important thing is that the sacrifice of Mass is offered, but we cannot guarantee the date. If you make a donation via BACS, please include reference of 'Mass Int'. Thank you.

Standing Orders and Gift Aid

Thank you for all you do to support your parish in many different ways.

If you haven't already done so, please consider donating via a standing order, and sign up for gift aid, in order to provide a more stable, and 25% extra, parish income. Forms available on the website, at the back of the church and from the Parish Office.

Contactless Giving—Available at the back of the Church.

Do you need our bank details?

CDP PARK GATE ST MARG MARY

Sort Code: 30-93-04 Account Number: 00883663



You can also scan this QR code to donate online.

Park Gate Noticeboard For more information on all our activities, have a look on our web site:
www.stmargaretmary.co.uk

Please submit any notices for the Newsletter by Wednesday lunchtime.

Padre Pio Prayer Group

The next meeting is: Sunday 31st May @ 7.45pm

You are all most welcome. For more information, please contact David Walford: walford101@hotmail.com



St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

We are here to help. If you need help in any way, or are interested in volunteering some time to help, give us a call, in confidence, between 9am and 6pm on 07935 941686.

Donation cheques to be made out to : B170413 SVP St Margaret Mary Park Gate

Friday Coffee Morning - Join us in the Paray room after morning Mass.

The next coffee morning will be on Friday 5th June.

Shop (Repository) — Please call in and see the range of Christian gifts and cards available.

Vinnie's Café—Saturday 30th May from 2-4pm.

Come along for a friendly chat and cup of tea. All welcome. Free, but donations welcome.

Grandparent's Prayer Group—Next Meeting 9th June after 9.30am morning Mass.

This group will meet monthly on the first Tuesday of the month, led by Dcn Brian Stoker. This is an opportunity for grandparents to pray for their children and grandchildren's faith, safety and wellbeing. The group will be by sharing any prayer intentions members may have for their families. The Rosary will be prayed, followed by further prayer for grandparents and the elderly.

The prayer session will finish with tea and coffee..

Opportunities have arisen to join the Church and Hall cleaning teams.

A healthy, safe and welcoming environment in our Church and our Hall shows dedication to our faith and respect for our community. If you can spare an hour, once a month, to join one of the teams, please leave your contact details with the Parish office stating which team you would prefer — office@stmargaretmary.co.uk or 01489 572797.

Parish Prayer Garden.

There was a great celebration on Saturday 9th May at the official opening and blessing of the prayer garden. Thank you to everyone for coming along. After all the hard work we would regret anything happening to the garden while no-one is here, so to ensure this the garden will be open during office hours 9am-2pm except Thursday. The prayer garden will be open on Sunday during the morning.

We would like to keep all the planting looking its best and are asking for volunteers who to have a rota of people who could come and water the garden. If you would like to help, there will be an informal meeting of those interested on Tuesday 19th May after morning Mass.

If anyone would like to make a donation towards the flowers and planting it would be much appreciated. There is an option to donate on the DONA machine.

Sycamore Pathway in Faith—Enquiry Sessions

Starting Wednesday 3rd June from 7.15-8.48pm at Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception in Stubbington.

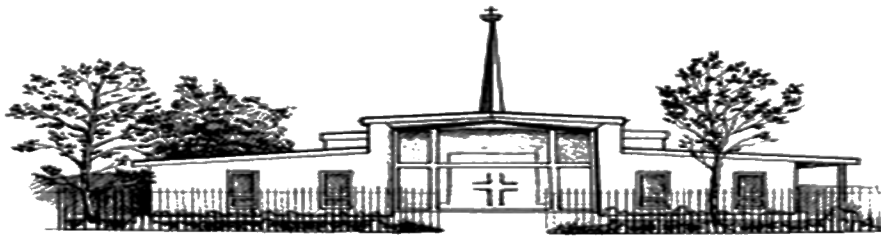
Consisting of 6 introductory sessions related to Christianity and the Catholic Church.

To enrol please contact the office at the usual email: office@stmargaretmary.co.uk

SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS Sat 20th June 11am. St Bede's Church, Basingstoke

Are you celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th, or 60+ anniversary? Bishop Philip invites you to a special Mass followed by a buffet lunch. A wonderful way to celebrate and witness to marriage.

If you would like to book, please contact the Parish office, office@stmargaretmary.co.uk for the booking form.



If you are unwell and would like a Eucharist Ministry team member to bring Holy Communion to you at home. Please contact Jane Green on 07528 948536

If you are going in to hospital, please contact the relevant chaplaincy service:
Southampton General 02381 208517
QA Portsmouth 02392 286408

Second Collections

Sunday 17th May—Catholic Communication Network.

The Catholic Network is the UK's leading provider of Catholic eNews, conversation and publishing support to the UK Catholic community. Run by a dedicated team of independent Catholic journalists and creatives, our work has included the editing, production and distribution of national weekly Catholic newspapers, magazines, brochures, directories and major events materials.

We are also very proud to be the editor, publisher and distributor of the annual Official Catholic Directory of England & Wales, on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales.

Contact Details: St Margaret Mary, Middle Road, Park Gate, Hants SO31 7GH

Parish Priest: Fr Ansel D'Mello

Tel: 01489 572797

Parish Administrator: Heather Skittlethorpe

Parish Office hours:

Monday to Wednesday 9.30am to 2pm Friday: 9.30am to 2pm

Out of hours please get in touch as below

Email: office@stmargaretmary.co.uk Tel: 01489 572797

Parish Gift Aid: Milton Hewins Email: accounts@stmargaretmary.co.uk

Safeguarding Co-ordinators: Contact: safeguarding@stmargaretmary.co.uk

Anita Fitzpatrick: 07743 481363 or Fran Slater: 07899 691094

Hall Bookings:

Email: hall@stmargaretmary.co.uk

Maintenance:

Email: facilities@stmargaretmary.co.uk

Repository (Greeting Cards, Books, Gifts and more)

Enquires: office@stmargaretmary.co.uk (please see www.cbcdistributors.co.uk for items you can order)

Portsmouth Diocese Safeguarding Coordinator: Ruth Attfield 023 9421 6486

Email: rattfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

St Anthony's Catholic Primary and Pre-School Headteacher:

Katrina Straker, Primate Road, Titchfield Common, PO14 4RP 01489 579100

Email: office@saint-anthonysfareham.co.uk www.saint-anthonysfareham.co.uk

Portsmouth e-News.

Sign up to receive this diocesan weekly Publication. News from Parishes, the Bishop, the Diocese & the Vatican.

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews



St Margaret Mary website

stmargaretmary.co.uk/

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth (reg. charity no. 1199568)
"Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church"