



The Catholic Church in Park Gate St Margaret Mary

www.stmargaretmary.co.uk

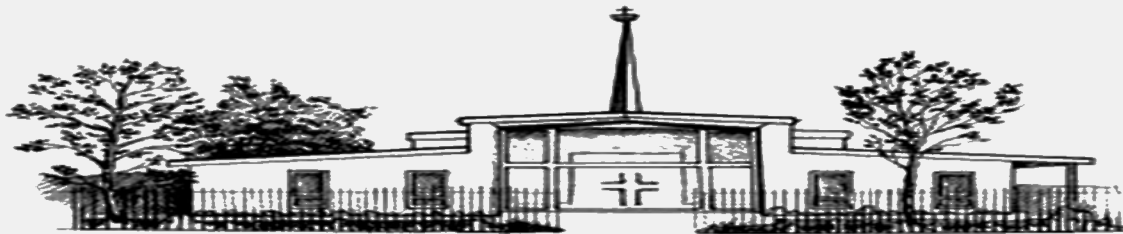


Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 8th	8.30 am 10.30 am 6.30 pm	Yolanda Albutt RIP St Margaret Mary Choir People of the Parish
Monday 9th	9.30 am	Anne Calleya RIP
Tuesday 10th	9.30 am	Liturgy of the Word
Wednesday 11th	9.30 am 7.00 pm	Don and Colin Moore RIP Adoration and Rosary
Thursday 12th	11.30 am 7.00 pm	Jeannie Wills Requiem Mass Pete Clarke RIP
Friday 13th	9.30 am	Sue Forer RIP
Sunday 15th	8.30 am 10.30 am 6.30 pm	Barry Wright RIP People of the Parish Pauline Walford

For Confession by appointment only

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth (reg. charity no. 246871)
“Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church”



Dear All

This Wednesday I returned after some days away seeing family and friends mainly in the west country. It was good to catch up and to have some down time. Many of you have been away over the last few weeks and I hope you too have returned relaxed and refreshed. However it is good to be back.

Today the fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally known as Good Shepherd Sunday. In Today's Gospel yet again the Lord lays out His unfathomable love for each and every single one of us. Not as a collective but on an individual basis which includes everyone. This truth can be so hard for some of us to accept, that it is you God loves, it is you that He knows, it is you that He has called out to through all eternity, such is your importance to Him. Such is His desire for your Love.

That which adds nothing to God's essence is the one thing He desires above all. For us to respond to His call to us in Love. To abandon ourselves to His providence confident in His promise of the resurrection and the eternal life to come. It is in living out our response that we are united in our Faith. It is living out our response that we live out our vocation which God has for all of us Single, Married or Religious. This Sunday we pray particularly for the grace to respond to His call. For ourselves, for this Parish, for those who are finding their way towards the Faith and for our wider community.

As this Sunday is also known as Vocations Sunday, traditionally a day we pray for an increase of response to the Religious and Priestly life and rightly so. However in truth we all have a vocation, it is the medium in which we live out our Faith in this world. It is how we live out daily our response to Our God who is calling us and as we are reminded in today's Gospel, Our God who knows us all intimately. That is what defines people of Faith.

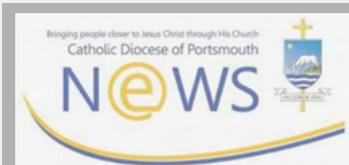
On this point I will share this with you. I attended a funeral yesterday and at the wake I was approached by someone clearly emotional and keen to talk with me directly. Given the context I was surprised at the conversation that followed. The emotion was not one of sadness but deep Joy and relief. What was conveyed to me were the graces received through the sacrament of confession of someone who had not been for sometime until this Lent. It was a humbling experience because as all sacraments it is an intimate encounter with Our Lord, of which I am privileged to bestow only through my Ordination and by virtue of nothing else. However the testimony was heartfelt and compelling.

I share this with you as not only is Good Shepherd Sunday a day to pray for vocations but also a day reflecting on the example of the Shepherd given by Christ. As your Parish Priest I know that this yardstick is one I know I fall short of. However with such an encounter it brought to mind the joy, gratitude, respect and admiration that I had for so many of you who returned to the sacrament of confession for the first time in over a year. What touched me was the volume of them and every time I was staggered by people's desire for their Faith. The easier path would be to continue down the path of not going so I never underestimated the effort it took some people.

For me it is still the most under rated Sacrament and yet its practice is in the five precepts of the Church, if you like the things we must be doing if we want to declare ourselves Roman Catholics. I still hear some people resisting the sacrament with words such as I confess to God directly He knows I'm sorry. Slightly tongue in cheek it does make me wonder why this is the only sacrament we want to do our own way and without a Priest or Deacon, doesn't seem to get the same objection with saying mass, baptising or marrying people.

To all who celebrated the sacrament of confession for the first time in over a year, welcome back to the Faith. It was such a delight and life giving experience as your Priest thank you. Do keep it up. As always a privilege to be the Parish Priest of Park Gate.

Love From Fr Rob



Portsmouth e-News.

Sign up to receive this diocesan publication weekly.

News from Parishes, the Bishop, the Diocese & the Vatican.

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews

Park Gate Noticeboard

Face masks. It is no longer a legal requirement to wear face masks at mass. However please be mindful of other people. Hand sanitiser will still be provided as you enter the Church.

Unfortunately we have had problems with our loop system which does not appear to be working. Apologies if you have had difficulty following and participating in the Mass please use the parish mass books found under the hymn books if you wish.

Tea or coffee will be served after Mass at 10.30 am

Please visit the repository to see our large range of cards including birthdays, sympathy and First Holy Communion. Also available are rosaries, gifts for First Holy Communion and candles. Open Sunday after Mass at 10.30 am and 6.30 pm.

Padre Pio Prayer Group

Next meeting is on **Sunday 29th May 2022 at 7.45 pm** in the church. You will all be most welcome. For more information please contact David Walford: walford101@hotmail.com

Choir sessions for anyone interested is now on at a slightly later time than usual **at 7.30 pm** in the Church every Tuesday. For more information please contact Chris Lane on 01329 310785

Confirmation. Thank you all for your patience. If you have expressed an interest in preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation there will be a **meeting at 3pm on Sunday 8th May**. This is for those wishing to attend and at least one parent or guardian. Mainly to lay out aims and times of sessions, permission forms etc. If you will not be able to attend please let the office know, otherwise I look forward to seeing you then.

Transport for Mass Prior to Covid the SVP organised transport for Mass. SVP would like to restart this service but need your help. If you are able to give anyone a lift or were a driver before Covid please contact SVP on 07487 659277

Collections

The Clergy Training Fund supports our ten seminarians currently in formation for the priesthood, for the duration of their six- or seven-year journey to ordination. Each seminarian participates in a comprehensive programme of formation pastorally, intellectually, humanly and spiritually. These are the men who will baptise and catechise the coming generations, and care for us on our pilgrim way: our generosity today is a legacy to the Church of tomorrow. Supporters can contribute until Saturday 14th May 2022.

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/support-our-seminarians>



Finally

Jacob and Helen smashed their sponsored cycle target and raised almost £500 for our Parish funds. A big thank you to them both and all those that sponsored them

Merlyn only went and did it!! Amazing, inspirational and brave all rolled into one. Merlyn is having a well deserved rest after such a feat and will be back at all three Masses on Sunday 15th May to share her experience with you all and to collect your sponsor money please.



SAVE THE DATE!

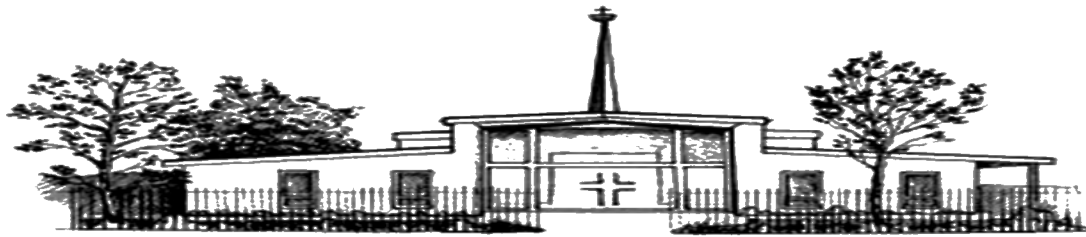
Parish Summer Mass and Picnic at St Anthony's School

On Sunday 24th July, Father Rob will celebrate 10.30am Mass at St Anthony's School. This will be followed by a "bring your own" picnic and parish day in the beautiful grounds of our school. More details will follow but please ink this date into your diaries and invite friends and family to join us on this special community day for our parish and our school.

Do you need our bank details?

PRCDTR PARK GATE ST MARG MARY

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



Please contact Nick Sadler on 07834 923585

if you are unwell and would like a Eucharist Ministry team member to bring Holy Communion to you at home.

If you are going in to hospital, please get in touch with the relevant chaplaincy service:

Southampton General
02381 208517

QA Portsmouth
02392 286408

SVP Treasurer Needed — After many years of excellent service the current SVP Treasurer is standing down. They are looking for someone who would like to take on this role. If this is of interest to you and you would like to be part of the friendly group please contact Anne Taylor on 07974 215159.

The Paradox of Abundance

Over 800 million people go hungry each day. Yet the world produces over 4 billion tonnes of food and we only need 3.7 billion tonnes to feed everyone. From all this food produced, a third is wasted. St John Paul II called this 'the paradox of abundance.' Clearly the currently global food system is not working. But as Pope Francis said, "Each of us has a role to play in transforming food systems for the benefit of people and the planet." Let's respond to his call! CAFOD's new campaign is called Fix the Food System. See www.cafod.org.uk/food for more information, including an invitation for parish groups to learn about the impact of our food with our *Fix the Food System: a 7-station journey* resource.

Park Gate Contact Details:

Parish Priest: Fr Rob Stewart

Tel: 01489 572797

Administrator:

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

Parish Office Opening Hours are: Monday to Thursday 10 am to 12 noon

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

Safeguarding Co-ordinators:

Nick Sadler: 07834 923585; Jodie McMenamin: 07768 751118

Fran Slater: 01489 559166 or 07899 691094

Portsmouth Diocese Safeguarding Coordinator: Ruth Attfield 023 9421 6486

Email: rattfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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

Roxy Ashworth, Primate Road, Titchfield Common, PO14 4RP 01489 579100

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

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.

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