

St Margaret Mary Parish



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Safeguarding Team: Please see notice in the Porch

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

Sunday 8th September, 2019

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Year C, Brown Book, Page 133

Sunday	23RD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
	8.00am Priest's Intention
	10.15am Bob Prior, (Esterhuizen)
	6.30pm Sarah & Mike Downie (Piper)
Monday	<i>Feria</i>
	9.30am Netta Tracy (Watts)
Tuesday	<i>St Gregory, Pope</i>
	9.30am No intention
Wednesday	<i>Feria</i>
	9.30am Holy Souls (Walford)
Thursday	<i>Feria</i>
	9.30am No intention
Friday	<i>Feria</i>
	9.30am No intention
Saturday	<i>Our Lady on Saturday</i>
	9.30am No intention
Sunday	24TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
	8.00am Priest's Intention
	10.15am P & L O'Mahony (O'Mahony)
	6.30pm Miede Nobre (Purves)

Confessions: After Saturday Morning Mass.
And by request or appointment at any time.

23rd Sunday of the Year

Entrance Antiphon:

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

Responsorial Psalm:

O Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to the next.

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because
I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my
Father. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul
is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God,
the living God.

WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS:

Monday, Colossians 1:24-2:3; Tuesday, Colossians 2:6-15

Wednesday, Colos 3:1-11; Thursday, Colos 3:12-17;

Friday, 1 Timothy 1:1-14; Saturday, Philippians 2:6-11;

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee!



23RD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

8th September, 2019

This is a very difficult set of readings. The Gospel itself starts with a saying which many find hard to understand: must we really hate our family to be the Lord's disciples? The point is that it is *relative*: what are we prepared to give up for the Gospel? Are we going to try and make our

own cross, or accept whatever we are given?

Jesus is probably trying to discourage the crowd of sensation seekers and hangers-on who are crowding round him.

He wants real disciples, who are aware of the possible cost: not like the incompetent builder, or the useless king.

To be a disciple, one must be prepared to follow Jesus anywhere, whatever it might cost in possessions, family or friends. We may never understand why, but then, who can know the intentions of God?

None of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.

A POPE'S REFLECTION

It is a particularly beautiful experience to be able to celebrate the Lord's Day with all of you. The celebration of the Eucharist, carried out with due dignity, helps us to realize the immense grandeur of God's gift to us in the Holy Mass. In this way, we also draw near to each another and experience the joy of God. So I thank all those who, by their active contribution to the preparation of the liturgy or by their recollected participation in the sacred mysteries, create an atmosphere in which we truly feel God's presence.

In my homily I wished to say something about the meaning of Sunday and about today's Gospel, and I think that this led us to discover that the love of God, who surrendered himself into our hands for our salvation, gives us the inner freedom to let go of our own lives, in order to find true life.

Mary's participation in this love gave her the strength to say "yes" unconditionally. In her encounter with the gentle, respectful love of God, who awaits the free cooperation of his creature in order to bring about his saving plan, the Blessed Virgin was able to overcome all hesitation and, in view of this great and unprecedented plan, to entrust herself into his hands. With complete availability, interior openness and freedom, she allowed God to fill her with love, with his Holy Spirit. Mary, the simple woman, could thus receive within herself the Son of God, and give to the world the Saviour who had first given himself to her.

In today's celebration of the Eucharist, the Son of God has also been given to us. Those who have received this Holy Communion, in a special way, carry the Risen Lord within themselves. Just as Mary bore him in her womb – a defenceless little child, totally dependent on the love of his Mother – so Jesus Christ, under the species of bread, has entrusted himself to us, dear brothers and sisters. Let us love this Jesus who gives himself so completely into our hands! Let us love him as Mary loved him! And let us bring him to others, just as Mary brought him to Elizabeth as the source of joyful exultation! The Virgin gave the Word of God a human body, and thus enabled him to come into the world as a man. Let us give our own bodies to the Lord, and let them become ever more fully instruments of God's love, temples of the Holy Spirit! Let us bring Sunday, and its immense gift, into the world! Let us ask Mary to teach us how to become, like her, inwardly free, so that in openness to God we may find true freedom, true life, genuine and lasting joy.

Pope Benedict XVI

Saint of the Week

September 8th Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Joachim and Anne

The Church has celebrated Mary's birth since at least the 6th century.

A September birth was chosen because the Eastern Church begins its Church year with September.

The date of September 8th date helped determine the date for the feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8 (nine months earlier). Scripture does not give an account of Mary's birth.

However, the apocryphal *Protoevangelium of James* fills in the gap. This work has no historical value, but it does reflect the development of Christian piety. According to this old account, Anna and Joachim are infertile but pray for a child. They receive the promise of a child that will advance God's plan of salvation for the world. Such a story (like many biblical counterparts) stresses the special presence of God in Mary's life from the beginning.

St. Augustine connects Mary's birth with Jesus' saving work. He tells the earth to rejoice and shine forth in the light of her birth. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley. Through her birth the nature inherited from our first parents is changed." The opening prayer at Mass speaks of the birth of Mary's Son as the dawn of our salvation and asks for an increase of peace.

Comment: We can see every human birth as a call for new hope in the world. The love of two human beings has joined with God in his creative work. The loving parents have shown hope in a world filled with travail. The new child has the potential to be a channel of God's love and peace to the world. This is all true in a magnificent way in Mary. If Jesus is the perfect expression of God's love, Mary then is the foreshadowing of that love. If Jesus has brought the fullness of salvation, Mary is its dawning.

Birthday celebrations bring happiness to the celebrant as well as to family and friends. Next to the birth of Jesus, Mary's birth offers the greatest possible happiness to the world. Each time we celebrate her birth we can confidently hope for an increase of peace in our hearts and in the world at large.

Quote: "Today the barren Anna claps her hands for joy, the earth radiates with light, kings sing their happiness, priests enjoy every blessing, the entire universe rejoices, for she who is queen and the Father's immaculate bride buds forth from the stem of Jesse" (adapted from *Byzantine Daily Worship*).

September 12th, Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin



This feast is a counterpart to the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus; both have the possibility of uniting people who are easily divided on other matters.

The feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary began in Spain in 1513 and in 1671 was extended to all of Spain and then the Kingdom of Naples. In 1683, John Sobieski, king of Poland, brought an army to the outskirts of Vienna to stop the advance of Muslim armies loyal to Mohammed IV of Constantinople. After Sobieski entrusted himself to the Blessed Virgin Mary, he and his soldiers thoroughly defeated the Muslims. Pope Innocent XI extended this feast to the entire Church.

Reflection: Mary always points us to God, reminding us of God's infinite goodness. She helps us to open our hearts to God's ways, wherever those may lead us. Honoured under the title "Queen of Peace," Mary encourages us to cooperate with Jesus in building a peace based on justice, a peace that respects the fundamental human rights of all peoples.

POPE'S INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER, 2019

The Protection of the Oceans

That politicians, scientists and economists work together to protect the world's seas and oceans.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

⇒ 13th September, SVP QUIZ NIGHT



FIRST COMMUNION 2019-20

This year's First Holy Communion Programme will begin in September.

We will continue to follow the programme recommended by the Diocese and put together by the Formation for Mission

Team. This has proved to be a great success and is quite a departure from previous programmes in that it tries to foster and develop a deep personal relationship between the children and the person of Jesus Christ.

It comprises of 22 sessions, split into two sections.

The first part focuses on the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the second on the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

As before we welcome children in school **Year 4**

There is a new form on the Parish website under the sacraments tab. Please complete this if you wish your child to be enrolled this year. The web address for it is:

<https://www.tfaforms.com/4755703>

If you would like to join the catechist's team, or just help out with the running of things then please contact Fr Peter at the Parish email address.

More complete information with dates etc, will be available very shortly.

Parish Phone Line

There have been major problems with the Parish landline and it has been unavailable for several days. The BT engineers have to connect a new line from the service pole to the office. Please be patient while this work is carried out. At the moment it's best to send an email to parkgate@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk if you need to make contact.

Nightfever - St Mary's, Gosport, 21st September starting at 7.30pm. When our passers-by from the street will again be invited to come to spend time with Jesus and light a candle.

Charity unites us to God... There is nothing mean in charity, nothing arrogant. Charity knows no schism, does not rebel, does all things in concord. In charity all the elect of God have been made perfect. -- **Pope St. Clement I**

Our Lord does not come down from Heaven every day to lie in a golden ciborium. He comes to find another heaven which is infinitely dearer to him - the heaven of our souls, created in His Image, the living temples of the Adorable Trinity. -- **Saint Therese of Lisieux**



The Rosary is recited after the morning weekday Masses at 10.15am. Please come to join in this ancient prayer reflecting on the Mysteries of Christ's life. HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, PRAY FOR US.

Please remember in your prayers

Judy Wiseman, Mark Ingram, Mary Salter, Helen Worstmann, Bernadette Wall, Aileen Hopkins, Jim Brown, Oliver Russell, Irene Hollywood, Pat Juke, Joseph Dolan, Siobhan Jefferies, Irene Otter, Jeanne Key, Marion Celand, Samantha Donohoe, Pat & Hugh Cooke, Josie Cutcliffe, Eileen Parsons, Maria & John Marvao, Kol Thelis, Thomas McCartney, Pat Elward, Netta Tracy, June Paris, John Kinneavy, Susan Bolton, Natalie Mahon, Kazy Madeley, Joseph Chisholm, Anne-Marie Mooney.

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, PRAY FOR THEM

