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Link for vacancies throughout the Diocese <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs>

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 26th January 2025

Special Second Collection this weekend for Portsmouth Cathedral to cover emergency repairs

Nehemiah 8: 2-6, 8-10

1 Corinthians 12: 12-30

Gospel John 1: 1-4 and 4: 14-21

The readings this weekend challenge us if we are listening to the message of Jesus and encourage us not to just hear God's word but to act on it. We should live our faith every day especially how we treat and deal with others in our community.

In the first reading the Governor Nehemiah emphasises to the people the importance of listening to the priest and scribe Ezra. It is over 100 years since the people of Israel returned from exile in Babylon, but they have not yet managed to reorganise their lives. Anarchy is total; theft, harassment, violence and oppression of the poor are committed. King Artaxerxes of Persia, on whom Palestine depends, sends to Jerusalem Ezra to try to make the people obey the law of God and restore social justice.

In St Paul's letter to the Corinthians the perfect covenant is mystically symbolised by his doctrine on the inseparable union between Jesus Christ and His Church as His Mystic Body. Jesus is the Head and we, all baptised in Him, are the different parts of members of His Body. St Paul makes it clear that His Church is not just for the Jews but for the Greeks who he is addressing, for slaves and for everyone in the world who should be treated equally. A message today to avoid racism and discrimination.

In Luke's Gospel Jesus makes His inaugural sermon in the synagogue in His home town of Nazareth. Luke explains how the Jewish people venerate the writings, teachings and prophesises that keep them in touch with their past and the promises from God. This act, at the beginning of the ministry of Jesus, shows He fulfils the prophesy from Isaiah and is the Messiah, the promised Saviour. He brings good news for the poor and oppressed and has come to help and save everyone. Malcolm.

Mass times

Feast Days

6 pm Confessions	Saturday 25th Conversion of St Paul Saul was born in Tarsus to Greek speaking Jewish parents. Educated in Jerusalem by a famous rabbi. He trained as a Pharisee. Was a fanatical persecutor of Christians. Present at the martyrdom of the first Christian martyr St Stephen. Struck blind on the road to Damascus and challenged by a voice who asked him why he persecuted Christians. Converted and was baptised with the new name Paul. Started preaching that Jesus was God the Son made man mainly to the Gentiles in Greece and Asia Minor, now Turkey. Well known for all his letters to different Christian communities even from prison.
6.30pm Vigil Mass Angela Churchill RIP 9th Anniversary on 28th January	Sunday 26th January Third Sunday of Ordinary Time Prathesh and Soumya. 14th Wedding Anniversary
6.30 pm Mass	Monday 27th St Angela Merici Born 1474 in Italy, daughter of a farmer near Lake Garda. 4 of 5 siblings died young. She and elder sister orphaned when Angela was 10. Brought up by her uncle. Then her sister died and she had a vision in which she was asked to form a "Company of Virgins". In Brescia, east of Milan, she gathered a group of young unmarried women to offer religious support to girls who were not rich, unmarried, whose only future was menial jobs or prostitution. From her childhood Angela had a devotion to St Ursula, patroness of medieval universities. She founded the <i>Company of St Ursula</i> which became the <i>Congregation of the Ursulines</i> a teaching Order of young girls. Her goal was to elevate, through Christian education, the family life of future wives and mothers. The <i>Ursulines</i> opened orphanages and schools. Angela had many supporters but also made enemies, especially among the upper classes, who suspected her of attempting to lure their marriageable daughters away from prestigious alliances to join the <i>Ursulines</i> . The <i>Ursulines</i> becoming the largest teaching Order in the Church and active worldwide. She died in Brescia on 27 th January 1540. Had she lived a generation later, she might have found her unenclosed <i>Congregation of the Ursuline Sisters</i> blocked by the Inquisition and the Vatican that felt that women's Orders should be enclosed.
10 am Mass	Tuesday 28th St Thomas Aquinas Born 1225 Italy to noble family of Sicilian ancestry. Educated by Benedictines at Abbey of Monte Cassino and University of Naples where he was attracted to new Dominicans, preaching beggars, rather than respectable Benedictines that his parents wanted him to join. Continued his studies in Cologne, Germany. Fellow students nicknamed him "Dumb Sicilian Ox" due to his shyness. Lecturers recognised his intelligence. Obtained <i>Master of Theology</i> at Paris University. Lectured as Professor of Theology. Very able theologian and philosopher. Wrote <i>Summa contra Gentiles</i> and the unfinished <i>Summa Theologica</i> as well as other works. Near end of his life became disillusioned. Stopped writing. Felt he had made mistakes in some beliefs such as thinking black people did not have souls. Thomas died on 7 th March 1274. Canonised 49 years later in 1323.
6.30 pm Mass	Wednesday 29th St Gildas the Wise Born in Scotland in about 500, son of King Caunus. Was educated in Wales. Monk best known for his scathing religious polemic <i>De Excidio et Conquestu Britanniae</i> , telling the history of post Roman Britain before and during the coming of the Anglo-Saxons. It vividly recorded the failure of British leaders and clerics. Revived the Church in Ireland. His brother King Caunus led raids from Scotland on England and was killed in battle by King Arthur. Peacemaker between King Arthur and King Melvas. Died about 570. Buried in Glastonbury Abbey in St Mary's Church. His shrine became a centre of pilgrimage.

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

This weekend there is a Special Second Collection for St John the Evangelist Cathedral in Portsmouth
Since September 2022 emergency repairs have been carried out on the roof and windows of the Cathedral, the latest in 2023 to 120 year old West Window which cost £90,100. So far £84,130 has been raised across the diocese.

Next SVP Social is on Wednesday 5th February – 1pm to 3 pm

This is another opportunity to meet for refreshments and a chat. Please come along with your friends.

No need to stay for the whole time, a few minutes of two hours, whatever suits you. Renee and Pat.

Ruth Gleeson died peacefully in her sleep on Thursday 16th January on the day of her 100th birthday
Ruth was wife of deceased Deacon Paddy Gleeson, mother of Dee Heatley and mother in law of Joe Heatley.
Ruth's birth certificate has the 16th January although the family had always celebrated her birthday on the 17th.

Please remember her and her family in your prayers.

Parish collection for last weekend 18th and 19th January

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Parish Gift Aid Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Other Money	Gift Aid	Loose	TOTAL of all money
£57	£14.25	£151.94	£242.54	£51.98	£517.71	----	----	----	£517.71