



St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
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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 prophesies 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
6.30pm Vigil Mass
Angela Churchill
RIP
9th Anniversary
on 28th January

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.

9.30 am Mass

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 *Company of St Ursula* which became the *Congregation of the Ursulines* a teaching Order of young girls. Her goal was to elevate, through Christian education, the family life of future wives and mothers. The *Ursulines* 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 *Ursulines*. The Ursulines becoming the largest teaching Order in the Church and active worldwide. She died in Brescia on 27th January 1540. Had she lived a generation later, she might have found her unenclosed *Congregation of the Ursuline Sisters* 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 *Master of Theology* at Paris University. Lectured as Professor of Theology. Very able theologian and philosopher. Wrote *Summa contra Gentiles* and the unfinished *Summa Theological* 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 7th 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 *De Excidio et Conquestu Britanniae*, 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.

10 am Mass Rosamma Varghese RIP		Thursday 30 th St Bathild (Bathildis) of Chelles Anglo-Saxon born about 626 in England, a relative King Ricberht, last pagan king of East Anglia. Beautiful, intelligent, modest and attentive to the needs of others. As a young girl abducted by pirates who sold her into slavery in France to the person in charge of the household of the palace of the Christian King Clovis II of Neustria. Bathild did not struggle against her circumstances but learned to do the chores required remaining polite and gentle. Eventually she impressed King Clovis who married her in 649. Bathild remained humble and modest. Famous for her charity to the poor and generous donations to churches, abbeys and monasteries. When the king died in 658 her eldest son of three children became the king. Queen Bathild acted as regent. Due to her experience she suppressed the slave trade and worked to release many slaves. She opened a seminary for the training of clergy and the Convent Abbey of Chelles near Paris for nuns. Ultimately she abandoned her royal privileges and entered the convent with humility and in strict obedience to her superiors. Devoted herself to caring for the sick and poor. Died 30 th January 680					
NO MASS Celebration of 18 th Birthday of Joash Siby		Friday 31 st St John Bosco Born 1815 in Italy to a peasant farmer who died when he was 2. His industrious and holy mother brought him up with his 2 older brothers. John worked as a shepherd as a boy. He taught Catechism to his fellow students at the village school and encouraged them to attend church. To keep their attention he did a variety of acrobatic and conjuring tricks. His mother was delighted when he was ordained in 1841 aged 26. While visiting prisons he found many young boys. He decided he needed to prevent these boys ending up in prison. He started a recreation centre in a poor area of Turin which he called the <i>Festive Oratory</i> and collected boys off the streets. He had a programme on Sundays of Mass, games, outings and some vocational education. During the week he tried to find work for the boys. He ensured employers treated their apprentices well with proper agreements in which he was involved. Don Bosco started evening classes and two workshops for shoemaking and tailoring. He started providing accommodation for the boys with his mother who they called "Mamma Margherita". He then provided technical training with workshops for book-binding and joinery, a printing press and an iron foundry. Also grammar classes and Latin classes for those who might have a religious vocation. In 1854 in Turin, during a cholera epidemic in which thousands died, Don Bosco formed his boys into teams to carry the sick to hospital and the dead to mortuaries. No boy died, and he acquired a reputation as a miracle worker. In 1859, Don Bosco founded with 22 people working with him, the <i>Society of St Francis de Sales</i> , later called the <i>Salesians</i> , the religious Order that would carry on his work. In 1871 he started the <i>Daughters of Our Lady Help of Christians</i> with 27 nuns to work with poor girls. He also founded the <i>Salesian Co-operators</i> who were mainly lay people who worked with young people. Eventually Don Bosco sent the <i>Salesians</i> as missionaries to South America. He was also a church builder with churches and a Basilica in Turin and a Basilica in Rome in which he said Mass in 1887. Now worn out from all his work he died on 31 st January 1888. Virtually all of Turin lined the streets during his funeral. Canonised on Easter Sunday 1 st April 1934 by Pope Pius XI who had met Don Bosco when he was a young priest in Italy. One of the great "social saints".					
6 pm Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass		Saturday 1 st February St Brigid of Kildare (St Brigid Cross) Born into slavery in Ireland. Her mother was a Christian slave. Brought up as a Christian but educated by Druids. Her father was the Chieftain who owned her slave mother. Brigid was generous and gave away her parents possessions to the poor. Became a nun and founded a monastery at Kildare to help the poor and sick. Abbess of a double monastery with nuns and monks. Created holy wells for Irish baptisms. Weaved the " <i>St Brigid Cross</i> " to help convert a pagan. Founded school of art to create illuminated manuscripts including <i>The Book of Kildare</i> , famous and greatly valued until it was lost in the Reformation. Abbess Brigid died on 1 st Feb 525 aged 75. Buried in Down Cathedral, Downpatrick with tombs of St Patrick and St Columba.					
9.30 am Mass		Sunday 2 nd February The Presentation of the Lord John, Pat and all the deceased members of the Moon family					
PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS WHEN RECORDING NAMES FOR MASS INTENTION							
Your prayers are needed for the following people							
Sue Chandler	Hazel Sale	Joe Heatley	Trevor Delves	Valerie Baker	Fr Shaun Budden	Fr Antony Gatt	

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

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