



**St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church  
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**Website:** <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/st-vincent-de-paul/> (To open: Select link then Ctrl + left Click)

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

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**Isaiah 6: 1-8**

**1 Corinthians 15: 1-11**

**Gospel Luke 5: 1-11**

In the readings this weekend through the stories from Isaiah, St Paul and St Luke's Gospel we explore God's holiness, human unworthiness, the power of God's grace, witnessing to faith and the call to follow Jesus. They teach us to embrace any opportunity to lead to make a positive difference in many people's lives. Leadership is collaboration, a participating in the work of God to bring about the renewal of the world. Just as the disciples left their nets, their security and livelihood, to follow Jesus, we are called to let go of things that hinder our spiritual growth. These can be habits, possessions or relationships that keep us from a closer relationship with Jesus. We might feel we are unworthy but in the readings we hear that others had this feeling. Isaiah said "I am a man of unclean lips"; St Paul admitted "I am the least of the apostles" and Peter pleaded "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man". However, with the grace and blessings from God we can gain confidence to take up the challenge just as they did.

In the first reading from the prophet Isaiah he has a vision of God's holiness. He sees the Lord on a throne with angels around Him, singing praises. The scene is full of awe and majesty. This vision reminds us of God's greatness and the importance of honouring Him in our lives. Isaiah's reaction is of unworthiness and inadequate before God. This humility is crucial in our relationship with God. Recognising our unworthiness helps us understand the need for God's forgiveness and mercy. Finally Isaiah responded to the summons to serve and to lead his people. In the second reading from St Paul's letter to his Greek friends, like Isaiah, despite his feeling of inadequacy and the fact he originally persecuted Christians, he was empowered with the word of God. Although claiming he was the least of the apostles, St Paul worked harder than most and with the grace of God, he preached the Gospel, telling people how Jesus died for their sins and was raised to life on the third day according to the Scripture.

In Luke's Gospel the crowd that had been listening to the preaching of Jesus experienced the transforming power of God's message of a new beginning and pressed around Him. To escape from the crush he uses Simon Peter's boat in the lake to continue to preach to the crowd in safety. When he finished preaching he asks the fishermen to caste their nets despite their claims they had found no fish. After a miraculous catch of fish Peter, like Isaiah and St Paul, declares his unworthiness. However, Peter answers the call to leadership and takes on the task of catching people instead of fish to follow the teaching of Jesus for the kingdom of God. Are we ready to answer God's call? Malcolm.

**Mass times**

**Feast Days**

<b>6 pm Confessions</b> <b>6.30pm Vigil Mass</b>	<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> St Josephine Bakhita</b> Born in 1869 in Sudan. Her uncle was chief of the village. Seized by Arab slave traders. Sold to Arab chief. Badly assaulted by his son. Bought by a Turkish army general. Wife beat her daily. Inflicted wounds of 114 cuts on her body. Then bought by Italian Consul whose family treated her kindly. Back in Italy, given to a couple who owned an hotel. Nanny to their daughter. Legally released from slavery. Joined Canossian Sisters as Sister Josephine Margaret Bakhita. Her sanctity and charisma recognised by all who met her. Worked as cook, seamstress, sacristan and door keeper. Kind, gentle and with a calming voice for children. Book of her life story in 1931. Trained missionary nuns for work in Africa, work that was dear to her heart. Sister Josephine Bakhita died 8 <sup>th</sup> February 1947. She is the patron saint of Sudan and victims of human trafficking.
<b>9.30 am Mass</b>	<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time</b> <b>Thanksgiving Mass for the 45<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Xavier and Debbie Fernandes</b>
<b>6.30 pm Mass</b>	<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> . St Scholastica</b> Born about 480 east of Rome, the twin of St Benedict of Nursia, daughter of a Roman noble. Dedicated to religious life. Started at home. Then moved to a monastery near Monte Cassino that Benedict founded, the first Benedictine Convent. Became Abbess. Followed Benedictine Rule. 8 hours sleep, 8 hours prayer, 8 hours manual work, works of charity or sacred reading. Annually met her twin St Benedict for religious discussion. Died 10 <sup>th</sup> February 543 aged 63.
<b>10 am Mass</b>	<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> Our Lady of Lourdes</b> "Our Lady of Lourdes" was the name given to 18 apparitions in 1858 to Bernadette Soubirous a 14 year old poor girl in Lourdes, France, in the foothills of the Pyrenees. Bernadette, due to illness, was only 4 ft 7ins tall and, according to Bernadette, the apparition was the same age and no taller than her, despite all the depictions being a tall and older lady. Water from the spring that started in February 1858 at the shrine that sometimes has healing powers, is used today by pilgrims who honour Our Lady as the "Immaculate Conception".
<b>6.30 pm Mass</b>	<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> St Caedmon</b> Born about 600. Cared for livestock on lands owned by Whitby Abbey double monastery on the Yorkshire east coast.. In a dream learnt to sing and compose poetry. The Abbess, who was St Hilda, took him into monastery as a lay monk. Accomplished and inspirational poet, song writer and composer of many Christian hymns in vernacular English

10 am Mass	<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> St Modomnoc O'Neil of Ossory</b> Born about 500 in the royal O'Neil family in Ireland. With no seminaries in Ireland at the time he travelled to Wales to be trained for the priesthood by St David. Beekeeper for monastery. He took great care of them and spoke to them daily. The bees swarmed around his head as though replying to him. When he returned to Ireland a swarm of bees followed him. Introduced a new fine strain of bees into Ireland. Parish priest who founded other churches. Appointed the Bishop of Ossory. Ended his days as a hermit.
NO MASS	<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> St Valentine</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> century priest in Rome. Great preacher who converted many to Christianity. When Roman Emperor Claudius II banned marriage for men in Rome so he could recruit them for his army with no ties, Valentine opposed him and secretly carried out weddings. Arrested first by a judge. Valentine cured his blind daughter. The judge, his family and 44 of his household converted to Christianity and released Valentine. Arrested again and found guilty by Emperor Claudius. The daughter of his jailor he had converted and secretly married to her husband. She took in food and other provisions for him while he was in prison. Father Valentine left a good-bye note to her saying: "from your Valentine" before he was martyred by being beheaded by the sword
6 pm Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> St Cyril and St Methodius</b> 2 brothers born between 815 and 827 in Thessalonica, present day Greece, in the Byzantine Empire. Cyril the younger attended Constantinople Imperial University. Became a lecturer. Ordained a priest. Chosen by the Byzantine Emperor as a missionary to Khazar Empire as he could speak to both Jews and Saracens. He achieved a peaceful agreement. Returned and was made professor of philosophy at Constantinople and known as the "Philosopher". Methodius his brother had become a monk and then abbot of the monastery so was involved in affairs of the Byzantine Empire. Both brothers then sent to evangelise the Slavs in Great Moravia. With assistants who had been trained in Slavonic language they preached and ministered in the local language which they then used in the Mass and other liturgies much to the delight of the people. This upset the German and Frankish clergy who used Latin. Brothers devised a new Glagolitic alphabet for Slavs based on Greek. After many disputes, they went to Rome to appeal to Pope Adrian II who supported them due to their success in greatly increasing the numbers of Christians. Made them both bishops with power to ordain new priests but Cyril died in Rome on 14 <sup>th</sup> February 869. Methodius then went to Pannonia with his assistants, many who were ordained by the pope. Had papal permission to use the Slavonic language in Mass and other liturgies which again upset the German and Frankish clergy who again lost parishioners to the Byzantine liturgies. Due to his success Methodius was made an archbishop by the pope that really annoyed his opponents. The Frankish ruler, King Louis the German, called a synod of bishops who then imprisoned Archbishop Methodius for two and half years despite protests from the people. His assistant priests appealed to Rome and he was eventually released by the new Pope John VIII. Archbishop Methodius and his priests then went back to Great Moravia and were greatly welcomed by the people. After many years of unrivalled success, Archbishop Methodius started again to have opposition and died exhausted in 885. In 886 Pope Stephen V restored Latin to replace the use of Slavonic language in the Mass and other liturgies despite drop in parishioners. Two brothers considered "Apostles of the Slavs".
9.30 am Mass	<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <b>Thanksgiving Mass from Nkiruka and family to thank God for His grace and asking God for His grace during 2025 for the family</b>

**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	Fr Shaun Budden	Fr Antony Gatt	
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#### **NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Requiem Mass for Rosina Le Bas on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 1 pm at St Vincent de Paul**

Rosina died on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December last year and was cremated on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January to fulfil her last wishes.. Her family invite you all to the Requiem Mass and to afternoon tea at the GK Chesterton Suite at Chilworth Manor from 2 pm.. If you are able to attend at Chilworth Manor, please would you inform Christine Thomas (call or text on **07512345491** ) so that the caterers can be notified.

#### **Appeal for Raffle Prizes from Liz Challand**

Do you have any unwanted Christmas presents that you do not need and may be used as Raffle Prizes to raise funds for our parish of St Vincent de Paul? Any items please drop them into the Sacristy or church office.

#### **Next SVP Social is on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### **Parish collection for last weekend 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

Parish collection for last weekend 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> February							Special Collection		
Parish Gift Aid Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Hall Booking	Gift Aid	Loose	TOTAL of all money
£55	£13.75	£151.11	£242.54	£51.98	£514.38	£60	----	----	£574.38