



**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>

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sunday 6th April 2025

This weekend there will be a Special Second Collection for the Clergy Assistance Fund

Isaiah 43: 16-21

Philippians 3: 8-14

Gospel John 8: 1-11

The readings this weekend invite us to reflect on God's promises, our journey of faith and the call to forgiveness and change. They guide us to new beginnings, perseverance and mercy and should help us apply these lessons in our daily life, In the first reading from the great prophet Isaiah, God puts it beautifully and bluntly saying: *"I am doing a new thing. Do you not perceive it?"* To forget the past and even in our hardest times God is working to bring us hope and renewal In the second reading, the letter to the Philippians in Greece, St Paul, the former Pharisee and zealot for the law, tells of how *"Jesus has made me his own"*. He is putting the past behind him and *"straining forward to what lies ahead, to press on towards the goal for the prize"*. St Paul is writing this while being in prison some 20 years after his conversion on the road to Damascus. In our faith journey, we must always work to grow a closer relationship with Jesus, never feeling we have arrived. In John's Gospel, for the scribes and Pharisees the main point is not to punish the woman caught in adultery but to set a trap for Jesus. Would He defy the law of Moses or would He, by condemning the woman, usurp the prerogative of the Roman occupying power that reserve the right to use the death penalty. However Jesus shows tenderness and mercy towards the woman, ready to condemn the sin but not the sinner. He is willing to forgive her but wants her to change her behaviour and start a new life. He also challenges the scribes and Pharisees for their blind application of the law without compassion. This is a lesson for us not to judge others harshly as we have our own faults and should show mercy and compassion. Malcolm.

Mass times

Feast Days

6 pm Confessions	Saturday 5th St Vincent Ferrer Born in 1350 in Spain of noble parents. Academically brilliant. Joined the Dominicans, "Black Friars". Study in various places. Doctorate of Theology. Taught at Lérida University. Became a brilliant and fiery preacher. Was strongly opposed to Jewish faith and was anti-Semitic and converted many Jews. Involved in the Great Schism and supported anti-pope Benedict XIII. No success in resolving conflict. Continued his missionary work. Died 1419 in France.
6.30pm Vigil Mass Maureen Bannon for recovery from a stroke	9.30 am Mass Sunday 6th April Fifth Sunday of Lent
6.30pm Mass	Monday 7th St John Baptiste de La Salle Born 1751 to a wealthy, aristocratic family in Reims. Father was a lawyer but John Baptist wanted to join the Church. Obtained a Master of Arts and Doctorate of Theology. Ordained and helped to start free school for poor children. Realised founding schools and training teachers was his life's work. Taught in the vernacular rather than Latin and religious instruction to form good Christians. As an aristocrat, keen on good manners and social skills. Founded <i>Brothers of Christian Schools</i> better known as the <i>De La Salle Brothers</i> . Produced new rules, ideas and initiatives in education. Spread through France, then the world. Fr John Baptiste de La Salle died on 7 th April 1719, just before his 68 th birthday. The model was copied by other Orders.
10am Mass	Tuesday 8th St Julie Billiart Born in France in 1751. Knew Catechism by heart at age 7. Recited it and explained it to other children. Received First Communion early age 9. Paralysed at age 30. Taught and gave spiritual advice from her bed, collected a group of rich aristocratic women and met Françoise Blin de Bourdon, Viscountess of Gizaincourt. Went into hiding in French Revolution 1779. Founded <i>Sisters of Notre Dame</i> with Françoise for the education of girls after collapse of schools due to Revolution. Order grew through France but due to conflict with bishop motherhouse in Belgium.
6.30pm Mass	Wednesday 9th St Waldestrudis Born about 630 in Mons, now in Belgium but then part of France. Her noble parents both became saints. Her sister became an abbess of a Benedictine convent and was later venerated as a saint. She married the Count of Hainault and the devout couple had a happy marriage with 4 children all of which were later venerated as saints. They installed in them the importance of helping the poor. When the children were grown up her husband retired to a monastery and was later venerated as a saint. She continued her work helping orphans and widows. 2 years later she founded a convent in Mons to continue her works of charity especially releasing captives by paying the ransom in silver and returning them to their homes. Abbess Waldestrudis, Countess of Hainault, died 9 th April 688. Her shrine is in a church dedicated to her in Mons.
10am Mass	Thursday 10th St Magdalen of Canossa Born in 1774 in Italy to Marquis in Canossa Palace. Three siblings died young. Father died when she was 5 years old. Mother abandoned her and two sisters and brother. Uncle and aunt brought her up. At 18 ran the large estate at Canossa Palace. After French invasion realised help was needed for wounded, poor and sick. Also needed to improve morals and Christian practice. Identified young girls as most vulnerable. Left Palace to an abandoned Convent with many others to start a refuge and schools for poor girls or those in trouble. Founded Order of <i>Daughters of Charity</i> better known as <i>Canossian Sisters of Charity</i> . Sent nuns to hospitals to help care for sick. Order spread throughout world. Sister Magdalen died 1835 aged 61.

Friday 11th St Stanislaus of Cracow Born 1030 in Poland. Educated at the cathedral school in the capital. Ordained a priest. Canon and inspiring preacher in Cracow. Appointed Bishop of Cracow. King Boleslaus of Poland was initially his supporter but then became corrupt by unbridled lust and savage behaviour. He then abducted the wife of one of his nobles and refused to release her and was excommunicated by Bishop Stanislaus. The king carried out a show trial to discredit the bishop but failed. He then ordered him to be killed. His soldiers were too afraid to obey. The king himself killed him at the altar while he was celebrating Mass on 11th April 1079 aged 48. The king then repented and entered a monastery till his death. He did not identify himself as the king until his deathbed.

Saturday 12th St Joseph Moscati Born in 1880 in Italy to a noble, religious family. Had a devotion to the Rosary from young and had a rosary all his life. Inspired by an injury to his brother, studied to be a doctor at Naples University. Kept his faith despite agnostic attitude and secret societies. Attended Mass daily. He felt both body and soul was to be treated for full cure and passed this on to his students. Generous in treating the poor free and giving them financial help. He saved all hospital patients after Mount Vesuvius eruption, treated sufferers in cholera outbreak and 3,000 wounded soldiers in First World War. Researched the treatment of diabetes which led to the discovery of insulin. After his usual morning Mass and his tour of patients in the hospital, he died in his armchair on 12th April 1927 aged 47 on the Tuesday of Holy Week. Buried on Maundy Thursday, rather fitting because of his devout love of the Holy Eucharist. Huge crowds attended his funeral.

9.30 am Mass

Sunday 13th April

Sixth Sunday of Lent

PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS WHEN RECORDING NAMES FOR MASS INTENTION

Your prayers are needed for the following people

Sue Chandler Hazel Sale Mary Light Trevor Delves Fr Shaun Budden Ann Drumgoole

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

This weekend there will be a Special Second Collection for the Clergy Assistance Fund

As this Fund is for our Portsmouth Diocese gift aid can be claimed by the parish in the special gift aid envelopes

Fr Thomas is asking for donations towards buying new Mass books which contain the new readings texts

We need to replace all our Mass books that contain the old wording for the readings for Sundays, special feast days but especially Easter and Christmas. There are six books, two for Year A, two for year B and two for Year C which we are now celebrating. We need 50 to 60 books of each addition depending on the response, priced at £5.98 per copy. This would cost between £1,794 and £2,152.80 and donations can be gift aided. With gift aid the parish receives £75 for a donation of £60. During Lent please be generous in supporting this appeal from Fr Thomas. In the first week with gift aid we have collected over £610 in donations.

Appeal for Easter Eggs for Stella Marist to give to seafarers at Easter

The centre has two lay chaplains and a group of volunteers that visit when they dock in Southampton, Hythe and other ports on the south coast. These days ships are in port for only a short time and the ordinary crew are confined to their ship without any chance of visiting a church. At this time of the year it is hoped to help the many hundreds of seafarers, most of whom are Catholics from the Philippines, Kerala and Goa, to celebrate Easter by visiting the ships with faith materials such as rosaries as usual, but make it a special event to take them Easter Eggs and chocolates. So as previous years, we are collecting Easter Eggs for Stella Marist. There is a container in the church porch. Hopefully we have a good response. So far we have 18 Easter Eggs.

Lent and Easter Services at St Vincent de Paul

Palm Sunday 13th April Penitential Service: Wednesday 16th April at 5.30 pm

Maundy Thursday: 17th April Mass at 7.30 pm Adoration beginning after Mass. Ends 3 pm the following day

Good Friday 18th April 3pm Mass Easter Vigil Saturday 19th April 8.30pm Mass Easter Sunday 9.30am Mass

Next SVP Social is on Wednesday 16th April – 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.

50 year celebration on the feast of St Vincent de Paul on Sunday 28th September this year at 9.30am Mass.

We wish to share 50 years of memories of the parish beginning with a celebration Mass followed by a breakfast buffet. All parishioners past and present are invited to attend. For the event we hope to put together a booklet of quotes and memories. Where you involved with the setting up of the parish? Do you have photographs? Did you get married in the parish or celebrate a baptism? Please email any memory to lizchalland@btinternet.com. Just a couple of sentences for each memory please. More details of the event and Mass to follow in Spring.

Parish collection for last weekend 29th and 30th March

New Mass Books

Parish Gift Aid Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	----	Gift Aid	Loose	TOTAL of all money
£77	£19.25	£121.50	£242.54	£51.98	£512.27	----	£400	£110	£1,022.27