



**St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church**  
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**First Sunday of Advent      Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

**Welcome back to Fr Thomas. Replacement of boiler starts on Monday for three days**


Page 82	Isaiah 2: 1-5	Romans 13: 11-14	Gospel Matthew 24: 17-44
<p>This weekend we start the new Liturgical Year A with the Gospel of St Matthew as the primary Gospel. Matthew wrote mainly for the Jewish Christian community, tied to its Jewish heritage, and trying to come to terms with their relationship to Judaism in a new situation. Matthew particularly pointed out the ways in which Christ is the fulfilment of the Judaic Law and the Prophets. The four weeks of Advent is a period of celebration as we prepare for the birth of Jesus and the priest's vestments are purple or violet. It is a time of preparation, expectation and waiting. We should be awake and alert and must make room for Christ so that his coming will find our hearts open to respond to His values and His leadership</p> <p>In the first reading the prophet Isaiah describes his vision in which all nations are gathered together by God in peace. A vision of the future where all nations will come to worship God on His holy mountain. The passage speaks of an era of peace and unity where weapons will be turned into tools for agriculture and all people will live according to God's teachings.</p> <p>The second reading Paul writes to the Gentiles in Rome and explains how Christians should live in a way that is appropriate for those who are followers of Christ, awakening from spiritual sleep and putting on the armour of light. The passage reminds believers to reject sinful behaviours and desires and to instead live in a way that reflects the teachings of Jesus.</p> <p>In Matthew's Gospel Jesus warns His disciples about the need to remain vigilant and prepared for His eventual return, which will come suddenly and unexpectedly. Jesus likens His return to the story of Noah and the flood, emphasising the importance of being ready for His arrival at any moment like a homeowner who suffers a thief who arrives in the night.      Malcolm</p>			
Mass times		Feast Days	
<b>10 am: Fire Marshall Training</b>	<b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November    St Radboud, Bishop of Utrecht</b> Born about 835 near Namur, Belgium, to a noble Frankish family. His great grandfather was the last pagan King of the Frisians before they were converted to Christianity. Began his studies with his maternal uncle, Archbishop Günther of Cologne. Continued his studies at the royal court of Western Frankish king. Ordained a priest. Was chaplain to Frankish King Charles the Bald. On the death of the king he moved to Benedictine monastery in Tours, France. Elected Bishop of Utrecht in the Netherlands. Could not live there due to its destruction by the Danes. Resided in Deventer east of Utrecht. Wrote hymns, sermons and poetry. Was renowned for his kindness to the poor. Died in Deventer in 917.		
<b>6.30pm Vigil Mass Thanksgiving Mass by Peter and ? (Sly)</b>			
<b>9.30 am Mass</b>	<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b>	
<b>6.30 pm Mass</b>	<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December    St Edmund Campion</b> Born 1540 in London, son of a bookseller. Brought up a Catholic. Went to Oxford University and became Anglican deacon. Returned to Catholicism. Went to Ireland and helped establish University of Dublin. Then to the English College at Douai in France to study for priesthood. Ordained in 1578. With Fr Robert Parsons was the first two Jesuit priests sent on English mission and arrived in London in the guise of a jewel merchant in 1580. He wrote the <i>Campion's Brag</i> to justify his return to England. Had to leave London for safety. Ministered in Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Lancashire Eventually arrested, faced trial and martyred at Tyburn with two other priests on 1 <sup>st</sup> December 1581.		
<b>10 am Mass</b>	<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>    St Bibiana</b> Patron saint of hangover cures. Roman virgin and the daughter of a Christian Roman Knight who was sent into exile after being tortured for his Christian beliefs. Bibiana's mother was beheaded and the two sisters were left in poverty. Her sister died when they were arrested. She refused to renounce her faith. Martyred in 360. Herbs grew from her grave with medicinal properties that helped the cure of hangovers. Now the site of St Bibiana Basilica in Rome.		
<b>6.30 pm Mass</b>	<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>    St Francis Xavier</b> Spanish Basque born 1506 in the castle of Xavier where his father was the steward. Doctorate of Law at Bologna University. Then 11 years at Paris University. Gained a reputation as an athlete. Age 23 met Ignatius of Loyola who was 38 and took Francis through his <i>Spiritual Exercises</i> . The two gathered with another 5 students with the idea of becoming priests and doing missionary work. Pierre Favre was ordained first. The 7 met at St Denis Church in Montmartre on 15 <sup>th</sup> August 1534 with a Mass celebrated by Fr Pierre. They all vowed to live in poverty and to devote their lives to the conversion of Muslims and others to Christianity as the "Society of Jesus". This was the founding of the Jesuits. The other six were ordained together on 24 <sup>th</sup> June 1537. They visited Rome in 1540 where Pope Paul III approved Fr Ignatius' Rules for the Order. Francis left on 7 <sup>th</sup> April 1541, his 35 <sup>th</sup> birthday for Goa in India. Portuguese missionaries had, 30 years earlier, discovered the St Thomas Christians who dated back to the 1 <sup>st</sup> century. They then imposed a European style Christianity on some of the people but when Francis arrived this group had lost its way. The St Thomas Christians were still devout and true to the faith and had no time for the European style faith. Fr Francis and his fellow missionaries concentrated on reforming the European Christians. After a few years they moved to other parts of India and Ceylon. Then to Malaysia, Maluku Islands and Japan where they tried to respect the local culture. Francis died as he started work in China on 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 1552 aged 46. Eventually he was buried in a Basilica in Goa		

10 am Mass	<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> St John Damascene</b> Born 675 in Damascus, 43 years after the death of Mohammed. An Arabic Christian in Syria where Islam was spreading rapidly. Educated with Muslim books and Greek Christian books. Greek and Christian communities were tolerated by the Islamic authority. Administrator in Muslim court. Hermit at Mar Saba monastery, Jerusalem, founded by the great theologian and hermit St Sabas. John was one of the greatest theologians and philosophers of the Eastern Church. Produced many works and sermons. Devotion to Virgin Mary. Died 749 at 74.
NO MASS	<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> St Birinus</b> French Benedictine monk born 600. Came to England in 634, landing at Southampton, then Hamwic, in the St Mary's area as "Apostle to the West Saxons" sent by Pope Honorius I as a missionary. Founded St Mary's Church whose football team centuries later formed the basis of Southampton FC, then called the "Saints" after the church. Allowed to preach by the pagan West Saxon King Cynegils who was eventually converted to Christianity. Made an alliance with Christian King Oswald of Northumbria against the pagan Mercians in central England. Made Bishop of Dorchester-on-Thames, 10 miles south of Oxford, then the capital of the Kingdom of the West Saxons before Winchester was chosen as the capital. Established many new churches in his diocese. Very successful ministry and preaching converting many, until his death in 650
6pm Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> St Nicholas of Myra</b> Born 270 in Asia Minor now Turkey to rich Greek parents. Worked for social justice in his youth and did a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Made Bishop of Myra. Imprisoned in the "Great Persecution" of Christians by Roman Emperor Diocletian. When released by the new Emperor Constantine his parents died and he inherited great wealth which he used to help the poor. Legend of helping 3 poor daughters with dowry so they could marry rather than go into prostitution. To give the bags of gold secretly he threw them through the bedroom window and the gold landed in the girl's stockings hanging at the end of their bed. On the third occasion the father saw Bishop Nicholas and overwhelmed him with gratitude.. Pawn brokers sign of 3 gold balls represents the 3 bags of gold he gave them. Basis of Santa Claus giving presents to young people at Christmas. Fought for justice against the Roman authorities and saved innocent people from execution. Patron saint of unmarried women, brides, sailors, pilgrims. Died in 343. First buried in Myra. Relics moved to Italy in Bari and Venice when the area was captured by the Muslim Turks
9.30 am Mass	<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December</b>
<b>Second Sunday in Advent</b>	
<b>PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS WHEN RECORDING NAMES FOR MASS INTENTION</b>	
<b>Your prayers are needed for the following people</b>	
Ann Drumgoole    Hazel Sale    Mary Light    Trevor Delves    Fr Shaun Budden	

### NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

#### Fire Marshall Training at St Vincent de Paul at 10 am this Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November

For those parishioners who volunteered many weeks ago to help with a "Fire Practice" for our church, we have organised training from Deacon Michael Short at the time above. Anyone else can attend if they wish.



**Are you able to host the Posada, figures of Mary, Joseph and the donkey, for the night?**

As last year, the modern Posada uses nativity figures of Mary, Joseph and the donkey who travel from place to place in the parish. Our Posada will be blessed at St Vincent de Paul on the First Sunday of Advent, 1<sup>st</sup> December at the 9.30 am Mass.

Parishioners wishing to host the Posada should fill in the "*Posada Journey Rota*" in the church porch with your name and contact details. The person hosting the Posada on the day before you will deliver the Posada to you at an agreed time. You are then expected to make arrangements for the Posada to be delivered to the next host on the following day. For the evening that you host the Posada, you might like to invite family and friends to join in your celebration, or you might prefer a quiet evening of prayer and reflection. Sheet of suggestions are available. Hosting the Posada can be an opportunity to share our faith with family and friends but, above all, it is a chance to celebrate the period of Advent and think about our journey towards the great feast of Christmas.

**Sponsors for Christmas bags of treats to be distributed at the Southampton Sunday Lunch Project**

Can you sponsor a Christmas bag of treats containing a hat, gloves, socks, toiletries and treats to be distributed at the Southampton Sunday Lunch Project Christmas Meal Service in Woolston and Portswood on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December. This year Liz Challand is trying to provide 150 and each bag is £10 in value. If you would like to sponsor a bag or bags please speak to Liz or email [lizchalland@btinternet.com](mailto:lizchalland@btinternet.com) by Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November

**Christmas Collection of sweets for Southampton Sunday Lunch Project by Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

Collection of wrapped sweets such as Roses, Celebration and Quality Street needed. Please place your donations in box in the porch by Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Many thanks in anticipation. Shelagh Moon can be contacted up to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December on. Tel: 023 8073 6275. After that date please contact Liz Challand.

**Next SVP Social is on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – 1pm to 3 pm**

Another opportunity to meet for refreshments and a chat. Come along with your friends. No need to stay for the whole time, a few minutes or 2 hours, whatever suits you. Renee and Pat

**Parish collection for last weekend 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November**

						Bamenda			
Parish Gift Aid Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Candle money	Gift Aid	Loose	TOTAL of all money
£72	£18	£185.75	£242.54	£51.98	£570.27	£45			£615.27