



St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
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Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) Sunday 14th December 2025

Special Second collection this weekend for the flowers for Christmas

Page 88	Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10	James 5: 7-10	Gospel Matthew 11: 2-11
<p>The Third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word meaning “Joy and Rejoicing”. This weekend we light a third candle in the Advent Wreath, the pink one instead of the purple candles.. This candle is often called the “Shepherd’s Candle” or the “Joy Candle” and reflects the joy the shepherds experienced when the angel told them that Christ was born. The Advent season is now half over and the coming of Jesus at Christmas is much closer. However while we wait we can be joyful, not because everything is perfect but because we are hopeful and trust in God in our preparation. In the first reading from the prophet Isaiah he encourages the exiled Jews in Babylon to rejoice because their God was going to liberate them from slavery and lead them safely back to their homeland in Israel. He speaks of a future where God’s healing restores what was broken. The desert, often a place of hardship, becomes a place which will bloom with life and joy. This points to God’s power to bring new life where none seemed possible and will bloom, just as the desert comes to life after rain. Isaiah speaks of justice and reminds us that salvation includes healing, strength for the weak and joy for the sorrowful. He predicts that the coming Messiah will cure the blind, the deaf, the lame and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy. In the second reading from the letter of St James to the early Church he speaks about how faith must shape our actions. He calls for the Christian communities to be patient and strong. Waiting for the Lord means choosing hope instead of grumbling and frustration. Like farmers we must trust that the harvest will come in time. St James also points to the prophets to follow their example of patience as they trusted God even when things were hard. Living a life that shows our trust in God reminds us that faith is not passive, it is patient, active and grounded in hope. We must strengthen our hearts and avoid complaining. Matthew’s Gospel often highlights how Jesus fulfils the hopes and promises found in the Old Testament. This weekend we find John the Baptist in prison. He sends his disciples to ask Jesus if he is the Messiah. The two were related and most likely knew each other in their youth which explains John’s doubts. Jesus refers back to prophesies in the Old Testament such as the first reading from Isaiah and tells them he has cured the blind, the deaf, the lame, the lepers and brings good news for the poor and even raised the dead. He praises John for his role in preparing for the Messiah. As this Jubilee Year draws to and end let us consider how we have improved our spiritual lives and how we should rejoice in the coming of Jesus at Christmas.</p>			

Mass times	Feast Days
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	<p>Saturday 13th St Lucy of Syracuse Born 283 in Syracuse in Sicily to rich, noble Christian parents. Her father died when she was 5 years old. Lucy dedicated her virginity to God unknown to her mother who arranged a marriage with a rich noble pagan young man. When Lucy convinced her mother to give her dowry and wealth to the poor he was furious. He denounced her to the Governor who demanded she offered pagan worship. When she refused he tried to punish her but was unable to harm her. He had her eyes gouged out and killed by the sword as a martyr in 304. St Lucy became one of the most famous and venerated virgin martyrs of the early Church.</p>
9.30 am Mass	<p>Sunday 14th December Third Sunday of Advent 3 pm: Christmas Carol Service at St Vincent de Paul</p>
6.30 pm Mass	<p>Monday 15th St Mary-Crucifixa di Rosa Born 1813 in Brescia, Italy, to a noble family. Educated by Visitation Sisters. Mother died when she was 11. Left school and ran the home. In her parish helped arrange retreats and missions. Worked in her father’s factory and cared for the female workers. Took the role of a social worker. Worked in the community, especially among poor girls. Tended sick in cholera epidemic in 1836. Gathered together group of female social workers to support a home for mute and deaf women that her brother had started. Then formed the “Pious Union” with the help of a priest, a friend and her brother which was a group who offered services to women in difficulty. This attracted many women who saw this as important social work. Founded Religious Order to care for the poor, those ill in hospital and soldiers during the war even going on the battlefield. In the middle of the war, invading troops were intent on murder and plunder. When they tried to enter the hospital they were met by Mary holding a large crucifix and the nuns holding candles. Full of shame the soldiers departed. Mary died in Brescia hospital on 15th December 1855.</p>
10 am Mass	<p>Tuesday 16th St Adelaide of Italy Born 931 at Orbe Castle, daughter of the King of Burgandy, in what is now Switzerland. Married King Lothair II of Italy and had a daughter. Her husband was poisoned and the new king tried to marry her to his son. Adelaide fled. She was saved by King Otto the Great of Germany and they had 5 children. Otto made Holy Roman Emperor by Pope John XII. He also crowned Adelaide as the Holy Roman Empress due to her charity work. Emperor Otto restored new Pope John XIII after Roman rioters deposed him. Her son succeeded as Holy Roman Emperor Otto II but was still a child so Adelaide acted as regent and exerted a powerful influence in the royal court. She was devoted to the service of the Church and restoring peace in areas of conflict. Gave alms and food to the poor. Founded a convent to which she retired in old age. On a journey to support her nephew King Rudolf III of Burgandy she died on 16th December 999,.</p>

<p>SVP Social 1 pm to 3 pm</p> <p>5.30 pm Reconciliation Service</p>	<p>Wednesday 17th St Winnibald Anglo-Saxon born in Hampshire near Winchester about 700. Son of St King Richard the Pilgrim and St Wuna of Wessex. His sister was St Walburga and uncle St Boniface who, before his missionary work in Germany, studied at the Benedictine monastery in Nursling near Southampton. Went on pilgrimage to Rome with his father and St Willibald his brother. They set sail from the River Hamble for France. His father died near Florence before they reached Rome. Both brothers continued to Rome. Winnibald stayed to study in Rome for 7 years while his brother continued the pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Winnibald then became a monk. Returned to England. Recruited another brother and others on another pilgrimage to Rome. In Rome he found his brother Willibald was a monk at Benedictine monastery of Monte Cassino. Winnibald was ordained a priest and his brother made a bishop. Their uncle St Boniface then asked them to help in the mission in Germany. Started a double monastery at Heidenheim and asked their sister Walburga, who was in a double monastery in Wimbourne, Dorset, to be in charge of the nuns. Winnibald became the Abbot of Heidenheim. Died 761 in the arms of his brother and sister.</p>
<p>10 am Mass</p>	<p>Thursday 18th St Flannan 7th century Irish monk, son of King Turlough of Thomond. Educated by St Blathmet, renowned as a great teacher in Ireland. Joined Killaloe monastery near Limerick under the abbot St Moula. Worked in the kitchen. After baking continuously for 36 hours a heavenly light shone through the fingers of his left hand so he could complete his task. After this St Moula retired and made Flannan Abbot of the monastery of Killaloe. Ireland then had a time of peace and abundant crops. Appointed by public acclaim Bishop of Thomond. Great preacher who converted many including a local chief. Persuaded his elderly father King Turlough to become a monk. His eloquent evangelisation achieved peace and justice for the most vulnerable in the area.</p>
<p>NO MASS</p>	<p>Friday 19th St Nemesius of Allexandria 3rd century Egyptian, martyred for being a Christian in Alexandria. He was arrested suspected of theft with two others. During questioning it was clear he was innocent but it was discovered he was a Christian. This was as bad as being a thief during persecution by the Roman Emperor of all Christians. He was scourged when he refused to renounce his faith. Then sentenced to death by burning. He was tied to a stake between the 2 thieves, symbolic of Christ's death on the cross. Nemesius died a martyr for being burnt alive for being a Christian.</p>
<p>6pm Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass</p>	<p>Saturday 20th St Dominic of Silos Born in about 1000 in Spain in the foothills of the Pyrenees to a peasant family. A shepherd in his youth. Joined Benedictine monastery and was made Prior. Refused to hand over land to the king. Driven out of the kingdom. Found refuge in Old Castile with King Ferdinand. Appointed abbot of decaying Abbey and monastery in Silos by king. Abbot Dominic then started to rebuild the monastery, making it a centre of learning, producer of manuscripts and book design. He creates gold and silver workshops to fund works of charity including paying ransom to free the Christian prisoners held by the Moors. He reforms the religious practices of the monks and soon the monastery attracts new monks and becomes the most famous in Spain. When Abbot Dominic dies on 20th December 1073 there are over 40 monks in the community. His tomb becomes a centre of pilgrimage. In 1170 a young woman, Blessed Joan of Aza, visits the tomb to pray for a successful birth. St Dominic appears to her and assures her of the birth of a son who she names Dominic. This Dominic becomes the founder of the Dominicans and was born 12 years before the other great founder of the Franciscans, St Francis of Assisi.</p>
<p>9.30 am Mass</p>	<p>Sunday 21st December Fourth Sunday in Advent 3 pm: Christmas Carol Service at St Vincent de Paul</p>
<p>PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS WHEN RECORDING NAMES FOR MASS INTENTION</p>	
<p>Your prayers are needed for the following people</p>	
<p>Ann Drumgoole Hazel Sale Mary Light Trevor Delves</p>	

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Special Second collection this weekend for the flowers for Christmas

Please help Shirley Keats to be able to decorate the church appropriately for Christmas

Christmas Carol Service is on Sunday 14th December at 3 pm at St Vincent de Paul

Penitential Service with Confessions available on Wednesday 17th December at 5.30pm

Replacement of the boilers started last Wednesday 10th December so heating should be working at weekend

Next SVP Social is on Wednesday 17th 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

Christmas Collection of sweets for Southampton Sunday Lunch Project by Sunday 15th December

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

Parish collection for last weekend 6th and 7th December

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
£54	£13.5	£95.26	£242.54	£51.98	£457.28				£457.28