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Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday 18th January 2026

Page 125	Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6	1 Corinthians 1: 1-3	Gospel John 1: 29-34
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This weekend we welcome "Ordinary Time", a split liturgical season before Lent and Easter and up to Advent and Christmas. The term "Ordinary" does not mean dull but stems from "Ordinal Number" so is a count of the ministry of Jesus starting here. In the first reading, Israel is a person who is chosen by God as a servant for a mission to restore the Jewish people and give them hope of redemption during their exile in Babylon. He is a person who listens and obeys and is a salvation for all nations. The second reading is the start of the letter from St Paul to the Corinthians in Greece. He had spent two years there starting the Christian community and now he felt their enthusiasm was starting to wane. They are called to be holy and remain part of the larger community of believers in Jesus. He emphasises peace and unity, despite their many problems and divisions. This weekend we leave Matthew's Gospel, the primary Gospel for this liturgical cycle and his account of Jesus' baptism last Sunday, and hear John's account which concentrates on John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus. John announces "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world". We are now very familiar with this phrase but as John was the son of a priest of the Temple he understood the idea of a sacrificial lamb and its importance for the Jews with regards to the celebration of the Passover. John also says He is "The Son of God" as he saw the Holy Spirit descend on Him in the form of a dove. He will not baptise with water, but with the Holy Spirit and His ultimate purpose is to redeem sinful humanity. This is the beginning of the public life of Jesus and calls us to see everyday signs of God's presence, especially in people we meet.

Mass times

Feast Days

6pm: Confessions
6.30pm Vigil Mass
Ruth Gleeson RIP
First Anniversary

Saturday 17th St Anthony of Egypt Born in 251 in Lower Egypt on the Mediterranean coast.. At 20 gave away and sold the land he inherited and became a hermit. Became a model of virtues living a very austere life style. Travelled up the River Nile to Thebes, present day Luxor, to meet the holy hermit Paul of Thebes. Seeking greater solitude Anthony went to an abandoned Roman fort on a mountain top and stayed there refusing to see visiting pilgrims for 20 years. Gradually groups of his admirers and disciples lived around the fortress in huts or in caves living as hermits in a style similar to his. He eventually emerged from his fort to organise these hermits into communities with strict rules so gaining the name in history of *Father of All Monks*. He continued to make rush mats which he had always done as a hermit to support himself. He then had many people seeking his advice and had to employ a fellow monk to vet them. He visited Alexandria to give support to the Christians persecuted by the Roman Emperor. Patriarch Athanasius asked him to help oppose the Arian heresy which he did with great success and converted many pagans. Anthony died in 251 aged 105.

9.30 am Mass

Sunday 18th January

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

6.30 pm Mass
Peter Wells RIP
Died recently

Monday 19th St King Canute IV of Denmark Born in 1042 in Denmark son of King Sweyn. Brought up as a skilful soldier but also very religious. He was involved in two unsuccessful raids on England to capture the throne from William the Conqueror after his grandnephew King Canute the Great was King of England from 1016 to 1035. After his brother died, Canute became King of Denmark in 1080. Strong, ambitious but very religious king who strongly supported the Church with taxes. Married to Adela from Flanders and had three children. Devout and prayerful with austere life style who funded the building of many churches and Lund Cathedral and associated school. Tried to raise a fleet to attack England by enforced recruitment. This and his high taxes caused a rebellion. In 1086 and he was killed by an angry mob in a church while hearing Mass

10 am Mass
Fabian de Sousa
RIP

Tuesday 20th St Sebastian of Rome Sebastian entered the Roman army in 283 aged 27. Due to his courage was promoted to captain of the Praetorian Guard. Greatly respected by his men for his bravery, authority and wisdom. Authorities and his men were unaware he was a Christian. He was arrested for supporting two deacons who refused to sacrifice to pagan gods. He converted many people outside and inside prison. Healed the wife of his jailor. Discovered by Emperor Diocletian who asked his archers to use him as target practice which he survived. Later confronted the Emperor on his persecution of the Christians and was then beaten to death as a Christian martyr in 288.

SVP Social
1 pm to 3 pm

6.30 pm Mass

Wednesday 21st St Alban Bartholomew Roe Born Protestant in 1583 in Bury St Edmunds. Converted by an uneducated Catholic he visited in prison while he was a student at Cambridge University. A colourful character. Reputation of a "bon viveur". Expelled from English College at Douai while training as a priest after showing contempt for minor rules. He then became a Dominican priest in France. Joined English mission but with his vivacious character was arrested and deported back to France. Returned to England visiting ale houses and playing cards with customers when seeking converts. Again arrested and deported. Returned but again imprisoned where he was a "card sharp" but very popular and converted many. Martyred at Tyburn in 1642. Statue of him at the Benedictine Ampleforth Abbey in Yorkshire shows him holding playing cards indicating his skill as a "card sharp". The monastery in Lorraine, where Alban had trained to be a priest, left France in 1802 and founded the community at Ampleforth, Yorkshire. Basil Hume was a priest, monk and teacher at the public school. He was Abbot of Ampleforth for 13 years before he was Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster.

10 am Mass

Thursday 22nd St Vincent Pallotti Born in 1795 in Rome. Priest with doctorates in philosophy and theology. Taught in Rome University. Lifelong habit of giving his clothes away to the poor. Organised vocational schools for different trades. An inspirational and popular preacher who was keen on social work and pastoral care particularly for the poor. Founded the *Society of the Catholic Apostolate* for clergy and laity to renew the apostolic spirit in the Church. Also known as the *Pious Union*. The *Congregation of the Catholic Apostolate* was founded just for priests. For the care of orphaned girls he founded *Pallottine Missionary Sisters*. Appointed the chaplain to the prison in Rome. Ministered to them and tried to change their conditions especially those facing death penalty. Close friends with the future Cardinal Wiseman of England. Encouraged him to start a College for foreign missions. Later Mill Hill Missions founded. Met John Henry Newman in Rome but John did not join the *Pious Union*. Vincent kept in contact with John as he founded the Oratory in Birmingham. His *Pious Union* for priests and laity was the foundation of *Catholic Action* in the Church. His writings and projects were studied during the *Second Vatican Council*. Died 22nd January 1850.

NO MASS

Friday 23rd St John the Almsgiver Born about 558 in Cyprus. Son of the governor of Cyprus. Also known as John the Merciful. Wife and children died. Became monk in Alexandria, Egypt. Gained a reputation for helping the poor. Elected Patriarch of Alexandria. He distributed the gold in his church treasury among the hospitals and monasteries in the area. He was a reformer. Improved religious education to fight heresy, stopped the selling of ecclesiastical privileges and demanded fair financial dealings. Built churches. Twice a week gave alms to the poor and settled disputes. Visited houses of the sick and hospitals. Many examples of his judgement, wisdom and generosity. Led an austere life style. Freed slaves and helped refugees who suffered Persian attacks

6pm Confessions
6.30pm Vigil Mass
Thanksgiving
Mass for Wedding
Anniversary of
Jomy and Bincy

Saturday 24th St Francis de Sales Born 1567 His father was Lord of Sales de Boisy who gave him a privileged education for a career as a magistrate. He went to Paris University to study with the Jesuits. He became interested in a spiritual life and added theology to his studies. Francis was ordained in 1593. His studies had made him a confident speaker. Sermons were quite short, to the point, delivered slowly and gently, inspiring many with their wisdom. In great demand as a confessor. Appointed Bishop of Geneva. Reforms in the diocese by his preaching, education of clergy, careful personal vetting of any candidates for the spiritual life and the writing of many letters. With Jeanne de Chantel founded the *Order of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin* for young girls and widows who had not sufficient strength, or lacked the inclination, for the corporal austerities of the great major Orders. Criticised as a bishop for being too gentle with heretics and sinners. Replied he just took the lead from God the Son as a Lamb and God the Holy Ghost as a Dove. Went back to Paris in 1618 and met Vincent de Paul. A collection of his pamphlets were published in *The Catholic Controversy*. *Letters of Spiritual Direction* was a large collection of letters exchanged between Francis de Sales and Jeanne de Chantel on theological concepts. Frances de Sales died on 28th December 1622.

9.30 am Mass

Sunday 25th January

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Angela Churchill RIP 10th Anniversary

PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS WHEN RECORDING NAMES FOR MASS INTENTION

Your prayers are needed for the following people

Ann Drumgoole Hazel Sale Mary Light Trevor Delves

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Collection for Peace Sunday on Sunday 25th January to support Pax Christi in England and Wales

Pax Christi is an international Catholic organisation with its headquarters in Rome. The Catholic Movement for Peace in England and Wales is based in London and relies on the support of the Catholic community to continue its work of peace making. The work of Pax Christi is based on the Gospels and is inspired by faith. The vision is a world where people can live in peace, without the fear of violence in all its forms. Rooted in Catholic Social Teaching it works with all who share their values to abolish war and create communities of peace and justice. As this is not a diocesan collection the parish cannot claim gift aid on donations. Consequently, as we did for CAFOD, envelopes will be given out after Mass so that those who can add gift aid to your donation with a completed gift aid form.

Next SVP Social is this Wednesday 21st January – 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



First anniversary of the passing of Christina Ruth Gleeson on Friday 16th January 2025

The mother of Dee Heatley was always known as Ruth and she and her husband Paddy were involved in the parish of St Vincent de Paul right from when it was being built over 50 years ago. When Fr Vincent Convery was parish priest between 1984 and 1987, Paddy was ordained a deacon. He served in that role for the parish supported by Ruth for many years. Ruth was a prominent member of the Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) in the parish for a long period when it had many members and was very active in the life of St Vincent de Paul. Ruth died on her 100th birthday although over the years it was thought her birthday was on the 17th January.

Parish collection for last weekend 10th and 11th January

Parish Gift Aid Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Funeral	Gift Aid	Loose	TOTAL of all money
£82	£20.50	£112.52	£242.54	£51.98	£509.54	£100			£609.54