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Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday 25th January 2026

Special Second Collection this weekend for the Catholic international peace movement Pax Christi

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Isaiah 9: 1-4

1 Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17

Gospel Matthew 4: 12-23

In the first reading Zebulun and Naphtali were the first regions to fall when the Assyrians attacked Israel'. Isaiah promised that these lands would be the first to see God's salvation. This foretold the return to Israel "from the river to the sea" of the Jews from exile to restore David's kingdom and years later Jesus starting his ministry in Galilee where many different people lived. In St Paul's letter to the Corinthians in Greece is to a divided Church, aligning themselves with human leaders instead of Christ. They struggled with pride, division and moral confusion. Paul reminds them that faith should unite and not divide, In Matthew's Gospel after Jesus left the desert, He heard that John the Baptist had been arrested and starts his ministry in Galilee, just as Isaiah foretold. Jesus calls ordinary people to follow Him. Rabbis would choose their best students who were already well educated in the law. Jesus calls people just as they are, no matter their background or abilities, not the most important people, but ordinary workers with an honest and willing heart. People who would trust Him as He taught in the synagogues, proclaimed His message of love and peace and healed the sick and afflicted. We must remember that the Church is made up of many different people with different backgrounds and talents. This diversity should be a strength, not a weakness or reason for arguments. People have different opinions but should not let disagreements weaken their faith and relationships. Instead of focusing on differences, we must work together for the good of the whole faith community.

Mass times

Feast Days

Saturday 24th St Francis de Sales Born 1567. 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 candidates for the spiritual life. 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. Went back to Paris in 1618 and met Vincent de Paul. *Letters of Spiritual Direction* was a large collection of letters exchanged between Francis de Sales and Jeanne de Chantel on theological concepts. Francis de Sales died in 1622.

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

9.30 am Mass

Sunday 25th January Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Angela Churchill RIP 10th Anniversary

6.30 pm Mass

Monday 26th St Timothy Timothy had both Gentile and Jewish roots. His father was Greek and his mother was a Jew. He was converted by St Paul with his grandmother and mother. Became Paul's loyal companion as he travelled with him preaching, converting and founding new Christian communities. Timothy was reserved and timid unlike Paul but was greatly respected for his piety. He seemed to often suffer ill health. Made Bishop of Ephesus by St Paul. Co-author of some of Paul's letters to Church communities. Two letters from St Paul to Timothy gave him support in Ephesus. Stoned to death as a martyr when he tried to stop a procession in honour of a pagan goddess.

10 am Mass

Tuesday 27th St Angela Merici Born 1474 in Italy, daughter of a farmer near Lake Garda. Angela was orphaned aged 10 and brought up by her uncle. She had a vision in which she was asked to form a "Company of Virgins". In Brescia, east of Milan, she gathered a group of young unmarried women to offer religious support to girls who were not rich, unmarried, whose only future was menial jobs or prostitution. From her childhood Angela had a devotion to St Ursula, patroness of medieval universities. She founded the *Company of St Ursula* which became the *Congregation of the Ursulines* a teaching Order of young girls. Her goal was to elevate, through Christian education, the family life of future wives and mothers. The *Ursulines* opened orphanages and schools. Angela had many supporters but also made enemies, especially among the upper classes, who suspected her of attempting to lure their marriageable daughters away from prestigious alliances to join the *Ursulines*. The *Ursulines* becoming the largest teaching Order in the Church and active worldwide. She died in Brescia on 27th January 1540. Had she lived a generation later, she might have found her unenclosed *Congregation of the Ursuline Sisters* blocked by the Inquisition and the Vatican.

6.30 pm Mass
Thanksgiving
Mass 3rd Wedding Anniversary of Lenus and Ashni

Wednesday 28th St Thomas Aquinas Born 1225 Italy to noble family of Sicilian ancestry. Educated by Benedictines at Abbey of Monte Cassino and University of Naples where he was attracted to new Dominicans, preaching beggars, rather than respectable Benedictines that his parents wanted him to join. Continued his studies in Cologne, Germany. Fellow students nicknamed him "Dumb Sicilian Ox" due to his shyness. Lecturers recognised his intelligence. Obtained *Master of Theology* at Paris University. Lectured as Professor of Theology. Very able theologian and philosopher. Wrote *Summa contra Gentiles* and the unfinished *Summa Theologica* as well as other works. Great Doctor of the Church. Near end of his life became disillusioned. Stopped writing. Felt he had made mistakes in some beliefs such as thinking black people did not have souls

10 am Mass
Rosamma
Varghese RIP
Death anniversary

Thursday 29th St Gildas the Wise Born in Scotland in about 500, son of King Caunus. Was educated in Wales. Monk best known for his scathing religious polemic *De Excidio et Conquestu Britanniae*, telling the history of post Roman Britain before and during the coming of the Anglo-Saxons. It vividly recorded the failure of British leaders and clerics. Revived the Church in Ireland. His brother King Caunus led raids from Scotland on England and was killed in battle by King Arthur. Peacemaker between King Arthur and King Melvas. Died about 570. Buried in Glastonbury Abbey in St Mary's Church. The shrine of St Gildas the Wise became a popular centre of pilgrimage.

NO MASS

Friday 30th Venerable Mary Ward Born 1585 in Yorkshire to a Catholic family in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. Anti-Catholic riot burnt down their manor house in 1695. Moved to various Catholic relatives for safety. When some were involved in the Gunpowder Plot in 1605, Mary went to Saint-Omer in France and joined the Poor Clares as a novice. Contemplative life did not suit her. Returned to England and gathered a group of women to secretly educate children. When this active ministry became too dangerous returned to Saint-Omer and opened a school. Outreached to the sick and poor in the community. Nicknamed the "galloping girls". Opened 3 more schools in France. Wanted her unclosed Order to be accepted in Rome. With a small group of nuns travelled on foot the 1,550 miles to Rome in 1621. Order not recognised so she opened a school in Rome. Then two other schools in Italy. New Pope Urban VIII ordered the closure of all her schools. Her nuns continued to work in France, ignoring the Papal Nuncio. Pope Urban issued a Papal Bull describing Mary as a heretic and declared her religious Order "English Jesuitesses" and null and void. The Inquisition imprisoned Mary in the Poor Care Convent in Munich. Her health deteriorated in the cold small cell. She managed to contact her nuns via lemon-juice letters written on food wrapping paper. Released in 1639. Returned to England. She and her companions established free schools for the poor, nursed the sick and visited prisoners. In 1642 she established a community school in Hutton Rudby, south of Middlesbrough. In 1644 she retired to Heworth near York. Died 30th January 1645.

Saturday 31st St John Bosco Born in 1815 in Italy to a peasant farmer. He taught Catechism to his fellow students at the village school and encouraged them to attend church. To keep their attention he did a variety of acrobatic and conjuring tricks. When he said he wanted to be a priest his mother was delighted. Parish priest and another young priest helped him in his studies. With the financial and practical help of many, was able to join a seminary. Ordained in 1841 aged 26. His ministry included visiting prisons in which he found many young boys. He decided he needed to prevent these boys ending up in prison. He started a recreation centre in a poor area of Turin which he called the *Festive Oratory* and collected boys off the streets. He had a programme on Sundays of Mass, games, outings and some vocational education. During the week he tried to find work for the boys. He ensured employers treated their apprentices well with proper agreements in which he was involved. Don Bosco started evening classes and two workshops for shoemaking and tailoring. He started providing accommodation for the boys with his mother who they called "Mamma Margherita". He then provided technical training with workshops for book-bindery and joinery, a printing press and an iron foundry. Also grammar classes and Latin classes for those who might have a religious vocation. In 1854 in Turin during a cholera epidemic, in which thousands died, Don Bosco formed his boys into teams to carry the sick to hospital and the dead to mortuaries. No boy died, and he acquired a reputation as a miracle worker. In 1859, Don Bosco founded with 22 people working with him, the *Society of St Francis de Sales*, later called the *Salesians*, the religious Order that would carry on his work. In 1871 he started the *Daughters of Our Lady Help of Christians* with 27 nuns to work with poor girls. He also founded the *Salesian Co-operators* who were mainly lay people who worked with young people. Eventually Don Bosco sent the *Salesians* as missionaries to South America. In 1877 he started his *Salesian Bulletin* in which he wrote frequently and voluminously. More a man of action than a scholar, but he was an exceptional historian and wrote in 1881 *A Compendium of Italian History from the Fall of the Roman Empire*. He was also a church builder. Churches and a Basilica in Turin and a Basilica in Rome in which he said Mass in 1887. Now worn out from all his work he died on 31st January 1888. Virtually all of Turin lined the streets during his funeral. Canonised on Easter Sunday 1st April 1934 by Pope Pius XI who had met Don Bosco when he was a young priest. A great "social saint" who lived Catholic Social Teaching by action.

6pm Confessions
6.30pm Vigil Mass
Jean Simoré RIP
11th Anniversary

9.30 am Mass **Sunday 1st February** **Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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 this weekend 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. Rooted in Catholic Social Teaching it was supported by Pope Leo XIV in July 2025 when he addressed the National Assembly of Pax Christi in Detroit, USA, encouraging particularly the young people to be involved in Pax Christi to strive for peace and justice. As this is not a diocesan collection the parish cannot claim gift aid on donations so special envelopes with a gift aid form can be used for your donations.

Next SVP Social is on Wednesday 4th February – 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 17th and 18th January

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
£117	£29.25	£157.25	£242.54	£51.98	£598.02				£598.02