



St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

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Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday 1st February 2026

Special Second Collection this weekend for The Cathedral (Should have been last weekend)

No Mass on Thursday or Friday this week

Page 130

Zephaniah 2: 3 and 3: 12-13

1 Corinthians 1: 26-31

Gospel Matthew 5: 1-12

God sees things differently than we do. In each reading this weekend, we hear about people the world may overlook as they do not appear important – those who are weak, poor or humble. But God lifts them up. He sees their faith and their trust

In the first reading the prophet Zephaniah speaks to a people facing judgment for their sins, but this reading offers some hope. In the middle of warnings and destruction he calls people to be humble, do what is right and trust in God. God cares for those who trust Him and live simply and He promises to preserve a remnant of Israel that is poor and lowly, people who place their hope not in power or deceit, but in the name of the Lord, living without fear, walking in truth and integrity

In the second reading St Paul reminds the Corinthians in Greece that their first converts came from among the poorer and deprived classes. God's ways are not the ways of the world. Real wisdom comes from following Christ, not from human success. We are not chosen due to human wisdom, strength or status. Instead, God chooses what appears weak and unimportant so that no one may boast before Him. St Paul tries to correct the pride and divisions in the people of Corinth.

Matthew's Gospel includes the Sermon on the Mount and presents Jesus as the new teacher. Like Moses, Jesus goes up a mountain overlooking the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. It is now called the "Mount of Beatitudes" and is a beautiful place to explain the path to real happiness which comes from humility, mercy and righteousness. Like Moses, Jesus gives His audience a new law on the mountain. We must see success and happiness differently. God does not look at status or achievements but at our heart. We must ask for grace to live humbly, serve others and follow Jesus' path to true joy.

Mass times

Feast Days

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. 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 his practice of Catholic Action.

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

9.30 am Mass

Sunday 1st February Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sr. Monica Dowling RIP

6.30 pm Mass
Birthday of Garry O'Connor

Monday 2nd Presentation of the Lord Simeon and Anna had divine assurance that they would see the Messiah before they died. Joseph and Mary took Jesus, their first born, to the Temple in Jerusalem according to Jewish Law, 40 days after his birth, for the ceremony of purification. Simeon realised the baby was the long awaited Messiah. Offered prayers of thanksgiving and prophecy of things to come. *"This child is destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel"*.

10 am Mass

Tuesday 3rd St Blaise of Sebaste Born in 3rd century in what is now Turkey. Respected physician who was elected bishop by acclamation. Bishop of Sebaste. Popular for physical and spiritual healing. Became a hermit in hiding after Christian persecution. Befriended birds and wild animals. Cured a young boy with fish bone stuck in his throat. "Blessing of the throats" ceremony is performed on his feast day in many churches. Saint in both Eastern and Western Churches.

SVP Social
1 pm to 3 pm

6.30 pm Mass
Mrs Connor RIP
7.15: Fabric and
Property meeting

Wednesday 4th St John de Britto Born 1647 to a noble family in Lisbon, Portugal. His childhood friend eventually became King Pedro II of Portugal. John joined the Jesuits as he wanted to be a missionary. He was sent to India in 1673 and led the Madurai Mission in the south east, present day Tamil Nadu. He took the Tamil name *Arul Anandar*, dressed and behaved according to their traditions including his diet. Father John remained a strict vegan until the end of his life, rejecting meat, fish, eggs and alcohol and only living on legumes, fruits and herbs. He led a very austere life style and travelled the vast region of the Maravar country, only ten degrees north of the Equator, painfully on foot experiencing many hardships and hindrances to his preaching. In 1684 he was imprisoned and expelled from India in 1687 back to his home in Lisbon in a state of poor health. His childhood friend now King Pedro II tried to convince him to stay in Portugal but Father John returned with 24 new missionaries to India in 1690 and this time was much more successful in developing an Indian Christian community. One of his many converts was a local prince who had several wives. Before he was baptised he reduced his wives to one which made one of them furious. Her uncle was the king of a neighbouring area who arrested Father John and executed him by decapitation in the sand dunes on the coast. The sand was stained red with his blood and to this day is a red sand dune. It has become a popular shrine for thousands of pilgrims.

NO MASS

Thursday 5th St Agatha of Sicily Born in 3rd century in Sicily into a wealthy Christian family. Deaconess who made a vow of virginity who became a beautiful girl who attracted the attention of the Roman Prefect of Catania Quintianus who was from a peasant background. Agatha's wealthy family he saw as his way to riches and land but she refused his advances. The Roman Emperor Decius was persecuting Christians so he threatened to report her to the authorities. When this had no effect he tried to change her mind with various tortures including cutting off her breasts. While being placed on a bed of burning coals her red veil stayed miraculously intact. Quintianus then became fearful and had Agatha returned to her cell. Suddenly a huge earthquake shook Catania and Quintianus fled the city. Agatha died of all her injuries on 5th February 251.

NO MASS

Friday 6th St Paul Miki and Companions Jesuit missionaries, led by St Francis Xavier introduced Christianity to Japan in 1549. Paul Miki was born in 1562 and was educated by Jesuits. He became a Jesuit novice and was very able and a very skilful preacher who converted many Buddhists. In 1593 Franciscan missionaries were sent to Japan by the King of Spain. When a local warlord was made regent to the Emperor, he started the persecution of Christians as he felt Portugal and Spain were using the missionaries to prepare the country for conquest and make Japan a colony. The Japanese Jesuit novice Paul Miki, 2 Japanese Jesuits, 6 European Franciscan missionaries, 16 Japanese laity and one lay Korean, were publicly martyred by crucifixion at Nagasaki in 1597.

Saturday 7th St Egidio Maria of St Joseph Born 1729 to a poor family in Italy. Father died when he was 18 and he became responsible to care of the family working as a rope maker. In 1747 aged 18 his lack of education meant he could not be a priest so was a professed religious in the Order of Friars Minor in Naples. He then made his solemn profession of vows at the Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie, at Galatone in the southern foot of Italy. He took the religious name *Egidio Maria of St Joseph*. At age 25 he joined the Franciscans at a hospice in Naples. For 53 years he served as a cook and porter. His main concern was for the care of the poor and vulnerable and he worked and cared for lepers. He also travelled outside the convent to beg alms for all his work. Gained a great reputation for his kindness and advice to people of all ages and status. Earned title "Consoler of Naples". He died 1812 in Naples.

9.30 am Mass **Sunday 8th February** **Fifth 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 Pat Sweeney

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Very sad news that Pat Sweeney had a stroke last Monday 26th January

Pat has been an important member of the parish for many years since it started especially in the Union of Catholic Mothers. At the moment she organises the SVP Social twice a month with Renee and helps in the collections at Sunday morning Mass. She was taken into the Southampton General Hospital and has undergone emergency surgery. Please remember her and her family in your prayers so she can recover as soon as possible.

Second Special Collection this weekend is for the Cathedral

St John's Cathedral in Portsmouth needs a lot of money for maintenance of such a large and old building.. At the moment it also needs some important repairs.. This collection should have been taken last weekend but we had our collection for Pax Christi. Those that gift aid should have a special orange envelope for the Cathedral.

Next SVP Social this 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.

Parish collection for last weekend 24th and 25th 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
£62	£15.50	£157.45	£242.54	£51.98	£529.47			£201.25	£730.72