



St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
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Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday 15th February 2026

Page 136	Book of Sirach 15: 15-20	1 Corinthians 2: 6-10	Gospel Matthew 5: 17-37
<p>The first reading from the Book of Sirach is full of practical advice and wisdom, rooted in Jewish tradition. It teaches that God's commandments are not just rules but a guide to life. In this passage Sirach reminds us that we have free will and are free to choose. God does not force obedience. We can follow the path of life or the path of death. This shows the deep respect God has for our freedom. But it also makes us responsible for our choices. Unfortunately some people are unable to resist temptations around us and sin seems the easier path. Choosing God's wisdom leads to justice and peace.</p> <p>St Paul's letter to the Corinthians in Greece in the second reading continues the theme of God's wisdom and not human wisdom. He is speaking to a divided community and wants them to understand that true wisdom does not come from the world and leaders whose main motive is seeking power. The wisdom revealed by Jesus is not based on power and success but on love and being open to the Holy Spirit for guidance. The Church should be built on love and humility leading to a path of righteousness and grace. Through that path we can enter into a new life blessed and truly worthy of the teaching of Jesus.</p> <p>Matthew's Gospel continues the Sermon of the Mount and addresses a Jewish audience. Jesus is shown as the new Moses, teaching a deeper understanding of the law that does not want to abolish the law of the prophets but fulfil them in a different way. God's law is not just about rules and the practices of the "Torah" exemplified by the scribes and Pharisees, but about living with honesty, love, self-control and respect for others. Jesus calls us to be truthful in what we say and how to treat people, especially in close relationships. Having a heart that seeks what is right bringing justice and kindness into the world.</p>			

Mass times		Feast Days	
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Irene Delves RIP 14th Anniversary	Saturday 14th St Valentine	Third century priest in Rome. Great preacher who converted many to Christianity. Roman Emperor Claudius II discovered that single men fought better than married men in his army. He then banned marriage for men in Rome so he could recruit them for his army with no ties. Valentine opposed him and secretly carried out weddings which were very popular. Arrested by a pagan judge who claimed his religion was more powerful than Christianity. However, Valentine cured his blind daughter. The judge, his family and 44 of his household converted to Christianity and released Valentine. Arrested again and found guilty by Emperor Claudius and sentenced to death. The daughter of his jailor had been converted by Valentine and secretly married to her husband. She took in food for him for his last days in prison. Valentine left a good-bye and note of thanks to her "from your Valentine" before he was martyred by being beheaded by the sword.	
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 15th February	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Pat and John Moon RIP
6.30 pm Mass	Monday 16th St Gilbert of Sempringham	Born in 1083 in Lincolnshire. Gilbert's father was Lord of the Manor of Sempringham. Disability prevented his desired knightly career so chose clerical studies and teaching. Clerk to Bishop of Lincoln. Ordained a priest. Austere life style in poor parish and helped the poor. Became Lord of the Manor as well as parish priest of two parishes on his estate. Founded a double monastery and then the Gilbertine Order. It was only medieval Order to be founded in England. Order had 13 monasteries when Gilbert died in 1189 aged 106. There were almost 30 monasteries when King Henry VIII closed all of them down in the 16 th century.	
10 am Mass	Tuesday 17th St Finan of Lindisfarne	Born at beginning of 7 th century in Ireland. Monk on the island of Iona off the west coast of Scotland. Second Bishop of Lindisfarne in 651. Well educated and eloquent he was gentle persuasive in converting pagans. Three kings converted by him. King Oswy of Northumbria, King Sigebert of Essex and King Peada of Mercia. Appointed bishops for Essex and Mercia. Founded religious centres including Whitby Abbey. Died 17 th February 661.	
10 am Mass 6,30 pm Mass	Wednesday 18th Ash Wednesday		
10 am Mass	Thursday 19th St Boniface of Lausanne	Born in Belgium in 1196. Educated in Paris. Was a popular lecturer in Paris from 1222. Ordained in Paris. After bitter dispute at Paris College, lectured in Cologne. Appointed Bishop of Lausanne in Switzerland. Criticised corruption of clergy and King Fredrick II. Was badly assaulted. Resigned as Bishop and returned to Belgium. In Brussels he retired to a Cistercian monastery. Died there on 19 th February 1265 aged 68.	
NO MASS	Friday 20th St Wulfric of Haselbury	Born in Compton Martin south of Bristol in about 1080 to a noble Anglo-Saxon family. As a nobleman lived a careless life even when he was ordained a priest with an addiction to hunting with hawks and hounds. A meeting with a beggar changed his life style and he turned to God. His first ministry was near Warminster but then moved back to Compton Martin as parish priest. Attempting to get closer to God became a hermit beside a church. Had a reputation as a holy anchorite who gave advice to many including King Henry I and King Stephen. King Henry I was a just king with his guidance. King Stephen agreed a treaty to gain peace in England under his advice. Wulfric lived a very austere life style with fasting and strict penance. Healer of body, mind and spirit. Had skills in prophesy. One of the most influential hermit priests in medieval England	

Saturday 21st St Peter Damian Born in 998 in Italy. Orphaned young. Cared for by his brothers. Educated at Ravenna and Parma University. Able academic. Popular lecturer. Joined Benedictine hermits. Very austere. His excessive penance damaged his health. Elected Abbot. Inspirational preacher who opposed evil, deposed Pope Benedict IX. Demanded reform of a corrupt Church. Popes Leo IX, Stephen IX, Nicholas II and Alexander II all supported by Peter in their reforms of the Church. Cardinal Bishop of Ostia. Settled disputes. Papal legate at Synods. Opposed two antipopes. Writer of sermons, hymns and poems. Cardinal Peter died 22nd February 1072 aged 73

**6pm Confessions
6.30pm Vigil Mass**

9.30 am Mass Sunday 22nd February First Sunday of Lent

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.

NO WEEKDAY MASSES THIS WEEK AS FR THOMAS IS ON A RETREAT FOR PRIESTS

Below is a picture concerning the gifts St Vincent de Paul sent to “Stella Maris”, a branch of the Catholic charity “The Apostleship of the Sea” whose two lay chaplains, Luke Phillips and Gregory Hogan, and volunteers give help and support to seafarers who visit Southampton, Hythe and some other ports. Pat Sweeney has given great support over the years with gifts and knitting woollen hats for seafarers.

As soon as these guys landed at Southampton Seafarers’ Club for some much-deserved shore leave, I had the unfortunate task of relaying news from their Captain: due to a change in schedule, they had to return immediately to their ship. Such is the life – and resilience – of a seafarer, all too used to bad news. Still, beaming with smiles, they made the most of the few minutes they had, snapping a couple of photos in the local area before heading back onboard. They were nevertheless delighted to accept two full bags of gifts we had received a couple of days earlier from our friends at the Parish of St Vincent de Paul in Lordswood. Thank you for your continued kindness and support. ❤️⚓



Mass times for the period of Lent

February 17th: Shrove Tuesday: 10 am
 February 18th: Ash Wednesday: 10 am and 6.30 pm
 March 29th : : Palm Sunday: Mass at 9.30 am
 Wednesday 1st April: Reconciliation Service at 5.30 pm followed by Mass at 6.30 pm
 April 2nd : Maundy Thursday Mass at 7.30 pm
 April 3rd : Good Friday Stations of the Cross at 2.30 pm Good Friday Service at 3 pm
 Saturday 4th April: Easter Vigil Mass at 8 pm
 April 5th : Easter Sunday Mass at 9.30pm

Next SVP Social is this Wednesday 18th 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.

Please keep in your prayers Pat Sweeney who had a stroke on 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.

CAFOD Big Lent Walk on Saturday 14th March on Southampton Common

There is a parish CAFOD team in the City Centre parish of St Edmund and St Joseph who will be walking so if you are interested in taking part you can join them. The kilometres covered should be sponsored to raise funds for CAFOD who give assistance to people in need all over the world. All prayers, footsteps and donations will be most

gratefully received for CAFOD. Marina Joyce for more information at: mjoyce@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
 To sign up or donate see: <https://parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/teams/citycentresouthampton>

Parish collection for last weekend 7th and 8th February

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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
£115	£28.75	£158.40	£242.54	£51.98	£596.67	£62.89			£659.56