



St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
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First Sunday in Lent Sunday 22nd February 2026

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| Page 151 | Genesis 2: 7-9 and 3: 1-7 | Romans 5: 12-19 | Gospel Matthew 4: 1-11 |
| <p>We are now in the period of Lent which calls Catholics to a season of fasting, penance, alms giving, prayer, repentance and a chance for reviewing our faith journey. This is the time to becoming closer to Jesus and His teaching in prayer. It is the beginning of our Lenten Pilgrimage with Jesus as we prepare for the joyful season of Easter. We need to remember that we are not setting out on this journey on our own. God is with us walking by our side every step of the way. When we are tempted we need to follow the example of Jesus in the desert. He turned to His Father for strength and help. We cannot always rely on our own resilience, but need God's help, support, protection and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>The first reading from the Book of Genesis tells us of the beginning of the human story. God created the man and the woman and gave them everything they needed. But He also gave them the freedom of choice. When they chose to listen to the serpent who tempted them instead of remaining faithful to their creator, sin entered the world. The reading reflects on how sin begins with a break in trust and disobedience to the rules given to Adam and Eve by God when he gave them life. We see even in paradise people can turn away and land themselves in trouble when they stop listening to God. This passage sets up the need for everything that comes later in the Bible and God's plan for creation. It shows why we need salvation and the rest of Scripture shows God's work to heal what was broken by the many sins of people.</p> <p>The second reading is from St Paul's letter to the Christian community in Rome and is simple but deep. As Adam and Eve's one sin affected everyone and led to condemnation for future generations, the one act of obedience to God by Jesus offering up His life on the Cross led to the chance of salvation and gave life to all. This shows that God's grace is greater than any sin and offers to all the possibility to start again free of guilt. The letter talks about sin, law, grace and faith. St Paul builds a case that the gift of salvation is not something we earn but is something God gives to us through Jesus. It reminds us that Jesus came to undo the damage of the first sin and through Him we can be made right again</p> <p>In Matthew's Gospel Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray for 40 days reflecting the 40 years of the Jews in the desert after their Exodus from Egypt and entry into the land of Canaan. He was tempted in three ways concerning comfort, pride and power just like we are and also tested His relationship with His Father. But He did not give in He trusted God and used Scriptures to stay strong. This Gospel reminds us that Jesus knows what it is like to face trials and shows us how to stay faithful. Jesus is the new Moses. Just like Israel was tested in the desert, Jesus faced His own tests. However, unlike Adam and Israel, He did not fail. The victory of the faithful Son of God is the beginning of His public ministry and mission.</p> | | | |

| Mass times | | Feast Days | |
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| 6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass | 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 22 nd February 1072 aged 73 |
| 9.30 am Mass | Sunday 22nd February | First Sunday in Lent | |
| 6.30 pm Mass | Monday 23rd | St Margaret of Cortona | Born about 1247 in Italy to a poor farming family. Her mother died when she was 7 years old and her father married again. Step mother treated Margaret badly and at age 17 she ran away. She eloped with a young nobleman she had met and she lived faithfully, unmarried as his mistress for 9 years in his castle and they had a son. The nobleman was murdered while collecting rent from his estate. His favourite dog led her to where he was buried by his assassins. Margaret returned to her father with her son to plead forgiveness but he refused to see her and his new wife would not let her stay. Margaret then sought refuge with the Franciscan friars in Cortona with her son. However, two women took them into their home while she contacted the Friars for advice of how to change her life. An austere life of fasting and penance was undertaken by Margaret to atone for living in sin. Her son eventually became a friar. When she reduced her extreme penances, she was allowed to join the <i>Third Order of St Francis</i> and managed to obtain a cottage where she cared for the sick and poor. She was then given a large house and other women joined in the work. She was then given support to start a hospital in Cortona for the sick, homeless and impoverished. She founded the <i>Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy</i> to support the work in the hospital. After all her penances she died on 22 nd February 1297 aged 50. |
| 10 am Mass | Tuesday 24th | St King Ethelbert of Kent | Born 550 as a pagan. Married to Christian daughter of the King of the Franks in France, Bertha. As King of Kent was the first Anglo-Saxon king to be converted to Christianity by St Augustine and his missionary monks who he then supported. Made sure Christianity was not forced on his subjects as was requested by Pope Gregory. Allowed churches to be restored and built. Founded St Pauls in London. He created fair and just laws in his kingdom. Died 24 th February 616 aged 66. Buried next to his wife Bertha in monastery of St Peter and St Paul in Canterbury. First king in the south converted to Christianity. |

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| 6,30 pm Mass | Wednesday 25th St Walburga Born in 708 in Devon to St Richard the Pilgrim, the King of the West Saxons and her mother St Wuna of Wessex, sister of St Boniface. Walburga had brothers St Willibald and St Winibald. She was educated at Wimborne monastery in Dorset, and joined as a nun. Copied and decorated manuscripts and learnt fine needlework and embroidery. Her uncle St Boniface invited her to work with him and her brothers in Germany. Missionary in Germany with her uncle and her brothers. Skilled in medicine. Abbess of German double monastery at Heidenheim east of Stuttgart. She died 25 th February 779 aged 71 in presence of her brother Bishop Willibald. Laid to rest next to her brother Abbot Winibald at the monastery in Heidenheim |
| 10 am Mass | Thursday 26th . St Paula Montal Fornés Born in 1799 at the seaside town of Areyns de Mar near Barcelona in Spain, the eldest of five girls. Brought up by her parents as a devout Christian with a special devotion to Our Lady. Her father died when she was 10. Worked as a lace maker and seamstress to support the family. Also helped to care for her sisters and other children in the parish when she was older. Realised the lack of opportunity for girls to receive an education so opened schools to give secular, spiritual and vocational education called " <i>Pious Schools</i> ". Many of the teachers were living in community so she founded teaching Order of nuns to teach in them called " <i>Sisters of the Pious Schools</i> ". Large number joined Order and many schools opened all across Spain. Paula personally led the formation of the first 130 nuns. Last school she opened was in Olesa de Montserrat a few miles inland from Barcelona where she died aged 90 on 25 th February 1889. |
| NO MASS | Friday 27th St Anne Line Born in Essex about 1563. Father was a rich Calvinist and Protestant reformer. Anne and her brother became Catholics and were then disowned. Married Roger Line from the New Forest, also a convert. Husband arrested and banished from England. After 10 years died in Flanders in 1594. Anne was asked by Jesuit priest Fr John Gerard to look after a "safe house" in London. Forced to continually move premises. Eventually arrested, found guilty of hiding priests and organising Masses. Executed 27 th Feb 1601 at Tyburn. One of the Forty Martyrs of England & Wales. |
| 6pm Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass | Saturday 28th St Romanus and St Lupicinus Two brothers who founded two monasteries, Condat and Leuconne, in the forests of the Jura Mountains between France and Switzerland. Their sister started a nunnery nearby where no men were allowed to enter. The two brothers acted as joint abbots who imposed very austere conditions for the monks who as well as their religious practices spent much of their time in very hard labour. They never touched meat, only used milk and eggs when they were ill. They wore wooden shoes and skins of animals sewn together that was not much protection in winter. Romanus died on the 28 th February 460 and his brother Lupicinus 20 years later. |
| 9.30 am Mass | Sunday 1st March Second 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.

Special Second Collection next weekend for CAFOD Family Fast Day on Friday 6th March

If you gift aid your donation CAFOD envelopes will be available so you can gift can be obtained by CAFOD

Mass times for the period of Lent

Sunday 29th March: Palm Sunday: Mass at 9.30 am

Wednesday 1st April: Reconciliation Service at 5.30 pm followed by Mass at 6.30 pm

Thursday April 2nd : Maundy Thursday Mass at 7.30 pm

Friday 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

Sunday 5th April: Easter Sunday Mass at 9.30pm

Please keep in your prayers Pat Sweeney who had a stroke on Monday 26th January

Pat is progressing well at the moment and hopefully should leave hospital soon when a care package of support can be arranged. 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>

Next SVP Social is on Wednesday 4th March – 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 14th and 15th February

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| 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 |
| £80 | £20 | £190.78 | £242.54 | £51.98 | £585.30 | | | | £585.30 |