



St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
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Third Sunday in Lent Sunday 8th March 2026

Page 158	Exodus 17: 3-7	Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8	Gospel John 4: 5-42
<p>The Gospel readings for the next three Sundays of Lent in cycle A are taken from the Gospel of John which are used in the Church's preparation for Easter. Lent is a time when the Church invites us to seek a deeper relationship with Jesus. The readings this weekend encourages us to let Jesus change our hearts, to give up old patterns of sin or fear and live with a greater faith. If we open ourselves to Jesus we grow in peace and joy and become better able to share His Love with others. Each reading shows people who feel empty or thirsty, but God gives them what they truly need. He does not leave them alone. He hears their cries and responds with love and care. Prayer, fasting, almsgiving and works of charity during Lent helps us to draw closer to God and truly satisfies our hearts, much like Jesus offering "living water" to the Samaritan woman.</p> <p>In the first reading from the Book of Exodus, the people of Israel are in the desert. Even after being freed from slavery they start questioning whether God is still protecting them and is still with them. They have no water and feel afraid and start to grumble and complain to such an extent that the life of Moses is in threat. God tells Moses to strike the rock and water flows out. God provides even when they doubt Him. This shows how God stays close, even when we struggle to believe and develops people through trials which are often difficult to bear.</p> <p>In the second reading from St Paul's letter to the people in Rome he explains that through faith we are made right with God, gaining peace and the hope of sharing His glory. However salvation is a gift, not something earned. God's love, given through the Holy Spirit, affirms this hope, shown in Christ dying for us as sinners. Both Jew and Gentile, despite feeling unworthy, can be made right with God by trusting in Jesus Christ.</p> <p>John's Gospel tells the story of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well when He is thirsty from his travels and the disciples have left Him to buy food. At the time Samaritans and Jews did not associate and certainly did not share eating or drinking implements. Jesus ignores these prejudice including that men did not speak openly to women they did not know. Women were generally viewed as in capable of coping with deep theology but He respectfully engages her in a serious conversation. He shows that God's love is for everyone no matter who they are or where they come from and leads her to a significant level of faith which she shares with other Samaritans.</p>			

Mass times		Feast Days	
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	Saturday 7th March	St Perpetua and St Felicity	Perpetua was of noble birth and had a young baby. Felicity was a pregnant slave girl. With others they were arrested in Carthage, North Africa for wanting to be Christians in 203. Both were baptised as Christians in prison. Felicity gave birth to her baby. Roman Emperor Severus had not persecuted Christians in Rome and saved many from pagan groups. However, pagan mobs in Carthage hated Christians and Jews. The two babies were taken from them and they were tried and condemned to be thrown to the wild beasts in the Coliseum in Carthage. Both eventually died by the sword as martyrs with their companions.
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 8th March	Third Sunday in Lent	
6.30 pm Mass	Monday 9th	St Frances of Rome	Born 1384 in Rome to wealthy parents. Wanted to be a nun. Arranged marriage at age 13 to noble soldier and socialite. Initially unhappy but settled down to happy marriage with 3 children. Did works of charity with her sister-in-law Vannozza, her spiritual friend. Flood in Rome brought disease and famine. Frances organised help. Great Schism between pope and 2 antipopes caused Civil War in Rome. Children of Frances threatened. Husband was then wounded. Drunken invaders broke into the palace, tortured and killed the servants, did considerable damage and kidnapped her eldest son and took him to Naples. Frances turned what was left of her palace into a hospital. Plague in Rome killed her 9 year old son. Other son escaped, returned and married. His wife eventually helped Frances in her work. Frances developed remarkable powers of healing which she attributed to her guardian angel. Daughter and husband then died. Founded Oblates of Mary for lay women following the Rule of St Benedict. Frances died on 9 th March 1440 with the words, "My guardian angel has finished his work. He is beckoning me to follow".
10 am Mass	Tuesday 10th	St John Ogilvie	Born 1579 in Scotland, eldest son of Sir Walter Ogilvie, respected Calvinist baron. Sent to Continent for education. Became a Catholic aged 17. Joined Jesuits and ordained a priest 1610 aged 31. Sent to Scotland 1613 to minister to the remaining Catholics. Arrested, tortured and accused of treason. His humour, wit, and courage impressed his persecutors and softened his treatment. Found guilty. Executed as a martyr in Glasgow 10 th March 1615.
6,30 pm Mass	Wednesday 11th	St Maximilian of Tebessa	Born Algeria about 274. His father was a former soldier in Roman army. Recruiting for the Roman army when he was 21 years old and a Christian. Tall and strong and ideal for the army. Refused to swear allegiance to the Emperor and fight for Rome or take part in ceremonies to pagan gods. Conscience objector. Martyred as soldier of Christ

10 am Mass
John M M RIP

Thursday 12th St Luigi Orione Born in 1872 in Italy to poor parents. Favourite student of Don Bosco. Inspired by his education methods. In Turin seminary while training for priesthood, opened a school for poor boys. Ordained in 1895. Priests, lay brothers and laity helped in his projects of schools, vocational education, orphanages and nursing homes. Don Orione founded many Religious Orders. Orphans cared for after earthquakes. One of the first to use radio to evangelise. Had a printing press for religious books and pamphlets. Worked in Europe and South America. Devoted to Our Lady and built shrines to her. Died 12th March 1940 surrounded by Orionine Order priests

NO MASS

Friday 13th Blessed Agnellus of Pisa Born 1195 in Pisa, Italy. Franciscan recruited by Francis of Assisi Founded friary at University of Paris. Present at *Chapter of Mats* with Francis and 5,000 priests and friars. Sent with 7 others by Francis to England to establish the first Franciscan monasteries. First friaries in Canterbury, London and Oxford based on holy poverty. Founded theology school at Oxford University that had famous scholars. Friend of King Henry III. Influential in affairs of State as humble, prudent advisor and peace negotiator. Averted English civil war. 43 friaries in England at his death in 1236

10.30 am: CAFOD
Lenten Walk from
St Edmund's

Saturday 14th St Leobinus of Chartres Born in France at the end of the 5th century to peasant farmers. As a child he worked in the fields but was full of intellectual curiosity. Keen to learn he went to the local monastery. Carried out menial tasks all day and studied at night. Gained considerable religious knowledge. Spent time as a hermit with St Avitus. Joined monastery at Lyons Abbey. Five years later monastery was raided. Leobinus was tortured to disclose where the monastery treasurers were kept. Refused tell them and left for dead. Recovered and rejoined St Avitus at La Perche. Appointed Abbot of Brou and ordained a priest although he preferred the life of a monk. Then made the Bishop of Chartres. Carried out many reforms and was involved in 5th Council of Orleans and the Second Council of Paris. He died after a long illness on 14th March 558

6pm Confessions
6.30pm Vigil Mass
Doreen
Maciejewski RIP

9.30 am Mass

Sunday 15th March

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Lumen Da Silva RIP

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 for CAFOD Family Fast Day last weekend

Many thanks to all who contributed to the collection for CAFOD last weekend. £265 was donated with gift aid forms so that CAFOD can claim an extra £66.25. £203.62 was in the loose collection which included money put in envelopes with no gift aid form. This gives a total of £534.87. However one supporter of CAFOD has agreed to match fund the donations so in effect CAFOD will gain £1,069.74 so far from St Vincent de Paul. It is not too late to contribute to this important appeal which can help so many people around the world.

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 for about one hour and meeting outside St Edmund's to depart at 10.30 am. So if you are interested in taking part you can join them and it is followed by a soup lunch in St Edmund's Hall at approximately 11.45 to 13.45. 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.

Contact 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 18th 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 28th February and 1st March

Parish collection for last weekend 28 th February and 1 st March						CAFOD Family Fast		TOTAL of all money	
Parish Gift Aid Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Other money	Gift Aid		Loose
£140	£35	£111.40	£242.54	£51.98	£580.92		£265	£203.62	£1,049.54