



St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
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Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord Sunday 5th April 2026

Fr Thomas wishes everyone a happy, holy and peaceful Easter

Every penny of the collection this weekend is to support the priests of the diocese.

Please be generous. This wording is very precise so that gift aid can be claimed.

There are no weekday Masses next week from Tuesday to Friday

Page 216 (Vigil) and 251 Acts of the Apostles 10: 34, 37-41 Colossians 3: 1-4 Gospel John 20: 1-9
 Easter stands at the pinnacle of the Christian liturgical year, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, a cornerstone of faith promising redemption and eternal life to humanity. As we renew our baptismal promises we must walk with the risen Lord in the newness of life. The risen Christ calls each of us my name, inviting us to share the Good News of hope with a hurting world. However this is not easy. We can feel overwhelmed by the evil and darkness in the world. Recently, rates of depression, anxiety, self-harm and suicide have risen sharply among young people. We can lose heart when a loved one is suffering from serious illness. Political upheaval and wars in so many areas of the world killing so many innocent people including women and children can cause us to feel hopeless. We must learn from people like St Francis Xavier Cabrini, born in Italy in 1850, who became a nun in the *Sisters of Providence* and was put in charge of orphanages. She then founded the *Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus* to provide education, health care and other services to the poor. She migrated to the United States in 1878 with a number of her nuns. Despite anti-Italian prejudice and opposition from the Catholic Church in America, she successfully established charitable institutions in New York for the poor. Her motto was "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Where there is love, there is no labour too great, no task too difficult". Mother Cabrini walked with Christ in his suffering, death and resurrection. She said "We are called to be channels of God's love and mercy. In a world filled with despair and suffering, we must be bearers of hope. Through our actions and words, we can bring light and healing to those in darkness. Trust in God's abundant mercy that raised Christ from the dead." Key themes associated with Easter are: **Resurrection**, the cornerstone of Easter. **Renewal and Rebirth**, new beginnings, spiritual renewal and the rebirth of faith. **Redemption**, due to the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, offering forgiveness of sins for humanity. **Victory over Sin and Death**, the triumph of Jesus which gave us freedom from sin and the promise of salvation. **Eternal Life** due to the resurrection of Jesus giving us a hope of a future after death. **Faith and Belief**. Easter is a call to deepen our faith and trust in the power of God.' **Joy and Celebration**. The resurrection of Jesus is a time for rejoicing. **Community and Unity**. Easter brings together the Christian community in worship, celebration and unity in Christ. **Transformation and Conversion**. Easter encourages us to turn away from sin and embrace a life changed by God's grace

Mass times	Feast Days
8pm Easter Vigil Mass	4th April Black Saturday Saturday was the Jewish Sabbath and a day of rest. However the chief priests and Pharisees went to Pilate and said to him "Your Excellency, we recall that this imposter said, while he was alive, "After three days I shall rise again". Therefore please give the order to have the sepulchre kept secure until the third day for fear of his disciples come and steal him away and tell the people "He has risen from the dead". This last piece of fraud would be worse than what went before. Pilate replied "You may have your guard. Go and make all as secure as you know how". So they made the sepulchre secure putting seals on the stone and mounting a guard
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 5th April Easter Sunday
6.30 pm Mass Thanksgiving for Raphael Moms	Easter Monday 6th Blessed Michael Rua Born in 1837 in Turin, Italy, to poor family, father died when he was eight years old. Educated by De La Salle Brothers. Had great academic ability. Joined Don Bosco at the Oratory of St Francis de Sales in Turin while still at school. Helped in social club, games, sports and religious instruction. Was ordained in 1860 and supported Don Bosco in forming the Salesians. Believed in education of body and soul with social skills and recreation. Leader of Salesians after Don Bosco. Spread their houses all over the world. As he travelled around he said, "I have seen poverty everywhere and yet, thank God, I have also seen thousands of children taken off the streets and changed into honest citizens and devoted Christians." Part school, part chapel, part club, the Oratories were a matter of approach first, resources second. He told his fellow Salesians, "If you wish to save a poor neighbourhood, open an Oratory. Even without grounds and buildings, if you are real Salesians, the Oratory will be in you". He died 6 th April 1910 and was buried beside Don Bosco in Basilica in Turin. "Second Father of the Salesian Family" was written on his tomb.
NO MASS	Tuesday 7th St John Baptiste de La Salle Born 1751 to a wealthy, aristocratic family in Reims. Father was a lawyer but John Baptist wanted to join the Church. Obtained a Master of Arts and Doctorate of Theology. Ordained and helped to start free school for poor children. Realised founding schools and training teachers was his life's work. Taught in the vernacular rather than Latin and religious instruction to form good Christians. As an aristocrat, keen on good manners and social skills. Founded <i>Brothers of Christian Schools</i> better known as the <i>De La Salle Brothers</i> . Produced new rules, ideas and initiatives in education. Spread through France and the world. Fr John Baptiste de La Salle died on 7 th April 1719, just before his 68 th birthday. Canonised by Pope Leo XIII 24 th May 1900.

NO MASS **Wednesday 8th St Julie Billiart** Born in France in 1751. She knew the Catechism by heart at age 7. Recited it and explained it to other children. Received First Communion at early age of 9. Paralysed at age 30. She said "If you are willingly to carry the cross, the cross will carry you". Taught and gave spiritual advice from her bed. She collected a group of rich aristocratic women which included Françoise Blin de Bourdon, Viscountess of Gizaincourt. The French Revolution in 1779 led to accusations of Julie being a friend of the aristocracy and of sheltering priests. She was smuggled away in a hay cart and spent three years in hiding. Founded *Sisters of Notre Dame* with Françoise for the education of poor girls after collapse of schools due to the Revolution. Order grew through France but due to a conflict with the Bishop of Amiens who wanted the nuns under diocesan control, also experienced by other new Orders including De La Salle Brothers, she moved the motherhouse to Belgium. Mother Julie Billiart died on 8th April 1816. Canonised by Pope Paul VI on 22nd June 1969

NO MASS **Thursday 9th St Waldetrudis (or Waldtrude)** Born about 630 in Mons, now in Belgium but then part of France. Her noble parents both became saints. Her sister became an abbess of a Benedictine convent and was later venerated as a saint. She married the Count of Hainault and the devout couple had a happy marriage with 4 children all of which were later venerated as saints. They installed in them the importance of helping the poor. When the children were grown up her husband retired to a monastery and was later venerated as a saint. She continued her work helping orphans and widows. 2 years later she founded a convent in Mons to help to continue her works of charity especially releasing captives by paying the ransom in silver and returning them to their homes. Abbess Waldetrudis, Countess of Hainault, died 9th April 688. She is now the patroness of Mons. There is a major shrine to St Waldetrudis in the Collegiate Church in Mons.

NO MASS **Friday 10th St Magdalen of Canossa** Born in 1774 in Italy to Marquis in Canossa Palace. Three siblings died young. Father died when she was 5. Mother abandoned her and two sisters and brother. Uncle and aunt brought her up. At 18 ran the large estate at Canossa Palace. After French invasion realised help was needed for wounded, poor and sick. Also needed to improve morals and Christian practice. Identified young girls as most vulnerable. Left Palace to an abandoned Convent with many others to start a refuge and schools for poor girls or those in trouble. Founded Order of *Daughters of Charity* better known as *Canossian Sisters of Charity*. Sent nuns to hospitals to help care for sick. The Order spread throughout world. Sister Magdalen died in 1835 aged 61. Canonised in 1988

6pm: Confessions
6.30pm Vigil Mass
Thanksgiving for Joy and family
Saturday 11th St Stanislaus of Cracow Born in 1030 in Poland. Educated at the cathedral school in the capital. Ordained a priest. Canon and inspiring preacher in Cracow. Appointed Bishop of Cracow. King Boleslaus II the Bold of Poland was initially his supporter but then became corrupt by unbridled lust and savage behaviour. He then abducted the wife of one of his nobles and refused to release her and was excommunicated by Bishop Stanislaus. The king carried out a show trial to discredit the bishop but failed. He then ordered him to be killed. His soldiers were too afraid to obey. The king himself then killed Stanislaus at the altar while he was celebrating Mass on 11th April 1079. He was 48 years old. The king then repented realising his terrible sin and entered a monastery till his death. He kept his status secret and did not identify himself as the king until his deathbed. Stanislaus was canonised by Pope Innocent IV on 17th September 1253 in Assisi. He is patron saint of Poland.

9.30 am Mass **Sunday 12th April** **Second Sunday of Easter**

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 Phil Boulton

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Special Easter Gift Collection this weekend to support the priests of the diocese

Please be generous to show our appreciation of all the work, support and guidance we are given.

Big Clean in St Vincent de Paul last Saturday 28th March from 10am to 1pm in preparation for Easter

Very many thanks to all the people who came to help in this important work which was such a great success.

I have just heard that it seems that Phil Boulton has been in hospital after a bad fall

Please remember Phil and his wife Ludy in your prayers for a swift recovery

Still time to donate Easter Eggs for Stella Marist to give to seafarers.

The centre has two lay chaplains and a group of volunteers that visit ships when they dock in Southampton, Hythe and other ports on the south coast. These days ships are in port for only a short time and the ordinary crew have little chance of visiting a church. It is hoped to help the seafarers, most of whom are Catholics from the Philippines, Kerala and Goa, to celebrate Easter by visiting the ships with faith materials such as rosaries as usual, but make it a special event to take them Easter Eggs and chocolates. So, as in previous years, we are collecting Easter Eggs for Stella Marist. There is a container in the church porch. Hopefully we have a good response as in previous years.

Parish collection for last weekend 28th and 29th March

Parish Gift Aid Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Use of church	Gift Aid	Loose
£102	£25.50	£131.47	£242.54	£51.98	£553.49	£700		£1,253.49