



**St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church**  
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**Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

<b>Page 255</b>	<b>Acts of the Apostles 2: 42-47</b>	<b>1 Peter 1: 3-9</b>	<b>Gospel John 20: 19-31</b>
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The Second Sunday of Easter is now the feast of Divine Mercy, started at the canonisation of Mary Faustina Kowalska by the Polish St Pope John Paul on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2000. He was previously Archbishop Karol Wojtyla of Kraków. He died in April 2005, on the eve of Divine Mercy Sunday and was himself beatified by his successor Pope Benedict XVI, on Divine Mercy Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2011, and was canonised by Pope Francis on Divine Mercy Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2014. St Mary Faustina Kowalska was born to a devout peasant family in Poland in 1905 and joined the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy where she had a series of visions of the Divine Mercy of Jesus. With the help of a priest and others she promoted the devotion of Divine Mercy of Jesus and a chaplet of prayer. She died in 1938 after having visions of a coming terrible war. Second World War started in 1939. In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles we hear that the early Christian communities who were devoted to apostolic teaching, fellowship, sharing meals and praying together. They were united, shared resources, sold possessions to support the needy and worshiped together, growing daily in number as they spread the teaching of Jesus to so many. It shows how the Holy Spirit builds and guides the Church. Their life together reflects the Spirit's work in forming community of love and service. This is central to the Church's mission. The Church is not just a gathering of people but a living body, caring for each other and being an example and witness to the world. Their generosity and worship should draw more people to Christ. In the second reading St Peter encourages Christians facing trials to stand firm in faith. Trials refine faith, making it more valuable than gold. He points to the living hope we have through the resurrection of Christ and the inheritance that cannot fade. The letter often speaks about perseverance, holiness and the promise of salvation, giving believers courage in hardship. Even without seeing Christ, He is loved, believed in, brings inexpressible joy and hope that sustains even through challenges. In John's Gospel Thomas struggled to believe in the resurrection of Jesus until he saw Jesus for himself. His story shows that doubt is a natural part of faith and that Jesus responds to our struggles with patience and love on this feast of Divine Mercy. Jesus meets us where we are, even in our doubts. He invites us to believe and grow in faith just as Thomas' faith grew stronger as our belief can deepen as we seek and encounter Jesus. God's mercy and forgiveness is endless.

<b>Mass times</b>	<b>Feast Days</b>
<b>6pm: Confessions</b> <b>6.30pm Vigil Mass</b> <b>Thanksgiving for Joy and family</b>	<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> St Stanislaus of Cracow</b> 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 11 <sup>th</sup> 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 17 <sup>th</sup> September 1253 in Assisi. He is patron saint of Poland.
<b>9.30 am Mass</b>	<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Second Sunday of Easter</b> <b>Ammal Abraham RIP (Mother of Soumya Abraham)</b>
<b>6.30 pm Mass</b>	<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> St Pope Martin I</b> Born in Italy in 598. Monk and Abbot. Generous to the poor. Patriarch of Constantinople. Elected Pope Martin I in 649 at height of political and religious disputes without approval of the Roman Emperor Constans who supported the Monothelism heresy condemned by the Church. Pope Martin called the Lateran Council which again condemned the heresy and Emperor Constans for supporting it. Pope Martin was tried for treason and condemned to death, commuted to exile in Crimea. Died of starvation and brutal treatment. Last martyred pope.
<b>NO MASS</b>	<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> St Bénézet of Avignon</b> Born 1163 in France. He was a shepherd boy in French Alps and had a vision which instructed to build bridge at Avignon across the River Rhone. He started alone but miracles brought him support. The bridge was finished two years after his death. It had 22 arches, 980 yards long and only 16 feet in width. Initially he was buried in a chapel on bridge
<b>NO MASS</b>	<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> St Damien De Veuster</b> Born in Belgium in 1840. Worked on family farm. Two sisters were nuns and brother a priest. Joined the Fathers of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, same Order as his brother. He wanted to travel abroad as a missionary. Sent to Hawaiian islands and ordained there. Worked for 9 years in the parishes of two islands. Then volunteered to work with lepers on "Devil's Island". For 16 years he ministered to the lepers, replaced shacks with houses, built a church, organised the growing of crops, built a reservoir for an irrigation system, constructed roads, dug graves and made coffins, performed funerals, celebrated daily Mass, offered sacraments, built up an active faith community, established leaders in the community, helped in the hospital administering medicine and treating ulcers. He was helped by the local population of the island of Moloka'i who lived outside the leper colony of Kalaupapa. Fr Damien ate with the lepers, shared pipes with them and lived with them as an equal. Became internationally famous in the last few years of his life. Eventually died of leprosy himself aged 49. First buried in Moloka'i. Later buried in Belgium

**NO MASS** **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> St Bernadette Soubirous** The famous young girl born in 1844 in the French Pyrenees who had visions of the Virgin Mary. First apparition on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1858 at the grotto. Not initially believed by authorities. At the 9<sup>th</sup> apparition a spring began to flow at the grotto. The 16<sup>th</sup> vision said she was the “Immaculate Conception”. Then considered genuine. Soon a place of pilgrimage. 18<sup>th</sup> and last apparition July 1858. Bernadette then left Lourdes and became a nun. Never returned to Lourdes. She criticised the statue of the Virgin Mary at Lourdes as being too tall and too old. She said the apparition was a young girl of her age and height. She was 14 years old and only 4ft 7ins tall, diminutive even by standards of other poorly nourished children. This makes sense as, according to practices at the time of the birth of Jesus, the Virgin Mary would have been only about 13 years old and Joseph would have also been in his teens at the Nativity.

**NO MASS** **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> St Stephen Harding** Born about 1050 in Sherborne, Dorset. Pupil at Sherborne Abbey with St Wulsin. Travelling scholar in Scotland and France. Met his French friend Alberic, older than him, and considered a religious life. Both took pilgrimage to Rome and confirmed their vocation. Joined Molesme Abbey in France. Both left with Abbot Robert to form new monastery with stricter austerity under Benedictine Rule, start of the new Cistercian Order. After Abbot Robert left, Alberic was made abbot of Cîteaux. On his death Stephen was elected abbot. Struggled to recruit new monks until arrival of a nobleman, Bernard, with 30 other young noblemen as novices. Bernard later became St Bernard of Clairvaux. Order attracted many new recruits and between 1112 and 1119 Abbot Stephen founded 12 new monasteries. Produced “Charter of Charity” with new rules to unite them. Bernard made Abbot of Clairvaux. Order spread beyond France by Stephen’s death in 1134.

**6pm: Confessions**  
**6.30pm Vigil Mass**  
**John Berridge**  
**RIP**  
**died Good Friday**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> St Kateri Tekakwitha** Native American Indian born in 1656 in America in New York State near the border with Canada. Daughter of the chief of the Mohawk tribe. Both parents died of smallpox, *white man’s disease*. Tekakwitha recovered but it scared her face and damaged her eyesight. She was adopted by her father’s sister who was married to chief of Turtle clan. She lived with them in Caughnawaga, a village by Mohawk River. She was impressed by the Jesuit missionaries. At age 18 asked to be a Catholic. Baptised with name Kateri in 1676 aged 20. Moved to Jesuit mission house and was very devout. Had a close friend at the longhouse. They inspired each other and took part in excessive penances until stopped by a priest as it was damaging their health. Then practised reasonable fasting and penances. Both wanted to be nuns but were not allowed due to their Native American Indian race. Kateri died on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1680 aged 24.

**9.30 am Mass** **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April** **Third 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    David Keates

**NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

**Special Easter Gift Collection last weekend**

£345 was donated in gift aid envelopes which will gain gift aid of £86.25. The loose collection was £233.20 so the full total of the special collection for the Easter Gift amounted to £664.45

**Prayers are needed for David Keates who is serious ill in hospital.**

David, husband of Shirley, had a dizzy spell on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March and fell fracturing his skull, breaking his shoulder and some ribs. He was initially put into an induced coma in the high dependency unit in Southampton General. He is now fully conscious but cannot speak at the moment. He is responding to instructions but is expected to remain in the high dependency unit for some time.

**Special Collection on Good Friday for Holy Places**

The amount collected was £164.50. However as this is not a collection for the parish or the Portsmouth Diocese we cannot obtain gift aid. This is a new ruling and why so many envelopes for collections are no longer included

**Boxes of gift aid envelopes for parishioners in St Vincent de Paul**

There are still some boxes of gift aid envelopes that have not been collected

**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 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> April**

Parish Gift Aid Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Holy Places Candle money	Easter Gift		TOTAL of all money
							Gift Aid	Loose	
£40	£10	----	£242.54	£51.98	£344.52	£164.50 £49.31	£345	£233.20	<b>£1,136.53</b>