



**St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church**  
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**Website:** [https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/paof the rish/st-vincent-de-paul/](https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/paof%20the%20rish/st-vincent-de-paul/) (To open: Select link then Ctrl + left Click)

**Fourth Sunday of Easter Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026**  
**Special Second Collection this weekend for Clergy Training Fund**

<b>Page 262</b>	<b>Acts of the Apostles 2: 14, 36-41</b>	<b>1 Peter 2: 20-25</b>	<b>Gospel John 10: 1-10</b>
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The Fourth Sunday in Easter is called Good Shepherd Sunday due to the Gospel reading from John with the image of Christ guiding and caring for His Church and believers like a shepherd who knows his sheep and is willing to suffer protecting them to the extent of laying down his life for them. The readings this weekend remind us how Jesu leads, protects, and cares for His people and shows the closeness and love between God and His people. We are not alone in our journey. We are part of a large community of believers around the world and His support should be a great comfort for us in our shared beliefs and are called to support and care for one another. The first reading from the Acts of the Apostles tells us how the early followers of Jesus grew in faith and number. They listened to Peter who urges them to turn away from sin, repent and be baptised so receiving the Holy Spirit to give them guidance. About three thousand accepted the message and were baptised beginning a new life in Christ. This indicates the power of the Gospel of Jesus to change hearts and minds and bring salvation. The second reading from St Peter encourages believers to stand firm in their faith even during challenges and trials. Christ is given as the model of patient endurance. He bore our sins so that we might live in righteousness returning us to the safety of God's care. Through our struggles was can find strength in knowing Jesus walks with us offering His guidance and protection. In the letter the focus is on living faithfully in a world that does not always understand Christian hope. We must avoid the distractions of our culture such as advertising and social media The image of the Good Shepherd in John's Gospel in one of the oldest paintings of Christ in the catacomb in Rome, representing Christ as carrying the injured, straying sheep gently on His shoulders back to the sheepfold. This is an image of Christ which has always appealed to Christians. There is a relationship of trust between the sheep and their shepherd just as we must trust in Christ and His message. There is also an image of the shepherd being a door or gate to safety, life and salvation. Leaders in our community can be a door to truth and help us lead a more Christian life. They should not be aggressive but humble instruments of the message of Christ. This is a wonderful picture of great parents, priests, teachers, friends and community leaders. Malcolm.

<b>Mass times</b>		<b>Feast Days</b>	
<b>6pm: Confessions</b> <b>6.30pm Vigil Mass</b>	<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> St Mark</b>	St Peter's "interpreter" who wrote down everything St Peter could remember. One of the original 72 disciples sent out by Jesus. Possibly the one of the four Evangelists that is the easiest to read and understand. The most historic and devoted a third of his text on the last week of the life of Jesus to emphasise the "Theology of the Cross". It is thought he was <i>"the young man who flees naked when Jesus was arrested"</i> as he is only evangelist who mentions this incident. Wrote in fluent Greek. St Mark's Cathedral in St Mark's Square in Venice has 12 <sup>th</sup> and 13 <sup>th</sup> century frescoes showing supposed scenes from his life and his symbol of a winged lion which dates from the 4 <sup>th</sup> century. The winged lion was adopted as a symbol of the Republic of Venice	
<b>9.30 am Mass</b>	<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>	
<b>6.30 pm Mass</b>	<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> St Assicus</b>	Born in a wealthy Druid family in Ireland in 5 <sup>th</sup> century. Converted by St Patrick. One of his first disciples. Skilled metal worker in brass and copper. Also was a very able silversmith and bell founder. St Patrick made him Bishop of Elphin and then Abbot-Bishop of Ireland. Felt he was unworthy and resigned to become a hermit for seven years.	
<b>10 am Mass</b>	<b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> . St Louis-Marie de Monfort</b>	Born in 1673 in Monfort, France. At school was inspired to be a missionary to foreign lands. Developed a strong devotion to the Virgin Mary, the Rosary and Guardian Angels. In school holidays helped the poor. Walked 236 miles to Paris living as a beggar to a seminary to train for priesthood aged 20. Ordained at the famous Saint Sulpice seminary in Paris aged 27. Wanted to be a missionary to Canada. Told he had to be a priest In France. As a hospital chaplain tried to reform hospital care of the sick and staff. Became a strong and inspiring preacher. Attracted large crowds. Opposed the heresy of Jansenism. Founded 2 Orders, <i>Monfort Missionary Priests</i> and nuns originally called <i>Daughters of Divine Wisdom</i>	
<b>6.30 pm Mass</b>	<b>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> St Catherine of Siena</b>	Born in 1347 in Italy to a large fairly rich family. Gave away family's food and clothing without permission. A member of a lay Dominican Third Order. Still lived at home and refused to marry. Cut off all her hair and used other means to make herself unattractive. Mother then treated her like a household servant rather than a daughter. By age 21 was a mystic who experienced visions. Suffered stigmata. Tried to reform the Church that had become corrupt and decadence, bribery and faithlessness thrived. Encouraged Pope Gregory XI to return to Rome from Avignon. Attempted to solve the papal <i>Great Schism</i> with an anti-pope. Died aged 33 after a stroke caused by excessive fasting on 29 <sup>th</sup> April 1380. Canonised in 1461.	

**10 am Mass** **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> St Joseph Cottolengo** Born in 1786 in Italy to a poor large family. Devout parents who taught him devotion to Our Lady, importance of deeds of charity and care for poor and sick. Ordained a priest in 1811 aged 25. Attended Turin University and obtained a degree in theology. Great admirer of St Vincent de Paul. Adopted the motto "*Caritas Christi urget nos*" (The love of Christ urges us forward). He founded the *Little House of Divine Providence* to take in people rejected by all other places. It soon turned into a small town which catered for terminally sick, mentally ill, abandoned children, the poor and vulnerable. He built hospitals, schools and workshops for them. Founded Order of priests for their spiritual needs, one group of lay brothers for manual work and many Orders of nuns for caring for the vulnerable, nursing and education. Joseph continued to live like the poorest of the poor to the day of his death on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1842.

**NO MASS** **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May St Joseph the Worker** While Mary had a visit of the Angel Gabriel to explain the virgin birth of Jesus, Joseph had a divine revelation in a dream. The teenager responded to care for Mary who was aged only 13 or 14. Despite Mary being close to giving birth the two teenagers travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem where Jesus is born. Joseph is again told in a dream to travel to Egypt to avoid the massacre of the "*Holy Innocents*" by King Herod, a really dangerous journey for the teenage couple. Back in Nazareth Joseph became famous as he was more an artisan, a skilled craftsman in wood and stone, than just a carpenter. Jesus worked with His father learning his skills in the workshop. Joseph died before Jesus started to gather his disciples. Joseph is the patron saint of workers and many organisations. Many religious Orders use his name.

**6pm: Confessions**  
**6.30pm Vigil Mass** **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> St Athanasius of Alexandria** Born in 297 to a Christian family in Alexandria. Well educated. As a youth was in contact with St Antony of Egypt and desert hermits. Secretary to Bishop Alexander of Alexandria as a deacon. Produced his first literary work. Took part in Council of Nicaea in 325 to oppose Arian heresy that created Nicene Creed. Made Patriarch of Alexandria in 328. Some extreme followers of Athanasius and orthodox beliefs killed some Arians and he was blamed. Emperor Constantine exiled him to Germany. Despite appeals by St Antony, Emperor would not relent. Athanasius returned to Alexandria in 337 after death of emperor. Later Bishop Eusebius of Nicomedia changed to support Arianism and caused him more trouble. In 340 he went to join the desert monks to produce spiritual writings. Returned in triumph in 346. Gradually improved spiritual life. Increased number of monks and nuns in his diocese. Chose sensible mature bishops from the monks. Great preacher and spiritual writer. New Emperor Constantius eventually changed to support Arianism used his army to depose Athanasius in 356. Diocese experienced a reign of terror until death of emperor in 361. Emperor Julian replaced him. When Athanasius returned after two years Julian ordered him to leave Alexandria. When Julian died in 363, Athanasius returned in triumph, but the new Emperor Valens, after a couple of years, exiled him again. After great protest from the people, Athanasius was allowed to return as Patriarch in 366 for the last 7 years of his life. Died 373.

**9.30 am Mass** **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May** **Fifth 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 Second Collection this weekend for the Clergy Training fund**

If you claim gift aid please use the special orange envelope in your box as we can claim gift aid on this donations.

**Risk Assessment for Glass Breakage and Risk Assessment for suffering Violence**

To comply with diocesan guidance and national guidelines the parish has undergone two risk assessments through the Fabric and Finance Committee organised by our administrator Lina Maria. These will be displayed in the porch.

**Next SVP Social is on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May – 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.

**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.

**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

**Parish collection for last weekend 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April**

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
£107	£26.75	£181.35	£242.54	£51.98	£609.62				<b>£609.62</b>