



St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
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Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time **Sunday 26th July 2026**
Next weekend will be my 500th newsletter for the parish

Page 108	1 Kings 3: 5-6a, 7-12	Romans 8: 28-30	Gospel Matthew 13: 44-52
The readings this weekend calls us to think about what we treasure most. Are we willing to put God first? Are we ready to let go of what holds us back? Jesus invites us to seek His kingdom above all else. The readings help us to see what is truly valuable. They remind us that wisdom, faith and God's kingdom are most important. These gifts bring life, joy and strength. In the first reading King Solomon is remembered for his great wisdom and also for his mistakes. He started out with humility and a desire to serve well with a deep concern for justice and the common good by asking God for wisdom, not power or wealth. That great choice helped him rule with justice and brought peace to his kingdom in Israel. But over time he let wealth and other influences take him away from God's ways. We are reminded that true wisdom is a gift from God The second reading from St Paul's letter to the Christian community in Rome which we have been given for the last three weeks is one of the most hopeful message in his letter to them. He informs them that God is at work in everything for the good of those who love Him. These verses explore salvation and how faith, not the law, brings righteousness. He reassures believers that God is leading them towards glory. It shows that even suffering can be part of God's loving work in our lives. In Matthew's Gospel he brings together three parables that reveal what the kingdom of heaven is like. Jesus uses simple images, a treasure, a pearl and a fishing net, to show its great value and the serious choice each person must make. The hidden treasure and pearl show how the kingdom is worth every sacrifice. The net reminds us that judgment will come, separating the good from the bad. These parables challenge us to go deeper, to respond with true faith and action for good.			
Mass times		Feast Days	
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Hazel McMahon RIP 11th Anniversary	Saturdy 25th St James the Great Son of Zebedee and Salome. His father was a fisherman on Sea of Galilee. His mother was disciple of Jesus and possibly sister of the Virgin Mary. Basically educated in Jewish customs. With younger brother John trained by their father in skills of sailing, fishing, boat maintenance, trading and understanding weather. Selected by Jesus as one of the 12 apostles. James had a short temper. James and John nicknamed "sons of thunder". James and John with Peter were present at Transfiguration of Jesus. Not clear how James died but became patron saint of Spain who claimed him as the "Moor slayer" which seems very unlikely. The shrine of <i>Santiago de Compostela</i> in Spain was developed in honour of St James, a major place of pilgrimage.		
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 26th July	Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
6.30 pm Mass	Monday 27th . Blessed Titus Brandsma Anno was born in 1881 in the Netherlands province of Friesland one of 6 children. 3 became nuns and 2 priests including Anno. Joined Carmelites and took the name Titus. Ordained in 1905 aged 24. Started a journal of Marian devotion and a Catholic newspaper. Founded Catholic Secondary School. Professor of philosophy at Catholic University of Nijmegen in the Netherlands in 1923. Wonderful sense of humour. Always had time for students. Travelled Europe and USA speaking on Carmelite mysticism and Christian unity. Chaplain to Catholic journalists. In 1935 opposed Hitler in the press and in lectures. Drew up plans to evacuate Dutch Jews to Carmelite missions in Brazil. Strongly opposed Nazis after invasion of Holland in 1940. In 1941 Jewish students forbidden to attend Catholic schools. Fr Titus, as President of Association of Catholic Schools, condemned policy in press and in sermons. Also opposed the policy that Catholic papers must publish Nazis propaganda. Arrested in 1942 and told to retire to a monastery but he refused. Martyred in Dachau concentration camp on 26 th July 1942.		
10 am Mass	Tuesday 28th St Samson of Dol Born 485 in South Wales to elderly noble parents. Educated by St Illtyd, abbot of monastery in South Wales. Proved to be academic, virtuous and austere as a monk. Ordained deacon and priest. Moved to another monastery on Caldey Island off south coast of Wales. Gave the last rites to his father who recovered. Both his parents wanted a monastic life. Mother went to a Convent and father and his uncle went with Samson to Caldey Island. Abbot Pyr then fell down a well drunk and died. Samson became abbot and reformed monastic life. Samson accompanied visiting Irish monks to Ireland. Back in Wales sent his uncle to be superior of monastery in Ireland that had asked for help. Samson retired as abbot and with his father and 2 other monks became hermits. Then made to be abbot of monastery and a bishop. Travelled ensuring orthodox monastic practices in Cornwall, Scilly Islands, Guernsey and finally Normandy as well as founding new monasteries, one at Dol where he stayed. Appointed Bishop of Dol. Attended <i>Council of Paris</i> . Abbot Samson died peacefully among his monks at Dol monastery on 28 th July 565 aged 80.		
6.30 pm Mass	Wednesday 29th St Martha of Bethany The dominant and active sister compared to Mary of Bethany who was the quiet contemplative sister. Sister of Lazarus. Bethany was a small village 2 miles from Jerusalem so Jesus often visited and stayed with the family. She took the initiative at the death of her brother Lazarus. Life summed up by statement "Martha served"		

10 am Mass	Thursday 30th St Peter Chrysologus Born in 380 in Bologna, Italy. Educated by Bishop Cornelius of Imola. Initially lived as a monk. Then made archdeacon. When Archbishop of Ravenna died, people chose a person to replace him. Peter went with Cornelius to Rome to obtain approval. However, Pope Sixtus appointed Peter as Bishop of Ravenna. Known as “Doctor of Homilies” for his short concise but theological rich reflections. He advocated daily reception of Eucharist. Opposed monophysitism heresy. As Archbishop of Ravenna built churches. Improved Cathedral. Peter Chrysologus died on 31 st July 450 aged 70.				
NO MASS	Friday 31st July St Ignatius of Loyola Born in 1491 at Loyola Castle in Basque area of Spain. Became a page. Joined army aged 17. Was a fancy dresser, expert dancer, womaniser, playboy, sensitive to insult and good swordsman involved in many duels. Used his privileged status to escape prosecution for violent crimes. He was involved in many battles from 1509 aged 18. In 1521 his leg was shattered by a cannonball. Taken prisoner by French. His leg was not set properly. Underwent operations on his leg. While recovering at his father’s castle in Loyola he read religious works. Decided to be a <i>Knight of Christ</i> . Went on pilgrimage to Holy Land to convert Muslims. Sent home for causing trouble. At University studied philosophy and theology. Wrote <i>Spiritual Exercises</i> . Started to call himself Ignatius. Questioned by the Spanish Inquisition. Left Spain for Paris. He gathered a group of six companions. Decided to go to the Holy Land from Venice but delayed. Ordained a priest in 1537 in Venice. Six companions were all now priests and started preaching and tending sick and poor in nearby Vicenza. Group grew to nine and went to Rome to put themselves at the disposal of Pope Paul III. All co-founders of “The Society of Jesus” – the Jesuits. Dedicated to teaching, preaching and ministering to the poor and sick. New Order to be flexible to the needs of the age. Also to the conversion of Muslims and evangelisation in distant countries. However, they became involved in combating Protestant movements. Most of the English Mission during the Reformation were Jesuits. Many of the English and Welsh martyrs were Jesuits. There were 1,000 Jesuits when Ignatius died. 25,000 by the end of 20 th century. Pope Francis was the first Jesuit pope.				
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	Saturday 1st August St Æthelwold of Winchester Born in Winchester between 904 and 909. Courtier and companion to King Athelstan. Ordained a priest by the Bishop of Winchester at the same time as the bishop’s nephew, Dunstan. So started a great friendship. He studied in Winchester. Became a monk at Glastonbury Abbey where Dunstan was abbot. Abbot of Abingdon monastery where he established Benedictine Rule and discipline reforms copied from French monasteries. In 955 the new 16 year old King Eadwig who had very bad morals, exiled Dunstan, by then Bishop of London, to France. Abbot Æthelwold became one of his advisors to try to control the king’s accesses. King Eadwig died after 4 years and his brother King Edgar, who had been taught as a boy by Abbot Æthelwold, succeeded him. Dunstan returned from exile and was made Archbishop of Canterbury. Abbot Æthelwold helped the king with many of the charters of the time. In 963 Archbishop Dunstan consecrated him Bishop of Winchester. Again carried out reforms replacing clerics by monks from Abingdon. Founded a nunnery in Winchester and many monasteries elsewhere. Had strong support from King Edgar and his Queen Ælfthryth for his establishing of the Rule of St Benedict. King Edgar died; succeeded by King Edward his son by a former marriage. Queen Ælfthryth wanted her son Ethelred to be king. 3 years later King Edward the Martyr was murdered in Corfe Castle in Dorset, most likely the victim of his step-mother Queen Ælfthryth. Bishop Æthelwold personal skill helped build a large church organ at Winchester. He was a skilled as a goldsmith and metalworker, producing many precious items. Also a skilled bell founder. He rebuilt the Old Minster, and named it after St Swithun. In 971 he moved St Swithun’s relics into the new cathedral and it rained for 40 days.				
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 2nd August	Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time			
PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS WHEN RECORDING NAMES FOR MASS INTENTION					
Your prayers are needed for the following people					
Hazel Sale	Mary Light	Pat Sweeney	Phil Boulton	David Keates	Chris Fitzgerald

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS..

Message of thanks via Graham Churchill concerning Red Box collections for Mill Hill Missionaries

In 2025 the Parish of St Vincent de Paul raised £1,046 through Red Boxes, donations and direct debits for Missio and the Mill Hill missionaries. Our missionary community, led by Missio Secretary for the parish Graham Churchill, is part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries overseas through prayer and financial assistance. Visit www.missio.org.uk. If you would like a Red Box or want to set up a direct debit please see Graham Churchill.

Very many thanks to the parishioner who donated £250 to buy a new lawn mower for the parish garden and the parishioner who donated a fridge for the St Vincent de Paul kitchen

Next SVP Social is on Wednesday 5th August – 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 18th and 19th July 2026

Parish Gift Aid Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Candle money	Gift Aid	Loose	TOTAL of all money
£62	£15.50	£126.70	£242.54	£51.98	£498.72	£37.77			£536.49