



St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
Aldermoor Close, Coxford Road, Lordswood, Southampton,
Hampshire SO16 5ST **Office: 07887452313**

Parish Priest: Fr Thomas Parakandathil tparakandathil@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Parish Administrator: Lina Maria Speigal email: svpoffice@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Newsletter editor: Malcolm Forster email: malcolmandrita@btinternet.com
Safeguarding Officer Liz Challand safeguarding.sousv@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Administrator Lina Maria is available preferably by email on in emergency by the office telephone on Thursdays

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)

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Sunday 16th August 2026

Page 176 Revelation 11: 19 and 12: 1-6,10 1 Corinthians 15: 20-27 Gospel Luke 1: 39-56	
Mass times	Feast Days
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	Saturday 15th Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Scripture does not give an account of Mary's assumption into heaven. However tradition held that Mary died in the presence of some of the apostles in either Ephesus in the "House of the Virgin Mary" or in Jerusalem at the "Tomb of the Virgin Mary". Thomas the Apostle was not present at her death and his late arrival precipitates a reopening of Mary's tomb which was found to be empty. Subsequently legend has it that Mary dropped her sash down to the apostles from heaven as a testament to her assumption. Over the centuries the Eastern Church was convinced of the assumption of Mary but the Western Church was more hesitant. However by the 13 th century there was universal agreement. On 1 st November 1950 Pope Pius XII defined the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary a dogma of faith.
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 16th August The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
6.30 pm Mass	Monday 17th St Joan of the Cross Born 1666 in France, youngest of 12 children. Father died when she was 6 years old. Mother had a shop near shrine to Virgin Mary in Saumur which barely supported large family. Joan experienced poverty and became selfish and miserly. Aged 25 her mother died and Joan took over shop. She then provided poor standard accommodation for those visiting the shrine. Her main aim was to make money. Visited by a poor scruffy widow pilgrim who said that she had a message from God. Predicted that Joan's future was to care for the poor. Joan's attitude to life gradually changed. Resumed her Christianity practice and penance. Found many poor and orphaned who she helped. Soon gathered other women to help her including her niece. Joan founded Congregation of St Anne of Providence as Sister Joan of the Cross and numbers increased. Eventually built new premises with help from benefactors. Joan died 17 th August 1736 aged 70 when there were 12 communities of Sisters running hospices and schools. Order grew after her death
10 am Mass	Tuesday 18th St Helena Helena was of humble birth about 247, possibly the daughter of an inn-keeper, who married the Roman general Constantius Chlorus who later became the Roman Emperor. When Constantius Chlorus died their son Costantine was the first Christian Emperor, Constantine the Great, Constantine I. He gave his mother the title Empress. It is claimed at age 80 she organised a project to find the true Cross at Golgotha. Three crosses were found near Calvary and to find which was Jesus' cross a dying woman was brought to touch them. When she touched the third one she was cured so it was assumed it was the true Cross of Jesus. Helena died in 330 in Palestine.
SVP Social 1 pm to 3 pm 6.30 pm Mass	Wednesday 19th St John Eudes Born in 1601 in Normandy, France. Educated by Jesuits at Caen. Joined Oratorians. Ordained a priest in 1625 aged 24. Volunteered to care for victims of plague. Lived alone in huge wine cask to protect others from disease. Began parish missions. Outstanding preacher. Observed poor ministry of local clergy. In 1641 founded <i>Order of Our Lady of Charity of the Refuge, Good Shepherd nuns</i> , in Caen to provide a refuge for prostitutes who wished to reform. Special devotion to Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary. Left Oratorians to found <i>Society of Jesus and Mary, Eudists</i> , for the education of priests and planning of parish missions. Opened new seminaries across France to better train or retrain priests. Great writer and later named "Doctor of the Church". John Eudes died 19 th August 1680 aged 78.
10 am Mass	Thursday 20th St Bernard of Clairvaux Born in 1090 in France to a noble family at castle of Fontaine. After education sent for military training with his 5 brothers. Mother died and father had great hopes for his future but he realised he had a religious vocation. With 31 other noblemen including 4 brothers and uncle, he rode to Citeaux Cistercian Abbey. Youngest brother looked after his father. After 3 years the English Abbot Stephen Harding asked Bernard to start a new Cistercian monastery with 12 other monks. With help they built a monastery in a valley renamed Clairvaux. Reputation of Clairvaux monastery and holiness of Bernard grew. Numbers increased from 13 to 130 including youngest brother and his father. Married sister visited which changed her life. She joined a Convent with husband's permission. Bernard became a great speaker and writer. Important people sort his advice. Travelled through Western Europe advising priests, bishops and kings. Secretary to Synod of Troyes and helped write Rules for Knights Templar in 1128. Bernard was made their patron saint. From Clairvaux monks founded many new Cistercian monasteries in France and Fountains Abbey and Rievaulx Abbey in England. New monk at Clairvaux was later elected Pope Eugenius III in February 1145, a great friend of Bernard. Attended Second Council of Lateran in 1139 to heal schism and enforce stricter discipline in clergy and nuns. Met Bishop Malarchy of Armagh from Ireland. Great friendship. Helped him start many new Cistercian monasteries in Ireland. From 1140 Bernard starting

preaching through Europe and attracted huge crowds. Involved in controversial removal of William as Bishop of York whose two uncles, King Stephen and Henry of Blois, Bishop of Winchester, had made his appointment. Bernard replaced the popular William by the Cistercian Abbot of Fountains Abbey who soon became unpopular with people in diocese due to his austere rules. Bernard was asked by his friend Pope Eugenius III to preach for the Second Crusade after part of Jerusalem was captured by the Turks in 1144. Emperor Conrad of Germany, King Louis of France, King Henry II through the influence of his wife Eleanor of Aquitaine responded in 1147. Disastrous result. In 1153 Bernard was worn out and ill. Resolved dispute in northern France. Died on 20th August 1153 aged 63 at Clairvaux.

NO MASS

Friday 21st . Blessed Victoire Rasoamanarivo Born 1848 in Madagascar, a pagan princess from one of the most powerful families in the country. She was educated according to the indigenous beliefs. In 1861, after the death of the Queen of Madagascar who was opposed to Christianity, Jesuit missionaries arrived and she went to a school run by Catholic nuns. Their teaching and example transformed her and despite the opposition of her family she was baptised a Catholic. A Protestant school was then chosen for her but it did not change her faith. She was sure she had a vocation to be a nun but was advised with her position in the royal court this would result in problems for all Catholics in the country. Her family arranged a marriage to the son of her uncle who was then the prime minister. The 17 year old bride suffered from a husband who was very cruel, a drunk and a lecher. She prayed for him and accepted the abuse. Protestantism was made the official religion and mild persecution of Catholics changed in 1883 during the Franco-Malagasy War when all Catholic missionaries were expelled. Priests and nuns told Victoire to look after the Catholic communities which she did with great courage. She protested to the royal court when they tried to close churches. Victoire faced down soldiers and led Catholics into churches to pray. After 2 years the priests and nuns were allowed to return and a community of 21,000 Catholics remained. Eventually her husband was dying and asked to be baptised a Catholic which Victoire did herself. She was then free to work for prisoners, lepers and the poor for 6 years. Age 46 this courageous leader died 21st August 1894.

**6pm: Confessions
6.30pm Vigil Mass**

Saturday 22nd St Philip Benizi Born 1233 in Italy to a noble family. Studied medicine and philosophy at Paris and Padua. Was a physician in Florence who studied the Scriptures. Gave up medicine and joined the Servites as just a lay brother. Ordained a priest. Promoted to Master of novices. Great preacher. Superior of Order. Named as a candidate for pope so went into hiding as a hermit. Attended Council of Lyons and was a mediator between groups in dispute. Sent to Forlì by Pope Martin V to reconcile divided city. One of his antagonists joined Servites. Then foremost preacher in Italy. Talented as organiser and administrator. Founded *Third Order of Servites*. Sent first Servites as missionaries to the Far East. Died 22nd August 1285 aged 52 at Servite House in Todi.

9.30 am Mass

Sunday 23rd August

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pat and John Moon and all members of the deceased Moon family

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



Fr Thomas sends his thanks for the generosity on his 50th birthday celebration last Sunday

Many thanks to all the parishioners who contributed to the £670 collected for Fr Thomas on his special birthday. An ideal way to show the appreciation of Fr Thomas from everyone in the parish.

Next SVP Social is this Wednesday 19th 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

Great news from Liz Challand concerning her daughter Chlöe

We are delighted to announce that Miss Chlöe Challand will marry Mr Charley Heasell on Friday 4th September at St Edmunds Church on the Avenue, Southampton. All parishioners of St Vincent de Paul are invited to attend the ceremony. People are asked to be in position by 12.30 ready for the service to begin at 1pm. We ask for your prayers for the couple as they start their married life.

Message from the diocese concerning a new “Volunteer Agreement” they are introducing

Many of our volunteers generously give their time in roles that involve handling confidential or personal information. To help keep everyone safe and supported, it is important that this information, whether it is a door code, details of financial donations, or personal data, is kept confidential and not shared or used inappropriately either during or after volunteering. To support this, we have introduced a [Volunteer Agreement](#). This also sets out what volunteers can expect in terms of training, insurance and expenses.

Most volunteers need to complete this agreement, no matter how long they’ve been with us. It’s a simple step that helps protect everyone in our community. For further guidance, please check on pages five and six of the [Volunteer Coordinator Handbook](#) which you can access on the diocesan website

Parish Collection for last weekend 8th and 9th August 2026

Parish Gift Aid Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection		Gift Aid	Loose	TOTAL of all money
£112	£28	£173.26	£242.54	£51.98	£607.78				£607.78