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Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary **Sunday 23rd August 2026**

No weekday Mass on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday this coming week

Page 120	Isaiah 22: 15, 19-23	Romans 11: 33-36	Gospel Matthew 16: 13-20
In the readings this weekend we hear about strength, trust and responsibility. God chooses people for His work and gives them what they need to carry it out. Each reading shows how God works through others to guide His people. They challenge us to think about who we trust and follow. God is in control and always works even when we don't fully understand. He gives strength and purpose to those who say yes to Him and gives authority and wisdom to those who trust Him. In the first reading from the Book of Isaiah the Lord declares judgment against Shebna showing that leadership must serve God's purpose, not personal gain. By raising Eliakim God shows His care for His people giving them a faithful steward. Authority is not about power but responsibility. God establishes justice and order, using leaders who remain faithful to Him. The second reading from St Paul's letter to the Romans marvels at God's wisdom which surpasses human understanding. It reminds us that God's plan of salvation is greater than human reason, flowing from His mercy and sovereignty In Matthew's Gospel we get the famous question "Who do you say that I am?" Jesus is challenging them about His identity and Peter boldly declares Him as Christ, the Son of God. Jesus responds by giving Peter the keys to the kingdom and calling him the rock on which the Church will stand. This helps us to reflect on faith and leadership as Peter is certainly not perfect Each person must grapple with the question "Who do you say that I am?" and encounter Jesus in their own way, not relying on external authorities. We must encounter Christ personally and live out the Good News through love rather than fear.			
Mass times	Feast Days		
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Kathleen Docherty RIP (Died recently)	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 Forli 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 <i>Third Order of Servites</i> . Sent first Servites as missionaries to the Far East. Died 22 nd August 1285 aged 52 at Servite House in Todi.		
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 23rd August Pat and John Moon and all members of the deceased Moon family Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time		
6.30 pm Mass	Monday 24th St Bartholomew Nathanael Bartholomew was one of the twelve Apostles and both names are used for him in the Gospels. When Philip asked him to join Jesus he said "Can anything good come out of Nazareth" Jesus said to him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit" Bartholomew replied, "Where did you come to know me?" Jesus said "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you". Nathanael was shocked at this revelation as it would not appear he was just reading and replied "Rabbi, you are the Son of God!" He then became one of the devoted twelve apostles. After the death of Jesus, Bartholomew was a missionary mainly to India in the area of Mumbai, Bombay, and even to Mesopotamia, Persia and possibly Egypt. An unlikely claim is Armenia was visited by him. However there is a St Bartholomew monastery in the area which is now in Turkey. Nathanael was martyred, possibly horrifically, most likely in India.		
10 am Mass Molly Varkey RIP	Tuesday 25th St Louis IX, King of France Great Christian monarch, born near Paris in 1214. Father was King Louis VIII of France. Mother was half Spanish and half English. Father died when he was 12 years old after being well educated in Latin, oratory, military arts and government. In 1219 the Sixth Crusade led by King Fredrick was successful mainly due to diplomacy. 10 year truce signed. Aged 15, King Louis IX led 3 campaigns against rebellious nobles. Aged 20, he married Margaret, daughter of Count of Provence. This extended his kingdom to the Mediterranean. Very happy couple who had 11 children. King Louis had a reputation for fairness, moral integrity, great Christian zeal and renowned for his charity. Banned trials by ordeal. Introduced assumed innocence until proved guilty. Helped the founding of College of Sorbonne in Paris. Lived an austere life and the couple helped the poor. Beggars were fed from his table, he ministered to lepers and founded establishments for vulnerable, disabled, blind and prostitutes. Great solver of disputes and keen on political diplomacy. He supported the poor. Led an austere lifestyle. Skilled military leader. Led Seventh Crusade that was partly successful. Returned to France after 6 years. In 1267, King Louis and his 3 sons called the Eighth Crusade. They and his brother arrived in Tunis in 1270. King Louis IX died of dysentery.		
NO MASS	Wednesday 26th Blessed Dominic Barberi Born in 1792 to poor family in Italy. Parents died. He was brought up by his uncle. Avoided conscription by Napoleon. Entered Passionist monastery. A brilliant scholar. Ordained a priest in Rome in 1821. 19 years in monastery teaching philosophy and theology. Taught in Rome, now a famous theologian. Met three converts from England. Led mission to England in October 1841 after Catholic Emancipation in 1839. Catholics feared that Dominic and		

	his fellow Passionists would cause renewed persecution. Fr Dominic was a great success and gained many converts and refreshed practices of Catholics. He became aware of Oxford Movement and Anglican John Henry Newman who he received into the Catholic Church in October 1845. Fr Dominic died on 27 th August 1849. In 1852 John Henry Newman gave the lecture “The Second Spring” referring to rebirth of Catholicism in England which Fr Dominic started.
NO MASS	Thursday 27th St Monica Mother of St Augustine of Hippo. Born in 332 to Christian parents in Algeria, North Africa. A Berber, she married at 14 to a poor Roman pagan. Husband was short tempered and was annoyed at Monica’s charity to the poor and Christian practices but always respected her. They had 2 sons and a daughter. Perpetua was Abbess of monastery in Hippo and Navigius became a monk. But Augustine was lazy and uncouth. Monica prayed continually for him. When Augustine fell into bad company and took a mistress and stayed with her for 15 years working as a teacher, Monica banned him from the house. After 20 years of marriage, her husband became a Christian. Augustine was shocked by his mother banning him and started to study Christian writings and went to Rome with his mistress, later followed by Monica. Augustine took another mistress, but decided after a time to take a vow of celibacy. Converted by St Simplician and St Ambrose to delight of Monica. She died in 387 in Ostia, port to Rome. Buried there but later buried in Rome.
NO MASS	Friday 28th St Augustine of Hippo Berber son of St Monica, born 354 in Algeria, North Africa. His father was a Roman pagan and civil official. 3 children brought up as Christians. Well educated, fluent in Latin which they spoke at home. Brother and sister entered religious life but Augustine fell into bad company and in his first 30 years led an immoral life taking at least one mistress. Became an academic and teacher in Carthage, his home town. Mother prayed he would reform. Sister Perpetua had become Abbess in Hippo. Augustine started to study Christian writings of St Simplician, famous theologian in Milan. He then went to Rome and Milan with his mistress. Also met St Ambrose and was converted back to a Christian much to the delight of his mother who had followed him to Italy. She now planned to return to North Africa but died in Ostia, Rome’s port. Devastated by her death, Augustine returned to North Africa with his son and became a great theologian, philosopher, writer and the Bishop of Hippo in Algeria. He wrote <i>On the Holiness of the Catholic Church</i> in 388 and <i>Confessions of St Augustine</i> in 396 and <i>The City of God</i> in 410. Died 28 th August 430 in Hippo
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Rita Forster RIP 7th Anniversary	Saturday 29th Passion of St John the Baptist John was the son of Elizabeth, the aunt of Jesus’ mother, the Virgin Mary. Lived like a hermit in the desert. He was a prophet who foretold the Messiah’s coming. Jesus asked his cousin John to baptise him in the River Jordan. John rebuked King Herod Antipas who divorced his 10 th wife to marry Herodias. Salome, his new wife’s daughter, danced for Herod which greatly pleased him. He then promised her anything and she demanded the head of John the Baptist on a platter, prompted by her mother. John was then beheaded.
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 30th August Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Mass of thanksgiving and blessings for the 77th birthday of Clarine John D’Souza
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

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.

Next SVP Social is on Wednesday 2nd September – 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.

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 15th and 16th 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
£42	£10.50	£233.80	£242.54	£51.98	£580.52				£580 52