

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL R.C. CHURCH

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Fifth Sunday of Easter Sunday 7th May 2023

Acts 6: 1-7

1 Peter 2: 4-9

John 14: 1-12

The first reading from the Acts shows us the early Church as a loving, serving, and worshipping community. Hence, it easily solved a problem of discrimination as the Greek speaking widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. The apostles responded by choosing seven men and so in effect instituting the diaconate for the service of the community. The seven were filled with the Holy Spirit and were successful in resolving the issue.

In the second reading, St. Peter advises the early Christians to renew the memory of Jesus by making their community a spiritual edifice built from the "living stones" of believers upon the "living cornerstone of Christ". For unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring them down, is the fate in store for them. Peter praises Christians, both Gentile and Jewish, as "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and God's own people". Believers should come to Christ to offer spiritual sacrifices to God through Him. Disciples have been called out of darkness into God's marvellous light. In the Gospel, Jesus consoles his apostles (who are sad and disheartened at His announcement that He will be leaving them soon), by assuring them that he is going to prepare an everlasting accommodation for them in his Father's House in Heaven. He gives them the assurance that he will come back to take them to their Heavenly abodes. It is then that Thomas says, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus answers Thomas' question with, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me". He also tells them that those who believe in Him will do greater work than He has done and promises to send them the Holy Spirit to guide them. Malcolm.

| Mass times | Feast Days |
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| 6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Wedding Anniversary of Santhosh and Gigi | Saturday 6th St Petronax of Monte Cassino Born in 670 in northern Italy. Joined the hermits in the ruins of Monte Cassino monastery in Italy between Rome and Naples. Elected the superior of monks. Rebuilt the monastery which Benedict had founded. Pope Gregory II gave him an autographed copy of <i>Rule of St Benedict</i> . Known as <i>Second founder of the Benedictine monastery of Monte Cassino</i> . Attracted many notable monks. |
| 9.30 am Mass | Sunday 7th May Fifth Sunday of Easter |
| 6.30pm Mass Thanksgiving Mass for 10 th birthday of Tia Tomy | Monday 8th May St Magdalen of Canossa Born in 1774 in Italy to Marquis in Canossa Palace. Three siblings died young. Father died when she was 5 years old. Mother abandoned her and two sisters and brother. Uncle and aunt brought her up. At 18 ran the large estate at Canossa Palace. After French invasion realised help was needed for wounded, poor and sick. Also needed to improve morals and Christian practice. Identified young girls as most vulnerable. Left Palace to an abandoned Convent with many others to start a refuge and schools for poor girls or those in trouble. Founded Order of <i>Daughters of Charity</i> better known as <i>Canossian Sisters of Charity</i> . Sent nuns to hospitals to care for sick. Order spread throughout world. Died 1835. |
| 10 am Mass Thanksgiving Mass for Elsa Joy Day of Prayer for Victims of Abuse | Tuesday 9th St Pachomius the Great Born in 292 in Egypt into a wealthy pagan family. Was forced into the Roman army. Galley slave on the River Nile. Met Christians in port who gave help to the troops. Became a Christian. 7 years a hermit with Paloemom who taught him building skills. Unlike the hermits of St Antony of Egypt his monks lived in community in large settlements. Developed the first real monasteries with a strict <i>Rule</i> which defined monastic life. When he died in 348 aged 56 there were 9 monasteries for men and 2 for women. His <i>Rule</i> influenced St Benedict in the West and St Basil in the East and later St Hilary of Arles. |
| 6.30 pm Mass | Wednesday 10th St John of Avila Born in 1499 in Spain to wealthy and pious parents. Sent to study law but changed to philosophy and theology. Both parents died. Ordained a priest. First Mass at the church where his parents were buried. Always wanted to be a missionary to Mexico. Archbishop of Seville asked him to be a missionary in Spain in land recently regained from the Moors. Very successful preacher. Attracted large crowds and many converts. Criticised the rich and powerful which caused him to be imprisoned and tried by the Spanish Inquisition for a year. Acquitted to the delight of his many followers. Wrote <i>Audia Filia (Listen, Daughter)</i> . Among his disciples were St Teresa of Avila, St John of God, St Francis Borgia. 15 years of poor health. Died in 1569 aged 70. |

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| 10 am Mass Wedding Anniversary of Albrit and Jobrin | Thursday 11th St Francis di Girolamo Born in 1642 in Italy into a large pious family. Sacristan and catechist in his parish. Educated at Jesuit College. Ordained aged 24. Taught at College in Naples. Entered the Jesuits aged 28. Wanted to be a foreign missionary against the wishes of his father. Kept in Italy to evangelise in Naples area. Eloquent preacher. Visited people in hospitals, prisons, brothels and galley slaves in the docks. Imposing figure attracted large crowds. Trained young Jesuits in his preaching style for the missions. Founded a congregation of "lay workmen" to support priests. Died on 11 th May 1716 of pleurisy aged 74. Dedicated chapel to Francis in Naples Basilica. |
| NO MASS | Friday 12th St Pancras of Rome Born about 289 at Phrygia now in Turkey to parents of Roman citizenship. Orphaned and cared for by uncle. Moved to Rome and both converted to Christianity. Pancras became a keen and pious follower. Under persecution by Emperor Diocletian arrested. Refused to offer sacrifice to pagan gods despite offers of wealth. Beheaded as a martyr. Buried in the catacombs on Via Aurelia. Church and shrine built above. St Pancras was popular in England encouraged by two popes in 6 th and 7 th century. Mentioned by St Bede. |
| 6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Abraham Kanjirathunkal RIP | Saturday 13th St Julian of Norwich Born in Norwich in 1342 at a time of unrest in Church and State. Spirituality grew among lay people to live a Christian life outside religious orders. Became a hermit or anchorite in a cell built alongside a church. One window viewed sanctuary, another open to the public. Mystic and visionary who produced theological texts during 20 years of meditation. <i>Revelations of Divine Love</i> is the earliest surviving book in English written by a woman. A chapel and shrine stands at place where her cell existed, destroyed by Henry VIII. |
| 9.30 am Mass | Sunday 14th May Sixth Sunday of Easter International Day of Prayer for the Churches of the East |
| PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS WHEN RECORDING NAMES FOR MASS INTENTION | |

| Your prayers are needed for the following people | | | | | |
|---|------------|-------------|------------|--|--|
| Sue Chandler | Hazel Sale | Joe Heatley | Kay Duggan | | |

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENT

Tuesday 9th May is a Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse

The Bishops' Conference of England & Wales have asked us to keep Tuesday, 9th May as a Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse. Please pray for all who have suffered from, may even be suffering now, from abuse of whatever kind. Also pray for Survivors of Abuse that they can be supported to regain a good quality of life. They also ask us to support the International Day of Prayer (this year on 14th May) for the Churches of the East promoted in this country by Fellowship and Aid to the Churches of the East.

Next monthly Social on a Wednesday 17th May – 1 to 3 pm

There will another opportunity to meet for refreshments and a chat. Please come along and bring your friends. No need to stay for the whole time, a few minutes of two hours, whatever suits you. Look forward to welcoming you. Renee and Pat.

8 hours of adoration followed by Mass every third Friday of the month from 9 pm

The next session will be Friday 19th May from 9 pm to 5 am ending with Mass at about 4 am

Safeguarding Training for SVP parish is on Saturday 3rd June

Morning session for "Child Protection" is from 10 am to 12 noon

The afternoon session for "Working with Adults at Risk" is from 1 pm to 3 pm.

Safeguarding training is open to all those in recruitment for, or currently working in roles with children and/or adults at risk. You do not need to attend both sessions if you only work with one of those groups e.g. Children's liturgists who only work with children at the church only need to attend the morning session. In accordance with the National Safeguarding Standards, safeguarding training must be completed every 2 years. You will receive a certificate on completion of this training.

Parish collection for last weekend 29th and 30th April

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| Parish Envelopes | Gift Aid | Loose Collection | Direct debits, standing orders | Gift Aid | Total of Offertory Collection | Other Money | Envelopes | Loose plate | TOTAL of all money |
| £388 | £97 | £148.52 | £242.54 | £51.98 | £928.04 | --- | £94.15 | £57.50 | £1,079.69 |