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Monday: 2.30 - 4.30pm Wednesday: 1.30 - 4.30pm Friday: 2.30 - 4.30pm

Website: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/st-vincent-de-paul/> (To open: Select then Ctrl + left Click)

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday 17th December 2023

Page 87

Isaiah 61: 1=2, 10-11

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

This weekend we continue with our preparation to celebrate Christmas when the pink candle of the Advent Wreath is lit. This Sunday used to be called "Gaudete Sunday", the Latin word for "Rejoice". At last we are starting to rejoice about the coming of Jesus, particularly reflected in the first reading from the prophet Isaiah. "*He has sent me to bring good news to the poor*". Great promises are made with regards to salvation for many who are suffering. Also the Psalm has the same theme with its response of "*My soul rejoices in my God*".

Even St Paul is in a happy mood with his letter to the Thessalonians in Greece. "*Be happy at all times; pray constantly and for all things give thanks to God*". He tells them to take notice of the prophets and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He wishes them well with "*May the God of peace make you perfect and holy*". He ends on a very positive message "*God has called you and He will not fail you*".

In this liturgical year the first two gospel readings were from St Mark but his account in the Bible is the shortest of the evangelists. Consequently we have readings from St John, St Matthew and St Luke to fill out the year. This weekend we have an account of John the Baptist as recorded by St John to compare with Mark's description last weekend. He explains how John the Baptist replied to the Jewish priests and Levites who had been sent by the Pharisees. The principal role of Levites was to organise Temple services and to be teachers and judges of Jewish law so John had to be careful in his answers. He made it clear he was not the Messiah but "*a voice that cries in the wilderness to make straight a way for the Lord*". They seemed interested in John the Baptist as he was the son of a devout rural priest Zechariah, but did not behave like a priest by his dress and diet. For us we must now start to rejoice the coming of Jesus. Malcolm.

Mass times	Feast Days
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Pat and John Moon Deceased members of the Conway & Moon families	Saturday 16th St Adelaide of Italy Born 931 at Orbe Castle, daughter of the King of Burgandy. Married King Lothair II of Italy. Her husband was poisoned and the new king tried to marry her to his son. Adelaide fled. She was saved by King Otto the Great of Germany and they had 5 children. Otto made Holy Roman Emperor by Pope John XII. He crowned Adelaide as the Holy Roman Empress due to her charity work. Her son succeeded as Holy Roman Emperor Otto II but was still a child so Adelaide acted as regent. She was devoted to the service of the Church. Restoring peace in areas of conflict. Gave alms and food to the poor. Founded a convent to which she retired in old age. On a journey to her nephew King Rudolf III of Burgandy she died on 16 th December 999.
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 17th December Third Sunday of Advent
6.30pm Mass	Monday 18th St Flannan 7 th century Irish monk, son of King Turlough of Thomond. Educated by St Blathmet, renowned as a great teacher in Ireland. Joined Killaloe monastery near Limerick under the abbot St Moula. Worked in the kitchen. After baking continuously for 36 hours a heavenly light shone through the fingers of his left hand so he could complete his task. After this St Moula retired and made Flannan Abbot of the monastery of Killaloe. Ireland then had a time of peace and abundant crops. Appointed by public acclaim Bishop of Thomond. Great preacher who converted many including a local chief. Persuaded his elderly father King Turlough to become a monk. His eloquent evangelisation achieved peace and justice for the most vulnerable in the area.
10 am Mass	Tuesday 19th St Nemesius of Alexandria 3 rd century Egyptian, martyred for being a Christian in Alexandria. He was arrested suspected of theft with two others. During questioning it was clear he was innocent but discovered he was a Christian. This was as bad as being a thief during persecution by the Roman Emperor of all Christians. He was scourged when he refused to renounce his faith. Then sentenced to death by burning. He was tied to a stake between the two thieves, symbolic of Christ's death on the cross on Calvary.
SVP Social 1pm to 3pm 5.00 pm Mass Followed by Reconciliation Service	Wednesday 20th St Dominic of Silos Born in about 1000 in Spain to a peasant family. A shepherd in his youth. Joined Benedictine monastery and was made Prior. Refused to hand over land to the king. Driven out of the kingdom. Found refuge in Old Castile with King Ferdinand. Made abbot of decaying monastery in Silos. Started to rebuild the monastery, making it a centre of learning. Creates gold and silver workshops to fund works of charity. Pays ransom to free Christian prisoners held by the Moors. Reforms the religious practices of the monks and soon the monastery becomes the most famous in Spain. When he dies in 1073 his tomb becomes a centre of pilgrimage. In 1170 a woman visits the tomb to pray for a successful birth. St Dominic appears and assures her of the birth of a son who she names Dominic. This Dominic becomes the founder of the Dominicans

10 am Mass Cheriyam RIP	Thursday 21st St Peter Canisius Born 1521 in Nijmegen now in the Netherlands to a wealthy family. Graduated as a doctor of civil law at Cologne University. There met Peter Faber, one of the founders of the Jesuits. Peter was the first Dutchman to join the Society of Jesus. He became one of the most influential Catholics of his time. Leader of the Catholic counter Reformation in Germany against people such as the German priest Martin Luther. Attended Council of Trent in 1547. Engaged in preaching, teaching, writing and instructing in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Bohemia and Poland. Wrote short catechism in Latin and Germany which had two hundred editions and was translated into 12 European languages. Died 21 st December 1597 aged 76, Fribourg, Switzerland				
NO MASS	Friday 22nd St Winnibald Anglo-Saxon born in Hampshire near Winchester about 700. Son of St King Richard the Pilgrim and St Wuna of Wessex. His sister was St Walburga and uncle St Boniface who, before his missionary work in Germany, studied at the Benedictine monastery in Nursling near Southampton. Went on pilgrimage to Rome with his father and St Willibald his brother. They set sail from the River Hamble for France. His father died near Florence before they reached Rome. Both brothers continued to Rome. Winnibald stayed to study in Rome for 7 years while his brother continued the pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Winnibald then became a monk. Returned to England. Recruited another brother and others on another pilgrimage to Rome. In Rome he found his brother Willibald was a monk at Benedictine monastery of Monte Cassino. Winnibald was ordained a priest and his brother made a bishop. Their uncle St Boniface then asked them to help in the mission in Germany. Started a double monastery at Heidenheim and asked their sister Walburga, who was in a double monastery in Wimbourne, Dorset, to be in charge of the nuns. Winnibald became the Abbot of Heidenheim. Died 761 in the arms of his brother and sister.				
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Diana Stimson RIP	Saturday 23rd St Thorlac Born in 1133 in southern Iceland. Ordained a deacon before the age of 15 and a priest age 19. He studied in Paris and learned the <i>Rule of St Augustine</i> . Then went to England from 1153 to 1159 in Lincoln and studied canon law. Returned to Iceland and founded a monastery after refusing to marry a rich widow. Many Icelandic priests were married at that time. In 1174 was made Bishop of Skalholt. Regulated Augustine practice in Iceland. Carried out reforms including improving clerical practices and eradicating simony and lay patronage. He was more popular with the people than those in authority and cared for the poor and vulnerable and was firm yet patient administering justice. Conflicted with the chieftains who wanted to choose their priests who they treated as servants. Died 23 rd December 1193. Pope John Paul II canonised him in 1984. <i>The Saga of Saint Thorlak</i> was republished on pope's visit to Iceland in 1989. Iceland's patron saint.				
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 24th December		Fourth Sunday in Advent		
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			

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENT

Christmas Flowers: This weekend we have a special second collection towards flowers for Christmas. Very many thanks from all in the parish to Shirley Keates who so lovingly and beautifully arranges the flowers around the altar all through the year.

Masses over Christmas

Wednesday 20th December Mass at 5pm followed by Reconciliation Service. Sunday morning Mass at 9.30am on 24th December and in the evening the Christmas Vigil Mass at 8pm. Christmas Day morning Mass at 9.30am

SVP Social this Wednesday 20th December – 1pm 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.

Shelagh Moon wishes to thank those who donated sweets for the homeless via Southampton Lunch Project

Appeal for readers, welcomers, Eucharistic ministers, children's Liturgists, altar servers and choir members

The parish needs volunteers for the above important roles. Please sign up on the sheet in the porch.

New Sacristan needed at St Vincent de Paul to replace the long serving Philomena

We are looking for a new Sacristan. This is a voluntary position. It could be a shared role with more than one person involved. A poster in the Porch outlining the duties. If you have any interest please speak to our current Sacristan, Philomena, who would like to step down after a long time serving our priests and our church.

Parish collection for last weekend 9th and 10th December

Parish Envelopes	Gift Aid	Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Candle money	Envelopes	Loose plate	TOTAL of all money
£132	£33	£110.89	£242.54	£51.98	£570.41	173.54	---	---	£743.95