



Aldermoor Close, Coxford Road, Lordswood, Southampton, Hampshire. SO16 5ST

Parish Priest: Fr Thomas Parakandathil

Contact: email: tparakandathil@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Mobile: 07512 402607

Retired Priest: Father Michael Cronin

Mobile: 07400262398 (1pm to 5pm)

Newsletter editor: Malcolm Forster

email: malcolmandrita@btinternet.com

21 Bassett Crescent West, Bassett, Southampton SO16 7EB Mobile: 07774 400115

Office Administrator: Margaretta Livingstone email: svpoffice@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Office mobile: 07887 4523 13

Tuesday: 1 - 3.30pm Thursday: 1 - 3.30pm Friday: 2 - 4pm

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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 21st January 2024

This weekend there is a special second collection for Portsmouth Cathedral

Page 129

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10

1 Corinthians 7: 29-31

Mark 1: 14-20

.The Christmas Season has ended and the Season of Lent is still some weeks off. We are once again in "Ordinary Time", as it's called, and the focus of the Scripture readings this weekend is on God's call and the choice we humans have to heed that call or ignore it. It is always clear in Scripture that we are never forced by God, but lovingly invited to take up the invitation to be a follower of the Lord and to give ourselves to a life of love and service of God and our neighbour, especially those who are the most vulnerable and voiceless.

In the first reading from the Book of Jonah, written a few centuries before the birth of Christ, the minor prophet Jonah initially is reluctant to obey God's call to go to the people in Nineveh, the capital city of Assyria. The Assyrians were enemies of the Israelites and the dominant "superpower" of the time and their empire in some ways was the first imperial power. Consider the enormity of the task of preaching repentance to a triumphant people who attributed their success to anything but the God of Israel. Jonah gives himself tirelessly to the task of convincing the people of Nineveh of the need for rejecting sin and turning to God. They had 40 days to change their ways otherwise disaster would strike their city. Ultimately, the people heed the call of Jonah by turning from bad behaviour to God with sincere hearts and penance.

In the second reading St Paul emphasises to his friends the Corinthians in Greece on the fleeting nature of earthly experiences and the importance of focusing on eternal truths. However the way he presents it is very strange and extreme but not unusual for Paul. If everyone became celibate, giving up their wives, the Church would cease to exist.

Mark's gospel was probably the earliest to be written and was aimed mainly for a Roman Gentile audience. It takes up the theme of calling people to follow the teachings of Christ as, after John's arrest, Jesus calls the two fishermen Simon and Andrew to be "fishers of men". Then He recruits the brothers James and John who leave their father Zebedee to be his disciples. Are we willing to be true followers of Jesus Christ? Malcolm.

Mass times	Feast Days
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Thanksgiving Mass for Joashua Joy's birthday	Saturday 20th St Sebastian of Rome Sebastian entered the Roman army in 283 aged 27. Due to courage was promoted captain of the Praetorian Guard. Greatly respected by his men for his bravery authority and wisdom, unaware he was a Christian. Arrested for supporting two deacons who refused to sacrifice to pagan gods. He converted many people outside and inside prison. Healed the wife of his jailor. Emperor Diocletian asked his archers to use him as target practice which he survived. Confronted Emperor on his persecution of the Christians. Beaten to death 288.
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 21st January Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Jane Barber RIP
First Communion Training 4.45 to 5.45 pm 6.30 pm Mass	Monday 22nd January St Vincent Pallotti Born in 1795 in Rome, son of a grocer of noble birth. Priest with doctorates in philosophy and theology. He taught in University in Rome. Lifelong habit of giving his clothes away to the poor. Organised vocational schools for different trades. A bubbly and friendly person who endeared himself to people. An inspirational and popular preacher who was keen on social work and pastoral care particularly for the poor. Founded the <i>Society of the Catholic Apostolate</i> for clergy and laity to renew the apostolic spirit in the Church. Also known as the <i>Pious Union</i> . For the care of orphaned girls he founded <i>Pallottine Missionary Sisters</i> . Appointed the chaplain to the prison in Rome. Ministered to them and tried to change their conditions especially those facing death penalty. Close friends with the future Cardinal Wiseman of England. Encouraged him to start a College for foreign missions. Later Mill Hill Missions founded. Met John Henry Newman in Rome but John did not join the <i>Pious Union</i> . Vincent kept in contact with John as he founded the Oratory in Birmingham. His <i>Pious Union</i> for priests and laity was the foundation of <i>Catholic Action</i> in the Church. His writings and projects were studied at the <i>Second Vatican Council</i> .
10 am Mass	Tuesday 23rd St John the Almsgiver Born about 558 in Cyprus. Son of the governor of Cyprus. Also known as John the Merciful. Wife and children died. Became monk in Alexandria, Egypt. Gained a reputation for helping the poor. Elected Patriarch of Alexandria. He distributed the gold in his church treasury among the hospitals and monasteries in the area. He was a reformer. Improved religious education to fight heresy, stopped the selling of ecclesiastical privileges and demanded fair financial dealings. Built churches. Twice a week gave alms to the poor and settled disputes. Visited houses of the sick and hospitals. Many examples of his judgement, wisdom and generosity. Led an austere life style. Freed slaves. Helped refugees who suffered Persian attacks

6.30 pm Mass Wedding Anniversary of Bincy and Jomy	Wednesday 24th St Francis de Sales Born in 1567. His father was Lord of Sales de Boisy.. First of his six sons, his father gave him a privileged education for a career as a magistrate. At age 14 he went to Paris University to study with the Jesuits. To please his father he took lessons in gentlemanly pursuits of riding, dancing and fencing but did not enjoy them. He became interested in a spiritual life and added theology to his studies.. Worried by his gentle nature, his father suggested a military career to toughen him up before taking up his legal profession. Rejected a military life but promised his elderly father he would finish his study of law at Padua University in Italy. When he returned home again Francis told his father he was going to become a priest. He gave up his titles and inheritance to his younger brother. His father was furious. Francis was ordained in 1593 and became the Provost of the Cathedral Chapter for the Bishop of Geneva based in Annecy in France due Calvinists control in Switzerland. He was a confident speaker and able theologian. Sermons were quite short, to the point, delivered slowly and gently, inspiring many with their wisdom. In great demand as a confessor. Appointed Coadjutor Bishop of Geneva in 1599 by Pope Clement VIII. Sent on diplomatic mission to King Henry of France in Paris. Made Bishop of Geneva based in Annecy in France. Reformed the diocese by preaching, education of clergy, careful personal vetting of candidates for the spiritual life and the writing of many letters. With Jeanne de Chantel, who moved to Annecy in 1610, founded the <i>Order of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin</i> for young girls and widows who had not the strength, or lacked the inclination, for the corporal austerities of the great major Orders. Criticised as a bishop for being too gentle with heretics and sinners. Went back to Paris in 1618 and met Vincent de Paul. Frances de Sales died at Lyon on 28 th December 1622 on a return journey from Avignon. Called "Gentleman Saint" due to noble birth and gentleness.				
10 am Mass	Thursday 25th Conversion of St Paul Saul was born in Tarsus to Greek speaking Jewish parents. Educated in Jerusalem by a famous rabbi. He trained as a Pharisee. Was a fanatical persecutor of Christians. Present at the martyrdom of the first Christian martyr St Stephen. Struck blind on the road to Damascus and challenged by a voice why he persecuted Christians. Converted, baptised and started preaching about Jesus.				
NO MASS	Friday 26th St Timothy Greek father, Jewish mother..Converted by Paul with his grandmother and mother. Became St Paul's loyal companion as he travelled with him preaching, converting and founding new Christian communities. Timothy was reserved and timid unlike St Paul but was greatly respected for his piety. He seemed often to suffer ill health. Made Bishop of Ephesus by St Paul. Co-author of some of Paul's letters to Church communities. Stoned to death as a martyr by pagans.				
Volunteer Training 10 am to 1 pm 6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Angela Churchill RIP 8th anniversary on 28th January	Saturday 27th St Angela Merici Born 1474 in Italy, daughter of a farmer near Lake Garda. 4 of 5 siblings died young. She and elder sister orphaned when Angela was 10 years old and then brought up by her uncle. Then her sister died and she had a vision in which she was asked to form a "Company of Virgins". In Brescia, east of Milan, she gathered a group of young unmarried women to offer religious support to girls who were not rich, unmarried, whose only future was menial jobs or prostitution. From her childhood Angela had a devotion to St Ursula, patroness of medieval universities. She founded the <i>Company of St Ursula</i> which became the <i>Congregation of the Ursulines</i> a teaching Order of young girls. Her goal was to elevate, through Christian education, the family life of future wives and mothers. The <i>Ursulines</i> opened orphanages and schools. Angela had many supporters but also made enemies among the upper classes as she lured their marriageable daughters away from prestigious alliances to join the <i>Ursulines</i> . The Ursulines becoming the largest teaching Order in the Church and active worldwide. Died in Brescia on 27 th January 1540 aged 65..				
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 28th January Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time 13th Wedding Anniversary of Prathesh and Soumya				
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	Roy Perry		

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENT

Volunteer's training for ministries in St Vincent de Paul

Thank you to all of those who have signed up as Volunteers to support our parish of St Vincent de Paul.

Priority must be for Altar Servers, Readers, and Eucharistic Ministers.

Training sessions will take place on Saturday 27th January led by Fr Thomas.

10 am to 11am: Readers

11 am to 12 noon: Eucharistic Ministers including visiting people in their home with Holy Communion

12 noon to 1 pm: Altar Servers (Need to be aged over 8 and having made their First Holy Communion).

Anyone interested in these roles even if you did not sign up is invited to attend the training.

Roy Perry, husband of Tina Perry, needs our prayers

Roy collapsed and in the fall has fractured his neck quite badly. Together with his age and other medical problems, Roy is not very well. It might take 12 weeks to heal so also please remember Tina who has been involved in the parish of St Vincent de Paul and the diocese in various roles for many years.

Parish collection for last weekend 13th and 14th January

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
£129.00	£32.25	£127.20	£242.54	£51.98	£582.97	----	---	---	£582.27

First Communion Training on Monday 22nd January from 4.45 to 5.45 pm in the church

All invited to Lenten Retreat for St Vincent de Paul on Saturday 16th March from 10 am to 4 pm

The day will include talks, Mass, the Rosary and Adoration. Hot drinks and biscuits will be served during breaks. Participants should bring a packed lunch. A Tesco Express is opposite the church if you would like to use it. Free parking is available.

Donations of £10 per person should be made before the event to secure your place. To book your place and for payment details please contact svpoffice@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk