



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

Parish Priest: Fr Thomas Parakandathil tparakandathil@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Retired Priest: Father Michael Cronin Mobile: 07400262398 (1pm to 5pm)

Newsletter editor: Malcolm Forster email: malcolmandrita@btinternet.com

Safeguarding Officer Liz Challand safeguarding.sousv@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Administrator: Margaretta Livingstone email: svpoffice@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Office times: Tuesday: 1 - 3.30pm Thursday: 1 - 3.30pm Friday: 2 - 4pm **Office mobile:** 07887 4523 13

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

Link for vacancies throughout the Diocese <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs> **Pauline Clarke HR**

Second Sunday of Lent

Sunday 25th February 2024

Repository open next weekend 2nd and 3rd February with all types of cards, rosaries and gifts

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Genesis 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18

Romans 8: 31-34

Mark 9: 2-10

Readings this weekend feature two mountain top events, on Mount Moriah and Mount Tabor. In our lives we experience "mountain top events" of great joy or deep sadness, for which we offer our thanks and gratitude to Our Lord or severely tests our faith in God. It takes strength to cope with the ups and downs of life and our prayers and religious reading can help us to cope. It reminds me of the quote from Rudyard Kipling's popular poem which is at the player's entrance at the Centre Court of Wimbledon: *"If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster and treat those two imposters just the same"* In the first reading Abraham's faith and obedience is severely tested when God asks him to offer his only son Isaac as a burnt offering on the mountain. It is all the more poignant as Abraham and Sarah had been childless for so long before Isaac was born. When Abraham is prepared to obey, God stops him and promises his descendants a reward for his faith. In the second reading of St Paul's letter to the Romans he tells them that *"With God on our side"* we should have no fear. This passage is a kind of *"Cheer"* for the *"victory over suffering"* that God has gained by saving us by sacrificing His own Son on the cross. It is also meant to give heart to people worried about being thought unworthy of God's love. In Mark's Gospel Jesus, accompanied by Peter, James and John underwent a miraculous transformation on the secluded Mount Tabor. Appearing with Moses and Elijah, significant figures in the history of Israel, links Jesus with the promise of a Messiah so giving confidence to his apostles that He is the Messiah and they should be strong in following Him.. These readings invite us to reflect on our journey of faith and have a trust in God's love. even amidst trials and sufferings.

Mass times		Feast Days	
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Mark Herbich RIP	Saturday 24th St King Ethelbert of Kent	Born 550 as a pagan. Married to Christian daughter of the King of the Franks in France, Bertha. As King of Kent was the first Anglo-Saxon king to be converted to Christianity by St Augustine and his missionary monks who he then supported. Made sure Christianity was not forced on his subjects as was requested by Pope Gregory. He restored and built churches. Founded St Pauls in London. Created fair and just laws in his kingdom.	
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 25th February	Second Sunday of Lent	
6.30 pm Mass	Monday 26th St Paula Montal Fornés	Born in 1799 at the seaside town of Areyns de Mar near Barcelona in Spain, the eldest of five girls. Brought up by her parents as a devout Christian with a special devotion to Our Lady. Her father died when she was 10. Worked as a lace maker and seamstress to support the family. Also helped to care for her sisters and other children in the parish when she was older. Realised the lack of opportunity for girls to receive an education so opened schools to give secular, spiritual & vocational education. Founded teaching Order of nuns.	
10 am Mass Noemia de Melo RIP	Tuesday 27th St Anne Line	Born 1665. Father was a rich Calvinist and Protestant reformer. Anne and her brother became Catholics and were then disowned. Married Roger Line from the New Forest, also a convert. Husband arrested and banished from England. After 10 years he died in Flanders in 1594. Anne was asked by Jesuit priest Fr John Gerard to look after a "safe house" in London. She had to continually move to new premises. Eventually arrested, found guilty of hiding priests and organising Masses. Executed in 1601. One of the 40 Martyrs of England and Wales.	
6.30 pm Mass	Wednesday 28th St Romanus and St Lupicinus	2 brothers who founded two monasteries in the forests of the Jura Mountains between France and Switzerland. The brothers acted as joint abbots who imposed very austere conditions for the monks who spent much of their time in very hard labour. They never touched meat, only used milk and eggs when they were ill. They wore wooden shoes and skins of animals sewn together that was not much protection in winter. Romanus died 28 th February 460 and his brother Lupicinus, more austere of the two, almost 20 years later.	
10 am Mass	Thursday 29th St Oswald of Worcester	Born in about 925 in England of Danish parents. Educated by his uncle Odo, later Archbishop of Canterbury, and a Frankish tutor. Oswald became Dean of the secular canons of Winchester. Then a Benedictine monk at Fleury-sur-Loire, France. Returned to England where Archbishop Odo was dying. Helped Danish relative Archbishop Osmytel of York. Appointed Bishop of Worcester. Founded monasteries. Invited Continental scholars to teach in them. Church reformer. Made Archbishop of York but also stayed as Bishop of Worcester by permission of the pope. The wealth of the Worcester diocese helped the much poorer diocese of York much to the gratitude of King of Northumberland. Died on 29 th February, Leap Year Day, 992 during Maundy Thursday feet washing ceremony in Worcester. Buried in Worcester Cathedral.	

NO MASS	Friday 1st March St David of Wales Born in about 500 during a storm, her mother a nun who had been raped by a Prince. Was educated at a monastery by Abbot St Paulinus A great preacher and teacher. Founded twelve monasteries including Glastonbury Abbey, Caldey Island and Mynyw in Pembrokeshire where he stayed. Led an austere life style. Only drank water and ate only bread, herbs and vegetables. Strict regime of religious activities and hard work in the fields, crafts and beekeeping. Bishop of Menevia in South Wales. Shrine was a place of pilgrimage.				
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Peter RIP	Saturday 2nd St Chad Born about 634 in Northumbria, the youngest of 4 brothers St Cedd, St Cynibil and Caelin who all became priests, two of them bishops. Taught by famous Bishop Aidan at Lindisfarne. Monk in Ireland. Appointed Abbot of Lastingham by his brother Bishop Cedd. Appointed Bishop of York by King Oswy to replace St Wilfred who was absent for years in France. Returned to Lastingham when St Wilfred returned. Then Archbishop Theodore of Canterbury made him Bishop of Mercia. Made his centre Lichfield and converted many in the Midlands of England away from paganism including King Wulfere and his Queen. First Bishop of Lichfield. Died 2 nd March 672.				
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 3rd March Third Sunday of Lent				
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	Trevor Delves	Fr Shaun Budden

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENT

Second charity to support during Lent

Fr Blaise, a former Parish Priest at SVP, returned to his homeland, Malawi, 6 years ago. Malawi remains one of the poorest countries in the world. Its economy is heavily dependent on agriculture and with an unpredictable climate and unplanned population growth, the result is poverty and lack of food. While poverty affects everyone in the area, it is the single mothers, widows and orphaned children who bear the greatest burden. This project initiated by Fr Blaise will empower them with skills for income generating activities that are not dependent on favourable weather conditions. They will be taught tailoring and dyeing skills to produce items to sell; how to produce nutritious foods for their families and for sale; basic hygiene and child care and home management. Empowered with these skills they will be able to participate in the economic development of their families.

Please donate generously in Lent. There will be a basket for each charity in the porch. Christine Thomas is the contact

Volunteers needed for Holy Week

12 parishioners are required to participate in the feet washing on Maundy Thursday 28th March at the 7.30 pm Mass. Also readers are needed for the 9.30 am Mass on Palm Sunday 24th March (4 readers), the 7.30 pm Mass on Maundy Thursday 28th March (2 readers), the 3 pm Mass on Good Friday 29th March (4 readers), the 8 pm Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday 30th March (5 readers) and the 9.30 am Mass on Easter Sunday (2 readers). Maria Linnell has put a list of these requirements in the porch so that parishioners can put their name to the relevant ministry. Please volunteer so that we can properly celebrate Holy Week

Charity chosen by Fr Michael and Fr Thomas to support during Lent. Reaching the Unreached

Reaching the Unreached was set up in Tamil Nadu in south east India in 1978 by De La Salle Brother James Kimpton. There are now 4 Children's Villages, 10 Hostels so that around 1,000 children are in care. There are 8 Nursery Schools, 3 Primary Schools and a Secondary School for children of the most disadvantaged families locally. Other ventures include house building, nearly 9,000 built; bore well drilling, around 2,500 wells; Self Help Groups to empower rural women; affordable loans to start small businesses or borrow money for emergencies such as medical care to avoid high interest rates of money lender

Next SVP Social is on Wednesday 6th March – 1pm to 3 pm

This is another opportunity to meet for refreshments and a chat. Please come along with your friends. Renee and Pat.

Sick and housebound parishioners who require Holy Communion taken to them

If you or if you know of a "sick or housebound" parishioner who would like to be taken Holy communion please email the Parish Administrator on svpoffice@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk who will organise for a visiting Eucharistic Minister or Father Thomas. If you are not able to use email, ring office mobile 07887452313 in office hours shown at the top of the newsletter.

Lenten programme for the next few weeks

Strove Tuesday 13th February: Mass at 10 am. Pancakes served after Mass

Ash Wednesday 14th February: Masses at 10 am and 6.30 pm

Saturday 15th March: Parish Retreat led by Dominican Sisters, 12 noon: Mass with Father Thomas. See below

Palm Sunday 24th March: Mass at 9.30 am Holy Wednesday 27th March: Reconciliation Service at 5.30 pm. Mass at 6 pm.

Maundy Thursday 28th March: Washing of the Feet Service at 7.30 pm

Good Friday March 29th March: Stations of the Cross at 2.30 pm followed by Good Friday Service at 3 pm.

Holy Saturday 30th March: Vigil Mass at 8 pm Easter Sunday 31st March: Mass at 9.30 pm

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.. 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

Parish collection for last weekend 17th and 18th February

Parish collection for last weekend 17 th and 18 th February							Racial Justice Sunday		TOTAL of all money
Parish Envelopes	Gift Aid	Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Other money	Envelopes	Loose plate	
£146.60	£36.65	£97	£242.54	£51.98	£574.77	----	£15	----	£589.77