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

**Third Sunday of Easter Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

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**Acts of the Apostles 3: 13-15, 17-19**

**1 John 2: 1-5**

**Gospel: Luke 24: 35-48**

The central theme in the readings from the Acts of the Apostles and Luke's Gospel is the call to repentance, turning back to God, and the promise of forgiveness. This theme underscores God's mercy and willingness to forgive sins for those who turn to Him and acknowledge their wrongdoings. The readings emphasise that the death and resurrection of Jesus were part of God's plan foretold in the scripture. The theme connects the events of the New Testament with the prophecies of the Old Testament showing the continuity and fulfilment of God's salvation history. The readings also highlight the importance of witnessing to the resurrection of Jesus. The disciples are called to share the news of the resurrection of Jesus and the forgiveness of sins with all nations so that the role of all Christians to bear witness to His death and resurrection.

In the first reading Peter declares that by rejecting Jesus before Pilate and choosing the murderer Barabbas instead, the people and their leaders were acting in ignorance encouraged by the Pharisees and high priests who wanted rid of Jesus. Peter, as chosen by Jesus to be leader of the apostles, conveys a poignant message that Jesus was *the Holy One, the Just One*, and you crucified Him, the Son of God. Peter urges repentance for the forgiveness of their sins and assures them that Jesus can forgive their sins if they really show remorse and are converted to become Christians and follow Him.

In the second reading John is speaking to his fellow Christians warning them to avoid sin and keep God's commandments. He particularly condemns those who say *"I know Him"* and do not follow his teaching. However, John assures them that there is no one Jesus did not die for. He offers forgiveness of the sins of everyone. Furthermore, His forgiveness does not mean we can live however we want and expect to be forgiven. We must truly repent of our sins in order to receive forgiveness.

In the Gospel we have the account of the days after the resurrection by St Luke. He is the only writer in the Old and New Testament of sacred scriptures that is a non-Jew. He is a Gentile, a disciple of St Paul, and is relating stories he has been told by St Paul and others present at the time. He is a wonderful writer and talks about Jesus and his disciples instead of just relating events, the style tended to be used by the other three Evangelists. The disciples are cowering in the Upper Room with the doors locked out of fear that those who arrested Jesus and ultimately crucified Him would now hunt them down as well. The disciples who had a memory of a great hope and that hope was dashed on Good Friday when Jesus, their Lord and their Messiah, was ruthlessly nailed to a cross and crucified. Luke's account starts with the disciples discussing the *"Road to Emmaus"* account of two disciples encountering the risen Lord on their journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus when they did not recognise Jesus until He broke bread with them. Suddenly Jesus appears among them and says *"Peace be with you"*. However, unlike John's account last weekend, Luke relates that Thomas was not the only one who doubted that Jesus had actually risen from the dead. Jesus says *"Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts?"* Jesus allowed them to touch his wounds and then eats and drank with them to prove He was actually alive. He explains that it was prophesied that the Messiah would suffer death and on the third day, rise from the dead for the forgiveness of sins.

Mass times	Feast Days
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> St Pope Martin I</b> Born in Italy in 598. He joined a monastery as a monk and became the Abbot. Generous to the poor. Made Patriarch of Constantinople. Elected Pope Martin I in 649 at height of political and religious disputes without approval of the Roman Emperor Constans who supported the Monothelism heresy condemned by the Church. Pope Martin called the Lateran Council which again condemned the heresy and Emperor Constans for supporting it. Pope Martin was arrested and tried for treason. Found guilty and condemned to death, commuted to exile in Crimea. Died after four months of starvation and brutal treatment. Last pope to die as a martyr.
9.30 am Mass	<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April Third Sunday of Easter Thanksgiving Mass for Philomena</b>
6.30 pm Mass	<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> St Damien De Veuster</b> Born in Belgium in 1840. Worked on family farm. 2 sisters were nuns and a brother a priest. Joined the Fathers of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, same Order as his brother. He wanted to travel abroad as a missionary. Sent to Hawaiian islands and ordained there. Worked for 9 years in the parishes of two islands. Then volunteered to work with lepers on "Devil's Island". For 16 years he ministered to the lepers, replaced shacks with proper houses, built a church, organised the growing of crops, built a reservoir for an irrigation system, constructed roads, dug graves and made coffins, performed funerals, celebrated daily Mass, offered sacraments, built up an active faith community, established leaders in the community, helped in the hospital administering medicine and treating ulcers. Helped by the local population of the island of Moloka'i who lived outside the leper colony of Kalaupapa. He ate with the lepers, shared pipes with them and lived with them as an equal. Became internationally famous in the last few years of his life. Eventually died of leprosy himself aged 49. First buried in Moloka'i. Then in Belgium.

<b>10 am Mass Thiesiamma Joseph RIP Anniversary</b>	<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> St Bernadette Soubirous</b> The famous young girl born in 1844 in the French Pyrenees who had visions of the Virgin Mary. First apparition on 11 <sup>th</sup> February 1858 at the grotto. Not initially believed by authorities. At the 9 <sup>th</sup> apparition a spring began to flow at the grotto. The 16 <sup>th</sup> vision said she was the "Immaculate Conception". Then considered genuine. Soon a place of pilgrimage. 18 <sup>th</sup> and last apparition July 1858. Bernadette then left Lourdes and became a nun. Never returned to Lourdes. Criticised statue of the Virgin Mary as being too tall and too old. Said she was a young girl of her age and height. Bernadette was 14 years old and 4ft 7ins tall then.				
<b>6.30 pm Mass</b>	<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> St Stephen Harding</b> Born about 1050 in Sherborne, Dorset. Pupil at Sherborne Abbey with St Wulsin. Travelling scholar in Scotland and France. Met his French friend Alberic, older than him, and considered a religious life. Both took pilgrimage to Rome and confirmed their vocation. Joined Molesme Abbey in France. Both left with Abbot Robert to form new monastery with stricter austerity under Benedictine Rule, start of the new Cistercian Order. After Abbot Robert left, Alberic was made abbot of Cîteaux. On his death Stephen was elected abbot. Struggled to recruit new monks until arrival of a nobleman, Bernard, with 30 other young noblemen as novices. Order attracted many new recruits and between 1112 and 1119 Abbot Stephen founded 12 new monasteries. Produced " <i>Charter of Charity</i> " with new rules to unite them. Bernard made Abbot of Clairvaux. Later St Bernard of Clairvaux. Order spread beyond France by Stephen's death 1134.				
<b>10 am Mass Peter K. C. RIP 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</b>	<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> . St Kateri Tekakwitha</b> Native American Indian born in 1656 in America in New York State near the border with Canada. Daughter of the chief of the Mohawk tribe. Both parents died of smallpox, <i>white man's disease</i> . Tekakwitha recovered but it scared her face and damaged her eyesight. She was adopted by her father's sister who was married to chief of Turtle clan. She lived with them in Caughnawaga, a village by Mohawk River. She was impressed by the Jesuit missionaries. At age 18 asked to be a Catholic. Baptised with name Kateri in 1676 aged 20. Moved to Jesuit mission house and was very devout. Had a close friend at the longhouse. They inspired each other and took part in excessive penances until stopped by a priest as it was damaging their health. Then practised reasonable fasting and penances. Both wanted to be nuns but were not allowed due to their race. Kateri died aged 24 on 17 <sup>th</sup> April 1680. Canonised 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2012.				
<b>NO MASS</b>	<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> St Alphege of Canterbury.</b> Born 953 near Bath. Became a monk, then a walled hermit. Reputation for piety and austerity. Elected Abbot of Bath Abbey monastery. Made Bishop of Winchester. He converted leader of the Vikings to stop raids. Archbishop of Canterbury. Captured by Danish raiders. Stopped a ransom being paid for his release. Martyred with axe by the Danes.				
<b>6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass</b>	<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Beatified English Martyrs 1584-1602</b> We commemorate those who died for their faith in England and Wales on various dates in the year, many being martyred in the reign of Elizabeth 1. The following are not included in the "Forty Martyrs of England and Wales" whose feast day is 25 <sup>th</sup> October, as they have not been canonised, but beatified as martyrs for the Catholic Faith James Bell and John Finch from Lancashire, martyred 20 <sup>th</sup> April 1584. Richard Sergeant from Gloucester and William Thompson from Lancashire martyred on 20 <sup>th</sup> April 1586. Antony Page from Middlesex martyred 20 <sup>th</sup> April 1593. James Duckett from Cumbria martyred 19 <sup>th</sup> April 1602. Robert Watkinson from Yorkshire and Francis Page from Antwerp, Belgium, martyred 20 <sup>th</sup> April 1602.				
<b>9.30 am Mass</b>	<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>				
<b>PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS WHEN RECORDING NAMES FOR MASS INTENTION</b>					
<b>Your prayers are needed for the following people</b>					
Sue Chandler	Hazel Sale	Joe Heatley	Trevor Delves	Fr Shaun Budden	Valerie Baker

### NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENT

#### Portsmouth Diocese fundraising Project: Launch of a new FREE Will Scheme can benefit your parish

National Free Wills Month may be over, but the Diocese's FREE Will-writing service is here to stay! Last month many of you helped get our new service off to a flying start. By way of re-cap: we've partnered with market-leading solicitors and will-writing providers to offer anyone over 18 basic simple or mirror Will **for free**. Whether your parishioners would like to write their Will in-person, online or over the 'phone, they will be expertly supported throughout a quick and straightforward process. They are under no obligation to leave your Parish a gift, but a gift of this kind is an opportunity to make a lasting gift to the Church, and we hope many will choose to do so. There is a poster in the church porch.

#### Gift Aid envelopes for the new tax year are available in the church porch. Have you completed the declaration form?

If you have not completed the new Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth gift aid declaration form we cannot claim gift aid for the parish so please do so as soon as possible so that a box of envelopes can be issued to you.. Blank declaration forms are available in the porch and a box for the completed form which is best placed in an envelope.

#### Parish collection for last weekend 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> April

Parish Envelopes Easter Gift Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Wednesday Social at SVP	Gift Aid	Loose	TOTAL of all money
£62 £22	£15.50 £5.50	£133.12	£242.54	£51.98	£505.14	£60			<b>£592.64</b>