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

Good Shepherd Sunday Fourth Sunday of Easter Sunday 21st April 2024

Special Second Collection this weekend for Clergy Training Fund

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Acts of the Apostles 4: 8-12

1 John 3: 1-2

Gospel: John 10: 11-18

This weekend the Church celebrates Christ, the Good Shepherd. He accepted suffering and death to save His flock, Christ, the Good Shepherd, is our role model of love and care. If we obediently continue to listen to Him, He will lead us safely to our destination with Him and the Father in heaven.

The first reading emphasises the central role of the apostles and the Holy Spirit at Pentecost after the Ascension of Jesus. The apostles Peter and John had healed a crippled man at the gates of the Temple and preached to the people in Jerusalem about Jesus. While they were addressing the crowd, the Jewish leaders came and arrested them for preaching that Jesus had risen from the dead. The reading this weekend is Peter's speech at their trial. His message was focused on the identity of Jesus, explaining that it was by the power of Jesus that the crippled man was healed and saved. Despite being rejected by the Jewish leaders, Jesus is the cornerstone of the New Temple of the people of God which is the Christian Church. As Peter said, "*There is no salvation through anyone else*". Central to our faith is this message: God sent Jesus to save us from sin and He is the only means by which we can be saved and can seek salvation in Him.

In the second reading from John we hear that salvation offered to us out of love results in us becoming children of God. By grace God adopts us and makes us true inheritors of His kingdom. Salvation through Christ takes us from being ostracised from God as a result of sin to being part of His family. Yet being *children of God* often ostracises us from the world around us. Jesus was also ostracised and even crucified by the world. The goal of the Christian life is to be like Christ and, therefore, we should expect to be treated like Christ was. But that is not the end of the story. As *children of God* we will inherit the kingdom of God in heaven and see God face to face in perfect unending communion. That is what we have to look forward to if we remain faithful to Him.

In John's Gospel, in identifying Himself as *The Good Shepherd*, Jesus alluded to the Old Testament understanding of God as the shepherd of His people, Israel. God at times appointed leaders to shepherd His people on His behalf like Joshua and King David. However, the intention was always that God would Himself shepherd His people. Here Jesus, as God in the flesh, reveals how this will come about. Jesus is the "*one shepherd*" to look after the "*one flock*", which is the Church. He knows His sheep intimately and they know Him. As a good shepherd, He will not abandon His flock. Rather, Jesus is willing to die to protect His sheep. In fact, Jesus did die on the cross for His flock. He laid down His life so that we, His sheep, might be able to live. But even in death Jesus did not abandon us. He is still with us as our *Good Shepherd*, leading us to where we need to be. Therefore, let us follow our *Good Shepherd* where He leads us.

Mass times	Feast Days
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Moira after her 97 th birthday	Saturday 20th Beatified English Martyrs 1584-1602 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 th October, as they have not been canonised, but beatified as martyrs for the Catholic Faith James Bell and John Finch from Lancashire, martyred 20 th April 1584. Richard Sergeant from Gloucester and William Thompson from Lancashire martyred on 20 th April 1586. Antony Page from Middlesex martyred 20 th April 1593. James Duckett from Cumbria martyred 19 th April 1602. Robert Watkinson from Yorkshire and Francis Page from Antwerp, Belgium, martyred 20 th April 1602.
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 21st April Fourth Sunday of Easter Ammal Abraham RIP 1st Anniversary
6.30 pm Mass Emmanuel 14 th Birthday	Monday 22nd St Adelbert of Prague Born in 956 in Bohemia, now Czech Republic. Bishop of Prague. Conflict between his family and Duke Boleslaus. Had problems over opposition to his reforms and authority. Left Prague never to return. Mission to convert pagan Prussians near what is now Gdansk in Poland. Murdered 23 rd April 997 at instigation of a pagan priest
10 am Mass	Tuesday 23rd St George Seems to have been a genuine martyr in the 4 th century in what is today Turkey, but had outlandish legends told about slaying a dragon to save a maiden. Patron saint of England, Protector of England and was used in the battle cry "St George for England".

6.30 pm Mass	Wednesday 24th St Fidelis of Segmaringen . Born Mark Rey in 1577 in Germany of noble parents. Studied law and philosophy at Freiburg University. Led an austere life. Taught philosophy. 6 years travelled in Europe visiting churches and hospitals helping the poor. Became a lawyer. Stood up for human rights. "Lawyer of the poor". Gave his estate to the poor and became Capuchin Franciscan monk and took the name Fidelis. Read theology to train to be a priest in present day Switzerland. As a priest was a great preacher and sort after confessor. Went to Austria. During a severe epidemic cared for the sick. Led a group of Capuchins to Switzerland to oppose Protestant Reformation. Great success with many converts. Murdered by a mob of Calvinist soldiers in 1622.				
10 am Mass	Thursday 25th St Mark St Peter's "interpreter". Possibly the one of the four Evangelists that is the easiest to read and understand. The most historic and devoted a third of his text on the last week of the life of Jesus to emphasise the "Theology of the Cross". Wrote in fluent Greek.				
NO MASS	Friday 26th Isle of Wight Martyrs Blessed Robert Anderton and Blessed William Marsden Catholic friends from childhood in Lancashire. Both went to Oxford University. Then went to France to train as priests at Douai College in Rheims. In 1586 aged 26 they set sail for England to serve the Catholic community on the English Mission. Caught in a storm and came ashore on the Isle of Wight. Arrested as they were seen praying for safety. Found guilty of treason at Winchester as they were priests trained abroad and returned to England. Sent to London for Queen's pardon but refused to reject their faith. Returned to the Isle of Wight and executed on a hill above Cowes. Memorial plaque opposite created in the garden of a church in Cowes.				
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	Saturday 27th St Assicus Born in a wealthy Druid family in Ireland in 5 th century. Converted by St Patrick. One of his first disciples. Skilled metal worker in brass and copper. Also a very able silversmith and bell founder. St Patrick made him Bishop of Elphin and then Abbot-Bishop of Ireland. Felt he was unworthy and resigned to become a hermit for 7 years.				
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 28th April Fifth Sunday of Easter				
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	Trevor Delves	Fr Shaun Budden	Valerie Baker

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENT

Special Second Collection this weekend for Clergy Training Fund

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.

Next SVP Social is on Wednesday 1st May – 1pm to 3 pm

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

No need to stay for the whole time, a few minutes of 2 hours, whatever suits you. Renee and Pat.

**Invitation from Fr Innaiah Maddineni, Director of Missio (Pontifical Mission Society) in Portsmouth
Special Mass on Wednesday 8th May at 7pm at St Teresa's Catholic Church in Totton**

Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries invite everyone to celebrate a special Mass for Mission at St Theresa's Church Beaumont Road, Totton SO40 3AL, on Wednesday 8 May at 7pm. Come and hear how the Red Box is supporting our global Catholic community through donations and prayerful support. Mass will be followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall. All are welcome

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.

Parish collection for last weekend 13th and 14th April

Parish Envelopes Easter Gift Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Other money	Gift Aid	Loose	TOTAL of all money
£69	£17.25	£78.40	£242.54	£51.98	£459.17	----			£459.17

Very low amount in the collection last weekend