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

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday 11th August 2024

Very many thanks to all those who helped in "The Big Clean" last Saturday

Page 117	1 Kings 19: 4-8	Ephesians 4: 30 to 5: 2	Gospel: John 6: 41-51
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The first reading concerns Elijah one of the greatest prophets of the Old Testament who lived some nine centuries before Christ. He lived during a tumultuous time in Israel's history. The nation was divided and many people including the leaders worshipped pagan gods. In a previous passage Elijah had triumphed over the prophets of Baal, a prominent pagan god, in a contest to bring down fire from heaven on an altar. Elijah then had all the prophets of Baal killed for fooling the people. The corrupt leaders King Ahab and particularly Queen Jezebel, who worshipped pagan gods, were furious and sought to have Elijah killed. As a result Elijah fled into the desert for his life and this is the context of today's reading. This explains his state of anxiety and his desire to simply die there. Elijah probably felt exhausted and wanted to give up the very unpopular work of being a prophet for God. But that was not God's plan and He provided for Elijah's needs, sustaining him with food and drink. The miraculous provision of bread foreshadows the Eucharist discussed in today's Gospel from St John.

In his letter to the Ephesians in Asia Minor, present day Turkey, St Paul reminds them that they are sealed with an indelible mark on their souls as the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in them through Baptism and Confirmation. The gift of the Holy Spirit sets them apart and marked as God's people to love and serve Him. He exhorts them to avoid sin "*do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God*". We should avoid sin like the plague! How do we do this? By pursuing good, being kind to one another, compassionate, forgive one another, help and support those in need especially the poor, the sick, the old and the most vulnerable.

John's Gospel picks up from last week's reading concerning the "*bread of life discussion*". During the time of the Passover Jesus claimed to be "*the bread that came down from heaven*". This upset the Jews. They could not comprehend how Jesus could have "*come down from heaven*" when they knew his parents and His local origin. Jesus then explained that people would only understand His heavenly origins and, therefore, His identity by God revealing it to them. He then stressed the importance of faith by stating "*whoever believes has eternal life*". Jesus also stressed that He is, in fact, "*the bread of life*". Last week we heard that Jesus stated that the manna that God gave the Israelites in the desert would provide physical needs but do nothing to save them from death. The bread He offers can lead to eternal life and is nourishment for the soul. The Eucharist is Jesus in the form of bread and wine and is food for our souls to unite us to God and grant us life everlasting. Therefore let us take part in this banquet of the Eucharist with reverence and be nourished by the bread of life given to us by Jesus. Malcolm.

Mass times	Feast Days
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Fr Thomas for his birthday	Saturday 10th St Lawrence of Rome Born in Spain in 225. Met Spanish philosopher and teacher who would later be elected Pope Sixtus II and travelled with him. In Rome Sixtus was elected Bishop of Rome in 257 and Lawrence was made archdeacon and the most famous of 7 deacons. He was in charge of the treasury and the raising and distribution of alms to the poor. Roman Emperor Valerian changed his attitude and started to persecute Christians to confiscate property to gain funds to support his defence of Rome. Lawrence was asked to bring the Church valuables to the Roman authorities. He then distributed the material wealth and brought to the Roman official the poor, the crippled and the blind saying these were the true riches of the Church. For his defiance he was martyred the last of the 7 deacons to die, four days after Pope Sixtus II. A story he was roasted on a griddle seems unlikely and possibly caused by an error in translation. St Lawrence became a popular saint and one of the most venerated in Rome. four churches named after him
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 11th August 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Michael and Nora Hunter RIP
6.30 pm Mass	Monday 12th St Porcarius and his martyred monks In 732 the Benedictine Abbot Porcarius had a community of 500 monks, novices, and students at the great Abbey of Lérins, founded in the 5 th century on an island off the coast of Provence opposite Cannes, France. He was warned by an angel in a vision that his community was about to be attacked by barbarians from the sea who were intent on killing them. Porcarius heeded the warning and filled a ship with all the boys being educated at the monastery, all the novices and 36 young monks that set sail for safety on the mainland. He set about preparing the rest of the community for death and prayed with them for courage to die bravely for the faith of Christ. The Abbey was then attacked by the pirates, probably Moors from Spain or North Africa, who broke into the abbey and all the remaining community were massacred except four monks who were taken into slavery. The Benedictine Abbey is now known after the founder Saint-Honorat.
10 am Mass	Tuesday 13th St Simplician Born about 320 probably in Rome. In Milan was a Christian Platonist theologian teacher of St Ambrose, later Bishop of Milan. Involved in conversion of St Augustine of Hippo with his writings. They became friends and met in Milan. He had many conversations including philosophy professor Marius Victorinus but his admittance of becoming a Christian cost him his job. Simplician replaced St Ambrose as Bishop of Milan. This great theologian was called <i>father</i> by both St Ambrose and St Augustine of Hippo. Bishop Simplician died on 15 th August 400.

6.30 pm Mass **Wednesday 14th St Maxmilian Maria Kolbe** Born Raymond Kolbe in 1894 in Russian occupied Poland. German father was a weaver and his devout Polish mother was a midwife. Age 12 had a vision of the Virgin Mary. Next year Raymond and his eldest brother joined the Franciscan minor seminary. 3 years later he left to join the Polish army in defence of his Motherland which was under the patronage of Mary. Soon realised the military was not his future. Rejoined the Franciscans. Sent to Rome in 1912 and took the name Maxmilian. Final vows in 1914 aged 20. With friends formed *Army of the Immaculate One* devoted to Mary to convert sinners and oppose enemies of Church. Opposed Masons. Gained doctorate of philosophy at Pontifical University. In 1918 ordained a priest. Obtained doctorate of theology. Returned to Poland and promoted devotion to Virgin Mary. Opposed Communism. Professor of philosophy and theology at Kraków seminary. 1922 published *Knights of the Immaculata* monthly. Spent time in hospital with tuberculosis. Set up publishing centre in Grodno. Founded Franciscan monastery near Warsaw – the *City of Immaculata* with 800 working for mass media apostolate. Second *City of Immaculata* at Nagasaki in Japan and third in Malabar India. In 1936 returned to Poland. By the outbreak of Second World War had added a radio broadcasting station to his publishing centre. At German invasion of Poland he sent most of Franciscans back to their families to join Polish Red Cross but not join the military. He and remaining 48 were arrested by the Germans and then released to look after 3,000 Polish refugees and 1,000 Jews. Franciscans welcomed them and accommodated them as best they could in their monasteries. Fr Maximilian then resumed publishing religious works many of which were anti-Nazis. Arrested with 4 companions who all refused German citizenship and sent on 28th May to Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. Ministered to fellow prisoners and led them in pray to Immaculate Virgin Mary. Smuggled into prison hospital by Catholic guard to give last rites to the dying. After a prisoner escaped, ten prisoners chosen to die. Then Fr Maximilian Kolbe volunteered to die in place of a man with a family.

10 am Mass
6.30 pm Mass **Thursday 15th .The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** It has been the explicit belief of the Church for centuries that the body of the Blessed Virgin Mary was preserved from corruption and taken into heaven and re-united with her soul, This preservation from corruption and assumption to glory was a privilege due to the body of Mary which was never defiled by sin.. In 1950 Pope Pius XII, after taking counsel with the whole Church through the cardinals and bishops, solemnly declared the doctrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary to be divinely revealed and an article of faith.

NO MASS **Friday 16th St Stephen, King of Hungary** Born Vajk about 975 in Hungary, son of the pagan Duke Geza of the Magyars. He and his father baptised Christians when he was 10 years old and took the name Stephen. Very devout. Married Gisela whose brother became Roman Emperor Henry II, later made a saint. The Christian couple helped spread the faith. Stephen succeeded his father. A relative opposed him but Stephen fought to retain his position with great success and increased his territory. Pope Sylvester II declared him King of Hungary. King Stephen and Queen Gisela were good Christians who helped the poor. They built churches, founded monasteries and appointed bishops with the pope's permission. Christianity made the State religion. Banned marriage between Christians and pagans. Charged tithes to support clergy, churches and the poor. Severely punished adultery, murder, blasphemy and theft. King Stephen abolished tribal divisions, reduced the power of the nobles and divided kingdom into regional administrations with a system of governors and magistrates. King Stephen repelled invasion of Hungary by the German Emperor Conrad II. His only son Emeric, later venerated as Blessed, supported his parents in the work for the poor and Church. He died in a hunting accident which shattered hopes of handing kingdom to a devout Christian who would continue the spread of Christianity and control the power of nobles and tribal leaders.

6pm: Confessions
6.30pm Vigil Mass **Saturday 17th St Joan of the Cross** Born in 1666 in France, youngest of 12 children. Father died when she was six years old. Mother had a shop near shrine to Virgin Mary in Saumur. Barely supported large family. Joan experienced poverty and became selfish and miserly. Aged 25 her mother died and Joan took over shop. She then provided poor standard accommodation for those visiting the shrine. Her main aim was to make money. Visited by a poor scruffy widow pilgrim who said that she had a message from God. Predicted that Joan's future was to care for the poor. Joan's attitude to life gradually changed. Resumed her Christianity practice and penance. Found many poor and orphaned who she helped. Soon gathered other women to help her including her niece. Joan founded Congregation of St Anne of Providence. Took name Sister Joan of the Cross. Number of nuns increased. Eventually built new premises with help from benefactors. Joan died aged 70 in 1736 when there were 12 communities of Sisters running hospices and schools. Order grew after her death

9.30 am Mass **Sunday 18th August Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Thanksgiving Mass for the Wedding Anniversary of Celicia and Fredric

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	Fr Shaun Budden	Trevor Delves	Valerie Baker
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NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Safeguarding training at St Vincent de Paul on Saturday 17th August from 10 am until 12 noon.
This is for all people who work with adults in any way associated with the Church. If you wish to attend please contact Liz Challand, the Parish Safeguarding Officer, using the email for her at the top of this newsletter

Next SVP Social is on Wednesday 21st August – 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.

Parish collection for last weekend 3rd and 4th August

Parish Gift Aid Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Repository	Gift Aid	Loose	TOTAL of all money
£69	£17.25	£127.42	£242.54	£51.98	£508.19	£100	----	----	£608.19