



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

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**

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday 18th August 2024

Page 120 Proverbs 9: 1-6 Ephesians 5: 15-20 Gospel: John 6: 51-58

The first reading from the Book of Proverbs introduces us to *Lady Wisdom*, the personification of God's wisdom. We are invited to no longer think about wisdom as an abstract, disembodied platonic form, but as an alive, loving, gritty mover that has an active role in our lives. She moves like the spirit in our hearts and circumstances. She is that tug on our very being that tells us something isn't right. She is the voice in the back of our heads inviting us to change. *Lady Wisdom* has built herself a house with seven pillars and has prepared a lavish feast of meat, bread and wine. She then sends her maidservants to invite people along, summoning all who lack wisdom to leave their folly behind and come to the feast where a different menu awaits them. At a time like ours when wisdom is in short supply, this invitation is perhaps more relevant than ever. Wisdom challenges us, sometimes painfully, to become more just, speak truth to power, and become more aligned with who God created us to be. Being a Christian is to live a life of change, it is to be in constant conversion of our whole lives, knowing Christ's work in us and in the world is never over. Wisdom is movement flowing like a fresh mountain river, not a stagnant human made pool.

In the second reading, in which St Paul is speaking to the Christian community of Ephesus in Asia Minor, present day Turkey, there is a more specific invitation when he warns them to be careful about the sort of lives they lead. They must not be misled by the wickedness of the world around them. Instead of wasting their lives in the mindless pursuit of pleasure, they must strive to live thoughtful lives, centred on discerning and understanding God's will for them, making the most of every opportunity, blessed by the wine of the Holy Spirit and marked by constant gratitude. Instead of adapting to the spirit of the times, they must become sources of healing and renewal for the world around them.

The Gospel is the fourth passage from John chapter 6 that the Church invites us to meditate on and the third in which Jesus gives the people a teaching based on their experience of the miraculous feeding. In the two previous passages Jesus presented Himself to the people as "*the bread come down from heaven*". In this one he pushes the metaphor further as He gives them His "*flesh to eat and blood to drink*". In this Jesus is saying three things. First He gives Himself totally to us, every part of His being is at our service. Secondly he is inviting us to a deep union with Himself and thirdly He wants us to unite our weakness and our sufferings with His so that we can experience His strength and His courage. Jesus is a teacher, leader, friend and guide who wants to share our lives and to have us share His. This is the meaning of the Eucharist He offers us. Malcolm.

Mass times	Feast Days
<p>10 am to 12 noon Adult Safeguard Training at SVP</p> <p>6pm: Confessions</p> <p>6.30pm Vigil Mass</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>9.30 am Mass</p>	<p>Sunday 18th August Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>Thanksgiving Mass for the Wedding Anniversary of Celicia and Fredric</p>
<p>6.30 pm Mass</p>	<p>Monday 19th St John Eudes Born in 1601 in Normandy, France. Educated by Jesuits at Caen. Joined Oratorians. Ordained a priest in 1625 aged 24. Volunteered to care for victims of plague. Lived alone in huge wine cask to protect others from disease. Began parish missions. Outstanding preacher. Observed poor ministry of local clergy. In 1641 founded <i>Order of Our Lady of Charity of the Refuge, Good Shepherd nuns</i>, in Caen to provide a refuge for prostitutes who wished to reform. Special devotion to Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary. Left Oratorians to found <i>Society of Jesus and Mary, Eudists</i>, for the education of priests and planning of parish missions. Opened new seminaries across France to better train or retrain priests. John was a great writer, later named "Doctor of the Church". Died aged 78 in 1680.</p>
<p>10 am Mass</p>	<p>Tuesday 20th St Bernard of Clairvaux Born in 1090 in France to noble family at castle of Fontaine. After education sent for military training with his 5 brothers. Mother died and father had great hopes for his future but he realised he had a religious vocation. With 31 other noblemen including 4 brothers and uncle, he rode to Citeaux Cistercian Abbey. Youngest brother looked after his father. After 3 years the English Abbot Stephen Harding asked Bernard to start a new Cistercian monastery with 12 other monks. With help they built a monastery in a valley renamed Clairvaux. Reputation of Clairvaux monastery and holiness of Bernard grew. Numbers increased from 13 to 130 including youngest brother and his father. Bernard became a great speaker and writer. Important people sort his advice. Travelled through Western Europe advising priests, bishops and kings. Helped write Rules for Knights Templar in 1128, recognised by Pope Honorius II. Bernard was made their patron saint. From Clairvaux monks founded many new Cistercian monasteries in France and Fountains Abbey and Rievaulx Abbey in England. New monk at Clairvaux was later elected Pope Eugenius III in February 1145, a great friend of Bernard. Met Bishop Malarchy of Armagh from Ireland. Great friendship. Helped him start many</p>

	new Cistercian monasteries in Ireland. Bernard was asked by his friend Pope Eugenius III to preach for the Second Crusade. Emperor Conrad of Germany and King Louis of France responded. The Crusade had a disastrous result with many lives lost. In 1153 Bernard was worn out and ill and died at Clairvaux.						
6.30 pm Mass	Wednesday 21st St Pope Pius X Born in 1835 into a poor family in northern Italy the second of ten children. Received a good education and learnt Latin with parish priest. Entered Padua seminary and ordained a priest in 1858 aged 23. He enjoyed parish work. Particularly cared for poor and sick. Popular with parishioners. Raised funds in his new parish to restore church and expand hospital. Able to care for sick during cholera plague. Fr Sarto was appointed chancellor of the diocese of Treviso north of Venice and canon of the cathedral. Elected caretaker bishop for a year in 1879. Then Bishop of Mantua in 1884. In 1891 had honorary position of assistant to pontifical throne of Pope Leo XIII. Then Cardinal Patriarch of Venice in 1894. Controversially elected pope in 1903 due to veto by Emperor Franz Joseph. As Pope Pius X first act was to ban any future veto by a monarch in election of a pope. The ambassadors from different countries were surprised at his election as he had no diplomatic experience but were impressed when they met him. He did not like the pomp and ceremony of the Vatican and wore an old gilded cross for his coronation to the horror of his entourage. He stopped the custom of dining alone and invited friends to eat with him. Every week he preached a sermon unlike his predecessors. Promoted church music especially Gregorian Chant. Was keen on the power of the pope to remedy a sick society. Revoked ban on lay Catholics voting in elections imposed by Italian revolutionaries but required laity to follow hierarchy guidance on how to vote. Had problems with France that broke off diplomatic relations, separating Church and State. Encyclicals condemning France, social democratic movements, non-denominational trade unions but not a ring wing movement in France. Strongly opposed "Modernism" and he particularly criticised certain philosophers and priests who thought Christianity was evolving and not a static faith. Excommunicated one French priest. Some Catholics thought him out of touch with the contemporary world, but others found him reassuring and strong. He rejected any favours for his family who remained in poverty. Very friendly with children at audiences and carried sweets to give to street urchins. His weekly Catechism lessons had a special place for children. Enforced <i>Confraternity of Christian Doctrine</i> in every parish to include spiritual formation of children and youth. Reduced the age for First Communion from 12 to 7 years old and promoted daily Communion for lay adult Catholics. Still had a great concern for poor and sick and sought help for the vulnerable and marginalised with his preaching and actions.. In 1914 preached to try to resolve the political disputes. His heart was broken when the Great War started and died that year aged 79.						
10 am Mass	Thursday 22nd St Philip Benze Born in 1233 in Italy to a noble family. Studied medicine and philosophy at Paris and Padua. Was a very successful physician in Florence. However he studied the Scriptures and gave up medicine and joined the Servites as just a lay brother. Eventually ordained a priest. Promoted to Master of novices. He was a great preacher and became the Superior of Order. Named as a candidate for pope so went into hiding as a hermit. Attended Council of Lyons and was a mediator between groups in dispute. Sent to Forli by Pope Martin V to reconcile divided city. One of his antagonists joined Servites. Then foremost preacher in Italy. Talented as organiser and administrator. Third Order of Servites founded by him. Sent first Servites as missionaries to the Far East. Retired to a Servite house in Todi. Died 22 nd August 1285 aged 52.						
NO MASS	Friday 23rd St Rose of Lima Beautiful baby born to rich Spanish parents in Lima, Peru. Called "Rose" due to her beauty. Parents were against her being a nun. Rose refused to marry. Took measures to be unattractive. St Catherine of Siena was her model. She practiced severe mortification. Worked as a seamstress and grew and sold plants to support the family. Turned her house into an infirmary. Cared for poor, sick and elderly people and destitute children. Her venture expanded and she was the originator of social services in Peru.						
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	Saturday 24th St Bartholomew the Apostle Nathanael Bartholomew was one of the twelve Apostles and both names are used for him in the Gospels. When Philip asked him to join Jesus he said "Can anything good come out of Nazareth" Jesus said to him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit" Bartholomew replied, "Where did you come to know me?" Jesus said "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you". Nathanael was shocked at this revelation as it would not appear he was just reading and replied "Rabbi, you are the Son of God!" He then became one of the devoted 12 apostles. After the death of Jesus, Bartholomew was a missionary to mainly to India in the area of Mumbai, Bombay, and even to Mesopotamia, Persia and possibly Egypt. An unlikely claim is Armenia was visited by him. There is St Bartholomew monastery in the area now in Turkey. Nathanael was martyred, possibly horrifically, most likely in India.						
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 25th August Twenty – First Sunday in Ordinary Time						
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		

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

SVP Social is on this 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 10th and 11th August

Parish collection for last weekend 10 th and 11 th August							-----		
Parish Gift Aid 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
£117	£29.25	£106.25	£242.54	£51.98	£547.02	----	----	----	£547.02