



St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
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Link for vacancies throughout the Diocese <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs>

Third Sunday of Lent

Sunday 23rd March 2025

Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15

1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12

Gospel Luke 13: 1-9

On the Third Sunday of Lent we are about half way through the period of Lent. The readings emphasise God's call to free us, the importance of staying faithful and the need to bear fruit in our lives. Reflections on them help us understand how God works in our lives, the dangers of idolatry of material things and the patience God shows us as we strive to live our faith. In the first reading from Exodus, Moses encounters God in the burning bush at Horeb, instructed to remove his sandals as he is on holy ground and is given the task to free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, armed with God's name "I AM". This shows that God reaches out to guide His people as He does to us and reminds us that God is always working to free us from our own sins and struggles. He is with us in difficult times supporting and guiding us through our challenges if we listen. In the second reading, St Paul writes to his friends the Corinthians in Greece with some very strong words for the community. He warns them very sternly to be on their guard against three great dangers that can poison any community; complacency, self-indulgence and a culture of complaint and negativity. Each of these vices is absolutely lethal to any community. Gossip, criticism and complaint will rip any community apart, cause terrible distress, destroy it and render it useless. St Paul used stories of Moses and their forefathers to illustrate his message when God was not pleased and they were overthrown. In Luke's Gospel Jesus addressed the news of Galileans killed by Pilate, emphasising that suffering isn't directly linked to personal sinfulness. He emphasised the importance to be repentant of your sins. He then told a parable of a barren fig tree, when a gardener sought more time to nurture it rather than cut it down, symbolising God's patience to give us time to grow in our faith, live a fruitful life and strengthen our relationship with God. We must respond to this call during Lent. Malcolm.

Mass times

Feast Days

6 pm Confessions
6.30pm Vigil Mass
Nora and Michael
Hunter RIP

Saturday 22nd St Nicholas Owen Born Oxford in 1562. Trained as a carpenter and stone mason by his father. Short in stature, he was disabled with a limp. Two brothers were priests and other brother printed and secretly sold Catholic books during Penal Laws of Queen Elizabeth I. Travelled with Fr Edmund Campion SJ as Jesuit lay brother. Started making hiding places for priests – "priest holes". Arrested with Fr Edmund. Released as considered a harmless disabled servant. Travelled with Jesuit Provincial Fr Henry Garnet. Spent 18 years from 1588 creating ever more ingenious priest holes and even secret rooms for celebrating Mass in homes of Catholic recusant families all over the country. Arrested. Martyr's death by torture refusing to reveal the secrets of his hiding places in 1606.

9.30 am Mass

Sunday 23rd March

Third Sunday of Lent

Diana Stimson RIP

6.30pm Mass

Monday 24th St Rafqa Ar-Rayes Born in 1832 in Lebanon to poor, devout family. Mother died when she was 7. Worked as a domestic servant to support her father. When her father married again, refused to marry and became a nun against the wishes of step mother. Took the name Sister Rafqa (Rebecca in English) in 1855. After studying Arabic, writing and arithmetic and was able to start teaching in 1860. Posted to Deir-el-Qamar to help Jesuit mission. After two months she experienced horrific massacres by anti-Christian Druze tribe that killed 7,771 people, destroyed 360 villages, 560 churches, 28 schools and 42 Convents. She managed to save the life of a child and escape. Put in charge of kitchen service in 1862. Founded a school. Then in 1695 she joined a new cloistered Order *Lebanese Maronite Order of St Anthony*. Prayer and manual labour became her way of life. In 1697 became sick. 17 years of very terrible sufferings. Eventually she became blind and paralysed. Died 23rd March 1914. Canonised by Pope John Paul II on 10th June 2001 at the Vatican City in Rome.

10am Mass

Tuesday 25th St Margaret Clitherow Born in 1553 in York to Protestant parents. Married Protestant butcher in the Shambles Became Catholic three years later. Refused to attend Protestant services and her husband paid fines. Imprisoned 3 times. Learnt to read and had a child in prison. Hid priests in their home. Opened school to teach the Catholic faith. Hired house for celebration of Mass. Lodged priests, in heavy disguise, in Black Swan Inn where priest catchers stayed. Sent stepson to English College to train as a priest. Husband arrested to explain. House searched and priest hole and hidden room for Mass found. Margaret arrested and tortured. She refused to plea. Martyred 25th March 1586, Good Friday that year, while pregnant with her third child. Crushed by the door from her house, loaded with heavy weights. Her stepson and son became priests, and her daughter a nun.

6.30pm Mass

Wednesday 26th St Ludger of Münster Born in 742 to wealthy Christian Frisians near Utrecht in Netherlands. When young met St Boniface. Educated at Utrecht Cathedral School. Sent by Abbot Gregory to York. Studied under scholar Alcuin. Then ordained a deacon. Returned to Utrecht Cathedral School and wrote biography of Abbot Gregory. Ordained a priest in Cologne. Sent to rebuild churches and evangelise in Friesland. Driven out by Saxon war leader. Went to Rome. Stayed at Monte Cassino for 2 years. Emperor Charlemagne recaptured Friesland. Ludger returned to restore Christianity. Built monasteries and churches. Cured blind singer and poet Bernlef and then converted him. Appointed the Bishop of Münster. Reformed the diocese and clergy. Died 26th March 809.

10am Mass	Thursday 27th St John of Egypt Born 305 at Asyut, north of Luxor in Egypt. His parents were poor. He trained as a carpenter. Aged 25 became a monk under the guidance of an elderly hermit for ten years. When the old man died he visited various monasteries for five years in Egypt but did not like living in a community. Aged 40 he returned to living as a hermit walled into a collection of three cells. For 5 days of the week he prayed and received no visitors. At weekends people brought him food and water and he preached to the crowds that gathered. He only gave personal advice to men, avoiding seeing women to avoid temptation. He did not form a community but had disciples to help control the crowds at weekends and run a hospice for reception of visitors. He only ate after sunset, a diet of vegetables and dried fruit. Gained a reputation for prophesy. Died age 90 in 395.
NO MASS	Friday 28th St Tutilo Born about 850 in Germany and educated at Benedictine monastery of Saint Gall in what is now Switzerland. Became a monk there. He was very handsome, a strong large man who was an excellent boxer. He had a variety of considerable skills. Quick witted, eloquent orator, a painter, a poet, a sculptor, architect, metalworker, mathematician and astronomer. His main passion was music and played and taught a variety of instruments as head of the Abbey School. The Holy Roman Emperor King Charles III admired him and thought it a pity that such a genius was secluded in a monastery as Tutilo avoided the limelight and appeared in public reluctantly. He could teach and preach in both Latin and Greek. Few of his music and painting works survive.
6 pm Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Daisy Gracias RIP	Saturday 29th St Rupert of Salzburg Born about 660 of Frankish nobility. Bishop of Worms. Wise and devout. Driven out of city by pagans. Duke Theodo II of Bavaria asked for his help. Did missionary work in Bavaria. Given ruined city of Juvavum as his centre. Built Church of St Peter where St Maximus was martyred and Benedictine monastery of St Peter. Made Abbot. Founded Benedictine Convent of Nonnberg. Made his niece abbess. Enlarged salt mining, rebuilt the city and old Roman fortress overlooking the renamed city of Salzburg. Bishop of Salzburg in 698.
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 30th March Fourth Sunday of Lent Winston Eugene D'Cruze RIP 9th Anniversary
PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS WHEN RECORDING NAMES FOR MASS INTENTION	
Your prayers are needed for the following people	
Sue Chandler	Hazel Sale Mary Light Trevor Delves Fr Shaun Budden Ann Drumgoole

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAFOD Lenten Family Fast Day Special Second Collection at last weekend Masses

Very many thanks to all who generously contributed to CAFOD. Gift Aid donation was £405 and Loose collection £111.12. With gift aid of £101.25 this gives a total of £516.12. This is a really great amount for CAFOD.

Next SVP Social is on Wednesday 2nd April – 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 two hours, whatever suits you. Renee and Pat.

50 year celebration on the feast of St Vincent de Paul on Sunday 28th September this year at 9.30 am Mass.

We wish to share 50 years of memories of the parish beginning with a celebration Mass followed by a breakfast buffet. All parishioners past and present are invited to attend. For the event we hope to put together a booklet of quotes and memories. Where you involved with the setting up of the parish? Do you have photographs? Did you get married in the parish or celebrate a baptism? Please email any memory to lizchalland@btinternet.com. Just a couple of sentences for each memory please. More details of the event and Mass to follow in Spring.

Appeal for Raffle Prizes from Liz Challand

Do you have any unwanted Christmas presents that you do not need and may be used as Raffle Prizes to raise funds for our parish of St Vincent de Paul? Any items please drop them into the Sacristy or church office.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) Catechist's Formation Day on 24th May 2025

10 am to 4 pm at Immaculate Conception Church, 346 Portswood Road, Southampton SO17 3SB

A day to explore the fundamentals of RCIA catechesis led by the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph, with time for prayer, reflection and discussion. Suitable for all levels of experience from beginners seeking an introduction to adult catechesis to experienced catechesis looking for a refresher in the principles of RCIA.

To find out more or to book contact: office@southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org Canon Michael Dennehy.



“What Does Poverty Look Like Here in Southampton” document.

The first draft of the document has been produced by Portsmouth Diocese's Caritas to aid in work on the “Church Beyond Walls”. Jenny LeLean is coordinating a group we hope will be made of people from across all our parishes who have local knowledge about the needs of our communities in

Southampton and can complete this form <https://forms.office.com/e/ajF6AGysR8> or scan the QR code for the form.

Parish collection for last weekend 15th and 16th March

Parish collection for last weekend 15 th and 16 th March						CAFOD Family Fast Day			
Parish Gift Aid Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Baptism Ruth Gleeson	Gift Aid	Loose	TOTAL of all money
£62	£15.50	£130.61	£242.54	£51.98	£502.63	£59 £10	£405	£111.12	£1,078.75