



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>

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Sunday 30th March 2025

Next weekend there will be a Special Second Collection for the Clergy Assistance Fund

Joshua 5: 9-12

2 Corinthians 5: 17-21

Gospel Luke 15: 1-3, 11-12

This weekend we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Lent which is traditionally called *Laetare Sunday* the Latin word for *Rejoice*. The reason for our joy is God's great unconditional boundless love for us and His message of forgiveness and reconciliation so that we can have renewal in our lives in this penitential time of Lent and God will welcome us like the father in the Gospel. The first reading from the Book of Joshua recounts the Israelites' arrival in the Promised Land after their long journey through the desert. They celebrate the first Passover in their new land using the local produce, marking the end of manna supplied by God. This signifies a transition from past hardships to a new beautiful free land and a renewed relationship with God. The second reading of St Paul's letter to the Corinthians in Greece he emphasises the concept of becoming a "new creation" in Christ. He highlights that through Christ's reconciling work, believers are entrusted with the "ministry of reconciliation" and the power of God's forgiveness, urging us to embody and extend this reconciliation to renew our own lives closer to God. Luke's Gospel gives us the parable of the *Prodigal Son* that epitomises divine mercy and forgiveness. It tells of a father's love and readiness to forgive his repentant son, illustrating the boundless compassion God offers to all who seek reconciliation.

Mass times

Feast Days

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

Winsion Eugene D'Cruze RIP 9th Anniversary

6.30pm Mass

Monday 31st St Guy of Pomposa Born 11th century in Ravenna, Italy. Gave up love of clothes and dressed as a beggar. Went to Rome and received the tonsure. Joined hermit Martin on island in River Po north of Ravenna. Then joined nearby Pomposa Abbey. Due to his holiness was soon elected abbot. Attracted many new monks including his brother and father. Built another monastery. During Lent returned to being a hermit with severe penances. Reputation for sanctity and many sought his advice. Repelled attack by jealous Archbishop of Ravenna. He died on a trip to see Holy Roman Emperor Henry III who had travelled to Italy to seek his advice. Died about 1046.

10am Mass

Tuesday 1st April St Hugh of Grenoble Born in France in 1053. Prayerful, modest and courteous. Intelligent. Well educated. He was ordained a priest by Pope Gregory. Bishop of Grenoble at 25. For 2 years struggled against moral laxity of clergy. Gave up and became a Benedictine monk. Superiors made him go back as bishop, this time with great success in reforms. An outstanding preacher on good terms with people, clergy, and monks. As well as spiritual reforms improved the diocese infrastructure with road and bridge maintenance and raised taxes to build hospitals. Started a farmer's market. Worked with St Bruno founder of Carthusian monks. Died in monastery aged 79.

SVP Social
1 pm to 3 pm

6.30pm Mass

Wednesday 2nd St Francis of Paola Born Italy in 1416. Named after St Francis of Assisi. On a pilgrimage to Rome with his parents, horrified by the city decadence returned home. Lived as a hermit. Others joined him as *Hermits of St Francis*. Had strict rules of austerity and diet. People in area built them a church and monastery. Order's rule recognised by pope. Changed name to *Minim Friars*. Reluctantly went to France in 1483 to King Louis who was dying. Stayed with his son King Charles who built a monastery for him near his residence in Plessis, south of Paris. Was a tutor and counsellor to the king. Stayed in 1498 with King Louis XII. Died in France 2nd April 1507, aged 91.

10am Mass

Thursday 3rd St Richard of Chichester Born 1197 in the Midlands to land owning family. Orphaned young. Worked on estate for his elder brother. Refused marriage offer and left estate. Studied at Oxford University. Taught at Oxford. Continued studies in Paris and Bologna. Return to Oxford as Chancellor of University. Then the diocesan chancellor for Edmund of Abingdon, Archbishop of Canterbury. Richard and Edmund had disputes with King Henry III. Both exiled to France where Edmund died in 1240. Richard was ordained by Dominicans at Orleans in France. Returned to England. Parish priest at Deal. Then appointed Bishop of Chichester instead of the king's choice. Furious King Henry confiscated the diocesan lands. Bishop Richard had to stay with a priest. King relented. Richard then started clergy reforms in saying Mass, preaching and celibacy. Lovingly open to all. Generous to those in need. Austere life style, mortification, fasting, strict vegetarian diet. Died in Dover 3rd April 1253. Buried in Chichester Cathedral. Author of prayer, "May I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and follow thee more nearly, day by day."

NO MASS	Friday 4th St Isidore of Seville Born in 560 in Spain. All 3 siblings were saints. Educated at Seville Cathedral School organised by elder brother, later Bishop of Seville. Slow to learn but very able student. Eventually became a great academic and writer. Bishop of Seville after his brother. Demanded high standards from fellow bishops and clergy. Presided over 2 local Synods to eradicate heresies. Influenced National Council of Toledo in 633 for diocesan seminaries and broad education. Most learned academic of his generation. Introduced his countrymen to the Greek philosophy of Aristotle. Was a prolific and versatile writer. Scripts still survive. Died 4 th April 636 aged 76				
6 pm Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	Saturday 5th St Vincent Ferrer Born in 1350 in Spain of noble parents. Academically brilliant. Joined the Dominicans, “Black Friars”. Study in various places. Doctorate of Theology. Taught at Lérida University. Became a brilliant and fiery preacher. Was strongly opposed to Jewish faith and was anti-Semitic and converted many Jews. Involved in the Great Schism and supported anti-pope Benedict XIII. No success in resolving conflict. Continued his missionary work. Died 1419 in France.				
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 6th April			Fifth Sunday of Lent	
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

Next weekend there will be a Special Second Collection for the Clergy Assistance Fund

As this Fund is for our Portsmouth Diocese gift aid can be claimed by the parish in the special gift aid envelopes

Fr Thomas is asking for donations towards buying new Mass books which contain the new readings texts

We need to replace all our Mass books that contain the old wording for the readings for Sundays, special feast days but especially Easter and Christmas. There are six books, two for Year A, two for year B and two for Year C which we are now celebrating. We need 50 to 60 books of each addition depending on the response, priced at £5.98 per copy. This would cost between £1,794 and £2,152.80 and donations can be gift aided. With gift aid the parish receives £75 for a donation of £60. During Lent please be generous in supporting this appeal from Fr Thomas.

Appeal for Easter Eggs for Stella Marist to give to seafarers at Easter

The Catholic organisation that cares for people working on ships at sea is called the *Apostleship of the Sea* and in Southampton it has a special name *Stella Marist*, the Latin for *Star of the Sea*. It is based in Bugle Street near Tudor House next to St Joseph's Catholic Church. The centre has two lay chaplains and a group of volunteers that visit when they dock in Southampton, Hythe and other ports on the south coast. These days ships are in port for only a short time and the ordinary crew are confined to their ship without any chance of visiting a church. At this time of the year it is hoped to help the many hundreds of seafarers, most of whom are Catholics from the Philippines, Kerala and Goa, to celebrate Easter by visiting the ships with faith materials such as rosaries as usual, but make it a special event to take them Easter Eggs and chocolates. So as previous years, we are collecting Easter Eggs for Stella Marist. There is a container in the church porch. Hopefully we have a good response.

Next SVP Social is this 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.

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 Portwood Road, Southampton SO17 3SB

A day to explore the fundamentals of RCIA's 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

Parish collection for last weekend 22nd and 23rd March

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Parish Gift Aid Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	----	Gift Aid	Loose	TOTAL of all money
£77	£19.25	£131.04	£242.54	£51.98	£521.81	----	----	----	£521.81