



St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
Aldermoor Close, Coxford Road, Lordswood, Southampton,
Hampshire SO16 5ST Office: 07887452313

Parish Priest: Fr Thomas Parakandathil tparakandathil@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Parish Administrator: Lina Maria Speigal email: svpoffice@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Newsletter editor: Malcolm Forster email: malcolmandrita@btinternet.com
Safeguarding Officer Liz Challand safeguarding.sousv@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Administrator Lina Maria is available preferably by email on in emergency by the office telephone on Thursdays

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>

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 11th May 2025

Acts of the Apostles 11: 14, 43-52

Revelation 7: 13, 14-17

Gospel John 10: 27-30

This weekend we celebrate what is called "Good Shepherd" Sunday, also known as "Vocation" Sunday. It is a time when we pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, especially in the Portsmouth Diocese. It should also be a time when we reflect on our own baptismal vocation and how we influence those around us as parents, grandparents, teachers, leaders of any type in our community. How we exercise any authority over others must be done with kindness, respect, fairness and honesty following the example of Jesus as the "Good Shepherd" taking care of all those who need His protection.

In the first reading we hear from the Acts of Paul and Barnabus who preached about the Lord and His truth in the synagogue. They spoke to a large gathering of both Jewish people and non-Jewish people, the Gentiles. But their efforts in attracting so many people, especially the Gentiles, caused some among the Jews to be jealous and hostile to their popularity. It shows the challenges and successes of the apostles, emphasising the importance of their mission and helps us appreciate their courage and dedication in sharing the message of Jesus. Paul and Barnabus left Antioch filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

Understanding the Book of Revelation in the second reading can be difficult. It relates what John had seen in the series of visions he received at the island of Patmos during his exile there. John saw the vision of a multitude of holy men and women from across all time and places, all gathering to proclaim the Lord and glorify Him, to praise Him on His throne, as John saw Him, the victorious Lamb of God, who has won the ultimate victory over sin, evil and death by His sacrifice on the Cross.

In John's Gospel Jesus uses the metaphor of sheep and a shepherd that would be very familiar with people of the day. He states "*My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life and they will never perish and no one will snatch them out of my hand.*" A good shepherd searches for the one who is lost or feels unworthy or unloved and carries them back in his arms. Christianity is about a relationship with Jesus, not just a set of ideas. It is only by listening to the Lord that we will come to know Him. Give us the strength and courage to be faithful shepherds, role models and examples for one another in our faith journey. Let our actions, words and deeds be inspirational at all times. Malcolm.

Mass times

Feast Days

6 pm Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass John Skeels RIP	Saturday 10th St John of Avila Born 1499 in Spain to wealthy and pious parents. Sent to study law but changed to philosophy and theology. Both parents died. Ordained a priest. First Mass at the church where his parents were buried. Always wanted to be a missionary to Mexico. Archbishop of Seville asked him to be a missionary in Spain in land recently regained from the Moors. Very successful preacher. Attracted large crowds and many converts. Strongly criticised the rich and powerful which caused him to be imprisoned and tried by the Spanish Inquisition for a year. Acquitted to the delight of his many followers. Wrote <i>Audia Filia (Listen, Daughter)</i> . Among his disciples were St Teresa of Ávila, St John of God, St Francis Borgia and Ven. Louis of Granada. Poor health in the last 15 years. Died in 1569 aged 70 and was buried in the Jesuit Church in Montilla in southern Spain. Although so many of his disciples were canonised quite quickly, Fr John was not canonised until 31 st May 1970 by Pope Paul VI, possibly due to not being recommended by any Religious Order.
---	---

9.30 am Mass

Sunday 11th May

Fourth Sunday of Easter

6.30pm Mass
For the speedy
recovery of Jim,
son in law of
Dee and Joe

Monday 12th St Pancras of Rome Born about 289 at Phrygia now in Turkey to parents of Roman citizenship. Orphaned and cared for by uncle. Moved to Rome and both converted to Christianity. Pancras became a keen and pious follower. Under persecution by Emperor Diocletian arrested. Refused to offer sacrifice to pagan gods despite offers of wealth. Beheaded as a martyr. Buried in the catacombs on Via Aurelia. Church and shrine built above. St Pancras was popular in England encouraged by two popes in 6th and 7th century. Mentioned by St Bede.

10am Mass
Peter RIP

Tuesday 13th St Andrew Fournet Born 1752 in France near Poitiers to well off and pious parents. Mother wanted him to be a priest but Andrew refused and found religion boring. Not keen on academic work. Ran away to join the army. Then sent to live with his uncle who was a parish priest who with tact encouraged him to study theology. Eventually he changed his attitude and became a priest. Appointed parish priest in his hometown of Maillé in 1781 aged 27. Lived with his mother and sister in austerity and was generous to the poor. Inspirational preacher who helped his parishioners grow in faith and religious practice. French Revolution in 1789 brought an abrupt end to peace and stability. When Fr Andrew refused to swear the oath of loyalty to the new Republic, he was removed from his parish. Continued his ministry in secret until it became too dangerous to continue. Sent to Spain by his bishop for safety. Returned five years later in 1797 in secret to his parish. Continually evaded arrest, once escaping from arrest. Peace and stability started to return with the military coup by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1799. Parish church had been destroyed so used barn for Mass. Set about restoring the people's disrupted religious life and practice. Helped Elizabeth Bichier des Ages, later canonised, to form religious Order of nuns caring for the sick, aged and poor and educate children. *Daughters of the Cross*. Elizabeth called them Sisters of St Andrew. Retired aged 68. Died aged 81.

6.30pm Mass` Thanksgiving for Tom and Reji	Wednesday 14th St Matthias The apostle chosen by the disciples in an election between two disciples to replace Judas Iscariot and make up the 12 apostles. Early tradition places him preaching in Judaea and somewhat later in Cappadocia (southern Turkey) near the Caspian Sea. Traditionally he was beheaded there as a martyr. He is often depicted holding the axe of his execution
10am Mass M V Joseph RIP 24th Anniversary	Thursday 15th St Isidore the Farmer Born 1070 in Madrid. Farmer with much younger wife. He started most days at church and prayed while he worked. It was claimed angels helped when he prayed. Extremely generous to the poor and loved animals and cared for them as well. A peasant farmer who led a very holy but ordinary life, an example to all who met him. He died aged
NO MASS	Friday 16th St Brendan the Navigator Born around 484 in Ireland of noble birth. Placed in foster care of mystic St Ita for his initial education. Then studied at Tuam, County Galway, in the Aran Islands, in Galloway, Scotland and in Wales. Bishop Erc of Kerry ordained him in 512. Monk and then an Abbot. Founded monasteries. Passion for sea travel. Gained the name Brendan the "Navigator" or "Voyager". Visited Scotland, Wales and France. A seven year trip to Iceland, Greenland and North America and back is either exaggerated or a miracle. Evidence in North America exists of an Irish landing about that time but the prevailing winds would have meant no way back except miraculously.
6 pm Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Theophilus Thomas RIP	Saturday 17th St Paschal Baylón Born in 1540 in Spain on the feast of Pentecost so called Paschal by his peasant farming pious family. Childhood as a shepherd. Devotion to the Eucharist. No time for any formal education. Taught himself to read. Helped poor. Gave good example on behaviour to his companions. Joined Franciscans as lay brother. Refused invitation to be a priest. Austere life style. Jobs as cook, doorkeeper, porter and gardener. Reputation as a counsellor whose wisdom was sought by all from rich to poor. Cheerful and friendly. Showed respect to all he met. Chosen for his social skills to be the beggar for alms for the monastery. He opposed Calvinist preacher in France on <i>Real Presence</i> and then was attacked by Huguenot mob and injured. Died on 17 th May 1592 aged 52.
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 18th May Fifth Sunday of Easter Thanksgiving Mass for all the favours received by Wilson D'Souza's family
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

Parish volunteers needed to help with Fire Alarm Practice

A few volunteers are required to help with a fire alarm practice that is due soon. They need to direct people to clear the church and do a final check that everyone has evacuated. We need a team of at least 3 at each Mass.

Jubilee 2025 Youth Pilgrimage between 28th July and 4th August coinciding with World Youth Day

Any young person who is 17+ is invited to take part in the Diocese of Portsmouth Youth Pilgrimage to Rome and includes visits to the Vatican and World Youth Day Jubilee events. Cost is £1,350 per person for a shared room.

Important notice concerning parish parking around the church.

Please remember to be considerate to our local residents and the Health Centre when parking at the church or nearby. Do not park on double yellow lines and do not block in cars when parking. We are not allowed to park in the Health Centre car park except when they are closed, normally in the evening and at weekends,

Sad news of the death of Edna Spiteri, devoted wife of the late Fred Spiteri

Edna died on Maundy Thursday 17th April, the beloved mother of sons Dion and Mario. Pat Pennal's daughter is in contact with the two sons and will inform us concerning the funeral details.

Next SVP Social is on Wednesday 4th June – 1pm to 3 pm (Funeral on Wednesday 21st April)

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.

Postponing appeal for donations towards buying more new Mass books

We have now collected over £1,225 towards the new Mass books of which over £725 has come from the raffle. Sometime after Easter we will resume the appeal to buy the other four books in a slightly different way

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

Parish collection for last weekend 3rd and 4th May

							Special Collection		TOTAL of all money
Parish Gift Aid Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Other money	Gift Aid	Loose	
£112	£28	£112.07	£242.54	£51.98	£546.59	£154.73			£701.32