



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>

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 20th July 2025

Page 111	Genesis 18: 1-10	Colossians 1: 24-28	Gospel Luke 10: 38-42
<p>The readings at Mass this weekend include stories of hospitality to strangers, suffering for our faith, work, service, devotion and listening to the teaching of Jesus. The gospel reading follows that of the “Good Samaritan” and care of those in need. The first reading is from the Book of Genesis, the first Book of the Bible, recounting the creation of the world, the early history of humanity and the origins of the Jewish people. The story of the hospitality of Abraham indicates the custom at that time in the Arab and Jewish traditions of welcoming any travellers and offering them a meal and a place to have a rest from their travels. This openness to strangers shows the openness we should have to God and his response to the divine visitors reveals the central message of the reading. The reward is the promise of a son despite the advanced age of the couple. The reaction of Sarah to the news is disbelief and laughter. When their son arrives they name him “Isaac” which means “laughter”</p> <p>The second reading from St Paul’s letter to the Colossians in what is now Turkey, speaks of his sufferings for the Christian faith and how they are part of his mission to reveal Christ to the world. He writes that Christ is in us, the hope of glory, and connects with the letter’s main message: Jesus is the Lord of all creation and brings everything into unity with God. Paul’s role is to make this known especially to the Gentiles. It highlights the significance of Christ and Paul wants the community to stay rooted in truth and grow in maturity. The mystery that was once hidden is now revealed; salvation for all; and Christ dwells in us. The reading reminds us that even suffering has meaning when it brings us and others closer to Christ.</p> <p>In St Luke’s Gospel Jesus is visiting Martha and Mary (Lazarus is not mentioned in this story) who live in Bethany which is just a stone’s throw from the Temple in Jerusalem. Jesus often visited them when He went to teach in Jerusalem so he knew them very well and was used to the ways of the household. As usual Martha is busy working preparing the meal while Mary sits listening to Jesus. The story fits Luke’s message about discipleship. Luke often highlights the outsider, the lowly and the one who listens with an open heart. The story shows that active service is good, but it must come from a heart centred on Christ. Mary’s choice is a reminder to make room for prayer, silence and listening. We must find a balance between activity, contemplation and prayer, finding strength in hardships and trust in God’s promises that we will be given the grace to survive even the toughest times. The message of welcoming strangers with support is very relevant in today’s world. Malcolm.</p>			
Mass times		Feast Days	
6 pm Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Hazel McMahon RIP 10 th anniversary	Saturday 19 th St Macrina the Younger Born in 327 in Caesarea, Cappadocia, now Turkey, into a remarkable family full of saints, eldest of 10 children. Grandmother was St Macrina the Elder, both parents were saints, 3 brothers were saints and a brother was a famous legal scholar. Educated well mainly by mother and grandmother but concentrated on religious works rather than classical literature. Helped in education of her younger siblings for a holy and austere life. Father arranged a marriage for Macrina but the holy nobleman died before the wedding. She declared herself a widow and took a vow of celibacy. Founded a Convent and became one of the most important and famous nuns in the Eastern Church. Her brother St Gregory wrote <i>Life of Macrina</i> which described her sanctity. She died in 379 and her brother St Peter added a monastery to the Convent. To commemorate Macrina, St Gregory wrote a <i>Dialogue on the Soul and Resurrection</i> .		
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 20 th July	Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
6.30 pm Mass	Monday 21 st St Laurence of Brindisi Born in Brindisi, Italy to pious Christian Venetian merchants. Educated by Franciscans in Brindisi. Then in Venice by an uncle at St Mark’s College. Joined Capuchins in Verona and took the name Brother Laurence. Padua University studied philosophy and theology. As a deacon gave Lenten sermons in Venice with great success. Ordained a priest in 1583 aged 23. Amazing academic with extraordinary memory. Accomplished linguist in Latin, Hebrew, Greek, German, Bohemian, Spanish and French. Knew Bible text by heart. Preached all over Europe with Franciscan style of adapting sermons to the needs of the people. Preached to Jews in Hebrew. Army chaplain for Holy Roman Emperor Rudolph II. Involved in military tactics. Led the army holding a crucifix to liberate town in Hungary. Peacemaker and diplomat. Solved many conflicts. Capuchin Vicar General. Founded house in Madrid. Died in Lisbon on a peacemaking trip, a few days after his meeting with the King Philip III, on his birthday 22 nd July 1619 aged 60.		
10 am Mass	Tuesday 22 nd St Mary Magdalene Born in small village of Magdala on western shore of Sea of Galilee, prosperous fishing boat building and trading centre. Mary was relatively wealthy but had a chronic psychological difficulty that Jesus cured. Devoted disciple of Jesus. No evidence of her being a prostitute. This notion goes back to sexist Pope Gregory the Great who identified her incorrectly with the woman who washed the feet of Jesus with her hair. Only the Western Church had this incorrect image of Mary Magdalene. The Eastern Church considers her an important disciple, one of the three Marys, with Mary of Bethany and the Virgin Mary. She was at the crucifixion, the burial and the first words of the risen Christ were to her. The “Apostle to the apostles”		

6.30 pm Mass	Wednesday 23rd . St Bridget of Sweden Born in 1303 in Sweden, daughter of a knight. Her mother was related to the Swedish royalty. Had a good religious education from her mother then her aunt. Age 13 wanted to enter monastic life but she obeyed her father and married Ulf Gudmarsson, an 18 year old of royal birth. Happy marriage with 8 children, 6 of which survived infancy which was rare. Bridget's saintly life and great charity made her famous. Started having religious visions. Was made lady-in-waiting to the Queen. Travelled as a pilgrim with her husband to many holy shrines. Husband taken ill. He joined Cistercian monastery. Died 2 years later. Bridget joined Franciscan Third Order. Remained in the world devoted to austere life, penance and zealous work for poor and infirm. As a mystic her visions became more intense and specific. Encouraged her to start a religious Order later known as Brigittines. Double monasteries of monks and nuns who lived separately but they had joint liturgies. Her visions strongly criticised Pope Clement VI and admonished him for not returning to Rome from Avignon in France. Tried to stop the "Hundred Years War" between King Edward III of England and King Philip IV of France. Demanded that King Magnus Eriksson of Sweden and Norway stop his Crusade against pagan neighbours. All four were furious with Bridget who, disillusioned, left Sweden and went to Rome with her daughter Catherine. It was the Jubilee Year of 1350. Wrote <i>Sermo Angelicus</i> , an account of her visions. With Catherine tried to reform Church practices in Rome and elsewhere. She was universally beloved in Rome for the kindness and good works of her and her nuns. In 1367 Pope Urban V returned to Rome from Avignon and confirmed the Brigittines as an Order. Her wayward son Charles died in Naples. Bridget went on a pilgrimage to Holy Land and was nearly shipwrecked. Had visions of life of Christ which at times varied from biblical accounts. Due to ill health returned to Rome and eventually died on 23 rd July 1373 aged 70.
10 am Mass	Thursday 24th . St Charbel Makhlouf Born in 1828 in Lebanon to poor family, youngest of five children. Lived high in Lebanese mountains. His father, a mule driver, died after forced labour with the Turkish army when he was 3 years old. His mother married a man who became the parish priest. Youssef looked after family animals. Built a grotto to the Virgin Mary. Mother wanted him to marry. Followed example of his uncles and joined a monastery. Took the name Brother Charbel. Studied philosophy and theology. Ordained a priest. Fr Charbel then spent 16 years at St Maron Monastery where he lived a holy, austere life devoted to prayer, contemplation and manual work. Had ability to unite Christians and Muslims. Allowed to live as a hermit. Over next 23 years gained reputation for holiness and wisdom and developed a respect and cooperation between Christians and Muslims. Died on Christmas Eve 1898 at age 70. Miraculous improvement in weather at funeral.
NO MASS	Friday 25th St James the Great Son of Zebedee and Salome. Father was a fisherman on Sea of Galilee. His mother was disciple of Jesus, sister of the Virgin Mary. Educated in Jewish customs. With younger brother John trained by their father in skills of sailing, fishing, boat maintenance, trading and understanding weather. Selected by Jesus as one of the 12 apostles. James had a short temper. James and John nicknamed "sons of thunder". James and John with Peter were present at the Transfiguration of Jesus. Not clear how James died but became patron saint of Spain who claimed him as the "Moor slayer" which seems very unlikely. However, the shrine of <i>Santiago de Compostela</i> in Spain was developed in honour of St James and became a popular place of pilgrimage.
6 pm Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	Saturday 26th St Joachim and St Anne Parents of the Virgin Mary, both from the royal house of David. Their lives were occupied in prayer and good works. Anne was an aged woman by Jewish standards on the birth of their only child. With the birth of Mary, Anne began a new life, watching her every movement with reverent tenderness. Mary was presented in the Temple aged 3
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 27th July Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Trevor Delves
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 SVP Social is on Wednesday 6th 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 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 9.30am 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.

Parish collection for last weekend 12th and 13th July

Parish Gift Aid Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Church hire for Holy Communion	Gift Aid	Loose	TOTAL of all money
£115	£28.75	£122.72	£242.54	£51.98	£560.99	£100			£660.99