

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL R.C. CHURCH

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Fourth Sunday of Lent Sunday 19th March 2023

1 Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13

Ephesians 5: 8-14

John 9: 1-41

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is known as "*Laetare* (Rejoice) Sunday," expressing the Church's joy in anticipation of the Resurrection of our Lord. Today's readings remind us that it is God Who both gives us proper vision in body as well as in soul and instructs us that we should be constantly on our guard against spiritual blindness.

By describing the anointing of David as the second king of Israel, the first reading, taken from the First Book of Samuel, illustrates how blind we are in our judgments and how much we need God's help. It reminds us that those whom God involves in his saving plans are not necessarily those whom the world perceives as great. In the second reading, St. Paul reminds the Ephesians of their new responsibility as children of light "*to live as children of the light, producing every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth*". Presenting the miracle of Jesus' giving of sight to a man born blind, today's Gospel teaches us the necessity of being willing to have our eyes opened by Faith, and warns us that those who assume they see the truth are often blind, while those who acknowledge their blindness are given clear vision. In this episode, the most unlikely person, namely the beggar born blind, receives the light of Faith in Jesus, while the religion-oriented, law-educated Pharisees remain spiritually blind. To live as a Christian is to see and to grow continually, gaining clearer vision about God, about ourselves and about others. Our Lenten prayers and sacrifices should help to heal our spiritual blindness so that we can look at others, see them as children of God, and love them as our own brothers and sisters, saved by the death and Resurrection of Jesus.

Yours, Fr. Tomy

Mass times	Feast Days
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass John, Pat, Peter Moon and other members of Moon family	Saturday 18th March St Cyril of Jerusalem Born in about 315 near Jerusalem. Deacon, priest and then Bishop of Jerusalem. Opposed heresy of <i>Arianism</i> which the Bishop Acacius of Caesarea supported. Jerusalem in the Holy Land was considered more important than Caesarea. Caused conflict between Cyril and Acacius. Acacius accused Cyril of selling Church property, which he did to feed the poor. Bishop Cyril ignored him. Synod deposed Bishop Cyril who went into exile. Reinstated and then deposed again twice more. Took part in the Second Ecumenical Council in 381. Helped to rewrite the Nicene Creed to exclude the heretic Arian beliefs. He died exhausted in 386 aged 71.
9.30 am	Sunday 19th March Fourth Sunday of Lent Nora and Michael Hunter RIP
First Communion Training from 16:45 to 17:45 6.30 pm	Monday 20th St Cuthbert of Lindisfarne Born 634 in Scotland. As a child saw a vision of St Aidan, the first Bishop of Lindisfarne, being carried to heaven by angels. Started a military career fighting for Christian King Oswy of Northumberland against the pagan King Penda of Mercia for 4 years. Then joined Melrose monastery with Prior Boisil in 655. Short time as guestmaster at Ripon monastery. Synod of Whitby decided on Roman rite rather than the Celtic customs which Cuthbert used. Made Prior of Lindisfarne to introduce the Roman rite under Bishop Tuda of Lindisfarne after St Cuthbert, third Bishop of Lindisfarne, had left to continue using the Celtic rite in Scotland in 664. Continued under Abbot Eata appointed in 678. Retired to be a hermit. Elected Bishop of Hexham but refused. Agreed to be Bishop of Lindisfarne in 685. Died on 20th March 687. Shrine in Durham Cathedral.
10 am	Tuesday 21st St Enda of Aran Born about 450 in Ireland. An Irish priest who succeeded his father as King of Ulster. He was a warrior king who successfully fought his enemies. The soldier king was converted to Christianity by his sister who was an abbess. He became a priest and founded a monastery on one of the Aran islands off the west coast of Ireland in Galway Bay. Monks lived an austere life in stone cells, never heated, and slept on the ground. They met for liturgies and meals in silence. They sustained themselves with farming and fishing and made their own clothes from wool of their sheep. St Edna and St Finnian were considered fathers of Irish monasticism.
6.30 pm Departed soul of Siby J. Koffaram	Wednesday 22nd St Nicholas Owen Born in Oxford in 1562. Trained as a carpenter and stone mason by his father. Short in stature, he was disabled with a limp due to breaking his leg falling from a horse. 2 brothers were priests trained abroad and another 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. Then travelled with Jesuit Provincial Fr Henry Garnet. Spent 18 years from 1588 creating ever more ingenious priest holes and secret rooms for celebrating Mass in homes of Catholic recusant families all over the country. Arrested and martyred in 1606.

10 am	Thursday 23rd St Turibius Alfonso de Mogrovejo Born 1538 in Spain to noble parents. Qualified as a lawyer. Professor teaching Law. High reputation lawyer, King Philip of Spain made him Grand Inquisitor. 1578 ordained a priest. Made Archbishop of Lima in Peru. Stood up for indigenous Indians against their Spanish masters. Reformed clergy to learn Indian languages. Produced catechism in Quechuan, Aymara and Spanish. Visited all parts of his diocese, staying with local communities. He Baptised and Confirmed almost half million converts including future saints Rose of Lima, Martin de Porres and Francis Solano. Founded first seminary in Western Hemisphere in 1591. Died 1606 at 68.
6pm: Stations of the Cross	Friday 24th St Rafqa (Rebecca) Ar-Rayes Born 1832 in Lebanon to poor, devout family. Mother died when she was 7. A domestic servant, refused to marry and became a nun against the wishes of her step mother. As a nun was a teacher, in charge of kitchen service. Experienced horrific massacres by Druze tribe and saved the life of a child. Founded a school. Joined cloistered Order and then became sick. 17 years of very terrible sufferings. Eventually she became blind and paralysed. Died 1914 at 82
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	Saturday 25th March Annunciation of the Lord When the Virgin Mary was told she was going to be the mother of Jesus conceived by the Holy Spirit nine months before the birth of Our Saviour. St Margaret Clitherow Born 1553 in York to Protestant parents. Married Protestant butcher in the Shambles. Became Catholic 3 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 houses for celebration of Mass. Lodged priests, in heavy disguise, in Black Swan Inn where priest catchers stayed. Sent stepson to English College abroad 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 at her trial. Martyred while pregnant with her third child., Crushed by the door of her house being loaded with heavy weights.
9.30 am	Sunday 26th March Fifth Sunday of Lent Thanksgiving Mass for 40th birthday of Prathesh Thomas

PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS WHEN RECORDING NAMES FOR MASS INTENTION

Your prayers are needed for the following people

Diana Stimson	Sue Chandler	Hazel Sale	Joe Heatley	Kay Duggan	
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NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Collection for flowers for Easter to be taken on weekend of 1st and 2nd April

Please be generous so that Shirley Keates can decorate our church beautifully for our Easter celebrations.

Readers needed for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and 4 readers for Easter Vigil

Please add your name to the reader's rota list in the porch or contact Maria Linnell on 023 8032 4549.

Stella Marist Seafarers Easter Egg Appeal from ship visitors Charles Stuart and Gregory Hogan.

As last year, Easter eggs are being collected to give to seafarers who will be confined to their ships over the Easter period. Parishioners were very generous last year so hopefully we can do the same again. Also woollen hats were knitted using the pattern given to us by Stella Marist, or Apostleship of the Sea.

Diocesan Fund Raising Campaign. The target for SVP is £30,000 of which £10,000 will be kept.

Every Thursday after the 10.30am morning Mass until May, one of the team members of the American company running the campaign for the diocese will be available for discussion with parishioners. The company will take 10% of all the money promised. The fund raising programme is for the support of clergy.

Next SVP Social will be on Wednesday 5th April – 1 to 3 pm

Another opportunity to meet others for refreshments and a chat. Come along and bring your friends.

8 hours of adoration followed by Mass every third Friday of the month from 9 pm

The next session will be Friday 21st April from 9 pm to 5 am ending with Mass at about 4 am

Parish collection for last weekend 11th and 12th March

**SPECIAL COLLECTION
CAFOD Family Fast Day**

Envelopes	Gift Aid	Loose plate	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Other money	Envelopes	Loose plate	TOTAL of all money
£74.00	£18.50	£186.65	£300.23	£68.13	£647.51	---	£11	---	£658.51

Gift Aid envelopes are now available in the porch for donations for the next financial year.

Any Diocesan job vacancies will be advertised on the notice board in the porch

Alternatively you can get details from recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk