

# ST. VINCENT DE PAUL R.C. CHURCH

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**Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

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**Isaiah 55: 10-11**

**Romans 8: 18-23**

**Matthew 13: 1-23**

Today's readings are about the transforming power of the word of God when read, preached, and lived. They also warn us not to be disappointed at the absence of immediate results. We must take a positive and optimistic view of our missionary efforts, as we keep on bearing witness to Christ's Gospel. The parable of the Sower in today's Gospel challenges us to listen intently to God's Word, to be open to it, and to allow our lives to be shaped by its power. The parable reminds us that man's reception of God's Word is determined by the condition of his heart. In the first reading, Isaiah consoles the Jewish slaves in Babylon, assuring them that, like rain and snow which water the earth so that seeds may sprout and grow, God's word will accomplish His purpose, in this case by returning the exiles to their homes in peace as God has promised. In the second reading, St. Paul reminds us that just as seeds must fall into the earth and die to produce an abundant crop, the pain and sufferings God permits in our lives work in us for our redemption. Paul wants us to wait for our eternal reward while we continue sowing the word of God diligently and suffering for the Lord, as he did. The Gospel teaches us that the word of the Lord is the seed, and our hearts and minds are the soil. The seed's good spiritual yield in one's life depends on how fully one willingly accepts and responds to the word of the Lord. The yield arising from the positive response will be abundant beyond all imagining. The parable tells us to do our part by preparing fertile soil in our hearts in which the word of God can germinate, grow, and yield 30-, 60, or 100-fold.

Yours, Fr. Tomy

Mass times	Feast Days
<p><b>6pm: Confessions</b>  <b>6.30pm Vigil Mass</b>  <b>God's blessings and protection for our families</b>  <b>Mr Emmmannuell</b></p>	<p><b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> St Swithun</b> Anglo-Saxon born about 800 in Winchester. Joined Benedictine monastery in Winchester. Ordained a priest. Chaplain and counsellor to King Egbert of Wessex based in Winchester. Advisor to his son King Ethelwolf after being his tutor when he was a monk. Bishop of Winchester in 852. Humble, pious and helped the poor. Invited them to banquets instead of nobles. Built many churches and the first stone bridge over the River Itchen at Winchester. Paid visits to all parts of his diocese by foot. Died 2<sup>nd</sup> July 863. Buried at the entrance to the Cathedral at his request. 100 years later his body was moved into a new Cathedral, named after him on 15<sup>th</sup> July 971 and it rained for 40 days. Legend then developed that if it rained on his feast day it would rain for 40 days. Move into huge magnificent new Norman Cathedral in the eleventh century. Large shrine behind high altar for pilgrims was built. Destroyed and robbed in Reformation. Now a new shrine.</p>
<p><b>9.30 am Mass</b></p>	<p><b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time For the happy repose of Dr Mrs Patricia Ifeagivazi and all the souls of the faithful departed</b></p>
<p><b>6.30pm Mass</b></p>	<p><b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Blessed Pavol Gojdic</b> Born 1888 in the mountains of East Slovakia the son of a Greek Catholic priest. Studied theology and ordained a priest in 1911 in Budapest. Assistant priest in his father's parish before becoming a teacher of religion in a secondary boarding school. Appointed assistant parish priest where he did pastoral work. Also worked in the Bishop's Chancery. Achieved rank of Chancellor but decided diocesan administration did not attract him. In 1922 entered Nicholas Monastery and made vows in the Order of St Basil the Great and took the name Pavol. Concentrated on pastoral work. "With God's help, I want to be a father to orphans, a support for the poor, consoler to the afflicted". Made Bishop of Prešov. Built orphanages, founded schools and established new parishes. Made Bishop of Czechoslovakia in 1946. Communists seized power in 1948. Suppressed the Greek Catholic Church. Imprisoned for refusing to join Orthodox Church. Died in prison 1960.</p>
<p><b>10am Mass</b></p>	<p><b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> St Pope Leo IV</b> Born in 790 in Rome. Became a Benedictine monk. Then selected by Pope Gregory IV to serve in Papal Curia. He showed excellent judgement and made Cardinal Priest. When Pope Sergius died he was unanimously elected the new Pope Leo IV without consent of Emperor who was upset at his religious and secular reforms. Outstanding Pope in the manner of his time. Defended Rome against the Saracens by building defences. Repaired churches including St Peter's and St Paul Outside the Walls. He restored St Martin's monastery where he was educated. Anointed a young Alfred who was on pilgrimage to Rome who became King Alfred the Great. Organised naval campaigns. Presided over Synod in Rome concerning ecclesiastical reform. He was always fair, patient and humble with skilful political and diplomatic abilities. Pope Leo was greatly loved by the people for all his work.</p>

<b>SVP Social 1pm to 3pm</b>	<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> St Macrina the Younger</b> 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. 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> .
<b>6.30 pm Mass Thanksgiving Mass for Felicia</b>	
<b>10 am Mass Thanksgiving Mass for Sonnef</b>	<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> St Vulmar</b> Born 7 <sup>th</sup> century near Boulogne, Picardy in France. Married but was separated by force from his wife who had been promised to a nobleman. . Became a lay brother at Benedictine Abbey of Hautmont in Hainault, east of Rennes, France. Employed to look after the cattle and hew wood for the community Distinguished for his spirit of prayer. Made a priest. Hermit near Mount Cassel for some years. Founded Abbey of Samer monastery. Destroyed in French Revolution.
<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>8hrs Adoration 9 pm to Mass at 4 am</b>	<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> St Laurence of Brindisi</b> Born in Brindisi, Italy to pious Christian Venetian merchants. Joined Capuchins in Verona and took the name Brother Laurence. At Padua University studied philosophy and theology. 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. Died in Lisbon on peacemaking trip.
<b>6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Hazel McMahon RIP 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary</b>	<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> St Mary Magdalene</b> 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. 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. She was considered the "Apostle to the apostles".
<b>9.30 am Mass</b>	<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <b>Dr Mrs Patricia Ifeagivazi and all the souls of the faithful departed</b>
<b>PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS WHEN RECORDING NAMES FOR MASS INTENTION</b>	

Your prayers are needed for the following people					
Sue Chandler	Hazel Sale	Joe Heatley			

### NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENT

**Next SVP Social is Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July – 1pm to 3 pm**

There will another opportunity to meet for refreshments and a chat. Please come along and bring your friends. No need to stay for the whole time, a few minutes of two hours, whatever suits you. Look forward to welcoming you. Renee and Pat.

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July: 8 hours of adoration followed by Mass from 9 pm to 5 am**

We are having 8 hours of adoration starting at 9 pm and ending with Mass at about 4 am.

**The final meeting of the Children’s Study Group has taken place.**

Everyone is very grateful for the financial support offered our Parish. Both Joy and Giby have cleaned the Church and given all the tables a deep clean. The SVP Study Centre has also made a donation of £500 which we wish to thank them for and hope to put to good use in the Church. Wishing Joy and Giby our good wishes for their future

**The parish wishes to offer its grateful thanks for an anonymous donation of £500**

**SVP Administrator/Secretary. Renee Sharp is stepping down after many years of unpaid work**

There is a vacancy coming up at the end of August for a volunteer to work in the office at SVP. Hours are negotiable. If you are interested in this varied position, please contact Renee Sharp for further details by email at [svpoffice@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:svpoffice@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or speak to Renee in the Church. Support from Renee will be offered to anyone who has an interest in the post.

**Parish collection for last weekend 8<sup>th</sup> and 9th July**

						SPECIAL COLLECTION			
Parish Envelopes	Gift Aid	Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Other money	Envelopes	Loose plate	TOTAL of all money
£137	£34.25	£54.98	£242.54	£51.98	£520.75	---	---	---	<b>£520.75</b>