

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL R.C. CHURCH

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Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 23rd July 2023

Page 105

Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19

Romans 8: 26-27

Matthew 13: 24-43

Today's readings tell us about a very patient and compassionate God Who is hopeful that the so-called "weeds" among us will be converted. They warn us that we should not be in a hurry to eliminate such elements from the Church or society or the family based on unwarranted and hasty judgment. The first reading from the Book of Wisdom shows us a merciful and patient God, rather than the disciplining and punishing God presented in the book of Genesis. The second reading, taken from Paul's letter to the Romans, reminds us that the Spirit of God constantly empowers us in our prayers and in our weakness. So, we should be patient with ourselves and with others. Finally, in the Gospel *parable of the wheat and the weeds*, Jesus presents a wise and patient God who allows the good and the evil to coexist in the world until the harvest, and blesses the evil ones for the little good they may have done, so that they may come to conversion before their time ends: *"Let the wheat and the weeds [darnel] grow together till the harvest time."* In other words, God is "delaying" the end of the world for repentant sinners, giving them more time, and offering them the graces of strength and good will so that they may get reconciled with Him. God calmly recognizes that there is evil in the world, but He sees that evil is no excuse for the good people not to do good with the power of God at their disposal. Through the parable of the wheat and the weeds in today's Gospel, Jesus calls us to be patient with those who seem to us to fail to meet the high ethical standard expected of a Christian.

Yours, Fr. Tomy

Mass times	Feast Days
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Hazel McMahon RIP 8th anniversary	Saturday 22nd 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. 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".
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 23rd July Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time For the happy repose of Dr Mrs Patricia Ifeagivazi and all the souls of the faithful departed
6.30pm Mass	Monday 24th St Charbel Makhluf 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 at age 70. There was a miraculous improvement in the weather at his funeral.
10am Mass Thanksgiving Mass for Babi's family	Tuesday 25th St James the Great Son of Zebedee and Salome. His father was a fisherman on Sea of Galilee. His mother was disciple of Jesus and possibly sister of the Virgin Mary. Basically 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 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. Shrine of <i>Santiago de Compostela</i> in Spain was developed in honour of St James and became a place of pilgrimage.
6.30 pm Mass Rosakulty RIP	Wednesday 26th St Joachiim 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

10 am Mass Ouseph RIP	Thursday 27th Blessed Titus Brandsma Anno was born in 1881 in the Netherlands province of Friesland one of 6 children. 3 became nuns and 2 priests including Anno. Joined Carmelites and took the name Titus. Ordained in 1905 aged 24. Started a journal of Marian devotion and a Catholic newspaper. Founded Catholic Secondary School. Professor of philosophy at Catholic University of Nijmegen in the Netherlands in 1923. Wonderful sense of humour. Always had time for students. Travelled Europe and USA speaking on Carmelite mysticism and Christian unity. Chaplain to Catholic journalists. In 1935 opposed Hitler in the press and in lectures. Drew up plans to evacuate Dutch Jews to Carmelite missions in Brazil. Strongly opposed Nazis after invasion of Holland in 1940. In 1941 Jewish students forbidden to attend Catholic schools. Fr Titus, as President of Association of Catholic Schools, condemned policy in press and in sermons. Also opposed the policy that Catholic papers must publish Nazis propoganda. Arrested in 1942 and told to retire to a monastery but he refused. Martyred in Dachau concentration camp on 26 th July 1942.
NO MASS	Friday 28th St Samson of Dol Born 485 in South Wales to elderly noble parents. Educated by St Illtyd, abbot of monastery in South Wales. Proved to be academic, virtuous and austere as a monk. Ordained deacon and priest. Moved to another monastery on Caldey Island off south coast of Wales. Gave the last rites to his father who recovered. Both his parents wanted a monastic life. Mother went to a Convent and father and his uncle went with Samson to Caldey Island. Abbot Pyr then fell down a well drunk and died. Samson became abbot and reformed monastic life. Accompanied visiting Irish monks to Ireland. Back in Wales sent his uncle to be superior of monastery in Ireland that had asked for help. Samson retired as abbot and with his father and 2 other monks became hermits. Then made to be abbot of monastery and a bishop. Travelled ensuring orthodox monastic practices in Cornwall, Scilly Islands, Guernsey and finally Normandy as well as founding new monasteries, one at Dol where he stayed. Appointed Bishop of Dol. Attended <i>Council of Paris</i> .
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	Saturday 29th St Martha of Bethany The dominant and active sister compared to Mary of Bethany who was the quiet contemplative sister. Sister of Lazarus. Bethany was a small village 2 miles from Jerusalem so Jesus often visited and stayed with the family. She took the initiative at the death of her brother Lazarus. Life summed up by statement "Martha served".
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 30th July Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time For the happy repose of Dr Mrs Patricia Ifeagivazi and all the souls of the faithful departed
PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS WHEN RECORDING NAMES FOR MASS INTENTION	

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

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENT

SVP Administrator/Secretary. Renee Sharp is stepping down after many years of u 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 or speak to Renee in the Church. Support from Renee will be offered to anyone who has an interest in the post.

Next SVP Social is on Wednesday 2nd August – 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.

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

The next session will be Friday 17th August from 9 pm to 5 am ending with Mass at about 4 am

Open Day for St Anne's on Wednesday 27th September can be booked

St Anne's is an 11-18 state funded Catholic school for girls with a mixed sixth form in the heart of Southampton. Parents with daughters in Years 4, 5 and 6 can visit us on Wednesday 27th September 2023 for our Open Morning (9.00 - 11.00am) and/or our Open Evening (6.00 - 8.00pm). Parents can book free tickets via Eventbrite (see poster in porch). We ask that parents arrive at 9.00am and 10.00am for open morning tours. Open mornings give parents the opportunity to see the school on a normal day and talk to their student guides as they tour the school. Open evenings provide the opportunity to talk to staff and students, as well as hearing talks from the Head teacher, Head girls and Year 7 students.

Parish collection for last weekend 15th and 16th July

							SPECIAL COLLECTION		
Parish Envelopes	Gift Aid	Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Study Group donation and Rent	Envelopes	Loose plate	TOTAL of all money
£89	£22.25	£192.22	£242.54	£51.98	£597.99	£500 £660	---	---	£1,757.99