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Monday: 2.30 - 4.30pm Wednesday: 1.30 - 4.30pm Friday: 2.30 - 4.30pm

Website: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/st-vincent-de-paul/> (To open: Select then Ctrl + left Click)

Thirty- First Sunday in Ordinary

Bamenda Sunday

Sunday 5th November 2023

IMPORTANT NOTICE

NO MASS ON 9th and 10th NOVEMBER: It has been arranged to do the flooring as in the Porch in the back rooms, the Sacristy and the Office, on Thursday 9th and Friday 10th November.

Help is required to clear the areas ready for the new flooring. We need support from Parishioners who may be available on the **morning of 8th November from 9am**. Please come along if you can.

At a later date, help to return items to their rightful place will be needed. This date will be agreed when the flooring has been laid. Please support our Parish to allow the update of the flooring in our Church.

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Malachi 1: 14 to 2: 8-10

1 Thessalonians 2: 7-9, 13

Matthew 23: 1-12

In the first reading, through the prophet Malachi, God judges the priests of Israel and calls them to be more faithful to the covenant. He warns them of dire consequences for those who *“who have strayed from the way, you have caused many to stumble by your teachingprofaning the covenant of our ancestors”*. Respect is demanded for the one creator God.

The second reading is from St Paul’s letter to his newly converted friends the Thessalonians in Greece. He says that he and the other missionaries were kind to you like a mother to her child. We shared not just the gospel, but ourselves. We tried not to be a burden and are very thankful that you received God’s message which *“is still a living power among you”*.

Matthew’s Gospel reflects aspects of the conflict between the followers of Jesus and the scribes and Pharisees who were teachers and interpreters of the Law of Moses and Judaism. It has a warning from Jesus that is just as relevant today as it was in ancient Israel when He criticises people in leadership roles abusing their power and position. He says of the Pharisees *“do what they tell you.....but do not be guided by what they do since they do not practice what they preach”*.

He criticises how they dress extravagantly, with broader phylacteries and longer tassels. *“Phylacteries”* were the small boxes which contained scripture verses that were placed on the forehead and left forearm . *“Tassels”* refer to fringes worn on the corners of a person’s garment to help to remind those who wear them to keep the commandments. He also criticised the Pharisees for demanding the highest positions at banquets, sitting in the front seats in the synagogue and calling themselves Rabbi. Those in leadership roles should not call themselves *“Rabbi”* or *“Master”* but act as servants.

This reflects people today abusing their position of power by bullying or taking advantage of others, especially women. In areas such as Hollywood, our English Parliament, the Metropolitan Police and many others which produced the *“Me Too”* movement to challenge and oppose such behaviour. Jesus warns *“Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted”*. At a normal person’s level we need to avoid arrogance or thinking of ourselves more important than other individuals. Everyone has different abilities, skills and a position in society which is no more or less important than anyone else. It is sad today that we seem to consider and pay those who look after money far more, sometimes a fortune, but people who look after people are considered much less important and are paid much less, sometimes a pittance. Jesus tells us *“you are all brothers”*, all equal, and only have one Master, one Teacher, the Christ. Everyone should *“Walk the Talk”*, leaders should act as they preach and not be hypocrites like many of the Pharisees. We must all act as servants to help and support all we meet, especially the weak and vulnerable. Malcolm.

| Mass times | Feast Days |
|---|---|
| 6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Thanksgiving Eve & Steve Parkhurst on their 50th wedding anniversary | Saturday 4th St Charles Borromeo Born a noble in 1538 in Italy. Charles was not handsome with a speech impediment. Gained Doctorate in Canon and Civil Law. Uncle was Pope Pius IV who made him a Cardinal and member of Roman Curia aged 21. Lived an austere life style. Opened the last session of Council of Trent. Reformer of Vatican. Archbishop of Milan. Stopped corruption and selling of indulgences in his diocese. Reformed monasteries and clergy practice. Leading figure in Counter Reformation. Founder of seminaries & other establishments to improve training of priests. Founder of lay organisation to help in parishes. First Sunday Schools. Set up soup kitchens and hospitals during plague. Renowned for his charity. Cared for English Catholics fleeing persecution. |
| 9.30 am Mass | Sunday 5th November 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time Bamenda Sunday |
| 6.30pm Mass | Monday 6th St Illtyd the Knight Born in 5 th century in a Welsh community in France. Popular Welsh saint who initially had a military career as a knight with his cousin King Arthur and was married. Moved to Wales with his wife. Known as Illtyd the Knight. Deserted his wife and his military career to become a monk. Developed a new method of ploughing and reclaiming land from the sea. Founded a school and monastery believed to be Britain’s earliest centre of learning and founded monastery on Caldey Island off the south coast of Wales. Organised corn ships to his birth place in Brittany during a famine. Many churches names after him including on Caldey. |

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| 10 am Mass Thanksgiving Mass for Albrit Jobin | Tuesday 7st . St Willibrord of Utrecht Born in 658 in Northumbria. Anglo-Saxon educated in Ripon and Ireland. Went as missionary to Netherlands to convert pagans, "Apostle to the Frisians". First Bishop of Utrecht. Founded a monastery in Luxembourg.. Established a prestigious library Invited monks from Ireland. Then expanded missionary work to Denmark. Flouted the pagan customs to demonstrate power of Christianity. Pagan king conquered Frisia. Destroyed churches. Killed missionaries in 716. Built pagan temples. Willibrord fled. Frankish King Charles Martel then retook Frisia in 719. Willibrord returned. St Boniface later joined him and led mission to Germany | | | | |
| 6.30 pm Mass Holy Souls in Purgatory | Wednesday 8th St Elizabeth of the Trinity Born in 1880 at a military base in France. Her father Captain Joseph Catez died when she was 7. Her mother Marie moved her and her sister to Dijon. She became an accomplished pianist and won prizes. Mother hoped her skill would support the family. But Elizabeth wanted to be a Carmelite nun. Mother tried to dissuade her and consider marriage with no success. Aged 21 Elizabeth joined the nearby Dijon Carmel. Developed a strong devotion to the Trinity. A mystic who said her heaven on earth was in God. Suffered from Addison's wasting disease but accepted it as a theology of suffering. Died 9 th November 1906 aged only 26 | | | | |
| NO MASS | Thursday 9th Dedication of St John Lateran Archbasilica in Rome Oldest and highest ranking of the four Papal Major Basilicas in Rome. It is the official seat of the Pope. | | | | |
| NO MASS | Friday 10th St Pope Leo the Great Aristocrat born in Rome about 400. Advisor to popes at an early age. Gifted in reconciling disputing Christians. Was respected for his piety, intelligence and persuasive nature. Elected Pope Leo on death of Pope Sixtus III in 440. Great administrator. Opposed heresies. First pope to be called "Great". Met Attila the Hun and persuaded him to turn back from his invasion of Italy in 452. Great theologian. Issued the "Tome of Leo". Keen on pastoral care of people and charitable work. Started parishes. Called 4 th Ecumenical Council of Chalcedon. One of the greatest popes and theologians in the history of the Church. Died on 10 th November 461. | | | | |
| 6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Eve and Steve | Saturday 11th November St Martin of Tours Born in 316 in Hungary to pagan parents. Followed his father's profession. Served in the Roman Cavalry. He was drawn to Christianity. Gave half his cloak to a beggar. Saw Christ in a dream wearing it. Put in prison when he tried to leave the army. Released and became a disciple of St Hilary of Poitiers in France as a monk and hermit. Proclaimed Bishop of Tours by the people. He founded monastic communities, a seminary for training priests and travelled all over his diocese on a donkey. Destroyed pagan temples and shrines. Replaced them with churches. Known as "Hammer of the Pagans". Became ill in a remote part of his diocese and died on 8 th November 297 aged 80. Buried in Tours on 11 th his feast day. | | | | |
| 9.30 am Mass | Sunday 12th November 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time | | | | |
| 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 | Shelagh Moon | | |

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENT

This Sunday 5th November is Bamenda Sunday. There is a second collection at the weekend for Bamenda. For 49 years Portsmouth Diocese has been linked to the Archdiocese of Bamenda and we enjoy the ministry of five of their priests in our diocese. Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Bamenda and for the restoration of peace and justice in the region. Those in Bamenda are truly "our sisters and brothers in Christ" so please be generous.



St Vincent de Paul parish present to Fr Tomy

Fr Tomy with his new Alb to go with the cheque of £680 given by the Parish as his leaving gifts. Father is settling in well to his new Parish and has just returned from a visit to India

Message from Fr Tomy: My love and thanks to all parishioners who supported me with prayers and big amount of money as token of their love especially the expensive cassock. Here I am fine as people are very good like at St Vincent de Paul. Have a blessed day ☺

New Sacristan needed at St Vincent de Paul to replace the long serving Philomena

We are looking for a new Sacristan. This is a voluntary position. It could be a shared role with more than one person involved. A poster in the Porch outlining the duties. If you have any interest please speak to our current Sacristan, Philomena, who would like to step down after a long time serving our priests and our church.

New administrator Margaretta Livingstone will be away from Thursday 9th to Wednesday 29th November

Next SVP Social will be on Wednesday 15th November – 1pm to 3 pm

.All welcome" to meet for refreshments and a chat. Bring a friend. Stay for 2 hours or 10 minutes whatever suits.

8 hours of adoration followed by Mass every third Friday of the month from 9pm. Next Friday 17th November

Parish collection for last weekend 28th and 29th October

| 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 |
|------------------|----------|------------------|--------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|--------------------|
| £104 | £26.00 | £116.86 | £242.54 | £51.98 | £541.38 | --- | --- | --- | £541.38 |