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Away from 9th to 29th November 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)

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Sunday 26th November 2023

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Ezekiel 34: 11-12, 15-17

1 Corinthians 15: 20-26, 28

Matthew 25: 31-46

This weekend is the last of the liturgical year and celebrates the Kingship of Jesus Christ before we enter Advent next weekend. The readings give very different pictures of God and Jesus. In the first reading and the Psalm the image of God is one of a shepherd who cares for his sheep, looks for the lost sheep, heals the wounded and makes the weak strong. This picture is one well understood by the Jews of the time where sheep would graze on the arid hills of Palestine wandering far in the search of the best grass. Sheep from different shepherds would be mixed up on the same hillside so shepherds would have to go in search of their own sheep, some who may have been injured or become weak. This is the concept of Christ the King, emphasising qualities of compassionate leadership and care, the qualities of a shepherd.

In contrast, in the second reading, St Paul writes to the Corinthians in Greece with a picture of God who is tough judge rather than a kind master. Christ has risen, so initiating resurrection for everyone, *"all men will be brought to life in Christ"*. But before handing over the kingdom to God he must be a king who needs to *put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed* then everything will be subjected to God. This is a God who emphasises his power, sovereignty and authority but is offering a new life in Christ to those who deserve it they live and act in the right way.

The Gospel from Matthew, that we have been following since Easter, ends appropriately with Jesus telling his disciples about the final judgement of the Nations where people will be separated like sheep and goats depending on how they served him. We have the tough judge again where some people will inherit eternal life and others will face eternal punishment. The really important message from Jesus is the criteria that are used for making the judgement. It is whether they have recognised Christ in people who are in need; feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming strangers, clothing the naked, looking after the sick and visiting prisoners. A very strong message of Catholic Social Teaching, so relevant today with our treatment of the weak and vulnerable in whom we should recognise Christ. Malcolm

Mass times	Feast Days
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	Saturday 25th St Catherine of Alexandria (Catherine Wheel) Born about 287 Alexandria, Egypt. Intelligent and beautiful daughter of governor of Alexandria. Was a convert who challenged the pagan Roman Emperor Maxentius and converted some of his best pagan philosophers and his wife. Maxentius was furious and executed the converts. Tried to kill Catherine tied to a wheel with blazing torches. Failed as the ropes broke and the wheel fell apart. Then martyred by the sword.
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 26th November Our Lord Jesus Christ the King Jean Sinpore RIP
6.30pm Mass	Monday 27th St James Intercisus Born Persia about 390. Christian who renounced his faith as a military officer to gain privilege from the king. When king died his family put pressure on him resume his Christianity which he did. Admitted he was a Christian to the new king and sentenced to death. He died as a martyr being slowly cut into 28 pieces and finally beheaded in about 421.
10 am Mass Thanksgiving Mass for Mr and Mrs Peter	Tuesday 28th St Catherine Laboure Born 1806 in France. Her father was a well educated and fairly rich farmer. Her mother died when she was 9 years old and she went to live with her aunt. Catherine kissed a statue of the Virgin Mother and said "Now you will be my mother". In her teens she worked as a waitress in her uncle's café in Paris. She was very devout and had a dream where a sick priest said "it is good to look after the sick". Later in a hospice run by the <i>Daughters of Charity</i> she saw a picture of St Vincent de Paul, their founder, and recognised him as the priest in her dream. She joined the Order in 1830 aged 24. She had a vision of the heart of St Vincent de Paul above his surplice. She prayed to him that she would have a vision of the Virgin Mary, her new mother. She then had visions of Our Lady who relayed the request for people to wear the famous <i>Miraculous Medal of Our Lady of Graces</i> . Catherine spent 40 years caring for the aged and infirm and promoting the devotion. She died in 1876 aged 70. Her body is now encased in glass in the <i>Chapel of the Apparition</i> in Paris. Canonised in 1947 by Pope Pius XII. Medal not so popular now.
6.30 pm Mass	Wednesday 29th St Cuthbert Mayne. Born 1543 in Devon. Ordained a priest in the Church of England. Attended Oxford University and met Edmund Campion who was still a Protestant and others who were interested in Catholicism. Converted and escaped arrest and went to study in France in 1573. Ordained a priest at English College in Douai. Returned as part of the English mission to Cornwall in 1576. Posed as a steward to rich Catholic landowner and ministered to the recusant Catholics. Eventually arrested in 1577 and executed at Launceston in Cornwall. First priest trained in English College at Douai in France and martyred in England.

10 am Mass	Thursday 30th St Andrew the Apostle With his brother Simon Peter, was one of the 12 apostles. Tough fisherman who repaired boats and sold fish. A disciple of John the Baptist. First apostle of Jesus and encouraging his brother Peter to join them. Family house in Capharnaum where Jesus often stayed. He was close to Jesus and told him about the boy with the loaves and fishes before the miracle feeding. One of the four who went with Jesus to Mount of Olives. Travelled widely in his preaching from Iran through to the Black Sea to Greece via Constantinople. Martyred in Patras, Greece. Crucified on X shaped "saltire" cross as he felt he was not worthy to die like the death of Jesus. St Andrew's Cross, the white cross of Scotland, is part of the Union Jack.				
NO MASS	Friday 1st December St Edmund Campion. Born 1540 in London, son of a bookseller. Brought up a Catholic. Went to Oxford University and became Anglican deacon. Returned to Catholicism. Went to Ireland and helped establish University of Dublin. Then to the English College at Douai in France to study for priesthood. Ordained in 1578. With Fr Robert Parsons, the first two Jesuit priests sent on English mission. Arrived in London in the guise of a jewel merchant in 1580. He wrote the <i>Campion's Brag</i> to justify his return to England. Had to leave London for safety. Then ministered in Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Lancashire Eventually arrested, faced trial, found guilty and martyred at Tyburn with two other priests on 1 st December 1581.				
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	Saturday 2nd St Bibiana Patron saint of hangover cures. Roman virgin and the daughter of a Christian Roman Knight who was sent into exile after being tortured for his Christian beliefs. Bibiana's mother was beheaded and the two sisters were left in poverty. Her sister died when they were arrested. She refused to renounce her faith. Martyred in 360. Herbs grew from her grave with medicinal properties for hangover relief. Now the site of St Bibiana Basilica in Rome.				
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 3rd December		First Sunday of Advent		
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

Appeal for readers, welcomers, Eucharistic ministers, children's Liturgists, altar servers and choir members
The parish needs volunteers for the above important roles. Please sign up on the sheet in the porch.

Christmas Collection of sweets for Southampton Sunday Lunch Project by Sunday 10th December
Collection of wrapped sweets such as Roses, Celebration and Quality Street needed. Please place your donations in box in the porch by Sunday 10th December. Many thanks in anticipation, Shelagh Moon. Tel: 023 8073 6275

Children's Disco and Party on Sunday 3rd December has been cancelled due to lack of response.

From Liz Challand. Another way to help the Homeless through the Southampton Sunday Lunch Project
I am trying, as in previous years, to provide 100-120 bags to be distributed by the Project at their Christmas meal service on Sunday 17th December. A recommended bag will be no more than £10 in value and will contain some, if not all, from this list: **NOTHING ALCOHOLIC.** Gloves and hat, savoury and sweet biscuits, chocolate, baby wipes, basic toiletries like toothpaste and toothbrush, deodorant and soap, socks and a Christmas card. All in a bag for life. As many people are facing financial hardships themselves. All pledges to lizchalland@btinternet.com, by Thursday 30th November and I will send you payment details. The Southampton Sunday Lunch Project, who have just won the King's Award for Voluntary Service will also operate on Christmas Day and are looking for additional volunteers to man their kitchens. **I really welcome you sharing this message with anyone who may be interested to help this year. it's an excellent team building/networking project and will help us get to our total of £1100.**

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.

Next SVP Social is next Wednesday 6th December – 1pm to 3 pm
There will another opportunity to meet for refreshments and a chat. Please come along and bring your friends

Parish collection for last weekend 18th and 19th November

Parish Envelopes	Gift Aid	Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Other money Use of church	Envelopes	Loose plate	TOTAL of all money
£139	£34.75	£103.50	£242.54	£51.98	£571.77	---	---	---	£571.77