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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)

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday 10th December 2023

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Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

2 Peter 3: 8-14

Mark 1: 1-8

.This weekend we continue with our preparation to celebrate Christmas when we commemorate the first coming of Christ at the Incarnation some 2,000 years ago. In the first reading the prophet Isaiah takes us back to exile in Israel's history when they were taken into captivity by the Babylonians. He relates how God promises comfort and forgiveness to Jerusalem, declaring an end to her trials and exiles. A path must be made for the coming of the Lord's glory, as he comes with power and tenderness, like a shepherd caring for his sheep.

In the Psalm we are asked to listen for God's words, for He promises peace to His people and salvation to the reverent in our land, kindness and truth, justice and peace, shall unite under His blessings.

Peter in the second reading emphasises how God's time is completely different to ours. He is patient, wanting nobody to be lost, desiring all to repent, "*everybody to be brought to change their ways*". The Day of the Lord will be violent and bring transformation, urging us to live in holiness, awaiting a new righteous world.

Mark's Gospel does not include the Nativity of Jesus, but starts with John the Baptist as a messenger calling for repentance and baptism in the River Jordan to wipe away sin. He emerges from the wilderness of the desert foretelling the coming of one much greater than himself, someone more powerful, a person who he is unworthy even to untie His sandals. John is preparing the way for Jesus who will baptise not with just water from the River Jordan, but with the Holy Spirit. What follows this passage in Mark's Gospel is the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist, which begins the public ministry of Jesus. John has prepared the people to encounter the living God who would walk among them preaching and healing. Today we must prepare to encounter Jesus and open our hearts to receive Him into our lives. Malcolm.

Mass times	Feast Days
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	Saturday 9th St John Diego Cuahatlatoatzin Aztec Indian born 1474 Mexico. Converted by conquistadors and Franciscan missionaries from Spain. Had visions of Virgin Mary on Tepeyac Hill on his way to morning Mass requesting a shrine to be built to her there. As a proof of the vision flowers bloomed in the middle of winter. Mary wrapped the flowers in his cloak and told him to take them to Bishop Juan. When the cloak was unwrapped there was an imprint of the Virgin Mary on the cloak. John's sick uncle was cured with the famous words, "Am I not here? I who am your Mother?" Uncle had a vision of Mary as well. Shrine of " <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> " was built. John died in 1548 aged 74 and was buried in the first chapel built at the shrine. The shrine then attracted a great number of pilgrims. The cloak preserved from 1531 to today is in the Basilica of Guadalupe.
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 10th December Second Sunday of Advent Maria Duggan RIP 41st Anniversary this day (mother of Kay)
6.30pm Mass	Monday 11th St Pope Damascus. Born of Spanish parents in Rome 305. Ordained to serve with his father who was also was a priest. Religious conflicts between orthodox Nicene Christians and heretical Arians. Pope banished by Emperor and puppet Arian pope put in place. The conflicts continued. When both popes and Emperor died Damascus was elected pope. Controversial start to his papacy with massacre of some Arians. His theologically orthodox strongly opposed the heresy of Arianism. Tried to establish the supremacy of Rome. Died on 11 th December 384 aged 80
10 am Mass	Tuesday 12th St Jane Frances de Chantal Born 1572 in France. Father was President of Parliament of Burgandy. Leader of royalist party. Mother died when she was 18 months old. Father then brought her up to be a devout Christian. Developed into a refined, cheerful and beautiful woman. Married a nobleman, lived in a castle. 4 out of 7 children survived. Brought up her children well. She restored order in the castle and daily Mass. Brought back prosperity to the family. Engaged in many charitable works. Husband killed in shooting accident. Depressed she took a vow of chastity. Problems with father-in-law. Visiting her father, heard sermon from Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, who became her spiritual advisor. Wanted to be a nun. Left son with brother, Archbishop of Bourges; eldest daughter had married so took other two daughters with her and founded <i>Congregation of the Visitation</i> . Order of nuns accepted widows and those who had been rejected due to their health or age by other Orders. Unusual in work and ministry outside Convent. Other clergy objected so became enclosed Order. Had a special devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. When Francis de Sales died in 1622 the Order had 13 houses of nuns. Vincent de Paul became her new spiritual advisor. She attracted large crowds when she travelled around starting new Convents. 86 houses of nuns when she died on 13 th December 1641 aged 69.

6.30 pm Mass	Wednesday 13th St Lucy of Syracuse Born 283 in Syracuse in Sicily to rich, noble Christian parents. Her father died when she was 5 years old. Lucy dedicated her virginity to God unknown to her mother who arranged a marriage with a rich noble pagan young man. When Lucy convinced her mother to give her dowry and wealth to the poor he was furious. He denounced her to the Governor who demanded she offered pagan worship. When she refused he tried to punish her but was unable to harm her. He had her eyes gouged out and killed by the sword as a martyr. St Lucy became one of the most famous and venerated virgin martyrs of the early Church.				
10 am Mass	Thursday 14th St John of the Cross. Born 1542 near Madrid. Spanish Carmelite priest. Famous poet and writer. With St Teresa of Avila reformed Carmelite Order. Founded many "Discalced Carmelites" monasteries. Imprisoned. Doctor of the Church. Had the vision of Christ on the Cross from above which inspired Salvador Dali's famous work. Died on 14 th December 1591.				
NO MASS 8 hours of Adoration from 9pm ending with Mass at 4am	Friday 15th December St Mary Crucifixa di Ross Italian born 1813. Worked in her father's factory and cared for the female workers. Social worker. Founded <i>Handmaids of Charity</i> to care for the poor, those ill in hospital and soldiers during the war even going on the battlefield. In the middle of the war, invading troops were intent on murder and plunder. When they tried to enter the hospital they were met by Mary holding a large crucifix and the nuns were holding candles. Full of shame the soldiers departed. Mary died at the hospital in Brescia on 15 th December 1855 aged 42.				
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Pat & John Moon Deceased members of the Conway & Moon families	Saturday 16th St Adelaide of Italy Born 931 at Orbe Castle, daughter of the King of Burgandy, in what is now Switzerland. Married King Lothair II of Italy and had a daughter. Her husband was poisoned and the new king tried to marry her to his son. Adelaide fled. She was saved by King Otto the Great of Germany and they had 5 children. Otto made Holy Roman Emperor by Pope John XII. He also crowned Adelaide as the Holy Roman Empress due to her charity work. Emperor Otto restored new Pope John XIII after Roman rioters deposed him. Her son succeeded as Holy Roman Emperor Otto II but was still a child so Adelaide acted as regent and exerted a powerful influence in the royal court. She was devoted to the service of the Church and restoring peace in areas of conflict. Gave alms and food to the poor. Founded a convent to which she retired in old age. On a journey to support her nephew King Rudolf III of Burgandy she died on 16 th December 999.				
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 17th December Second Sunday in 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

Christmas Flowers: We are very fortunate at SVP to have Shirley Keates as a parishioner because she lovingly arranges and attends to the flowers around the altar all through the year. Next weekend, 16th and 17th December, there will be a special second collection towards the flowers for Christmas.

Friday 18th December: 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.

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

Liz Challand's appeal for 100 to 120 bags to distribute to the Homeless through Sunday Lunch Project
Liz would like to send her thanks to all those who responded to this appeal which amounted to £970 and will provide 140 bags for the homeless this Christmas. This is a great result that will make a real difference for many people.

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.

Parish collection for last weekend 2nd and 3rd December

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
£69	£17.25	£125.55	£242.54	£51.98	£506.32	---	---	---	£506.32