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

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 28th January 2024

URGENT: See message in Notices concerning completing Gift Aid declaration forms

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Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

1 Corinthians 7: 12-35

Mark 1: 21-28

The readings this weekend encourages us to listen attentively to Christ. He is our teacher and we need to focus on the recognition and acceptance of His divine authority, the call to obedient and joyful worship and the importance of discerning true prophetic voices. We are also reminded of the consequences of speaking falsely in the Lord's name.

In the first reading Moses declares God's promise to raise a prophet like him from among the people. This text was first seen as promising there would be prophets for each generation. After the return from Babylonian exile around 538 BC, the Jewish priests began to interpret this text of Deuteronomy as referring to one individual, a Messiah. God knew that false prophets would arise. How do we identify false prophets? Matthew gives us a clue: "*Beware of false prophets. You will know them by their fruits.*" (7:15-20) This calls for wisdom, discernment and paying attention to leaders in the Church.

In the second reading Paul recognises the warning from the Lord of false prophets and the consequences of saying: "*Thus says the Lord*". He wisely emphasises his reply to the Corinthians in Greece in his opinion and not a message from God. First century Corinth was a city of self-made people, traders, entrepreneurs, people who had made their living off their own backs. At that time unmarried or childless men and women were not esteemed as the duty of procreation was considered important. If a couple had no children the husband was encouraged to divorce his wife to obtain offspring from another woman. Paul recognises that marriage is good and holy but that there is a risk that the couple may be absorbed by the cares of the world. He praises the celibate life and its benefits and rejects the mentality of the time

In Mark's Gospel Jesus teaches in Capenaum's Synagogue and the listeners are awed at the authority of his words. His authority was further displayed when He removed an unclean spirit from a possessed man so easily. The congregation was amazed and quickly elevated Jesus' reputation. Are we listening and living out the messages from Jesus? Malcolm.

Mass times	Feast Days
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Angela Churchill RIP 8th anniversary on 28th January	Saturday 27th St Angela Merici Born 1474 in Italy, daughter of a farmer near Lake Garda. 4 of 5 siblings died young. She and elder sister orphaned when Angela was 10 years old and then brought up by her uncle. Then her sister died and she had a vision in which she was asked to form a "Company of Virgins". In Brescia, east of Milan, she gathered a group of young unmarried women to offer religious support to girls who were not rich, unmarried, whose only future was menial jobs or prostitution. From her childhood Angela had a devotion to St Ursula, patroness of medieval universities. She founded the <i>Company of St Ursula</i> which became the <i>Congregation of the Ursulines</i> a teaching Order of young girls. Her goal was to elevate, through Christian education, the family life of future wives and mothers. The <i>Ursulines</i> opened orphanages and schools. Angela had many supporters but also made enemies among the upper classes as she lured their marriageable daughters away from prestigious alliances to join the <i>Ursulines</i> . The Ursulines becoming the largest teaching Order in the Church and active worldwide. Died in Brescia on 27 th January 1540 aged 65..
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 28th January Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time 13th Wedding Anniversary of Prathesh and Soumya
First Communion Training 4.45 to 5.45 pm 6.30 pm Mass	Monday 29th St Gildas the Wise. Born in Scotland in about 500, son of King Caunus. Was educated in Wales. Monk best known for his scathing religious polemic <i>De Excidio et Conquestu Britanniae</i> , telling the history of post Roman Britain before and during the coming of the Anglo-Saxons. It vividly recorded the failure of British leaders and clerics. Revived the Church in Ireland. His brother King Caunus led raids from Scotland on England and was killed in battle by King Arthur. Peacemaker between King Arthur and King Melvas. Died about 570. Buried in Glastonbury Abbey in St Mary's Church. His shrine became a centre of pilgrimage.
10 am Mass	Tuesday 30th St Bathild Anglo-Saxon born about 626 in England, a relative King Ricberht, last pagan king of East Anglia. Beautiful, intelligent, modest and attentive to the needs of others. As a young girl abducted by pirates who sold her into slavery in France to the person in charge of the household of the palace of the Christian King Clovis II of Neustria. Bathild did not struggle against her circumstances but learned to do the chores required remaining polite and gentle. Eventually she impressed King Clovis who married her in 649. Bathild remained humble and modest. Famous for her charity to the poor and generous donations to churches, abbeys and monasteries. When the king died in 658 her eldest son of three children became the king. Queen Bathild acted as regent. Due to her experience she suppressed the slave trade and worked to release many slaves. She opened a seminary for the training of clergy and the Convent Abbey of Chelles near Paris for nuns. Ultimately she abandoned her royal privileges and entered the convent with humility and in strict obedience to her superiors. Devoted herself to caring for the sick and poor. Died 30 th January 680

<p>6.30 pm Mass Rosamma Varghese RIP 15th anniversary</p>	<p>Wednesday 31st St John Bosco Born in 1815 in Italy to a peasant farmer. Father died when he was two years old. From an early age he worked as a shepherd. He taught Catechism to his fellow students at the village school and encouraged them to attend church. To keep their attention he did a variety of acrobatic and conjuring tricks. When he said he wanted to be a priest his mother was delighted. Ordained in 1841 aged 26. His ministry included visiting prisons in which he found many young boys. He decided he needed to prevent these boys ending up in prison. He started a recreation centre in a poor area of Turin which he called the <i>Festive Oratory</i> and collected boys off the streets. He had a programme on Sundays of Mass, games, outings and some vocational education. During the week he tried to find work for the boys. He ensured employers treated their apprentices well with proper agreements in which he was involved. Don Bosco started evening classes and two workshops for shoemaking and tailoring. He started providing accommodation for the boys with his mother who they called "Mamma Margherita". He then provided technical training with workshops for book-binding and joinery, a printing press and an iron foundry. Also grammar classes and Latin classes for those who might have a religious vocation. In 1854 in Turin during a cholera epidemic, in which thousands died, Don Bosco formed his boys into teams to carry the sick to hospital and the dead to mortuaries. No boy died, and he acquired a reputation as a miracle worker. In 1871 he started the <i>Daughters of Our Lady Help of Christians</i> with nuns to work with poor girls. He also founded the <i>Salesian Co-operators</i> who were mainly lay people who worked with young people. Worn out from all his work he died on 31st January 1888..</p>				
<p>10 am Mass Thanksgiving Mass for birthday of Joash Siby</p>	<p>Thursday 1st February . St Brigid of Kildare Brigid was born into slavery in Ireland. Her mother was a Christian slave. A Christian but educated by Druids. Her father was the Chieftain who owned her slave mother. Brigid was generous. Gave away her parents possessions to the poor. Became a nun and founded a monastery at Kildare to help the poor and sick. Abbess of a double monastery . Created holy wells for Irish baptisms. Weaved the "<i>St Brigid Cross</i>" to help convert a pagan. Founded school of art to create illuminated manuscripts including <i>The Book of Kildare</i>, famous and greatly valued until it was lost in the Reformation. Abbess Brigid died on 1st February 525 aged 75. Buried in Down Cathedral with St Patrick and St Columba.</p>				
<p>NO MASS</p>	<p>Friday 2nd Presentation of the Lord Simeon and Anna had divine assurance that they would see the Messiah before they died. Joseph and Mary took Jesus, their first born, to the Temple in Jerusalem according to Jewish Law, forty days after his birth, for the ceremony of purification. Simeon realised this baby was the long awaited Messiah and offered beautiful prayers of thanksgiving and prophecy of things to come. <i>This child is destined for the falling and rising of many</i></p>				
<p>6.30pm Vigil Mass Mavery Augusthy Ouseph RIP</p>	<p>Saturday 3rd St Blaise of Sebaste Born in 3rd century in what is now Turkey. Respected physician who was elected bishop by acclamation. Bishop of Sebaste. Popular for physical and spiritual healing. Became a hermit in hiding after Christian persecution. Befriended birds and wild animals. Cured a young boy with fish bone stuck in his throat. "Blessing of the throats" is now a ceremony of the Church on 3rd February.</p>				
<p>9.30 am Mass</p>	<p>Sunday 4th February Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time Jean Sinpore RIP</p>				
<p>PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS WHEN RECORDING NAMES FOR MASS INTENTION</p>					
<p>Your prayers are needed for the following people</p>					
<p>Sue Chandler</p>	<p>Hazel Sale</p>	<p>Joe Heatley</p>	<p>Roy Perry</p>	<p>Trevor Delves</p>	

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENT

Repository will be open next weekend after Mass on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th February

Available are many cards for various occasions including Mass cards and a huge variety of gifts including rosaries.

Next SVP Social is on Wednesday 7th February – 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. Renee and Pat.

URGENT: For those gift aiding donations to the parish it is necessary to complete a new declaration form

As the diocese has changed its name from Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees (PRCDTR) to the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, it is now necessary for all parishioners who gift aid their donations to complete a new declaration form. Margaretta has emailed out a copy of the form and there is a number of copies in the porch.

Please print off a copy of the email or use a copy in the porch and, using CAPITAL LETTERS, complete the form manually. Then either place the completed form in the box in the porch or scan it and send it by email to Margaretta. It is important this is done as soon as possible so that the parish can continue to obtain gift aid from your donations.

Roy Perry, husband of Tina Perry, needs our prayers

Roy collapsed and in the fall has fractured his neck quite badly. Together with his age and other medical problems, Roy is not very well. It might take 12 weeks to heal so also please remember Tina who has been involved in the parish of St Vincent de Paul and the diocese in various roles for many years.

All invited to Lenten Retreat for St Vincent de Paul on Saturday 16th March from 10 am to 4 pm

The day will include talks, Mass, the Rosary and Adoration. Hot drinks and biscuits will be served during breaks. Participants should bring a packed lunch. A Tesco Express is opposite the church if you would like to use it. Free parking is available. Donations of £10 per person should be made before the event to secure your place. To book your place and for payment details please contact svpoffice@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish collection for last weekend 20th and 21st January

							Portsmouth Cathedral		
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
£97	£24.25	£140.05	£242.54	£51.98	£555.82	----	£107 GA £26.75	£75.40	£764.97