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**Link for vacancies throughout the Diocese** <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs> **Pauline Clarke HR**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

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**2 Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23**

**Ephesians 2: 4-10**

**John 3: 14-21**

This Sunday is *Laetare Sunday* or *Rejoice Sunday*. The theme of the readings this weekend is to rejoice that our salvation is a free gift from a merciful God given to us sinners through Jesus Christ, His Son. The readings stress God's mercy and compassion and remind us of the great love, kindness and grace extended to us in Christ, The first reading is from the second book of Chronicles that describes the history of the Israelites from the reign of Israel's first king Saul in 1030 BC to the end of their exile in Babylon. The great King David made a covenant with God and his son Solomon built the Temple in Jerusalem. It was not long after that things went awry; *people added infidelity to infidelity, copied shameless practices and defiled the Temple*. They mocked the *messengers of God, despised their words and laughed at the prophets*. So God lost patience and no longer protected them and King Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the city of Jerusalem including the city walls and Solomon's Temple in 587 BC. The Israelites were taken into exile in Babylon. However, having reformed their ways, God showed mercy and compassion and inspired King Cyrus to release them from captivity in his first year as king in 539 BC and he supported the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem started in 537 BC. St Paul's letter to the Ephesians in Greece and John's Gospel reminds us to focus on the mystery of salvation as a gift to sinners. Paul teaches that, although we don't deserve anything from God on our own merits, God chose to love, save and give life to us. In John we have the famous text *God loved the world so much that he gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes may not be lost but may have eternal life*. This is the reason we should "rejoice" this weekend. Malcolm.

Mass times		Feast Days	
<b>6pm: Confessions</b> <b>6.30pm Vigil Mass</b> <b>Hilary Sendall</b> <b>RIP</b>	<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> St Francis of Rome</b> Born 1384 in Rome to wealthy parents. Wanted to be a nun. Arranged marriage at age 13 to noble soldier and socialite. Initially unhappy but settled down to happy marriage with 3 children. Did works of charity with her sister-in-law Vannozza, her spiritual friend. Flood in Rome brought disease and famine. Frances organised help. Great Schism between pope and 2 antipopes. Civil war in Rome. Children of Frances threatened. Husband was wounded. Home destroyed. Turned her palace into hospital. Plague in Rome killed her son. Daughter and husband died. Founded Oblates of Mary for lay women following the Rule of St Benedict.		
<b>9.30 am Mass</b>	<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>Thelma Fernandes RIP</b>
<b>6.30 pm Mass</b>	<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> St Maxmilian of Tebessa.</b> Born about 274 in Algeria. His father was a former soldier in Roman army. Recruiting for the Roman army when he was 21 years old and a Christian. Tall and strong and ideal for the army. Refused to swear allegiance to the Emperor and fight for Rome or take part in ceremonies to pagan gods. Conscience objector. Martyred as soldier of Christ		
<b>10 am Mass</b>	<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> St Luigi Orione</b> Born in 1872 in Italy to poor parents. Favourite student of Don Bosco. Inspired by his education methods. In Turin seminary while training for priesthood, opened a school for poor boys. Ordained in 1895. Priests, lay brothers and laity helped in his projects of schools, vocational education, orphanages and nursing homes. Don Orione founded a variety of Religious Orders. Orphans cared for after earthquakes. One of the first to use radio to evangelise. Printing press to produce books and pamphlets. Worked in Europe and South America. Devoted to Our Lady and built shrines to her. Died 12 <sup>th</sup> March 1940 surrounded by Orionine Order priests		
<b>6.30 pm Mass</b>	<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Blessed Agnellus of Pisa</b> Born 1195 in Pisa, Italy. Franciscan recruited by Francis of Assisi Founded friary at University of Paris. Present at <i>Chapter of Mats</i> with Francis and 5,000 priests and friars. Sent with 7 others by Francis to England to establish the first Franciscan monasteries. First friaries in Canterbury, London and Oxford based on holy poverty. Founded theology school at Oxford University that had famous scholars. Friend of King Henry III. Influential in affairs of State as humble, prudent advisor and peace negotiator. Averted English civil war. 43 friaries in England at his death in 1236		
<b>10 am Mass</b>	<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> St Leobinua of Chartres</b> Born in France at the end of the 5 <sup>th</sup> century to peasant farmers. As a child he worked in the fields but was full of intellectual curiosity. Keen to learn he went to the local monastery. Carried out menial tasks all day and studied at night. Gained considerable religious knowledge. Spent time as a hermit with St Avitus. Joined monastery at Lyons Abbey. Five years later monastery was raided. Leobinus was tortured to disclose where the monastery treasurers were kept. Refused tell them and left for dead. Recovered and rejoined St Avitus at La Perche. Appointed Abbot of Brou and ordained a priest although he preferred the life of a monk. Then made the Bishop of Chartres. Carried out many reforms and was involved in 5 <sup>th</sup> Council of Orleans and the Second Council of Paris. He died after a long illness on 14 <sup>th</sup> March 558		

<b>NO MASS</b>	<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> St Louise de Marillac</b> Born in France in 1591 out of wedlock. Lived among the French aristocracy and educated in royal monastery. Wanted to be a nun. Rejected due to poor health. Uncle arranged a marriage. Had a son. Husband lost his job in the royal court after civil unrest. Suffered chronic illness. Cared for by Louise. Became depressed. Vincent de Paul gave her a new challenge in Paris to help the poor. She founded <i>Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul</i> that worked in the community. Later <i>Sisters of Charity</i> . Patroness of Christian Social Workers.				
<b>Parish Retreat 10am to 4pm 12 noon: Mass 6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Jane Barber RIP</b>	<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> St Clement Mary Hofbauer</b> Born in 1751 in Czech Republic son of a farmer and butcher who died when he was 6 years old. Aged 15, apprentice baker in Znojmo. Baker at Austrian Priory. Hermit. Baker in Vienna. Hermit at a shrine in Rome. Trained as a priest at Vienna University. Joined the Redemptorists in Rome and ordained a priest. Established Redemptorists in Warsaw in Poland. Refuge for homeless boys and girls. Active parish. Expelled from Poland by Napoleon. Chaplain to a hospital and Ursuline nuns in Vienna. Founded a College. Intellectual discussions with students. Brought rich, influential and artistic people into the Church. Stopped Germany creating a national Church. Died 15 <sup>th</sup> March 1820. Vienna streets crowded for his funeral.				
<b>9.30 am Mass</b>	<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b> <b>Pat, John, Valerie, Peter and Carol Moon RIP</b>				
<b>PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS WHEN RECORDING NAMES FOR MASS INTENTION</b>					
<b>Your prayers are needed for the following people</b>					
Sue Chandler	Hazel Sale	Joe Heatley	Trevor Delves	Fr Shaun Budden	

### NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENT

#### Lenten programme for the next few weeks

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March: Parish Retreat led by Dominican Sisters, 12 noon: Mass with Father Thomas. See below for details  
Palm Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March: Mass at 9.30 am Holy Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March: Reconciliation Service at 5.30 pm. Mass at 6 pm.  
Maundy Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March: Washing of the Feet Service at 7.30 pm  
Good Friday March 29<sup>th</sup> March: Stations of the Cross at 2.30 pm followed by Good Friday Service at 3 pm.  
Holy Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March: Vigil Mass at 8 pm Easter Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March: Mass at 9.30 pm

#### All invited to Lenten Retreat for St Vincent de Paul on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> 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.. 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](mailto:svpoffice@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

#### Volunteers needed so we can properly celebrate Holy Week

Parishioners are required for feet washing on Maundy Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March at the 7.30 pm Mass and readers for Masses from Vigil Mass for Palm Sunday on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March to Easter Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March. Maria Linnell has put a list in the porch

#### Sick and housebound parishioners who require Holy Communion taken to them

If you or if you know of a "sick or housebound" parishioner who would like to be taken Holy communion please email the Parish Administrator on [svpoffice@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:svpoffice@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) who will organise for a visiting Eucharistic Minister or Father Thomas.

If you are not able to use email, ring office mobile 07887452313 in office hours shown at the top of the newsletter.

#### Next SVP Social is on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March – 1pm to 3 pm

This is another opportunity to meet for refreshments and a chat. Please come along with your friends.

No need to stay for the whole time, a few minutes of 2 hours, whatever suits you. Renee and Pat.

#### Charity chosen by Fr Michael to support during Lent. Reaching the Unreached

Reaching the Unreached was set up in Tamil Nadu in south east India in 1978 by De La Salle Brother James Kimpton. There are now 4 Children's Villages, 10 Hostels so that around 1,000 children are in care. There are 8 Nursery Schools, 3 Primary Schools and a Secondary School for children of the most disadvantaged families locally. Other ventures include house building, nearly 9,000 built ; bore well drilling, around 2,500 wells; Self Help Groups to empower rural women; affordable loans to start small businesses or borrow money for emergencies such as medical care to avoid high interest rates of money lender

**Please donate generously in Lent. There will be a basket for each charity in the porch. Graham Churchill is the contact**

#### Second charity to support during Lent

Fr Blaise, a former priest at SVP, returned to his homeland, Malawi, 6 years ago. Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world. Economy is heavily dependent on agriculture, unpredictable climate and unplanned population growth created poverty and lack of food. It is the single mothers, widows and orphaned children who bear the greatest burden. This project initiated by Fr Blaise will empower them with skills for income generating activities that are not dependent on favourable weather conditions. They are taught tailoring and dyeing skills to produce items to sell; how to produce nutritious foods for their families and for sale; basic hygiene and child care and home management so they can participate in the economic development of their families.

**Please donate generously in Lent. There will be a basket for each charity in the porch. Christine Thomas is the contact**

#### Parish collection for last weekend 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Parish Collection							CAFOD Lent Day		TOTAL of all money
Parish Envelopes	Gift Aid	Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Repository Baptism	Gift Aid	Loose	
£92	£23	£163.06	£242.54	£51.98	£572.58	£100 £30	£136	£51.42	<b>£890.00</b>