



Aldermoor Close, Coxford Road, Lordswood, Southampton, Hampshire. SO16 5ST

**Parish Priest:** Fr Thomas Parakandathil [tparakandathil@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:tparakandathil@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Retired Priest:** Father Michael Cronin Mobile: 07400262398 (1pm to 5pm)

**Newsletter editor:** Malcolm Forster email: [malcolmandrita@btinternet.com](mailto:malcolmandrita@btinternet.com)

**Safeguarding Officer** Liz Challand [safeguarding.sousv@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding.sousv@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Administrator:** Margaretta Livingstone email: [svpoffice@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:svpoffice@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Office times:** Tuesday and Thursday: 1 - 3.30pm Friday: 2 - 4pm **Office mobile:** 07887 4523 13

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

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

**Second Sunday of Easter or Sunday of Divine Mercy**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**Page 255 or 259**

**Acts of the Apostles 4: 12-13**

**1 John 5: 1-6**

**Gospel: John 20: 19-31**

In AD 325, at the Council of Nicea, church leaders decided that Easter Sunday should fall on the first Sunday on, or after the first full moon occurring after the Spring Equinox, March 21<sup>st</sup>. The first full moon after that date this year was on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March so Easter Sunday was on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March. There are 12 full moons in a year. In the 6<sup>th</sup> century Irish monks were using a different method to calculate Easter. Christians in the north of England, converted by them, used the Celtic custom from their base in Lindisfarne. At the Synod of Whitby in 664, at Whitby Abbey with its Abbess St Hilda, the Latin rite was adopted for all of England. The south was using the Latin rite as they had been converted by St Augustine from Rome.

We have just had Easter Week and the Second Sunday of Easter is also called the Sunday of Divine Mercy, or Low Sunday, the beginning of Low Week. The Gospel reading shows us that the mercy of God is given to all of us, even though we turn away from Him again and again. Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun; as Jesus was sent by God, so Jesus sends his disciples. He gives them the gift of the Holy Spirit so that they will be able to accomplish the task. The words of Jesus to his disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share forgiveness and reconciliation with others. Thomas in the Gospel represents the reality of the Church that comes after the first community of witnesses to Jesus. All but the first disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, who was crucified and buried, appeared to his disciples. Our human nature seeks hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to his disciples after death is indeed the same Jesus who was crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to be our representative in obtaining this evidence. He gives witness to us that the Jesus who was raised from the dead is the same Jesus who died on the cross in the light of Jesus' forgiveness and love of Thomas. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed, for we have not seen and yet believe.

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the continuation of Luke's Gospel, the physician who was a companion of St Paul, the early believers were united, sharing possessions and resources. Their powerful testimony about the resurrection of Jesus earned them high regard. They distributed funds from sold properties to meet everyone's needs, so no one was needy. The second reading from St John explains what it means to have faith. Belief in Jesus Christ shows we are born of God. Loving God and His children means obeying His commandments, which are not burdensome. Our faith is Jesus as the Son of God over comes the world, affirmed by the Spirit of truth. If we love Jesus we must keep His commandments. Malcolm.

Mass times	Feast Days
<b>6pm: Confessions</b> <b>6.30pm Vigil Mass</b> <b>Thanksgiving Mass for Jasnamary</b>	<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> Blessed Michael Rua</b> Born in 1837 in Turin, Italy, to poor family, father died when he was eight years old. Educated by De La Salle Brothers. Joined Don Bosco at Oratory in Turin. Helped in social club, games, sports and religious instruction. Was ordained in 1860 and supported Don Bosco in forming the Salesians. Believed in education of body and soul with social skills and recreation. Leader of Salesians after Don Bosco. Spread their houses all over the world. Died on 6 <sup>th</sup> April 1910 aged 73 and was buried beside Don Bosco in Turin in the Basilica of Our Lady Help of Christians. "Second Father of the Salesian Family" was written on his tomb.
<b>9.30 am Mass</b>	<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Second Sunday of Easter</b>
<b>6.30 pm Mass</b> <b>First Birthday of Aleen</b>	<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Annunciation of the Lord</b> The feast day of the Annunciation is normally celebrated on the 25 <sup>th</sup> March, exactly nine months before the birth of Jesus. It commemorates the announcement to Mary by the Archangel Gabriel that, despite being a virgin, she would conceive and give birth to Jesus, the Jewish Messiah and Son of God. Due to the customs of the time, Mary would have been aged about 13 or 14 years old and was betrothed to Joseph although they were living apart still with their parents. It is quite remarkable that the two teenagers so readily accepted their roles in the birth of Jesus, travelling to Bethlehem and returning through Egypt at their age.
<b>10 am Mass</b> <b>Thanksgiving Mass for Joy</b>	<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> St Waldetrudis (or Waldtrude)</b> Born about 630 in Mons, now in Belgium but then part of France. Her noble parents both became saints. Her sister became an Abbess of a Benedictine convent and was later venerated as a saint. Waldetrudis married the Count of Hainault and the devout couple had a happy marriage with 4 children all of which were later venerated as saints. They installed in them the importance of helping the poor. When the children were grown up her husband retired to a monastery and was later venerated as a saint. She continued her work helping orphans and widows. Two years later she founded a convent in Mons to help to continue her works of charity especially releasing captives by paying the ransom in silver and returning them to their homes. Abbess Waldetrudis, Countess of Hainault, died on 9 <sup>th</sup> April 688. Her shrine is in a church dedicated to her in Mons. She is patroness of Mons.

<b>6.30 pm Mass</b>	<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> St Fulbert of Chartres</b> Of humble birth in Picardy, France in about 960. Intelligent scholar educated in Rheims. One of his teachers was later elected Pope Sylvester II. Fulbert became teacher in Reims. Summoned to Rome by Pope Sylvester to be his advisor. On the death of pope, he returned to France. Bishop of Chartres made him a deacon, appointed him chancellor in Chartres and later treasurer of St Hilary's in Poitiers. Also in charge of cathedral school. In 1007 became Bishop of Chartres with the support of King Robert II of France who had been a student with him in Rheims. As bishop gained reputation for giving advice to spiritual and temporal leaders in France. Reformed Church. Demanded celibate clergy, stopped simony, buying Church offices and opposed abuse by feudal nobility. He criticised bishops who spent time in warlike expeditions and the practice of granting ecclesiastical benefices to laymen. When Chartres Cathedral was burnt down raised funds for the rebuild to a more magnificent cathedral. The veneration of the Virgin Mary was important to him. Promoted the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on 8 <sup>th</sup> September. Died 10 <sup>th</sup> April 1028. Buried in Chartres.				
<b>10 am Mass Mass of Thanksgiving for Roy and family</b>	<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> . St Stanislaus of Cracow</b> Born in 1030 in Poland. Educated at the cathedral school in the capital. Ordained a priest. Canon and inspiring preacher in Cracow. Appointed Bishop of Cracow. King Boleslaus of Poland was initially his supporter but then became corrupt by unbridled lust and savage behaviour. He then abducted the wife of one of his nobles and refused to release her and was excommunicated by Bishop Stanislaus. The king carried out a show trial to discredit the bishop but failed. He then ordered him to be killed. His soldiers were too afraid and refused to obey. The king himself then killed Stanislaus while he was celebrating Mass at the altar in Cracow Cathedral. The king then repented and retired to a monastery till his death.				
<b>NO MASS</b>	<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> St Joseph Moscati</b> Born in 1880 in Italy to a noble, religious family. He had a devotion to the Rosary from young and had a rosary all his life. Inspired by an injury to his brother, studied to be a doctor at Naples University. Kept his faith despite agnostic attitude and secret societies that excluded him and opposed his beliefs.. He attended Mass daily. Joseph felt both body and soul were to be treated for full cure and passed this on to his students. Generous in treating the poor free and gave them financial help. Saved all hospital patients after Mount Vesuvius eruption. Joseph treated sufferers in cholera outbreak and 3,000 wounded soldiers in First World War. Researched the treatment of diabetes which led to the discovery of insulin. After his usual morning Mass and his tour of patients in the hospital, he died in his armchair on 12 <sup>th</sup> April 1927 aged 47.				
<b>6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass</b>	<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> St Pope Martin I</b> Born in Italy in 598. He joined a monastery as a monk and became the Abbot. Generous to the poor. Made Patriarch of Constantinople. Elected Pope Martin I in 649 at height of political and religious disputes without approval of the Roman Emperor Constans who supported the Monothelism heresy condemned by the Church. Pope Martin called the Lateran Council which again condemned the heresy and Emperor Constans for supporting it. Pope Martin was arrested and tried for treason. Found guilty and condemned to death, commuted to exile in Crimea. Died after four months of starvation and brutal treatment. Last pope to die as a martyr.				
<b>9.30 am Mass</b>	<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Third Sunday of Easter</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	Valerie Baker

### NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENT

**Fr Thomas wishes to thank all those who contributed to his Easter collection.**

Gift Aided contributions were £355 and Loose Plate £251 so with gift aid the total is: £694.75

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

Many thanks to all those parishioners who contributed to this charity. The total collected during Lent was £685.42

**Second charity to support during Lent. Project organised by Fr Blaise in Malawi.**

Many thanks to all those parishioners who contributed to this charity. The total collected during Lent was £649.00

**Gift Aid envelopes for the new tax year are available in the church porch. Have you completed the declaration form?**

If you have not completed the new Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth gift aid declaration form we cannot claim gift aid for the parish so please do so as soon as possible so that a box of envelopes can be issued to you.. Blank declaration forms are available in the porch and a box for the completed form which is best placed in an envelope.

**Next SVP Social is on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April – 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.

### Parish collection for last weekend 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March

Parish Collection							Holy Places Collection		TOTAL of all money
Easter Gift Envelopes Parish Envelopes	Gift Aid	Easter Gift Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Reaching the Unreached Sewing Machine Project	Gift Aid	Loose	
£355	£88.75	£251	----	£88.75	£694.75	£194.50	£99	£85.70	<b>£1,643.97</b>
£62	£15.50	---	£242.54	£51.98	£372.02	£198.00			