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

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

**Page 273 or 277 Acts of the Apostles 1: 15-17, 20-26 1 John 4: 11-16 Gospel John 17: 11-19**

The preceding paragraphs of the first reading this weekend from the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles relates the story of the disciples witnessing the Ascension of Jesus into heaven and then return to the upper room in Jerusalem where they were instructed to remain in prayer, preparing to receive the promised “power from above”. It is within this context that the decision to replace Judas Iscariot is featured to make up the 12 apostles. So what is so special about the number 12? Twelve is the number of tribes of the ancient Israel around which God established the *Old Covenant* with Moses. It is not by chance that Jesus made a choice of twelve apostles to represent a *New Israel*, the *New Tribes* on which God in Jesus made a *New and Eternal Covenant*. In his opening remarks before the election of the replacement of Judas, Peter makes a double reference to Hebrew Scriptures to make the point that the Scriptures must be fulfilled. He also states two criteria that must be fulfilled by the candidates – someone associated with Jesus throughout his ministry and a person who had been a witness to the resurrection of Jesus. They “drew lots” to decide between Justus and Matthias, a method the early Church used to seek direction from God, an ancient Hebrew Scripture procedure to secure a divine decision. The feast day for St Matthias is this week on Tuesday. The second reading from the first letter of John was addressed to the early Church community that was beset with many problems. Some members were advocating false doctrines, refusing to accept the full Divinity and full humanity of Jesus. Others denied the redemptive value of the death of Jesus and refused to accept faith in Christ as the source of sanctification. John has a strong message to the early Church and us. God’s love for us is profound. God doesn’t love us because we are good. God loves us because He is good. So what should we do? Love one another. We are to show our love of God by loving one another. When we love one another, God remains in us. We know God remains in us because, through the Holy Spirit He has given us, we can experience His presence within us. Those who acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God remain in God and God remains in them. “God is Love”. Those who remain in Love remain in God and God remains in them. John’s Gospel reading this weekend describes Jesus looking to heaven and praying for his disciples’ protection through God’s name to unite them as He and the Father are united. He acknowledged care for them and His imminent return to the Father, desiring them to experience His joy fully. Jesus asked not for the removal of the disciples from the world but for their protection from evil, emphasising their sanctification and separation from worldly values. He committed Himself to their sanctification, mirroring His mission to the world. This is a message to us to continue His mission in the world. Spanish mystic Teresa of Avila described our part as: “Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks with compassion on this world. Christ has no body now on earth but yours”. A great responsibility. Malcolm.

Mass times	Feast Days
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> St Francis of Girolamo</b> Born in 1642 in Italy into a large pious family. Sacristan and catechist in his parish. Educated at Jesuit College. Ordained aged 24. Taught at College in Naples. Entered the Jesuits aged 28. Wanted to be a foreign missionary against the wishes of his father. Kept in Italy to evangelise in Naples area. Eloquent preacher. Visited people in hospitals, prisons, brothels and galley slaves in the docks. Imposing figure attracted large crowds. Trained young Jesuits in his preaching style for the missions. Founded a congregation of “lay workmen” to support priests. Died aged 74. Dedicated chapel in Naples Basilica.
9.30 am Mass	<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b>
6.30 pm Mass Joseph M.V. RIP 23 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary	<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> St Julian of Norwich</b> Born in Norwich in 1342 at a time of unrest in Church and State. Spirituality grew among lay people to live a Christian life outside religious orders. Became a hermit or anchorite in a cell built alongside a church. One window viewed sanctuary, another open to the public. Mystic and visionary who produced theological texts during 20 years of meditation. <i>Revelations of Divine Love</i> is the earliest surviving book in English written by a woman. A chapel and shrine stands at place where her cell once existed, destroyed by Henry VIII in the Reformation.
10 am Mass Abraham Kanjirathunkal RIP 47 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> St Matthias</b> The apostle chosen by the disciples in an election between two disciples to replace Judas Iscariot. Early tradition places him preaching in Judaea and somewhat later in Cappadocia (now southern Turkey) near the Caspian Sea. Traditionally he was beheaded in that area as a martyr. He is often depicted holding the axe of his execution.
SVP Social 1 pm to 3 pm 6.30 pm Mass	<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> St Isadore the Farmer</b> Born 1070 in Madrid. Farmer with much younger wife. He started most days at church and prayed while he worked. It was claimed angels helped with his tasks when he prayed. Extremely generous to the poor and loved animals and cared for them as well. A peasant farmer who led a very holy but ordinary life, a great example to all who came in contact with him. Died aged 60. Both he and his wife were popularly acclaimed saints.

<b>10 am Mass</b>	<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> St Brendan the Navigator</b> Born around 484 in Ireland of noble birth. Placed in foster care of mystic St Ita for his initial education. Then studied at Tuam, County Galway, in the Aran Islands, in Galloway, Scotland and in Wales. Bishop Erc of Kerry ordained him in 512. Monk and then an Abbot. Founded monasteries. Passion for sea travel. Visited Scotland, Wales and France. A seven year trip to Iceland, Greenland and North America and back is either exaggerated or a miracle. Evidence in North America exists of an Irish landing about that time but the prevailing winds would have meant there was no way back to Ireland without a miracle..				
<b>NO MASS</b>	<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> St Paschal Baylon</b> Born in 1540 in Spain on the feast of Pentecost so called Paschal by his peasant farming pious family. Childhood as a shepherd. Special devotion to the Eucharist. Had no time for any formal education. He taught himself to read. Helped the poor and gave good example on behaviour to his companions. Joined the Franciscans as a lay brother. Refused invitation to be a priest. Led an austere life style. Jobs as cook, doorkeeper, porter and gardener. Reputation as a counsellor whose wisdom was sought by all from rich to poor. Cheerful and friendly. Showed respect to all he met. Chosen for his social skills to be the beggar for alms for the monastery. He opposed Calvinist preacher in France on <i>Real Presence</i> and then was attacked by Huguenot mob and injured. Died of natural causes on 17 <sup>th</sup> May 1592 aged 52.				
<b>6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Theophilus Thomas RIP 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</b>	<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> St Pope John I</b> John was born in Siena about 470. Deacon in Rome to antipope Laurentius. In 506 admitted his error to Pope Symmachus. Then one of 7 deacons in Rome. Elected as Pope John I in 523. The Eastern Emperor Justin in Constantinople issued a decree against the heresy of Arianism. Germanic King Theodoric ruler of Italy who supported the heresy demanded that Pope John should take a delegation to Constantinople to convince the Byzantine Emperor to moderate his decree. Pope John was reluctant to obey as he agreed with Justin and his orthodox views. However, he eventually obeyed the powerful king. He had some success with Emperor Justin who welcomed him with honour. But the king was not satisfied with what Pope John achieved and was suspicious the two were plotting against him and his heretical beliefs. He put Pope John in prison in Ravenna. He died of neglect and ill treatment on 18 <sup>th</sup> May 526.				
<b>9.30 am Mass</b>	<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Pentecost Sunday</b>	<b>Apolian Nazareth 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	Valerie Baker

### NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENT

#### SVP Social this Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May – 1pm to 3 pm

There is 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. Look forward to welcoming you. Renee and Pat.

#### Parishioner looking for a room to rent'

Anna Maria, a young nurse in our parish, is seeking a room to rent. If you are able to help in any way, please contact Anna Maria on 07341544821.

#### Sad news concerning long standing parishioner May Conway

We have just heard that May Conway, a parishioner for many years in St Vincent de Paul, has died in a Nursing Home near her family in Wiltshire. At the moment there is no news of the funeral which will take place in Wiltshire.

#### For those parishioners using gift aid envelopes, have you completed your gift aid 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.. Declaration forms are available in the porch and a box for the completed form which is best placed in an envelope.

#### Parish collection for last weekend 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May

Parish Collection							Clergy Training Fund		TOTAL of all money
Parish Envelopes Easter Gift Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Candle money Use of church for Adoration	Gift Aid	Loose	
£92	£23	£147.53	£242.54	£51.98	£557.05	£266.91 £50	£2	----	<b>£875.96</b>