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

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 16th June 2024

Page 95 **Ezekiel 17: 22-24** **2 Corinthians 5: 6-10** **Gospel: Mark 4: 26-34**

The first reading from the prophet Ezekiel is written at the time the Israelites were in captivity in Babylon. In exile Ezekiel is devastated that Jehoiachin, the last king in David's dynasty, was defeated, taken prisoner and deported with his people to Babylon. He describes the national disaster with an image of David's family as a luxuriant cedar tree that a brutal and ruthless woodcutter, Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, cut down. However, God has not deserted them as he has taken from the highest branch of the cedar tree, a cutting that will be planted on a high mountain in Israel so it will shoot, sprout branches, bear fruit and become another noble cedar tree. He prophesies that the Israelites will eventually be free again in their homeland. There is also a message that God exalts the humble and bring low the proud – "stunts tall trees and makes the low ones grow". In the second reading of Paul's letter to the Corinthians in Greece, Paul is now advanced in years and seems to be beginning to feel tired. The sufferings he had endured, the persecutions, the betrayals of friends, the misunderstanding of so many fellow Christians had marked him in body and spirit. He compares his condition to that of an exile in the world and feels like a stranger whose thoughts keep turning to a homeland that awaits him in heaven. He realises that this desire to leave the world could be understood as an escape from difficulties, sufferings and responsibilities of Christian communities born from his preaching. He concludes: As long as the Lord wants to leave me in this body, I will give of my best to please the Lord. The Gospel of Mark, written by John Mark, is known for its fast paced narrative and focus on the actions and miracles of Jesus. In the first parable a man sows seed by making broad gestures as he joyfully and unsparingly scatters the precious wheat grains everywhere to grow on its own. This is how the Gospel message must be spread in profusion to everyone and develops with the help of the Holy Spirit. The second parable focuses on the tiny mustard seed. Small as it is, it develops into a tree with a wide expanse that provides a nesting place for birds just as God's kingdom is open and welcomes everyone. In the readings from Ezekiel and Mark very small things can produce and achieve really big results. We must trust in God that our small efforts can turn into something wonderful like Mother Teresa and Pope John Paul II who achieved great things from humble starts.

| Mass times | Feast Days |
|---|---|
| 6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Thanksgiving Mass for Fr Thomas from Chimaobi | Saturday 15th St Marguerite d'Youville French Canadian born in 1701 in Quebec. Father died when she was 7. Attended Ursuline Convent. Helped her widowed mother. Taught her siblings. Mother married below her class. Marguerite married a bootlegger who sold liquor illegally to indigenous people and soon became a heavy drinker who died in 1730. At age 29 Marguerite had been poor, lost her father, husband and four of her six children. Ran a small store to pay off husband's debts and helped the poorest in the area. Did more charitable work. Educated her two sons who later became priests. With 3 young women, cared for the poor and in 1744 founded <i>Sisters of Charity of Quebec</i> later known as <i>Grey Nuns</i> . Took over a ruined and in debt hospital. Renewed as <i>Hotel Dieu, House of God</i> . New standard for medical care and Christian compassion. Hospital was destroyed by fire but raised funds to build better one. Nuns used slaves to staff hospital, many of which were British prisoners of war. Order expanded across Canada. |
| 9.30 am Mass | Sunday 16th June Eleventh Sunday of Ordinary Time |
| 6.30 pm Mass Thanksgiving Mass for the first birthday of Atalia Toms | Monday 17th St Juliana of Falconieri Born 1270 to noble family in Florence, Italy. Rich father paid for the Church of Annunciation in Florence. Her uncle was one of the 7 founders of Servite Order Had a good religious education. Tall, graceful, beautiful girl but refused to marry. Mother was furious. Involved in self harm as penance. Eventually allowed to join the Servites as a nun in the Church of Annunciation built by her father. Her uncle tutored her. Stayed at home to care for her widowed mother. Collected women in Florence to form nuns for Servite Order, <i>Sisters of the 3rd Order of Servites</i> . First Convent near Church of Annunciation in Florence. Devotion to Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Sorrows. Cared for sick. Did works of mercy. Mother Superior for 35 yrs |
| 10 am Mass | Tuesday 18th St Elizabeth of Schonau . Born 1129 in Germany. Educated at Benedictine monastery of Schonau. At age 18 joined the double monastery as a nun. Started having visions which were recorded by her brother, Ekebert, a monk in the monastery, in six books. Became famous. Made Abbess of Schonau. After her death, Ekebert was made Abbot of Schonau. |
| SVP Social 1pm to 3pm | Wednesday 19th St Romuald of Ravenna Born about 950 to a noble Italian family. As a youth indulged in the pleasures of the world. Was a second to his father in a duel. Opponent was killed. Horrified he did 40 days of penance. Joined Benedictine monastery following Rule of Cluny as a monk. Not strict enough despite being made Abbot. Became hermit with Marinus who followed harsh and solitary life near Venice. Later they moved hermitage to near monastery at Cuxa in Spain to use its library to study types of monastic life. Returned to Italy to help his father who had become |

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| 6.30 pm Mass | a monk. Spent 30 years in Italy founding many monasteries and hermitages. He collected disciples including Peter Damian. Illness stopped him going to Hungary. Given land near Arezzo in Tuscany, northern Italy. With Peter founded a hermitage and monastery at <i>Camaldoli</i> for <i>Camaldolese Benedictines</i> which eventually became the motherhouse of the separate <i>Camaldolese Order</i> . | | | | |
| 10 am Mass | Thursday 20th Martyrs of Titus Oates "Plot" At least 22 martyrs executed due to fictitious conspiracy invented by the villainous Titus Oates from 1678 to 1681. This disreputable character was expelled from school, was rated a dunce at Cambridge University and left without a degree. Became Anglican vicar. Dismissed for drunken blasphemy. Joined father, a Hastings cleric, as curate. Falsely accused schoolmaster. Arrested for perjury. Escaped to London. Chaplain to a ship in Royal Navy. Arrested in Tangier for sodomy, capital offence, but just dismissed due to clerical status. Chaplain to the Protestant members of household of Catholic Duke of Norfolk. Unreliable and lost his position. Joined Catholic Church and Jesuits for training. Thrown out. Joined Israel Tongue a fanatical anti-Catholic Puritan preacher who blamed Catholics for the Plague of London and Fire of London. Devised the false "Popish Plot" to kill King Charles II. King never believed conspiracy. Titus named more people including Queen. Anti-Catholic statues enforced. Titus was eventually tried and imprisoned for perjury. Then pardoned and given pension by William of Orange. | | | | |
| NO MASS | Friday 21st St Alban Born in 3 rd century near St Albans. Prominent citizen in Roman town of Verulamium. Alban was a pagan who was converted by a Christian priest fleeing persecution by the pagan Roman authorities. When Roman soldiers arrived, Alban was arrested thinking he was the priest. Judge then asked him to offer sacrifice to pagan gods. Alban refused. Was recognised as not being the priest. Judge furious at deception, sent him to be tortured which did not shake Alban's faith. Ordered to be beheaded. Executioner, moved by Alban's faith, cast down his sword. Roman soldiers also refused to kill him. Taken to a hill and an executioner was found who beheaded Alban and his first executioner. After killing them, the eyes of the executioner popped out. Alban's head rolled down the hill. Stopped where a well sprang up. Judge relented and honoured Alban's death. | | | | |
| 6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass | Saturday 22nd St John Fisher and St Thomas More John Fisher: Born 1469 in Beverley, Yorkshire. Educated at Cambridge University. Became a priest and Fellow of his College. Chaplain to Lady Margaret Beaufort, mother of King Henry VII. Appointed Chancellor of Cambridge University and Bishop of Rochester. Austere and stern man. Great theologian and preacher. King Henry VIII declared him the most distinguished prelate in the kingdom. Published works against Luther. Gained King Henry VIII the title "Defender of the Faith". Bishop John was a reformer, keen on pastoral care of his diocese and protested against abuses of power. Opposed King Henry over divorce of Catherine of Aragon. Imprisoned in Tower of London. Made Cardinal by Pope Paul II. Tried for treason. Martyred at Tyburn, Tower Hill on 22 nd June 1535 Thomas More: Born in London in 1478. Page to Archbishop of Canterbury. Educated at Oxford University. Proficient in Latin and Greek. Trained as lawyer at Lincoln's Inn in London. Called to the Bar in 1502. Friendship with Dutch Christian humanist Desiderius Erasmus which lasted for over 30 years. Lived in Carthusian monastery for 4 years. Decided against monastic life and priesthood. Elected to Parliament in 1504. Married Jane Colt in 1505 and had 4 children. Produced great work <i>Utopia</i> . Wife died. Remarried widow with one daughter. Adopted 2 girls. Very happy family full of laughter. Appointed Privy Counsellor by King Henry VIII. Knighted in 1521. Appointed Speaker of House in 1523 and Lord Chancellor in 1525. Refused to <i>Swear the Oath</i> required by <i>Act of Succession</i> . Tried and found guilty of treason. Martyred at Tyburn on Tower Hill 6 th July 1535.. | | | | |
| 9.30 am Mass | Sunday 16th June Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time | | | | |
| 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 | Trevor Delves | Fr Shaun Budden | Valerie Baker |

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENT

SVP Social this Wednesday 19th June – 1pm to 3 pm

Another opportunity to meet for refreshments and a chat. Come along and bring your friends. No need to stay for the whole time, a few minutes or two hours, whatever suits you. Look forward to welcoming you. Renee and Pat.

Appeal for Lectionary has reached the required total

Fr Thomas wishes to offer his sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to his appeal for money to buy the new Lectionary which will be needed later in the parish. With the gift aid, the total collected is well over £700.

Kathleen Moore, sister of our parishioner Lavina Stratford, died at the end of May

Please remember in your prayers the repose of the soul of Kathleen Moore, sister of Lavina Stratford, who normally attends the 6.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass. Her contact details are: alanlavina@gmail.com or 023 8073 5642.

Parish collection for last weekend 8th and 9th June

| Parish Collection | | | | | | Lectionary Appeal | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------|-------|--------------------|
| Parish Gift Aid Envelopes | Gift Aid | Parish Loose Collection | Direct debits, standing orders | Gift Aid | Total of Offertory Collection | Donation Adoration | Gift Aid | Loose | TOTAL of all money |
| £119 | £29.75 | £106.98 | £242.54 | £51.98 | £550.25 | £20 £50 | ---- | £210 | £811.74 |