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

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 7th July 2024

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Ezekiel 2: 2-5

2 Corinthians 12: 7-10

Gospel: Mark 6: 1-6

The first reading is from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel who addressed the people of Israel while they were in forced exile by King Nebuchadnezzar far from their homeland in Babylon around the year 593 BC. As God's messenger he spoke to the people of their stubbornness, rebellion and refusal to listen to God. The mission of the prophet Ezekiel was to awaken in the hearts of God's people the need for getting back on the right path of God's commands, especially embodied in the Ten Commandments given to Moses on Mount Sinai hundreds of years earlier. This prophetic call is to us as well and God calls us to a mission today. This mission is to challenge the stubbornness and rebellious nature we experience today against Christian principles in our families, our schools, our communities, in the workplace, on the streets and in the world at large. There is much rebellion in our time against God, against nature, against Church institutions and the fabric of our moral, social and cultural heritage. So we must be that voice that cries out against all injustice, oppression, immorality, corruption and ungodliness. Ezekiel prophesied not for his own benefit but for the good of God's people, emphasising that God is in their midst and that He is the one true God, to be obeyed always. This reading acts as a backdrop for Mark's Gospel message about the blindness of the people that Jesus encountered in His public ministry back in His home area.

In the second reading from the letter to the Corinthians in Greece, St Paul feels forced to prove that he was a true apostle who suffered much for Christ and His Gospel and who also has been given the privilege of special visions and revelations. He goes on to describe some weakness he had which troubled him very much. He concludes that he is content with weakness and sufferings because the power and strength of Christ, working through a weak instrument, will be all the more visible and convincing. He describes this burden as "*a thorn in his flesh*" and includes "*insults, hardships, persecutions, loneliness and agonies*". They were his cross as a prophet. If we take up the challenge of the first reading these are things we do not want to experience. This is because we do not like discomfort, we want everyone to like us and only say good things about us. However, we must be courageous as that suffering and weakness can force us to rely on God rather than ourselves. By embracing our weakness, we allow God's power to work through us, transforming our challenges into opportunities for a deeper faith and reliance on God's grace. We are challenged to embrace our struggles as they refine us and reveal God's strength in us.

Mark's Gospel tells a sad story of when Jesus returned to his home area in Nazareth with his disciples to preach in the synagogue after he had started his ministry. One would have expected the people of Nazareth to celebrate and rejoice that one of their fellow citizens was admired by thousands and looked on by so many as the long promised Messiah, Instead they rejected him possibly because he was of lower status as a mere carpenter and they could not bring themselves to see Him in his new role as a teacher, preacher or as the Messiah for the Jews. **Malcolm.**

Mass times	Feast Days
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	Saturday 6th St Maria Goretti Born in 1890 in Italy. Father a poor peasant farmer who had difficulty making it pay. Then worked with another poor family whose father was an alcoholic, mother was in a mental asylum and their young son Alessandro. Both moved to near Rome to work for wealthy Count. Maria was a holy Italian virgin who had no interest in men. When 20 Alessandro made advances to 11 year old Maria and tried to rape her. Maria fought him off so he stabbed her 14 times. Hospital chaplain enrolled her in the <i>Children of Mary</i> and given the blessed medal. After surgery she died the next day on 6 th July 1902. She forgave him before she died and in a vision.
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 7th July Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
6.30 pm Mass	Monday 8th St Priscilla and St Aquala Married couple who started preaching Christianity in Rome. Expelled from Rome and moved to Corinth in Greece. Met with St Paul and then accompanied him on his travels to Christian communities and helped with his tent making. Both, especially Priscilla, were rated as great preachers. Priscilla is the first recorded preacher in the early Christian Church. Eventually returned to Rome with St Paul when expulsion order lifted.
10 am Mass	Tuesday 9th St Augustine Zhao Rong and others in China Chinese diocesan priest martyred in 1815, one of the 120 people martyred in China from 1648 to 1930. The 33 who died from 1648 to 1862 included 2 missionary bishops, 9 missionary priests, 4 Chinese priests, 12 Chinese lay catechists, 2 Chinese seminarians and 4 lay Chinese, 2 men and 2 women. During the Boxer Rebellion started by peasants, 87 were martyred from 1900 to 1930, 4 missionary bishops, 10

	missionary priests, 7 missionary nuns, 1 lay Chinese lay brother, 5 Chinese seminarians and 60 Chinese lay men and women. Missionaries were Franciscans, Jesuits, the Paris Foreign Missionary Society, Dominicans, Salesians, Vincentians and Franciscans Missionaries of Mary nuns.				
6.30 pm Mass Alex RIP	Wednesday 10th St Willibald Born in Wessex in about 700. Mother St Wuna was sister of St Boniface. Father was St Richard the Pilgrim. Educated at the Benedictine monastery at Bishops Waltham in Hampshire in Anglo-Saxon and Celtic customs. Pilgrimage to Holy Land via Sicily, Greece, Asia Minor and Cyprus visiting shrines. Returned via Constantinople to Rome. Stayed in monastery of Monte Cassino for 10 years and helped restore Benedictine Rule. Then sent by Pope Gregory III as missionary to Germany to help his uncle St Boniface. Bishop of Eichstatt in Germany. Founded Heidenheim double monastery and made his brother in charge of monks. Then got his sister from Wimborne monastery in Dorset to be in charge of the nuns. He wrote the story of the pilgrimage during which his father died. Buried in Eichstatt Cathedral with his sister St Walburga.				
10 am Mass	Thursday 11th St Benedict of Nursia Born in 480 in Italy to a noble family. His twin sister became a saint. Sent to Rome for his education but was shocked by the decay and immorality in the city. Gave up his inheritance and sought solitude as a hermit. Eventually found a cave on the side of a ravine for himself helped by Romanus, a monk at the monastery above the cave. Over 3 years became well known. When abbot died, monks wanted him as abbot. Initially refused but eventually agreed. Monks did not like his strict and austere rules so he returned to his cave. Started to develop ideas about styles of monastic life and attracted many followers. Wrote the "Rule of St Benedict" for his monasteries. Based on 8 hours of pray, 8 hours of sleep and 8 hours of manual work with sacred reading, works of charity and Divine Office. Founded the Benedictine monastery of Monte Cassino between Rome and Naples and many others. Died aged 67 in 547. Buried with his twin sister Scholastica in Monte Cassino. Tombs survived bombardment by Allies in World War II.				
NO MASS	Friday 12th St Veronica. Not clear if Veronica had contact with Jesus before she wiped His face with her veil. Her action is the 6 th Station of the Cross. It is claimed she took her cloth with the miraculous image of Christ and cured the battle wounds of Roman Emperor Tiberius in Rome. Over the centuries there has been great devotion to <i>Veronica's veil</i> and the <i>Holy Face of Jesus</i> .				
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	Saturday 13th St Emperor Henry II of Germany Born in 973 in Germany. Educated by Bishop Wolfgang and then at Hildesheim Cathedral school. Encouraged by Emperor Otto II to have an ecclesiastical formation to become a monk or priest so giving up his claim to throne. Became a soldier and very able military leader. Fought with Emperor Otto III who died a year later in 1002. Henry crowned as last Saxon King of Germany. His pious wife Cunigunde of Luxembourg was crowned Queen of Germany. Extended his kingdom and brought Christianity and peace back. Popular with the people. Went into Italy and got rid of antipope and established Pope Benedict VIII in Rome. Then made Holy Roman Emperor. He was a pious reformer of Church and monastic life.				
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 14th July Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Engagement of Chlöe Challand and Charley Heasel				
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

Excellent result of Religious inspection in May of St Anne's Catholic School by Portsmouth Diocese

We were delighted to welcome the Catholic School Inspectorate to St Anne's before half term. The school was described as a 'deeply loving community' with an outstanding culture of prayer and liturgy. The commitment to social justice is excellent. Non-Catholic students said they valued the school prayer as something that unites them all. Teachers are confident and committed and staff are overwhelmingly positive about their treatment as employees. Our young people enjoyed showing off the school and what they do and we were thrilled to be graded outstanding in the majority of judgements. There were a couple of things that needed improvement. The full inspection report is [here](#). For those new to the area, we are a state comprehensive school in the city centre for girls in years 7 to 11 and we have a mixed gender Sixth Form College. We have Open Mornings for Year 5 girls coming up in July and Open Evenings in October. Details of lower school events are [here](#) and the Sixth Form Open Evening details are [here](#). Visit the website for more details.

Next SVP Social is on Wednesday 17th July – 1pm to 3 pm - Just confirmed by Renee

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 29th 30th June

Parish Gift Aid Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Other money	Gift Aid	Loose	TOTAL of all money
£76	£19	£141.52	£242.54	£51.98	£531.04	----	----	----	£531.04