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

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 14th July 2024

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Amos 7: 12-15

Ephesians 1: 3-14

Gospel: Mark 6: 7-13

In the first reading Amos was the first of the great prophets who lived in the 8th century before Christ. This was a time of peace and prosperity in the northern kingdom of Israel. It was also a time of wholesale corruption and exploitation of the poor. His preaching provoked the fury of Amaziah, one of the leading members of the priestly caste who lived in the wealthy Royal Sanctuary of Bethel and was a lackey of King Jeroboam II. It was not in his interest to have the unjust practices of the political establishment questioned by Amos so he orders Amos to go back to his home in Judah in the south of Israel. In response Amos defended his prophetic vocation as a direct call from God, not an inherited position with status like that of Amaziah and the priestly caste to which he belonged. He came from a simple life as a shepherd and farmer looking after sycamore trees and the call from God must be obeyed and he was not going to take orders from a well-heeled flunkey of the royal court. He had a duty to speak out and denounce the corrupt practices of the powerful elites, to defend the rights of the oppressed poor and the exploited people of that time. There is a lesson for all of us today to speak out for Christian principles against social injustices and defend the poor and vulnerable in our society today and be prepared for unpopularity in making such a stand.

In the second reading from St Paul's letter to the Ephesians in what is now Turkey, we have a superb summary of the Gospel. We were chosen before the foundation of the world to receive every spiritual blessing of heaven in Christ. We were chosen to become adopted sons and daughters of our Father in heaven.. Jesus Christ is the one who made this possible. Jesus came to redeem us through His blood on the Cross, to forgive our sins and to restore what was lost when sin came into the world. He came to tell us that our Father has had a plan to save us all and that he sent the Holy Spirit amongst us to show us the way to salvation and as a guarantee of our inheritance.

In Mark's Gospel, just as God sent the prophet Amos to preach repentance in ancient Israel and sent St Paul to preach to the Gentiles, so Jesus sends the Twelve Apostles to proclaim the Good News of God's Kingdom and to take healing to those who need it most. These twelve were selected from among His disciples and called apostles. The word "apostle" means "one who is sent". The number twelve is a symbolic number representing the twelve tribes of Israel. Jesus sends them in pairs, establishing His mission as a communal endeavour and instructs them to travel lightly, without the usual food, money and an extra set of clothes. They will be dependent on the hospitality of others, just as Jesus depended on others to provide for His needs. Jesus continues to send us out today into the world as His disciples. But like the first disciples, we are not sent alone. He gives us the community of the Church, which strengthens our life of discipleship to work for the good of all and fight any evil around us. Malcolm.

Mass times	Feast Days
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
6.30 pm Mass	Monday 15th St Swithun Anglo-Saxon born about 800 in Winchester. Joined Benedictine monastery in Winchester. Ordained a priest. Chaplain and counsellor to King Egbert of Wessex based in Winchester. Advisor to his son King Ethelwolf after being his tutor when he was a monk. Bishop of Winchester in 852. Humble, pious and helped the poor. Invited them to banquets instead of nobles. Built many churches and the first stone bridge over the River Itchen at Winchester. Paid visits to all parts of his diocese by foot. Died 2 nd July 863. Buried at the entrance to the Cathedral at his request. 100 years later his body was moved into a new Cathedral, named after him on 15 th July 971 and it rained for 40 days. Legend then developed that if it rained on his feast day it would rain for 40 days. Body moved into huge magnificent new Norman Cathedral in the 11 th century. Large shrine built behind high altar for pilgrims. Shrine looted and destroyed at the Reformation.

10 am Mass Ouseph Antony RIP	Tuesday 16th Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Mount Carmel overlooks the Mediterranean Sea near the modern port of Haifa in Israel. Christian hermits built a monastery there with a chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary which gained the name <i>Our Lady of Mount Carmel</i> . Monks took the name <i>Carmelites</i> and wore a brown habit. Feast day of 16 th July comes from the date Our Lady appeared to St Simon Stock, Father General of the Carmelites in 1251. He was an Englishman and the apparition occurred in the English town of Aylesford in Kent. She appeared to him as “Our Lady of Mount Carmel” and gave him the <i>Brown Scapular</i> , a type of work apron with large pieces of cloth front and back joined over the shoulders which became part of the Carmelite habit. The “ <i>Sabbatine Privilege</i> ” was a promise from the Blessed Virgin that nobody who died wearing the Brown Scapular would suffer eternal fire. This is no longer believed - unsure about the validity of the apparition.				
SVP Social 1 pm to 3 pm	Wednesday 17th St Bonaventure Born in 1221 in Italy a sick child, Taken to St Francis of Assisi. When he recovered St Francis said “Buona ventura” (good fortune). So named Bonaventure and he joined the Franciscans. Studied at University of Paris. Gained Doctor of Theology. Became lecturer. Master of Franciscan school in Paris. After death of St Francis of Assisi the Franciscans split into two factions. “ <i>Spirituals</i> ” wanted to keep the austere poverty and lack of any ownership while the “ <i>Conventuals</i> ” wanted to tone down austerities and have more organisation due to the increase in numbers and favoured communal living. They also wanted to accept high office in the Church which St Francis always refused. Bonaventure managed to bring both extremes together towards an agreeable compromise. Earned him the title <i>Second Founder of the Franciscans</i> . Refused archbishop of York but accepted Cardinal Bishop of Albano Refused to see the papal delegation with his red hat while he finished his turn at kitchen duties. His principle was: “Do ordinary things perfectly. If we cannot do great things, do regular things in a great way”. He went to Council of Lyons called by Pope Gregory X concerning reunion of East and West to liberate the Holy Land. Thomas Aquinas died on his way to Council and Bonaventure died during Council 1274.				
6.30 pm Mass	Thursday 18th St Pope Leo IV Born in 790 in Rome. Became a Benedictine monk. Then selected by Pope Gregory IV to serve in Papal Curia. He showed excellent judgement and made Cardinal Priest. When Pope Sergius died he was unanimously elected the new Pope Leo IV without consent of Emperor who was upset at his religious and secular reforms. Outstanding Pope in the manner of his time. Defended Rome against the Saracens by building defences. Repaired churches including St Peter's and St Paul Outside the Walls. He restored St Martin's monastery where he was educated. Anointed a young Alfred who was on pilgrimage to Rome who became King Alfred the Great. Organised naval campaigns. Presided over Synod in Rome concerning ecclesiastical reform. He was always fair, patient and humble with skilful political and diplomatic abilities. Pope Leo was greatly loved by the people for all his work. Died 17 th July 855. Buried in St Peter's, Rome.				
10 am Mass	Friday 19th St Macrina the Younger Born in 327 in Caesarea, Cappadocia, now Turkey, into a remarkable family full of saints, eldest of 10 children. Grandmother was St Macrina the Elder, both parents were saints, 3 brothers were saints and a brother was a famous legal scholar. Educated well mainly by mother and grandmother but concentrated on religious works rather than classical literature. Helped in education of her younger siblings for a holy and austere life. Father arranged a marriage for Macrina but the holy nobleman died before the wedding. She declared herself a widow and took a vow of celibacy. Founded a Convent and became one of the most important and famous nuns in the Eastern Church. Her brother St Gregory wrote <i>Life of Macrina</i> which described her sanctity. She died in 379 and her brother St Peter added a monastery to the Convent. To commemorate Macrina, St Gregory wrote a <i>Dialogue on the Soul and Resurrection</i> .				
NO MASS	Saturday 20th St Apollinaris of Ravenna Born in the 1 st century in Antioch, Turkey. Disciple of St Peter who made him Bishop of Ravenna in Italy. An inspirational preacher who converted many. Pagans drove him from the city of Ravenna after torturing him. He returned twice with the same result. Then he was sent in exile to Greece where he started preaching and upset the pagans again. Sent back to Italy after 3 years. Returned to the city of Ravenna. Stayed in hiding due to the persecution of Christians by Roman Emperor Vespasian. Eventually found. Martyred for his faith.				
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass Hazel McMahan RIP 9th Anniversary	Sunday 21st July Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time				
9.30 am Mass					
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 is on this Wednesday 17th July – 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 6th and 7th July

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
£114	£28.5	£124.10	£242.54	£51.98	£561.12	----	----	----	£561.12