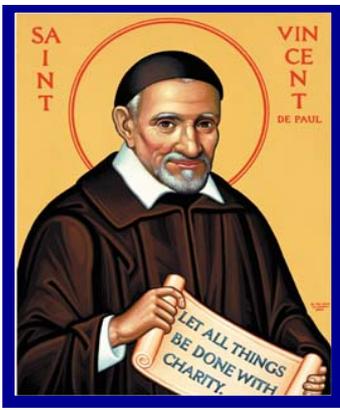


# Saint Vincent de Paul Parish



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3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

15<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Readings: Sunday Cycle A Psalter Week 3

Monday	10.00am	Novena for Life
Tuesday	10.00am	Novena to Saint Vincent de Paul
Wednesday	10.00am	Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help
Thursday	10.00am	Novena to Saint Philomena
Friday	N/A	Father Devlin's Day Off
Saturday	6.30pm	Novena to Most Sacred Heart
Sunday	10.00am	Family Mass



**First Reading** *Exodus 17:3-7*

God tells Moses to bring forth water from the rock.

**Responsorial Psalm** *95:1-2,6-9*

Sing joyfully in the presence of the Lord.

**Second Reading** *Romans 5:1-2,5-8*

Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

**Gospel Reading** *John*

4:5-42

Jesus reveals himself to the Samaritan woman at the well. (shorter form: John 4:5-15,19b-26,39a,40-42)

In today's Gospel, the dialogue between Jesus and a woman from Samaria is among the lengthiest and most theological found in Scripture. Jesus, an observant Jew of that time, was expected to avoid conversation with women in public. The woman herself alludes to the break from tradition: "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Yet Jesus not only converses with the woman, he also asks to share her drinking vessel, an action that makes him unclean according to Jewish law.

The initial conversation between Jesus and the woman is better understood if we consider the importance of water. At first, the woman understands Jesus' promise of "living water" in a literal sense: "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." The women of the town would have travelled to the well in the early morning, but this woman came to the well at the hottest time of the day. We learn in her conversation with Jesus that she is an outcast because of her "many husbands." The high point of the conversation is when Jesus reveals himself to her as the Messiah.

The significance of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman has many levels. The first is personal: The woman is herself converted to belief in Jesus as Messiah because he knows her sin but speaks with her just the same. The second is social: Having come to know Jesus as the Messiah, the Samaritan woman becomes an evangelist to her own people. The third level of the story is educational: Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman to teach his disciples that God's mercy is without limit. The disciples return from their shopping quite confused to find Jesus talking with a Samaritan, and a woman at that! But the conversion of the Samaritan townspeople is a foretaste of the kind of open community that will be created among those who believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

# Saint Vincent de Paul Parish News



## Eucharistic Adoration

Monday 10-12 Tuesday 10-12 Wednesday 6pm-8pm Thursday  
10-12.

There is also one Hour of Prayer on the First Sunday of every Month for Priests lead  
by the Indian Community. (11-12pm, i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019)



*"Life has changed but not ended"*  
*Patrick Noble, Peggy Burke*



**Our Candles:**  
**Sacred Heart -**  
**Our Lady's -**

**Deaf Chaplaincy Down and Connor / Saint Joseph's Centre**



Add us as your Friend! Saint Joseph's Centre for the Deaf is now on Facebook!  
- So to ensure you are kept most up to date with our happenings then add on  
as your friend on Facebook, you will find us under "Saint Joseph's Centre"

### New event



Each first Saturday of the month, the Saturday evening mass will be fully  
signed and the Deaf Community will gather in the parochial house for light  
refreshments

## DIRECTIVES FOR

### THE DIOCESE OF DOWN AND CONNOR

Effective 12 Noon Friday 13 March 2020 until further Notice

These directives are issued in accordance with the advice issued by Public Health Authorities in Northern Ireland. We continue to monitor this advice closely and will update these directives accordingly.

#### Public Health Advice

All members of our parishes, clergy and diocesan employees should adhere to the public health advice, which includes:

- good hand and respiratory hygiene,
- Public Health instructions to be followed if you think you are at risk,
- travel advice,
- the latest advice concerning staying at home issued on Thursday 12 March.

The latest Government advice can be found at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

#### The obligation to attend Mass

Considering the current situation, all the faithful are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation.

Parishes should do all they can to raise awareness of available opportunities to participate in Mass via radio, TV, webcam etc.

Mass will continue to be celebrated publicly until advice from the public health authorities indicates that we should determine otherwise.

We advise all those who are unwell, those who have underlying medical conditions or are otherwise vulnerable to infection to stay at home. We are particularly mindful that many of

our regular daily Mass goers are more vulnerable and we encourage them to consider carefully whether they should attend Mass at this time.

The celebration of Confirmation, First Confession and First Holy Communion:

Recognising that these are important milestones in the faith journey of our children and a cause for family and community celebration, and that the current situation may overshadow that celebration, we are suspending the programme of Confirmations, First Confessions and First Holy Communion until further notice.

### Weddings

Weddings may continue to be celebrated until further notice, couples and their guests should adhere to the Public Health advice. Parishes should do all they can to facilitate those couples who wish to discuss the arrangements for their marriage ceremony or postpone it to a later date

### Baptisms

Baptisms will continue to be celebrated until further notice, with the modifications to the liturgy set out in the accompanying document in place. Families are requested to restrict the number of guests attending the Church to a minimum and to adhere to the public health advice. (In St Paul's - when there are multiple baptism at the one time attendance is restricted to direct family members - God Parents and Child - Please contact Fr Devlin directly beforehand)

### Funerals

Every Catholic is entitled to a Christian funeral. Until further notice, funerals will continue. Bereaved families, mourners and those who wish to offer sympathy should adhere to public health advice and consider (in the case of mourners who are not family members) whether their attendance at the Funeral is essential.

### Opening of Churches

Churches will continue to remain open for private personal prayer.

### Meetings, seminars, courses and retreats

Organizers should consider whether such events are essential at this time, if not they should be cancelled. For essential meetings consider the possibility of using conference calling or web-based meetings. Persons vulnerable to infection should not be required to attend such meetings.

**These directives will be kept under regular review**