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ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL, PORTSMOUTH
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The Virgin of Czestochowa: Legend maintains that the original icon of The Virgin was painted by St. Luke the Evangelist on a cypress table top from the house of the Holy Family. Another legend states that a robber drew his sword to this icon twice and as he was about to strike for a third time he was struck dead. Here the Virgin is shown as the "Hodegetria" or "One Who Shows the Way" to the Saviour Jesus. The Virgin gestures towards Jesus who holds the book of gospels in His left hand, while He gives a blessing with His right hand. Our Lady of Czestochow, the Black Madonna, is Queen and Protector of Poland.

STARTS

Cathedral Celebrates Portsmouth's Polish Community



This icon, or religious picture as often displayed in churches, is one depicting The Virgin of Czestochowa, often referred to as The Black Madonna, Queen and Protector of Poland. It is on 18 November that St John's Cathedral will pay tribute to Portsmouth's Polish community by unveiling a further image of 'The Black Madonna' which will be blessed and enshrined in the Lady Chapel of St John's Cathedral in the centre of Portsmouth.

As Canon David Hopgood, Cathedral Dean, remarked: 'I hope that for the Polish people in our community this will be a source of strength and affirmation of how much they are welcome and valued'.

The blessing of the Virgin of Czestochowa following Mass at 6pm on Sunday 18 November will be followed by light refreshments in the Cathedral Centre.

ENDS

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