

PETERPOST

The Parish of St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Heart of Hampshire parish with worshipping communities in Winchester, Alresford and Stockbridge



THE PARISH
OF ST PETER
& THE WINCHESTER MARTYRS

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS

WEEK:

Let us walk in the Light of the Lord

Advent and Christmas Messages

Covenant With the Poor – Emmaus Appeal



FATHER MARK WRITES: THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: LET US WALK IN THE LIGHT OF THE LORD

Have you ever felt lost in the dark? As the days grow shorter and the nights longer, we sense it—our deep need for light. Light is life. We need it physically, emotionally, spiritually.

Without light, there's no food. Plants need light to grow, and we need plants to live. Light gives warmth and energy. Without it, the world grows cold. Even our bodies depend on light to produce vitamin D, which strengthens our immune system.

We need light for our **physical health**, and we need it for our **emotional health** too. Darkness can lead to depression, but light brings hope and joy. That's why we love Christmas lights—why we decorate our homes and go out to see them. We know we need more light in the darkest season.

Light also makes us feel safe. A dark alley feels dangerous. A dark house can seem spooky. And isn't it true that problems seem bigger at night? In the light of day, they shrink.

But we need light for our minds as well. In a well-lit room, you move confidently. In the dark, you hesitate. Living in the dark is no fun—and living in the dark about your future, your family, your finances is even worse. We want light to show us the way forward.

Our hearts can be dark too. We're born with original sin, our wounded human nature. From this stems **concupiscence**, which pulls us toward selfishness and pride, greed, envy and other ugly things. Those things thrive and fester and grow in the dark. But when true light shines on them, they vanish like fog in sunlight.

We need light. Scripture tells us that the light we need is ultimately God Himself. We need His truth in our minds and His peace in our hearts. Without Him, we don't know how to live. That's why the Bible begins with light:

God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw the light was good. Genesis 1:3

Life needs light. Without light, there is no life. And Jesus says:

I am the light of the world. John 8:12

God is the author of light—and He is our light.

Cont'd...

These are our usual Mass times. For any changes or special celebrations, please check the back page for this week's full schedule.

ST PETER'S CHURCH WINCHESTER

Sunday Masses: Saturday Vigil Mass, 5.30pm. Sunday 8.00am, 10.30am and 5.30pm.

Weekday Masses: Monday, Tuesday and Friday 12.15pm. Wednesday and Thursday at 10.00am.

Confessions: Saturday 9.30am to 10.30am and 4.30pm to 5.00pm.

Morning Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration 8.00am Monday to Friday.

ST THOMAS MORE'S CHURCH STOCKBRIDGE

Sunday Mass: 9.00am.

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH WINCHESTER

Sunday Mass: 9.15am.

ST GREGORY'S CHURCH ALRESFORD

Sunday Mass: 11.00am.

We are part of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, Registered Charity Number: 1199568

Advent and the Promise of Light

This weekend we begin Advent, a season of waiting and preparation for the birth of Jesus—the true Light of the World. Each Sunday we light candles on our Advent wreaths to mark the journey from darkness to light.

We'll also hear from Isaiah, the "prince of the prophets." He lived in a dark time for Israel: divided, under attack, morally adrift. Isaiah names their failures but then looks forward to a brighter future:

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord! (Isaiah 2:5)

What Does It Mean for Us?

Two things as we begin Advent:

First, listen. Spend time with the Lord and let His Word enlighten your life. I encourage you to add just five extra minutes of prayer or Scripture each day until Christmas. If you're not sure where to start, sign up for our [daily Advent devotional emails](#) - short reflections with Scripture, music, and prayer. Or explore resources like [Hallow](#), [Pray-as-you-go](#), or [Fr Mike Schmitz's "Waiting Well."](#) And in your car, why not swap secular music for Christian music?

Listening to God's truth and praising Him—that's walking in the light.

Second, pursue peace. Advent is the season of peace and goodwill. Maybe that means putting down your sword. Is there someone you're in conflict with - a spouse, sibling, parent, former friend? Are you ready to battle because they let you down, they didn't show up; they messed up; or they owe you? Who will make the first move? Usually, it's the more mature person. Why not be that person this Christmas?

This world can feel dark. But God invites us to step out of the dark and walk in His light—His peace and His truth. There is no life without light, and there is no light without God.

Let us walk in the Light of the Lord...Lead, Kindly Light...

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

Covenant With the Poor (CWP) Appeal – Supporting Emmaus Hampshire: Our CWP appeal this weekend is to support the work of Emmaus, a homelessness charity based in Winchester, who provide people with a stable home, individual support and life-changing opportunities. Our appeal is to raise funds to furnish their new well-being centre. The new centre will be used for counselling sessions, help companions overcome addiction and family issues, and provide a private space for the Emmaus support staff to work with companions in privacy looking at what skills they have and that can be developed, and what kind of job they can do. The centre will also provide space for families to come together to rebuild relationships. Further details are available in the separate leaflet. There will be a collection at all Masses - donations can also be made direct to the Parish bank account but please ensure you use "CWP" as a reference. Thank you. Please click [HERE](#) for more information. Thank you for your generous support!



ADVENT

Let there Be Light - Daily Messages from Fr Mark during Advent and Christmas: Fr Mark will again be offering a daily email message during Advent and Christmas. They'll contain a short reflection and usually some Scripture and an image to help you enter into the season. Sometimes, there'll also be a suggestion of how you might go deeper, for those who wish.



During this Advent we'll be reflecting on the theme, "Let there be Light". Light is a necessary part of life. It provides clarity and direction so we can move forwards on our way. It provides safety and security. But sometimes, especially at this time of the year, we feel burdened by the the darkness all around us. Our heavenly Father wants us to know His Son, Jesus, the Light of the World, and wants us to walk in His light. He wants us to to make our pilgrim way through this world, that often seems so dark and difficult to navigate, with Jesus as our guide. God wants to light our way, but we have to choose to walk in his light. If you've signed up for these before, you'll be automatically included (just message to say if you'd like to come off the list). If you're new, we'd love to welcome you - you can register by [clicking here](#) and you should automatically be included.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

FIRST READING

First reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

Responsorial Psalm: Ps

122(121):1-2. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9, R. cf. 1

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

SECOND READING

Romans 13:11-14a

Gospel Acclamation:

R. Alleluia, alleluia

Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

R. Alleluia

GOSPEL

Luke Matthew 24:37-44

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Cf. PS 84:13

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.



Bookshop – Advent Is Near: Prepare Your Heart and Home - Christmas is coming! The air is filled with quiet excitement and joyful expectation now that Advent is here. It is a time to pause, prepare and make room for Christ in our hearts and homes. Our Parish Bookshop is here to help you get ready for this special season. Discover: Advent calendars and booklets, Christmas cards (including CAFOD designs), Nativity sets and meaningful gifts, 2026 diaries, liturgical Bible diaries, missals and Morning & Evening Prayer books. The new encyclical has also arrived—a wonderful addition to your spiritual reading. Come in, browse, and enjoy the Advent spirit!

St Stephen's Travelling Nativity: This Advent, Mary and Joseph are travelling with the little donkey to Bethlehem. On their way they are hoping to find a different inn to stay at every night. Could they come to stay at your house? The Travelling Nativity will come to you for a night and then you are expected to pass them on to the next family. This is a good opportunity to meet other families and pray together this Advent. Please let the office know if you would like to participate and I will add your family to the rota. Please can you share your address and your contact details (these will be shared on the group rota). The first Sunday of Advent is November 30th so please do email me as soon as you can if you would like to take part. You can contact me on office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk



Looking for a peaceful way to slow down this Advent?: Hallow is offering a special extended free trial for Advent, giving you access to their Pray25: Be Still series with voices like Jonathan Roumie, Chris Pratt, Gwen Stefani and more, plus beautiful Advent and Christmas music. You'll also find thousands of prayers, reflections, audiobooks and the daily Rosary - all designed to help you grow closer to Jesus in a busy season. The trial is free, you can cancel anytime, and it's a great way to bring some calm, prayer and hope into the weeks ahead. [Click here](#) to try it and redeem the extended trial.

Mass at St Gregory's: Please take note that Mass at St Gregory's - **Tuesday, 2nd December** there will be a change of time. Mass will be taking place at **9.00am**.

Feast of St. Francis Xavier - Indian Community Mass: To celebrate the Feast of St. Francis Xavier, we will be celebrating an extra Mass at **6:00pm on Wednesday, 3rd December, in St. Peter's Church**. All are welcome to join us, especially members of the local Indian Community. There will be refreshments in the Pastoral Centre afterwards.

Extended Eucharistic Adoration: There will be an extended period of adoration, from **9am-midday, on Friday, 5th December in St. Peter's Church**. This is a beautiful opportunity for anyone and everyone to simply spend some time "gazing at the Lord, whilst He gazes at you". You can come and go as you please during this time and stay for as little or as long as you wish. We are, however, specifically looking for 2 people to "cover" each hour, so from 9-10am; 10-11am; 11am-midday. Please let the office know if you are available to cover one of these slots.

Compline: The next first Friday Latin Compline will be on **5 December at 9:00pm** in the church (8:00 rehearsal for those that wish to sing) as usual.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

St Stephen's Rings with Song and Celebration: 'Joyful singing filled St Stephen's church on 22 November, the feast of St Cecilia patron saint of music. Everyone was invited to nominate a favourite hymn and the choices covered a wide range from ancient to modern! Luckily there were refreshments available to soothe hoarse voices. It is planned for this to become an annual event'.



CWL Soup and Pud Lunch: The next lunch will be held in the Pastoral Centre on **Friday 5th December 12.30pm-2.00pm** supporting Winchester Salvation Army at Christmas time. Delicious homemade soups and lovely puddings for a suggested donation of £7, please come along and join us.

Gospel Workshop at St Peter's Church: Join us for an unforgettable Come & Sing Gospel workshop led by international choir leader Tim Uffindell on **Saturday, 28th February - 2.45pm to 5.15pm**. No experience needed- just turn up, have fun, learn a vibrant gospel song, and feel the joy of singing in harmony with others. It's low-pressure, high-energy, and a brilliant way to build community, boost confidence and discover the power of your own voice. Come ready to laugh, sing and leave feeling AMAZING . For more information and tickets [Click here](#).



FUNERALS

Ann Theresa Kirby RIP - 4th December at 1:00pm - St Peter's Church

Jo Tanter RIP - 11th December at 11:30am - St Peter's Church

Carol Bracegirdle RIP - 11th December at All Saints Church, Hursley 12:30pm

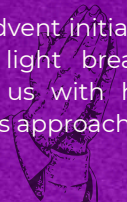
Please pray for their family and friends at this difficult time. May God grant them eternal rest.

WEDDINGS

We offer our warmest congratulations to Nicholas Hennessey & Lily Garlick, who celebrated their wedding on Friday 21st November. May they be richly blessed as they begin their married lives, and may their journeys together be filled with love, faith, and lasting joy.

PRAYER CORNER

Let us pray that through our Advent initiatives, we may contemplate God's light breaking through the darkness, filling us with hope, peace, joy, and love as Christmas approaches.



BAPTISM

Welcome to Baptism of Laurence and Margo Dineen who were baptised last week at St Peter's Church. May God bless them with His love and grace, today and always.

Do You Love Poetry? Then You Won't Want To Miss This Invitation From Deacon Martin: Every year, on 7th December, since I first came across the poem as an 19 year old, I have read (aloud) Gerard Manley Hopkins's wonderful poem *The Wreck of the Deutschland* with family and friends. (As you may know, the events in the poem take place on December 7th, the eve of the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.)



So, I'll be reading the poem again this year, and you're welcome to join me - at 7:30pm on Sunday 7th December. We will be gathering together "virtually" (via Microsoft Teams), because this makes it easier for more people to take part. You can even extend the invitation to friends and family outside Winchester. You don't need to install any extra software: all you need is a web browser on your computer, tablet or mobile phone.

The reading should only take around 15 minutes, but we can spend as long as you want talking about the poem! I'd be delighted if anyone wants to share the reading of the poem - it would be good to have at least 2 or 3 voices. If you'd like to join me, please let me know as soon as possible, via email mmcelroy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk so that I can give you a link to the online meeting, and also to help you access a copy of the poem.

CATECHESIS

Start of First Holy Communion Preparation with Led Adoration and Advent Jesse Tree Activity

Sunday November 30th 12:30pm – 2:00pm: All are welcome to a time of led Eucharistic Adoration with Fr Mark in St Peter's Church at 12:30pm, followed by a family Advent Jesse Tree activity in the Pastoral Centre Hall. Those beginning this year's First Holy Communion preparation will stay on for a short meeting to formally begin.

If you would like to attend adoration and the Jesse Tree activity but are not in this year's First Holy Communion preparation group, please email hpope@stpeterswinchester.org.uk by Friday November 28th (numbers needed for resourcing).



YOUTH

St Peter's Youth Group, Years 7-11: Looking for something fun to do on a Friday night? Come hang out with us! Meet new people, play games, relax, and enjoy free snacks in a safe and friendly space. Next meetup will be **Friday 5th December, 18:00-20:00 at the Pastoral Centre**. No need to sign up, just show up and bring your friends! (Consent forms will need to be filled in for new attendees).

Kingdom Seekers Advent Retreat - Theme: 'Our Hope is in Jesus' Saturday December 13th 9:00am - 1:00pm: A half day retreat of prayer, fun activities, music, food, reflection and creativity, all centred around why we can place our hope in Jesus. If you have a child in Years 5 through 9 (age 9 - 14) who has made their First Holy Communion, why not encourage them to come along and join our current members for the morning. Sign up link coming next week!



Kingdom Seekers Information Session – Parents and Children, Saturday December 13th 1:00pm: We are very much looking forward to welcoming new members in January. Kingdom Seekers is a parish formation and service programme which seeks to grow our young people in their faith, and to help them take first steps in becoming Christian leaders with servant hearts. Members are currently planning some exciting ventures for next year! Just come along to the **Pastoral Centre at 1:00pm** with your child for a short info session to find out more (or **rejoin your child at 1:00pm** if they are attending the retreat).



Baptism Annual Celebratory Mass and Buffet Saturday January 10th 10:30am - 1:00pm. Open to all those who have **had a child baptised** in the parish **during the last year**. Mass will be celebrated in St Peter's Church followed by a finger buffet in the Pastoral Centre Hall. A beautiful opportunity to come together and celebrate the new life our little ones have received. Invitation with sign up coming soon.



SCHOOL

St Peter's Catholic School: [Click here](#) for the newsletter.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING:

In Person Safeguarding Training (6 December 2025, Pastoral Centre): With the assistance of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, we will be running a new blended course which covers both children and adults at risk between 10:00am and 1:00pm. There is an open invitation to all volunteers whether you need a DBS or not.

This is an opportunity to have your training re-validated for the next three years, it also allows for those who'd prefer to have in-person in preference to online. You may have been contacted directly and if possible you are encouraged to attend if you'd prefer to have an in-person session in preference to having to complete online.

If you could let me know if you are interested in attending by **registering by 1 December 2025**, please [click here](#) as this will assist in the preparation for the day with the Diocese.

Gerard Dailly- Parish Safeguarding Minister.



OUTREACH

Laudato Si: An historic moment for our global family! To date, 62 faith institutions—including Catholic dioceses, Protestant banks, and Christian investment networks—have announced their decision to fully divest from fossil fuels. This is one of the largest faith-based divestment commitments to date and sends a prophetic message to world leaders that the time has come to move beyond the fossil fuel era and embrace a future rooted in justice, renewal, and care for our Common Home.

CAFOD World Gifts: Give a Life-Changing Gift this Christmas: This year, share the joy of Christmas with a CAFOD World Gift - from safe water, to school supplies! A meaningful way to bless loved ones and help families overseas. worldgifts.cafod.org.uk



For one day only on **Tuesday, 2nd December**, use the Gift Code: **SUPERGIFT25** to get free delivery.

PILGRIMAGES

Parish Centenary Pilgrimage Plans 2026 - UPDATE:

Parish pilgrimage to the Catholic National Shrine & Basilica of our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk ([Catholic National Shrine & Basilica of Our Lady, Walsingham](http://CatholicNationalShrine.org.uk)): There are still a few spaces available on this Pilgrimage on the **10/11th of August 2026**. If you would like to join those already booked to attend or would like more information please contact pilgrimage@stpeterswinchester.org.uk as soon as possible please. We have an option on some remaining rooms that will expire shortly.

COMMUNITY

Advent Retreat at Lynton: Sisters of Mary Morning Start Advent Retreat **12th to 14th December:** Taking place at Lynton Convent, Devon, EX35 6BS. Lifts available from Tiverton Parkway train station. An invitation for women aged 18-35 to come and spend a time of prayer and study with our contemplative community. For more information or to book a place please email Sisters of Mary Morning Star by [clicking here](#).

CENTENARY - NEWS | DONATE | CELEBRATE - 2026

SAVE THE DATE – St Peter's Centenary celebrations begin soon!

Light of the World – St Peter's Centenary: A Place for All

Join **Fr. Mark Hogan** and the parishioners of **St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs** as we open our **100th anniversary year** with Light of the World – a spectacular three-night celebration on **2nd, 3rd & 4th February 2026 (5:30–8:30 pm)**. We warmly invite **everyone – of all faiths and none** – to experience St Peter's Church transformed into a **beacon of beauty, welcome, and wonder**.

Enjoy breath taking illuminations, inspiring live music, moments of quiet reflection, and the warmth of community hospitality. Discover the rich heritage of St Peter's and its vital role in Winchester for a century. This is more than an event – it's an invitation to encounter **hope, joy, and belonging** in A Place for All.

Then, on **6th February 2026**, celebrate our story with the **Centenary Pageant: "Locus Iste (In This Place)"**—a vibrant production of drama, music, dance, and storytelling that brings to life the journey of our worshipping community from Reformation times to today. Featuring parishioners of all ages and cultures, this joyful event reflects our Centenary theme: A Place for All. **Performances at 4:00pm and 7:00pm in St Peter's Church**, with refreshments in the Pastoral Centre. Free entry with tickets (available soon); donations welcome.

More information to follow soon - WATCH THIS SPACE!

Email: centenary@stpeterswinchester.org.uk



Parish Priest: Fr Mark Hogan

Assistant Priest: Fr Pedro José Hernández O'Hagan

Deacons: Tony Darlison & Martin McElroy

CONTACTS:

For a full list of contact details for our Parish, please visit our website:

www.catholicwinchester.org.uk or email office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

to be directed to the correct person.

Parish Office: office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Finance: accounts@stpeterswinchester.org.uk Tel: 01962 852804

Deadline for items for newsletter requests submit by **Wednesday mid-day!**

PARISH BANK DETAILS:

If you wish to make a payment or donation, please use the following details: Parish Bank Account Name: CDP St Peter & Winchester Martyrs, Sort Code: 30-93-04, Account Number: 00890996 & Reference details (e.g. offertory, SVP, etc). You can also use the Contactless machine at the back of St Peter's or visit our website.



Advent & Christmas Services 2025

Start of First Holy Communion Preparation with Led Adoration and Advent Jesse Tree Activity

Sunday, 30th November at St Peter's - 12:30pm to 2:00pm

Feast of St. Francis Xavier - Indian Community Mass

Wednesday, 3rd December at St Peter's - 6:00pm

Extended Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, 5th December at St Peter's - 9:00am to 12:00noon

Compline

Friday, 5th December at St Peter's - 9:00pm

Kingdom Seekers Advent Retreat

Saturday, 13th December at St Peter's 9:00am to 1:00pm

Extended Confession

Saturday, 13th December 9:30am to 12:00pm

Christingle Sunday

Sunday, 14th December at St Peter's - 3.45pm to 4.45pm

Penitential Liturgy (Confession)

Monday, 15th December at 7:00pm

Blue Christmas

Friday, 19th December at 10:30am

Night of Light

Friday, 19th December at 5:30pm to 8:00pm

Early Family Christmas Mass

Wednesday, 24th December at 3:00pm

First Mass of Christmas at St Peter's

Wednesday, 24th December at 5:30pm

First Mass of Christmas at St Stephen's

Wednesday, 24th December at 5:30pm

Midnight Mass with Carols & Readings at St Gregory's

Wednesday, 24th December at 8:00pm

Midnight Mass with Carols & Readings at St Peter's

Wednesday, 24th December at 10:30pm

Christmas Day at St Peter's

Thursday, 25th December at 8:00am

Christmas Day Mass at St Thomas More

Thursday, 25th December at 9:00am

Christmas Day Mass at St Stephen's

Thursday, 25th December at 9:15am

Christmas Day Mass at St Peter's

Thursday, 25th December at 10:30am

Christmas Day Mass at St Gregory's

Thursday, 25th December at 11:00am

Feast of St Stephen the First Martyr at St Stephen's

Friday, 26th December at 10:00am

New Year's Eve

Wednesday, 31st December at 8:00am & 10:00am at St Peter's

New Year's Day - Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Thursday, 1st January at 10:00am at St Peter's



Date	Times	Where	Intentions
Sat 29 Nov Our Lady Sunday VIGIL First Sunday of Advent	9:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul of Julia Cave
	9:30AM to 10:30AM	Confession at St Peter's	
	4:30PM to 5.00PM	Confession at St Peter's	
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Andrei Saunders RIP
Sun 30 Nov First Sunday of Advent	8:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	Nicole Nicolarakis
	9:00AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	People of the Parish
	9:15AM	Mass at St Stephen's	John Morris RIP
	10:30AM	Mass at St Peter's (Cross Keys Choir)	Marthe & Brigitte Victoria RIP
	11:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	For the Repose of the Soul of Blessing Dowle RIP
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Dr. Pietro Ligato RIP
Mon 1 Dec of the 1 st Week of Advent	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's	
	12:15PM	Mass at St Peter's	Mimi Greenlees RIP
Tues 2 Dec of the 1 st Week of Advent	8:00AM	Morning Prayer, Adoration at St Peter's	
	9:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Kitty & David Wade
Wed 3 Dec St Francis Xavier	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul of Mary Julia Wheble
	6:00PM	Mass of St. Francis Xavier for the Indian Community	
Thur 4 Dec St John Damascene	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's	
	10.00AM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul of Mary Keating
	1:00PM	Funeral Mass Ann Teresa Kirby	
Fri 5 Dec of the 1 st Week of Advent	8.00AM	Morning Prayer & Extended Adoration at St Peter's (8:00am to 12noon)	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	12:15PM	Mass at St Peter's	For Those Struggling at Christmas
	9:00PM	Latin Compline (Night Prayer)	
Sat 6 Dec St Nicholas Sunday VIGIL Second Sunday of Advent	10:00AM	Cathedral Mass	The Soul of Frederick Yard
	11:00AM to 12:00 Noon	Confession at St Peter's	
	4:30PM to 5:00PM	Confession at St Peter's	
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Deceased Members of the Hill Family

Watch live or catch up later on our [YouTube channel](#) — all services from St Peter's, including Morning Prayer and Adoration, are livestreamed. [St Peter's - Livestreaming Notice September 2025](#)