

PETERPOST

The Parish of St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

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



WHAT'S INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Habits, Holiness, and Grace: The Power Behind Real Change

Centenary & February Celebrations

Christian Unity Week 18th to 25th January



FATHER MARK WRITES: HABITS, HOLINESS, AND GRACE: THE POWER BEHIND REAL CHANGE

Lasting transformation isn't about sheer willpower—it's about grace. Discover how your daily habits can become sacred steps toward holiness

At the start of a new year, many of us hope for change. We want better lives, to become better versions of ourselves. So, many of us set resolutions—big, bold goals. Yet most fail by February. Why? Because lasting transformation doesn't come from sheer willpower. Willpower is limited; whereas, grace is unlimited.

Instead of heroic resolutions, think about modest habits. Habits aren't about one-time accomplishments—they're about how you live your life. They shape who you are becoming. And here's the truth: God is calling you to holiness, and your habits are one of the primary ways He invites you into that growth.

Paul writes to the Corinthians:

"To the Church of God that is in Corinth, to you who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be holy..." (1 Corinthians 1:2)

Sanctification is God's gift—His own life given to you at Baptism. Holiness is your response: growing into that gift through daily choices. And holiness isn't narrow or rigid. It's not just piety. It's becoming the person God created you to be—physically, intellectually, spiritually, emotionally, socially.

- When you care for your body, you are growing in holiness.
- When you expand your mind or creativity, you are growing in holiness.
- When you pray, reflect, and relate better to others, you are growing in holiness.
- When you handle emotions well or control your temper, you are growing in holiness.

Every small step matters. God is not distant or demanding—He is near and cheering you on. Your heavenly Father is easily pleased but not easily satisfied. He delights in every step forward, yet He longs for you to keep growing. None of us are done yet.

Here's another truth St. Paul gives us:

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks... for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus." (1 Corinthians 1:3-4)

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.



Grace is God's power at work within you. It comes in two ways: sanctifying grace—the gift you received in Baptism—and actual grace—the help you need to live and grow today. Actual grace fuels your habits. It's the strength to keep going when willpower runs out. And you access it simply by asking. God doesn't just call you to holiness and leave you on your own—He supplies the ability to change. Believing that changes everything.

So what do you do this week?

- Choose one habit that aligns with God's will for your life.
- Connect it to your identity and calling: "I'm doing this because I'm God's beloved, called to holiness."
- Ask daily for grace: "Lord, give me the strength beyond my willpower to grow."
- And when you stumble? Offer yourself grace, ask for grace, and start again.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist points to Jesus - the Lamb of God, the source of grace. Through His sacrifice, you are God's beloved child, empowered to live a grace-filled life. Your habits, however ordinary, are sacred opportunities to become who God created you to be.

The reason for habits is not just to accomplish something, but to become someone—holy, whole, and fully alive in Christ.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Brightening St Peter's: Lighting Upgrade Underway - Exciting progress is being made on the lighting upgrade at St Peter's! Work is now underway, and we are optimistic that the North Side of the Church, including the Lady Chapel, will be completed in time for the weekend. The South Side and the nave are expected next week, followed by the sanctuary, bringing our improved lighting closer to completion. The Church will remain open next week with limited access, and services will be held in the Lady Chapel.

Soup and Pud Charity lunch in Alresford: Do come for a hearty homemade Soup and Pud lunch at St Gregory's Church Hall on **Tuesday 20th January, between 12.30pm and 2.00pm**. Donations welcome, all to support the BOAZ project at Sutton Scotney, who help adults with learning difficulties achieve their full potential.

Pies & Puds - Wed 21st January: It's time for our monthly lunch event, on **Wednesday 21st January at the Pastoral Centre, 12.45 for 1pm**. We'll have pie, all the vegetables you can eat, proper puddings with custard, and vegetarian and G/F options. And Fr Pedro will be giving us a talk - about his work in Honduras, being a prison chaplain, and other aspects of his life. There is no booking or commitment necessary, but do contact moirar@msn.com with any questions or to be added to our mailing list.

Winchester Catholic History Society (WCHS) – Upcoming Talks: The next meeting is on **Thursday 29 January at Winchester College - 7.00pm**, an 'Evening with Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe'. He was ordained as a Dominican and was created Cardinal by Pope Francis in December 2024. On **Thursday 5 February** Professor Anna Whitelock will be speaking on her latest book, 'The Sun Rising: James 1 & The Dawn of a Global Britain' Both events are Pre Booked Ticket only talks. The College do need to know who is on site for safeguarding purposes and we do not want to be over capacity on the evening. All enquiries win.cath.history@gmail.com

CWL Charity Lunch – Thank You: Thank you from the Catholic Women's League to everyone who supported January's Soup & Pud Lunch, which raised £370 for the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance. The next Charity Lunch will take place on **Friday 13th February**, supporting Winchester & District Young Carers, who provide respite, practical support, and resources for young carers in our community.

Praying for healing: workshop 27-28 February 2026 – Fr Mark would love you to join him and a group from the parish at a workshop learning to pray for physical healing in a Catholic context. The workshop is in Northampton Cathedral pastoral centre from 6pm Friday 27 February and all day 28 February 2026. More details and booking form are [here](#). Please contact Gerard via the Parish Office for more information.

OUTREACH

Peace Sunday 2026 – 18th January: Peace Sunday is a chance for all of us to reflect on Pope Leo's message: "Peace be with you all: towards an 'unarmed and disarming' peace." True peace, he reminds us, is built on understanding, hope, and opening hearts to one another. Resources to mark Peace Sunday are available at paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2026, including a prayer card, children's activities, and bidding prayers. Pax Christi promotes peace through nonviolence, education, and advocacy. Donations or parish collections on Peace Sunday help support their work. Read a letter from Bishop John Arnold encouraging reflection on this theme here: [Letter from Bishop Arnold](#).

Make a Difference This New Year: We're seeking able-bodied volunteers to serve as Minibus Escorts or Drivers, helping our less able-bodied parishioners attend the 10:30am Sunday Mass. Please get in touch with the Parish Office if you can help - [click here](#)



MUSIC

Hearts on Fire - Sunday 18th January at 7.00pm, Milner Hall: Join us for an evening of Adoration, prayer, and uplifting praise & worship music that will ignite your spirit and bring our parish alive in song. Whether this is your first Adoration or you love to sing your heart out, come and connect, celebrate, and let your faith shine! Let's fill Milner Hall with joy and worship - every voice matters, every heart can burn bright with His love.



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 tickets [Click here](#).



CHRISTIAN UNITY

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – Special Guest: This **Sunday 18th January**, Revd. Ed Dines, Vicar of St Barnabas Anglican Church, will be joining us at **St Stephen's 9:15 am Mass** as part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. We warmly welcome him and invite everyone to join in this special celebration of shared faith.

Support Deacon Martin at Evensong: Deacon Martin will be preaching at Winchester Cathedral Evensong on **Sunday 18th January at 3:30 pm**. Parishioners are warmly invited to attend and support him as he leads this afternoon service.

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

Let Us Pray for You – The Power of Prayer Warriors: Sometimes life feels heavy, and we all need someone to stand with us in prayer. Our parish is blessed with a caring team of Prayer Warriors who faithfully lift the needs of others to God with love, hope, and trust. Whether you are asking for healing, strength, guidance, peace, or simply giving thanks, you do not have to pray alone. You can now submit your prayer requests online at catholicwinchester.org.uk/pray, or by email to prayers@stpeterswinchester.org.uk. All requests are treated with the strictest confidence and shared only within the Prayer Warrior team. Prayer connects us, strengthens us, and reminds us that no one has to carry their burdens alone. Let us walk together in faith and hope and let us pray for you.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Discover God's Amazing Love – 2026 Online Retreats: Start the New Year by joining the ADoRE online retreat programme: "The Greatest Gift is Love – the Transformative Power of God's Love." Each month explores the truths of our faith and the amazing love of God, helping participants grow closer to Him and share His love with others. The programme begins on **24th January** with "GOD IS LOVE", led by Fr. Chris Thomas on Zoom. Experience live-streamed Mass, Adoration, Praise and Prayer and be inspired to live fully in God's love. Find full details, dates, topics, and speakers at www.altonrenewal.com/2026. ADoRE, founded in 1975 in Portsmouth Diocese, is one of Britain's longest-running Catholic Charismatic Renewal gatherings, dedicated to helping people deepen their personal relationship with God through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Great Story of Jesus – Day Retreat Start 2026 with a day retreat at St Bede's, Basingstoke, on **Saturday 24th January (10.00am–3.15pm)**, reflecting on the heart of our faith - the kerygma, the Good News of Jesus Christ. The retreat is open to everyone and may be especially helpful for JIF or RCIA catechumens preparing for Easter. Led by Sr Margarida Mondral (Verbum Dei Community) and the Ananias team, the day includes gentle reflections, prayer stations, videos, and time for personal reflection at your own pace. To book or find out more, please contact Liza at Inahajski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing in your name, O Most High!

FIRST READING

First reading: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 40(39):2, 4ab. 7-8a. 8b-9. 10. R. 8a, 9a

Behold, I have come, Lord to do your will.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:1-3
Gospel Acclamation:

R. Alleluia, alleluia

The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God.

R. Alleluia

GOSPEL

John 1:29-34

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Cf. Ps 22:5

You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.



COMMUNITY

Churches Together Winchester: Renew Wellbeing Café Open Afternoon: Renew Wellbeing Café invites everyone to an open afternoon on **Monday 2nd February, 2.00–3.30pm, at the Salvation Army Hall**, celebrating two years of supporting wellbeing in our community. Come along to learn more about the cafés, which run at the Salvation Army Hall and at New Life Church, Stanmore. A short video about Renew's work is available - contact Alison at chaplain@winc.org.uk for details.

SCHOOL

St Peter's School Governor Volunteers: St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Winchester, seeks a practising Catholic for the role of Foundation Governor. Please consider joining this important ministry, no educational knowledge is required and full training is provided. Find out more from Fr Mark or any of the current governors. More information is available on the Portsmouth Catholic Academies and Schools website [click here](#) and St Peter's School website [click here](#)

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



A PLACE FOR ALL

LIGHT OF THE WORLD - SON ET LUMIÈRE

2nd - 4th February 2026 | 5:30pm - 8:30pm | St Peter's Church: This February, St Peter's comes alive for three unforgettable nights as we launch our Centenary Year with light, music, and celebration. Outside, beams and lasers will shine into the night sky, symbolising hope and the light of Christ over Winchester. Inside, stunning projections reveal the beauty of the church like never before. Each evening features inspiring music: **Mon 2 Feb – Gregorian Chant, Tue 3 Feb – Contemporary Praise & Worship, Wed 4 Feb – Choral Classics.** Explore exhibits, enjoy quiet prayer spaces, and share refreshments in the Pastoral Centre. Free and open to all — bring friends and family!

ST PETER'S CENTENARY PAGEANT - 'LOCUS ISTE'

6th February 2026 | Performances - 4:00pm & 7:00pm | St Peter's Church: As part of our Centenary celebrations, we invite you to a special production, "Locus Iste – A Gathering in St Peter's Church." Through music, narration, dance, scripture, and contributions from parish groups, this unique Pageant brings to life the story of St Peter's its history, its people, and its place at the heart of Winchester for 100 years. The programme includes choral works such as Hymn to St Peter and Locus Iste, dance pieces depicting key moments in our history, scripture readings, parish group reflections, and a joyful finale with all musicians performing the Hallelujah Chorus.

Refreshments will be served in the Parish Centre - performance approx. 90 minutes (including interval). This free, family-friendly event is open to EVERYONE. We encourage early arrival to secure seating, especially for the evening performance. Tickets are **FREE OF CHARGE** for both performances. Please click [HERE](#) to reserve your seat for the 4.00pm performance! Alternatively click [HERE](#) to reserve your seat for the **7.00pm** performance.

For more details on events and updates, please check the newsletter, visit the 'Centenary' website page or email us on: centenary@stpeterswinchester.org.uk. You can also pick up a flyer at the back of St Peter's Church.



www.catholicwinchester.org.uk/centenary/



St Peter's Catholic Church, Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8RY

FUNERALS

Avril Williams RIP.

Please pray for their family and friends at this difficult time.

May God grant them eternal rest.

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 Tel: 01962 852804

PRAYER CORNER

Let us pray that our celebration of Christian Unity week will help our parish community to join together with all who love Christ in working and praying for a deeper unity of faith.



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.

Date	Times	Where	Intentions
Sat 17 Jan St Anthony of Egypt Sunday VIGIL Week 2 in Ordinary Time	9:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	Czeslaw Kuropatnicki
	9:30AM to 10:30AM	Confessions at St Peter's	
	4:30PM to 5:00PM	Confession at St Peter's	
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Bill & Nora Coram Deceased
Sun 18 Jan Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	For the Souls of the Bristol Family
	9:00AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	Win Harris RIP
	9:15AM	Mass at St Stephen's	Lidia Otero RIP
	10:30AM	Mass at St Peter's	People of the Parish
	11:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Edward Tobin RIP
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Charlotte Stewart
Mon 19 Jan St Wulstan	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's (Lady Chapel)	
	12:15PM	Mass at St Peter's (Lady Chapel)	
Tues 20 Jan St Fabian & St Sebastian	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's (Lady Chapel)	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	For the Souls of the Bristol Family
	12:15PM	No Mass Today	
Wed 21 Jan St Vincent	8:00 AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's (Lady Chapel)	
	10:00 AM	Mass at St Peter's (Lady Chapel)	Mary & Peter Pawlowski RIP
Thur 22 Jan Week 2 in Ordinary Time	8:00 AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's (Lady Chapel)	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Peter's (Lady Chapel)	
Fri 23 Jan Week 2 in Ordinary Time	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's (Lady Chapel)	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Deceased Members of the Blessed Sacrament Guild
	12:15PM	Mass at St Peter's (Lady Chapel)	Sanjay Loy-Misquith Birthday
Sat 24 Jan St Francis de Sales Sunday VIGIL Week 3 in Ordinary Time	9:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	For the Soul of the Bristol Family
	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	Ella Okon Birthday

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](#)