

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:

"Unbind Him and Let Him Go" – Jesus's Invitation to Freedom

Street Pastors

Reconciliation Service - Monday 23rd March



FATHER MARK WRITES: "UNBIND HIM AND LET HIM GO" – JESUS'S INVITATION TO FREEDOM

The voice that raised Lazarus still speaks today, summoning each of us into a freer, fuller life.

We come this week to the end of our Lenten journey into the mystery of healing. Over these weeks we've discovered three simple but life-changing truths: **we are all wounded, Jesus came to heal, and healing always involves mystery and faith.** Some wounds are old and familiar, others fresh and raw. Some lie on the surface; others live deep within. But all of them invite a choice: will I rely only on myself, or will I rely on the Lord? One offers **limited success**; the other, **unlimited possibilities.**

The Catechism tells us that illness can lead us into anguish—or it can **"make a person more mature... Very often illness provokes a search for God and a return to Him."** Healing begins with exactly that: a turning.

This week the Gospel leads us to one of the most moving stories in Scripture, the raising of Lazarus (John 11). We hear the sisters' cry: "Lord, he whom you love is ill." And Jesus' strange reply: "This illness does not lead to death... it is for the glory of God." (John 11:3–4). God **never wastes a hurt.** Somehow, mysteriously, even our suffering can become a doorway for His glory.

Then we read the startling line: **"Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So... he stayed two days longer."** (John 11:5–6). Here we are told of Jesus's Love and that He decides to delay. How can those two things belong in the same sentence? Yet many of us know this experience: the prayer that seems unanswered, the silence that feels like indifference.

But God's delays are never God's indifference. Sometimes His will is opposed. Sometimes it is disobeyed. And sometimes He is preparing a **deeper healing** than the one we first asked for.

When Jesus finally arrives, Martha runs to Him, raw with grief: "Lord, if you had been here..." (John 11:21). That line may be the most honest prayer in the Bible. It is the prayer of disappointment. The prayer of anger. And it is perfectly acceptable. The Psalms teach us that criticising God to others is possibly blasphemy, but **criticising God to God is prayer.** He can hold our honesty.

Yet Martha's faith is woven through her tears: "But even now I know..." (John 11:22). In response Jesus doesn't offer a theory but a Person: **"I am the resurrection and the life... Do you believe this?"** (John 11:25–26).

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.



This is the heart of healing. If Jesus is truly the resurrection, then even death does not have the last word. Pain, problems, wounds, woundedness, none of them get to write the final chapter.

And then comes the shortest, and perhaps most tender verse in Scripture:

“Jesus wept.” (John 11:35). God Himself stands beside a grave and cries. He is moved by our sorrow, overcome with grief, but not overwhelmed by it.

What follows is breathtaking. Jesus commands the stone to be rolled away, involving us in the healing. Then He prays. And then He commands: “Lazarus, come out.” And the dead man walks (John 11:44).

As we end this series, I want to speak to two groups.

First, to those who have not yet experienced healing: please persevere. Keep praying. Even if God seems delayed, trust that healing is coming.

Second, to those who have experienced healing: please share your story. Lazarus shared his.

A group of us went to a healing conference in Northampton a few weeks ago. We learnt how to pray for people for physical healing. Not everyone got healed physically during that conference. My knee was still as sore at the end of the conference as it was at the beginning, for example, despite several people praying for it to be healed. But there were others in our group who experienced physical healing, for example to a hip, a wrist and a back.

There was one man at the conference called Dom, who had an accident as a child causing brain damage which left him with functional neurological disorder, chronic pain, and right-sided hemiparesis. During the conference he really suffered and many people prayed for him when he went into uncontrollable painful spasms but there was no sign of healing. A week after the conference someone posted on a whatsapp group a video of Dom jumping around pain-free and full of joy! Dom was willing to let people film this and share it so that others could see what God has done for him. Now, many who were there and several others are sharing his story and thanking and praising God!

When you share yours, God heals your heart all over again, and gives others courage to seek their own healing.

Because hurt people hurt people.

But healed people help heal people.

And Jesus came “so that we may have life, His life, and have it to the full.”

Do you believe this?

SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS THIS EASTER

Easter is a time of hope, new life, and gratitude. It's also a moment to appreciate the people who quietly make a difference in our lives – especially Fr Mark and Fr Pedro. Week after week, they guide us, pray for us, support our families, and lead our parish with care, wisdom, and kindness. Their work often happens behind the scenes, but it means so much to our whole community.

The Easter Offering is a special opportunity to give thanks and to support the life and ministry of the parish. Any contribution you can make will help sustain the work of the parish and its priests. If you cannot give financially, your prayers remain deeply valued and appreciated. Donations given on Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday, along with any applicable Gift Aid, will go towards supporting the priests of the parish. Every contribution over this weekend helps continue the mission and ministry of the Church.

This Easter, let's come together to show Fr Mark and Fr Pedro how much they are appreciated. Thank you for your generosity, your kindness, and your support. To help with the Easter Offering, you can make your donation in one of the following ways:

- An envelope marked “Clergy Easter Offering”
- Using the contactless terminals at St Peter's or St Stephen's
- By bank transfer (please see page 4 for details)

Please remember to reference “Easter Offering.”

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

FIRST READING

First reading: Ezekiel 37: 12-

14

Responsorial Psalm: Ps

130(129): 1-2. 3-4. 5-6b. 6c-8.

R. 7bc

With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:8-11

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 11:25a,26

Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

GOSPEL

John 11: 1-45

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Cf. Jn 11:26

Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

BUILDING WORKS UPDATE – A BEAUTIFUL NEW CHAPTER

We are delighted to share some wonderful news with you all – the building works at St Peter's are now complete!

This has included the new lighting, the careful restoration of the reredos, and the cleaning of the east window from the inside. The results are truly remarkable. We hope you will agree that the reredos, in particular, now looks absolutely stunning, with its beauty and detail shining more clearly than ever before.

Over the coming weeks, we are excited to offer a special opportunity for anyone who is interested. Our Parish Archivist will be leading small group visits to explore the reredos in more detail, highlighting some of its most interesting and meaningful features. You will even be invited onto the sanctuary to experience it up close – something quite special that we hope many of you will enjoy. Please keep an eye on Peterpost for further details of dates and times.

Looking ahead, we are planning the replacement of the sanctuary carpet in May, as we continue preparing for our main centenary celebrations in July 2026.

We would like to sincerely thank you all for your patience, understanding, and support while these works were being carried out. It has meant a great deal to us, and we truly hope you feel it has all been worthwhile.

This invitation is open to the whole parish community – not just those who regularly attend St Peter's – so please do come along and see the transformation for yourself.

We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to Sean Reidy, our Facilities Manager, for the care, dedication, and leadership he has shown in guiding this project from start to finish.

If you have any questions or would like to find out more, please contact Gerard via the parish office. Thank you once again for your continued support – we look forward to welcoming you soon.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

SVP Healing Mass & Anointing of the Sick: All are warmly invited to a special SVP Mass with Prayers for Healing and the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick on **Saturday 21st March at 2.00pm at St Peter's Church**. A time of prayer, comfort and hope, followed by light refreshments in the Pastoral Centre. If you would like to attend and require transport - or if you are able to offer someone a lift - please email: SVP@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

An evening with Our Lady of Guadalupe: Discover the Miracles of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Join Fr Pedro Hernandez, a Mexican priest, as he shares the story of the miraculous apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Come to the Pastoral Centre on **Wednesday 25th March at 6:30 pm** for an evening of wonder, faith, and inspiration. Free entry. Please [click here](#) if you would like to attend.

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

Reconciliation Service: As we prepare for the joy of Easter, Lent invites us to pause, reflect, and return to the heart of God. One of the greatest gifts we have as Catholics is the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a place of mercy, healing, and new beginnings.

You are warmly invited to our Parish Reconciliation Service on **Monday 23 March at 7:00pm**.

There will be several priests available, offering everyone the time and space to receive this sacrament prayerfully and without haste. If you feel hesitant about coming to confession, know this: there is nothing to fear. This is not a place of judgment, but of peace. Here, burdens are lifted, hearts are renewed, and we are restored by God's love. Whether you come regularly or it has been a long time, you are most welcome. Come and experience God's mercy; Come and be renewed; Come and prepare your heart for Easter. We look forward to welcoming you.



Stations of the Cross – Walking with Jesus this Lent: You are warmly invited to participate in the Stations of the Cross, a beautiful and prayerful way to walk with Jesus on his journey to the Cross and to reflect more deeply on his love for us. Stations will take place across the parish as follows:

- **Mondays at 7.00pm at St Stephen's,**
- **Wednesdays at 11.00am at St Thomas More**
- **Fridays at 11.30am and Sundays 4.30pm at St Peter's**
- **Sundays at 5.30pm at St Gregory's.**

SPWM Youth Choir (Age 8 - 16): Following two successful launch/info events, the official registration form to sign up for the new parish Youth Choir is now live! To register your child(ren), please [click here](#) or use the QR code here, completing one form per child.

Please note that attending one of the information events was not a pre-requisite for joining; everyone is welcome! We look forward to beginning in earnest after Easter.



FUNERALS

Valerie Sollohub RIP - 12.15pm, 24th March at St Peter's.
Victoria Kilkenny RIP - 12.15pm, 14th April at St Peter's.

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

May God grant them eternal rest.

PRAYER CORNER

Let us pray for those suffering from physical, mental, or spiritual illness, that our healing ministry draws them closer to Christ through our community.



PILGRIMAGES

Centenary Pilgrimage to Walsingham – Update: There are still a few places available for our parish pilgrimage in August. [Click here](#) for the latest information and how to register your interest.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers Needed – Brass Cleaning at St Peter's: Could you spare a little time to help keep the brass at St Peter's shining? Our candlesticks and other items used at Mass are cared for by a small team of volunteers, with a rota that comes around roughly every two months, at a time that suits you during the week.

We also gather for a "Big Brass Clean" before Christmas and Easter, and the next one will take place during Holy Week - a perfect opportunity to come along and give it a try. If you would like to help, please contact office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

OUTREACH

Street, School and Prayer Pastors Visit – Sunday 22 March: We are delighted to welcome members of the Street, School and Prayer Pastor teams to our weekend Masses. Pastors will be with us in uniform and will support our Welcome and Hospitality Ministry, offering a visible sign of Christian service in our community.



The Street Pastor organisation plays a vital role in caring for those who may be vulnerable in our town centres at night - listening, offering support and helping keep people safe through their calm and compassionate presence. Their ministry is a powerful witness to faith expressed in action. Whether you are simply curious to learn more or are discerning a possible call to volunteer, this is an excellent opportunity to meet the team, hear their experiences and ask any questions you may have. For more information, please contact: Mark Hibbert-Hingston (Co-ordinator); Phone: 07740 288654 or Email: winchester@streetpastors.org.uk



Training sessions for new volunteers will take place in April and September 2026.

NEWS ACROSS THE DIOCESE

Life in the Spirit Seminars: Life in the Spirit seminars are being run again in the Portsmouth Diocese, starting on Thursday 23rd April 7:15 - 9pm. Life in the Spirit Seminars are a powerful spiritual experience designed to help us grow in our relationship with Jesus, through living more fully in the power of the Holy Spirit.

There are seven sessions with the last one being on June 18th, due to breaks for Ascension Day and half-term. The Holy Spirit Day will be at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke on Sat 23rd May, the Eve of Pentecost, a beautiful time to receive a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The sessions are being held online, but there are also live sessions at St Bede's if you would prefer in person. For more details about the sessions, speakers and how to register, please [click here](#) or use the QR code.



Lenten Day of Reflection – Saturday 21st March: Join Canon Christopher Heaps and the Carmelite Community at **St. James' Church, Reading, 10:30 am – 1:00 pm**, for a gentle space to reflect, pray, and prepare for Holy Week. All are welcome! [Click here](#) for more information.

Come and See: The Diaconate – Saturday 28th March: Curious about the Diaconate? Join us at English Martyrs Church, Didcot, 9am–3pm to hear firsthand experiences, ask questions, and explore without obligation. If you would like to attend email diaconate@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk to book.

Easter Triduum Retreat – Isle of Wight (2-5 April 2026): Spend the sacred days of the Easter Triduum in prayer and reflection at the Verbum Dei Retreat Centre on the Isle of Wight, exploring more deeply the mystery of Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection. For more information or to register interest, please email: verbumdei.iow@gmail.com.

SCHOOL - ST PETER'S PRIMARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Little Fishes Pre-School – Places Available from September: Little Fishes Pre-School offers a warm, secure and welcoming environment where young children can learn, play and explore. Based on the St Peter's Primary School site, children benefit from a bright purpose-built space, a wonderful outdoor area used every day, and close links with the school's Early Years team. To find out more, take a virtual tour and view session details, funding information and how to apply. [Click here](#). For news and information about our wonderful Catholic Primary School, please [Click here](#) for the newsletter.

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

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 21 Mar of the 4th Week of Lent Sunday VIGIL 5th Sunday of Lent	09:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	Binjal Benny
	9.30AM to 10.30PM	Confessions at St Peter's	
	2:00PM	Mass for Healing	
	4:30PM to 5.00PM	Confession at St Peter's	
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Ron Footer RIP
Sun 22 Mar of the 5th Week of Lent	8:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	
	9:00AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	People of the Parish
	9:15AM	Mass at St Stephen's	Children & Families of the Parish
	10:30AM	Family Mass at St Peter's	Jeannie O'Rourke RIP
	11:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Deceased Members of the MCrossan & McCafferty Families
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	For the Intentions of the Way & Corcoran Families
Mon 23 Mar of the 5th Week of Lent	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's	
	12:15PM	Mass at St Peter's	Joan Pollard RIP
	7:00PM	Parish Lenten Reconciliation Service	
Tues 24 Mar of the 5th Week of Lent	8:00AM	Morning Prayer, Adoration & Mass at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	12:15PM	Funeral Mass Countess Valerie Sollohub	
Wed 25 Mar The Annunciation of the Lord	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	Jack Aherne RIP
Thur 26 Mar of the 5th Week of Lent	8:00 AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	Repose of the Soul of Eugene Gomez-Murphy
Fri 27 Mar of the 5th Week of Lent	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	12:15PM	Mass at St Peter's	Renato Schapiro
Sat 28 Mar of the 5th Week of Lent Sunday VIGIL Paslm Sunday	9:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	Maria Agullo RIP
	9.30AM to 10.30PM	Confession at St Peter's	
	4:30PM to 5.00PM	Confession at St Peter's	
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Martínez del Cerro Families RIP & Maria Agullo RIP

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](#)

HOLY WEEK SERVICES & EASTER MASS TIMES



Date	Times	Where	Service
23 rd March	7:00PM	St Peter's Church	Parish Lenten Reconciliation Service at St Peter's Church
28 th March (Palm Sunday)	5:30PM	St Peter's Church	Mass
29 th March (Palm Sunday)	08:00AM	St Peter's Church	Mass
	09:00AM	St Thomas More Church	Mass
	09:15AM	St Stephens Church	Mass
	10:30AM	St Peter's Church	Mass
	11:00AM	St Gregory's Church	Mass
	5:30PM	St Peter's Church	Mass
31 st March (Chrism Mass)	11:00AM	St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth	Chrism Mass
2 nd April (Maundy Thursday)	7:30PM	St Peter's Church	Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Peter's followed by Altar of Repose
	8:00PM	St Gregory's Church	Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Gregory's followed by Altar of Repose
3 rd April (Good Friday)	9:30AM	St Stephen's Church	Stations of the Cross
	9:45AM	St Peter's Church	Family Way of the Cross
	12:00PM	St Peter's Church	Stations of the Cross
	3:00PM	St Gregory's Church	Celebration of the Lord's Passion
	3:00PM	St Peter's Church	Celebration of the Lord's Passion
4 th April (Holy Saturday)	9:00AM	St Peter's Church	Office of Readings & Morning Prayer
	12:00PM	St Peter's Church	Easter Blessing of Food
	8:00PM	St Peter's Church	Easter Vigil
	8:00PM	St Gregory's Church	Easter Vigil
5 th April (Easter Sunday)	8:00AM	St Peter's Church	Easter Sunday
	9:00AM	St Thomas More Church	Easter Sunday
	9:15AM	St Stephen's Church	Easter Sunday
	10:30AM	St Peter's Church	Easter Sunday
	11:00AM	St Gregory's Church	Easter Sunday
	5:30PM	St Peter's Church	Easter Sunday
6 th April (Bank Holiday)	10:00AM	St Peter's Church	Mass - Bank Holiday

All are warmly welcome - please share with others who may wish to join us this Easter.