

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:

- *Fr Mark Writes "Lifted by Love"*
- *Prayer Workshops - "Discernment" and "Making Decisions"*
- *Stewardship Weekends*



FATHER MARK WRITES: LIFTED BY LOVE

The Gift of the Spirit and the Freedom of Discipleship

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus speaks with quiet urgency to his disciples: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." It might seem a bit strange that he links love with following his commandments. But, if we trust Him, then we know that whatever He asks of us will be for our good, our benefit, as well as that of others. Moreover, we can't love Him unless we've already been touched by His love for us, a love whose depth He is about to reveal on the Cross (the setting for this Gospel is the Last Supper).

Jesus begins with relationship. Love comes first. Everything else flows from there.

The commandments Jesus speaks of are not hoops to jump through in order to earn God's approval. They are, rather, a way of life shaped by love, a life lived in freedom, not fear. And Jesus knows that this kind of life isn't possible on our own. That is why he promises the gift of the Spirit: "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always." Jesus is the first Advocate (Paraclete) but the Father will send another, the Holy Spirit, to fill our hearts, again and again, with His love.

Jesus wants to reassure his disciples: "I'm sending someone else to be with you, alongside you, and, actually, it's even better than having me here with you because this new person will be within you! Wherever you go, this other Paraclete will be with you and you will never be alone."

This other Paraclete will even be with you in your thoughts and desires and feelings.

- If people are threatening you, this Paraclete protect you and will coach you to help you defend yourself;
- if you're lost for words, this other Paraclete will whisper in your heart the words you need to say;
- if you're feeling down-hearted, this other Paraclete will cheer you up and console you and bring you hope and joy;
- if you're feeling scared, this other Paraclete will fill you with strength and courage.

Wherever you are, in whatever far flung place on this planet, in whatever season you find yourself, in whatever situation of incredible joy or deep distress, this other Paraclete will be with you, forever, on your side and in your heart, as a good gift from my Father.

I was reminded this week of a story about a majestic eagle that had been raised among chickens. It had the wings of an eagle, the instincts of an eagle, and the calling of an eagle – but because it had grown up scratching around the farmyard, it believed that was all life had to offer. It had forgotten how to fly. Only when it was lifted up, shown the sky, and gently encouraged did it begin to rediscover who it really was.

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.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - 10TH MAY 2026 | YEAR A

There is something of that eagle in all of us. We can very easily shrink our faith down to something small and manageable: a habit, a routine, something we “consume” rather than something that shapes our whole lives. But Jesus comes to lift our eyes, to remind us who we are, and to invite us into a larger, freer way of living as his disciples, the Way of Love.

That’s why stewardship, at heart, is about what God wants for us more than what He wants from us. In particular, it is not about money. God is not after our bank balance; he is after our hearts. After all, that’s all we can really offer Him. Giving, whether of our time, our gifts, or our finances, is never a fee for services rendered. It is a response to love already given. It is one of the ways disciples learn to participate in the mission and fly.

Over the next couple of weekends, I’ll be offering some gentle invitations for us as a parish to reflect on how we support the life and mission of our community. These are not demands and they are not obligations. They are simply invitations, moments to pause, pray, and ask: how is God calling me to live more freely, more intentionally, more generously, at this time?

As we continue our Easter journey, may the Holy Spirit promised by Jesus remind us that we are made for more than scratching about at ground level. We are made for love, for trust, and for a life shaped not by fear or consumption, but by joyful discipleship.

LEARN NEW WAYS OF PRAYING - WEEK OF GUIDED PRAYER

Discernment and Decision Making - Two Workshops Led by the Jesuit Institute Team

Many of you have already signed up for the Week of Guided Prayer, which includes individual prayer guides and a suggested contribution to help cover the costs of the week. While Vron Smith from the Jesuit Institute is with us, she will also be offering **two stand-alone workshops**, and these are completely **free of charge and open to everyone**.

You do not need to be taking part in the Week of Guided Prayer to attend the workshops, and there is no cost and no need to book — just come along.

The workshops are a great opportunity to explore how God speaks to us and how we can make wise, faith-filled decisions in everyday life.

- **Discernment - Weds 13th May, 7:30-9pm, St. Peter's Pastoral Centre**
- **Decision Making - Thurs 14th May (Ascension Day), 10:30am - midday, St. Peter's Pastoral Centre.**

Everyone is very welcome!



PARISH STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE

Over these two weekends, we are inviting parishioners to reflect on how they might financially support the life of our parish. **This will be introduced by Fr Mark at Mass on 9–10th May St. Stephen's, St. Gregory's and Sunday 5:30pm in St. Peter's) and 16–17th May (all other Masses at St. Peter's).** This is simply an invitation, and we are hugely grateful for all that is already given.



THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY

Each month, the Holy Father invites the whole Church to unite in prayer for a particular intention, reminding us of our shared responsibility for one another and for our common home.

For May, we are invited to pray:

That everyone might have food

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

Let us hold this intention in our prayer this month, asking the Lord to deepen in us a spirit of gratitude, responsibility and care for those in need.

ENTRANCE GOSPEL

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

FIRST READING

First reading: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 66(65):1-3a. 4-5. 6-7a. 16, 20. R. 1

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:15-18

Gospel Acclamation:

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.

R. Alleluia

GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

St Peter's International Hospitality - Sunday 10th May: Italian Food – This Sunday! Following the success of our Latino-inspired International Lunch of the Month back in January, we are delighted to invite you once again to celebrate food, friendship and fellowship - this time with an Italian flavour. Join us this **Sunday 10th May, after the 10.30am Mass, in the Pastoral Centre** for a shared Italian lunch. Expect a welcoming atmosphere, delicious food, and the chance to spend time together as a parish community, enjoying the rich traditions of Italian hospitality.



Events like this are a wonderful way to meet new people, strengthen friendships, and celebrate the diverse cultures within our parish family. Everyone is very welcome — whether you come on your own, as a family, or with friends. We look forward to sharing good food and good company with you! Buon appetito!

Family Mass at St Gregory's – Sunday 10th May: Families are warmly invited to join us for our next Family Mass at St Gregory's on Sunday 10th May. A joyful and welcoming celebration for all ages - we would love to see you there.

St Gregory's – Sunday 17th May: Travel Notice: The annual Watercress Festival takes place in Alresford on Sunday 17th May. As a result, East Street, West Street and Broad Street will be closed to traffic. If you are travelling to St Gregory's, please allow extra time and use alternative routes, particularly if coming from the Ropley or Old Alresford directions.

Ecumenical Stations of the Resurrection – in collaboration with the Upper Itchen Benefice, our parish will be offering an ecumenical "Stations of the Resurrection". These are similar to the more familiar stations of the cross but focus on aspects of the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus. All are welcome to join us in **St. Andrew's Church, Tichborne, 2pm, Sunday 17th May**. (Some of you may know that the Tichborne Family Chapel (a Catholic Chapel inside a pre-Reformation church) is a unique thing in Hampshire and there are only two others in the whole of England)

Winchester Catholic History Society - Change of speaker and subject for this month's meeting: The next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 20th May** and there is a change of speaker and subject. Unfortunately, Professor Maria Hayward has had to postpone her talk on Dressing for the Restoration Court: Fashion in the reign of Charles II. We are very pleased to welcome Charles Harris, who will now be speaking on Art and Design on the London Underground. The meeting begins at **6.30 pm in the Parish Centre**. Visitors are most welcome.

Novena to the Holy Spirit: The time from the Ascension of the Lord through to Pentecost is a beautiful time to pray a Novena to the Holy Spirit. In 1979, Pope St. John Paul II reminded us that Church invites us to pray the novena to the Holy Spirit:



"Year after year, the Church in her liturgy celebrates the Lord's Ascension on the fortieth day after Easter. Year after year, she spends also that period of ten days from Ascension to Pentecost in prayer to the Holy Spirit. Let us try to persevere in this rhythm of the Church."

There are lots of versions available but you can find one example [here](#). Let's unite in prayer during these 9 days.

St Peter's Church Hosts Churches Together in Winchester – Pentecost Service St Peter's Church on Sunday 24th May at 7.00pm: We are delighted that St Peter's will be hosting this year's Churches Together in Winchester Pentecost Service.



This special city-wide service brings together Christians from across all denominations to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the unity we share in Christ. Please do encourage people to attend and share in this important occasion.

Latin Mass for St Augustine of Canterbury: All are warmly invited to a Latin Mass for the Feast of Saint Augustine of Canterbury on **Wednesday 27th May at 7.00pm at St Peter's Church**. Come and celebrate the rich spiritual and musical heritage of the Church through this beautiful liturgy.

Soup & Pud Lunch – Thank You for Your Support: Thank you from the CWL (Catholic Women's League) to everyone who supported May's Soup & Pud Lunch, which raised £285 for St Peter's Sanctuary Hub, offering hospitality and support to refugees and asylum seekers in Winchester. The next Charity Lunch will take place on **Friday 5th June** in support of CWL charities.

FUNERAL

We pray for Piotr Ptak RIP - 20th May at 10.00am - St Peter's Church. **May God grant him eternal rest.**

WEDDINGS

We offer our warmest congratulations to James Smith and Chanella Luz, who celebrated their wedding on Saturday 2nd May and also to Callum Boyden and Jophina Kottam, who celebrated their wedding on Thursday 7th May. May they be richly blessed as they begin their married life, and may their journey together be filled with love, faith and lasting joy.

PRAYER CORNER

Let us pray that through our Week of Guided Prayer, we may grow deeper in faith through listening and reflection.





CENTENARY CELEBRATION MASS - 100 YEARS OF MARRIAGES

SAVE THE DATE!

Celebration Mass of Marriages at St Peter's: On Saturday 3rd October at 11.00am, we will celebrate a special Mass marking **100 years of weddings** in our beautiful parish church of St Peter's. We warmly invite all couples who were married at St Peter's, whether recently or many years ago — as well as those preparing to be married here — to join us for this joyful celebration. Wherever you are now, in the parish or anywhere in the world, you are very welcome. **Please help us spread the word so that everyone who has celebrated marriage at St Peter's feels invited.** More details and information on how to register coming soon!!

CATECHESIS

First Holy Communion 2027 Information Evening Monday 1st June - 7.00–8.15pm - Pastoral Centre Hall: If you have a child who will be in Year 4 or above next academic year who would like to make their First Holy Communion, please do come along to find out more. Equally, if your child is in Year 3 and you feel they may be ready next year, please get in touch or come along. This is an opportunity to hear about the preparation journey and ask any questions. Please contact Rosanne at fhc@stpeterswinchester.org.uk for more information or if you have further questions.

COMMUNITY

Dementia Friendly Church Service: As part of Dementia Action Week, Winchester Baptist Church will be holding a Dementia Friendly Church Service on **Sunday 24th May at 10.00am at City Road, SO23 8SD**. All are warmly welcome to this supportive and accessible service, held in partnership with Dementia Friendly Winchester.

Could You Be Called to Chaplaincy - Join Us To Find out? Winchester City Chaplaincy is hosting an informal session for anyone interested in learning more about chaplaincy and discerning whether God may be calling them to this ministry. **Thursday 14th May, 10.30am – 11.45am. At the St Peter's Pastoral Centre.** The session will explore:

- What chaplaincy is
- Where chaplains serve in Winchester
- What is involved in becoming a chaplain
- Opportunities to ask questions and discern your calling

There may also be an opportunity to shadow a chaplain in one of their sectors.



Teacher of Religious Education – Vacancy: Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School, Basingstoke is seeking a Teacher of Religious Education for a September 2026 start. They are looking for someone to inspire students in their faith and learning, and at present are keen to widen interest in the role. For full details and contact information, please [click here](#).

Engaged and Married Couples Retreat Isle of Wight - 13–15th June: The Verbum Dei Community invite engaged and married couples to a weekend retreat designed to help deepen love, communication and shared purpose in the light of faith. Reflecting on Psalm 1:3, “like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season”, the retreat offers space to pause, pray and grow together, renewing your relationship in God's love and discovering fresh direction for your journey as a couple. For more information email verbumdei.iow@gmail.com or [click here](#).

Flower Songs for a Summer Evening - St John's, Alresford - Saturday 27th June at 7.30pm: beautifully themed summer concert filled with music inspired by flowers, love and light. The programme includes works by Britten and Eric Whitacre, alongside madrigals, Shakespeare settings and uplifting seasonal favourites. Expect a warm, joyful evening of choral music designed to capture the spirit of summer. This concert also begins a series marking 50 years since the death of Benjamin Britten. Further performances on 24th October and 19th December. Tickets and more information: southernvoices.co.uk or tel: 0333 666 4466. (booking fees apply)

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.

“I will not leave you as orphans.”
- John 14:18

Christian Leadership Formation Programme: Applications have been extended until 17th May for the residential summer programme at Stonyhurst College for Year 12 and Year 13 students.

The week combines theology, philosophy, leadership and media skills with daily liturgy and a strong social programme. Scholarships are available. Summer courses:

- Year 13 — The Human Ecology (5–10th July)
- Year 12 — The Common Good (10–15th August)

Students describe the programme as a formative and faith-filled experience, helping them grow in confidence and understanding of the Catholic faith. For more information visit [click here](#).

Heart to Heart Women's Retreat: A three-day retreat for women - single, married or religious based on Ignatian spirituality, taking place **19th–22nd June 2026**. Led by Fr Bernard Murphy, CFR and the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal, the retreat offers prayer, reflection and spiritual guidance to help participants grow closer to the Lord. Further details, [click here](#).

PARISH BOOKSHOP

Parish Bookshop – Gifts for Special Moments in Faith: As we prepare for First Holy Communion and Confirmation, do take a moment to visit our bookshop. You'll find a lovely selection of cards, gifts, Bibles, prayer books and rosaries to help mark these special occasions. Thank you for your continued support.

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

ADoRE mini-retreat for Spiritual Renewal Online - Friday 23rd May: Parishioners are invited to a three-hour online retreat focusing on the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit in the lead up to Pentecost. The theme, “The Gifts and Fruit of Love”, reflects on how the Holy Spirit empowers us to live our faith with renewed purpose and to share God's love with others. The retreat includes Mass, Adoration, praise, prayer and a keynote talk by Dr Maria Heath, Director of Mission Northampton. ADoRE is part of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, supporting spiritual growth and renewal in communities since 1975. More information please [click here](#).



Celebrating the Gift of Marriage: Are you celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or anniversary over 60 years? If so, Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of celebration. This will take place at **St Bede's Church in Basingstoke on Saturday 20th June at 11am**. This will be followed by a buffet lunch. It is a wonderful occasion to celebrate and witness to Marriage. Please contact the parish office if you would like to attend and they will send you a form for you to complete and return to Kirsten McGuire (kmcguire@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) in Bishop's Office. Thank you.

SCHOOL - ST PETER'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

For news and information about our wonderful Catholic Primary School, please [Click here](#) for the newsletter.

CENTENARY - PARISH PILGRIMAGE

St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs - Centenary Pilgrimage to the Catholic National Shrine & Basilica of Our Lady in Walsingham, Norfolk:

When: **August Monday 10th / Tuesday 11th**. Departing: **St Peter's 6.30am by coach**.

Following previous announcements, we are pleased to once again invite parishioners to join our Centenary Pilgrimage this August to the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham — England's Nazareth and one of the country's most loved places of pilgrimage and prayer. This special two-day visit offers a beautiful opportunity for fellowship, reflection and participation in the spiritual life of the Shrine.

Monday 10th - travel to Holkham Hall for a day exploring the magnificent Hall and gardens, [Holkham Hall & Estate | Norfolk, England](#) before travelling onto our overnight accommodation in Walsingham. [Elmham House - the Shrine's Pilgrim Hotel - Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady](#) Tuesday 11th - a day spent at the Basilica and Shrine of Our Lady [Catholic National Shrine & Basilica of Our Lady, Walsingham](#) taking part in the daily programme of services to include Sacrament of Reconciliation, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Pilgrim Mass, and others and the opportunity to explore the Shrine, Slipper Chapel and grounds. Depart Walsingham late afternoon with a meal stop en route (cost not included), return to Winchester by circa 9/9.30pm. What is included in the cost - return transport by coach from Winchester. Overnight accommodation in simple single rooms with shared bathroom facilities, dinner, breakfast, and packed lunch, entrance to Holkham Hall and Gardens. Cost £203 per person. For more information or booking please contact pilgrimage@stpeterswinchester.org.uk



Date	Times	Where	Intentions
Sat 9 May 5 th Week of Easter	9:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	Katherine Misquith Birthday
	9:30AM to 10:30AM	Confessions	
	4:30PM to 5:00PM	Confessions	
Sunday VIGIL SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	For the Soul of Xavier Cruz Da Costa
Sun 10 May SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	8:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	For the Soul of Margaret Mary Robertson
	9:00AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	Liam Evans & Family
	9:15AM	School & Family Mass at St Stephen's	Lidia Otero RIP
	10:30AM	Italian Mass at St Peter's	People of the Parish
	11:00AM	Family Mass at St Gregory's	
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Mrs Mimmie Taylor RIP
Mon 11 May 6 th Week of Easter	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's	
	12:15PM	Mass at St Peter's	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Tues 12 May St Nereus & St Achilleus	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	For the Dead in Cemeteries & Founders
	12:15PM	Mass at St Peter's	Augustine Lippiatt for His Intentions
Wed 13 May Our Lady of Fatima	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	For the Soul of Mary Margaret Robson
Thur 14 May The Ascension of the Lord	7:00AM	Mass Ascension at St Peter's	
	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's	
	12:15PM	Mass Ascension at St Peter's	Deceased Members of Dixon Marland Families
	7:00PM	Mass Ascension at St Peter's	
Fri 15 May 6 th Week of Easter after Ascension	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	For the Soul of Albert Bingham
	12:15PM	Mass at St Peter's	Tommy O'Connor RIP
Sat 16 May 6 th Week of Easter after Ascension	9:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	John Wheadon RIP
	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	For the Good Health of Socorro Da Costa on His 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**](#)