

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME- SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST TO
SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST 2026 | YEAR A

PETERPOST

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



WHAT'S INSIDE THIS WEEK:

- *Fr Mark Writes: The Power Of Two Little Words*
- *A New Chapter For Reception - St Peter's Pastoral Centre*



FR MARK WRITES: THE POWER OF TWO LITTLE WORDS

What if? Those two words open the door to faith, challenge our assumptions, and invite us to encounter Jesus anew in the Eucharist.

Many of you will remember the "COVID years". We discovered then (or it was reinforced for us) that while many things can be experienced virtually, the Eucharist cannot. You cannot receive Holy Communion through a screen. For many, that absence brought pain and challenge but also perhaps a renewed hunger and reverence for this gift.

The Eucharist is a mystery no matter where you are in your faith. Remember, the first week of our series, we established that the Mass is a good kind of mystery, the kind of mystery not to be solved but to be pondered, and there is no mystery in the Mass that takes more pondering than the Eucharist.

What if there is more happening than our senses can perceive? *What if* that really is Jesus on the altar? *What if* God is asking us to trust and believe?

Those two words, *what if?*, are powerful. *What if* it's true? What difference would it make?

As a faithful Jew, Jesus wanted to eat the Passover meal in Jerusalem with his disciples.

Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and said, "Take this and share it among yourselves; for I tell you that from this time on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

Luke 22:17-18

Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you."

Luke 22:19-20

What if we took him at his word? At every Mass, the priest repeats those same words, and we are faced again with that extraordinary question: *What if this truly is the Body and Blood of Christ?*

That is no small thing to believe. It stretches both mind and heart. Yet the Mass continually invites us deeper. We are being called not only to listen, but to believe.

And it is a dangerous thing to believe. It caused Jesus to be killed and thousands of Christians to give their lives as martyrs. For you, it's going to mean stretching your mind and your faith. You might have friends or family who doubt you. Your reputation might change. And Jesus, if we're really following him, always realigns our priorities and challenges us. There's danger there. And it's frankly dangerous to believe that the God of the Universe condescended himself to be with you. That's scandalous. Think of it this way: if you, a capable and intelligent human being, were to allow yourself to become a flea, that would be humiliating, but it wouldn't begin to touch what God the Father did in sending His Son and what Jesus did in becoming present in bread and wine. It's a dangerous thing to believe. So, when you ask, "*what if?*" it's two little words but it's no small thing. We're being called to participate, listen, and at this point, we're being called to **believe**. And that's the most dangerous thing yet.

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.

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In the Eucharist, there is far more happening than we can perceive with our senses. We see bread and wine, but the Church teaches that their substance becomes Christ's Body and Blood. We hear the *Holy, Holy, Holy*, but we are joining the worship of heaven. We see a priest, he is acting in the person of Christ. We taste bread and wine, but receive the living Lord. The apostles themselves struggled. Judas betrayed Jesus, Peter denied him, and most of the others fled. Seeing was not enough. They, too, needed faith.

The Church uses the word *transubstantiation* to describe this mystery. Simply put, the appearance remains the same, but the substance changes. The bread and wine still look and taste like bread and wine, but become the Body and Blood of Christ.

It is a mystery. It requires faith. But again: *what if it's true?*

That brings us to a word we say constantly at Mass: Amen. It means, "So be it" or "It is so." At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer, we sing or say the Great Amen in a posture of humility, trust and surrender.

Perhaps *Amen* means more than agreement. Perhaps it means: *I stake my life on it.*

What if that was our prayer this week? *What if* we came to Mass with a renewed awareness of who is present before us on the altar? *What if*, next time we come to Mass, we have a newfound appreciation for Jesus in the Eucharist? *What if*, each time we said Amen, we made those words our own?

Amen. I stake my life on it.

That's quite the *what if*.

LATIN MASS - FEAST OF ST IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

Join us as we celebrate the Feast of St Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), with a **Latin Mass at St Peter's Church on Friday 31st July at 7.00pm, celebrated by Fr Pedro.**

St Ignatius is one of the Church's most influential saints, renowned for his deep spirituality, commitment to discerning God's will, and inspiring generations of Christians to grow closer to Christ through prayer and service.

Whether you regularly attend the Latin Mass or are curious to experience it for the first time, this is a wonderful opportunity to enter into the beauty, reverence and rich tradition of this form of worship. Through its timeless prayers and sacred liturgy, the Latin Mass offers a unique opportunity for quiet reflection, spiritual renewal and a deeper encounter with God.

Everyone is warmly invited to attend. We especially encourage those who may be curious about the Latin Mass to come and experience this special celebration for themselves. Why not invite a friend or family member to join you?



OUR CENTENARY NEWS IS SPREADING...

We're delighted that news of St Peter's Centenary Celebrations is continuing to spread, with coverage now appearing on the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth website, the Hampshire Chronicle, and Winchester Radio.

As we celebrate 100 years of St Peter's Church in 2026, these features are helping share our vision of "A Place for All" and inviting people across Winchester and beyond to join this special celebration of faith, community and mission. If you missed the links last week, here they are:

 **Diocese of Portsmouth:** <https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/st-peters-winchester-centenary-celebrations/>

 **Hampshire Chronicle:** [hampshirechronicle-winchester-church-holds-special-mass-celebrate-100-years](https://www.hampshirechronicle.co.uk/news/local/winchester-church-holds-special-mass-celebrate-100-years)

 **Winchester Radio:** If you missed Episode 190, you can listen back as a podcast on your favourite podcast platform, or catch up via their website: <https://winchester.radio/2026/07/17/episode-190-17-07-2026/> Happy listening!

Please share with family and friends and help us make our Centenary a joyful celebration for the whole community. ✨



ADOREMUS 2026 – A NATIONAL CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST



Last chance to book! Adoremus is a National Eucharistic Congress initiated by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to deepen devotion to the Eucharist and encourage adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The next **Adoremus event is due to take place in London on Saturday 10th October 2026**, with Mass, a Eucharistic Procession and Benediction. The Diocese of Portsmouth is co-ordinating a group to travel there by coach. **Registration is by 3rd August 2026.**



To book a place please register using the form either by scanning the QR code or [click here Adoremus 2026](#) – Fill in form Payment Details: Cost £30 per person. Account Name: CDP SOUJE Sort Code: 30-93-04 Account Number: 00888223 Reference: AD26_SURNAME. Departing St Edmund's Church, The Avenue, Southampton, then Winchester Services, Fleet Services on to London.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

God, Come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

FIRST READING

First reading: Isaiah 55:1-3

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145(144):8-9. 15-16. 17-18. R. cf. 16

You open your hand and fulfil us, O Lord.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:35, 37-39

Gospel Acclamation:

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.
R. Alleluia

GOSPEL *Matthew 14:13-21*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Ws 16:20

You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.



PARISH NEWS & EVENTS



Sung Compline – First Fridays at St Peter's: Step into stillness with Latin Sung Compline, the Church's Night Prayer, on **Friday 7th August at 9.00pm in St Peter's Church**. No need to sing - simply come and pray. If you'd like to try Gregorian Chant, join the rehearsal at 8.00pm beforehand. Sung Compline is held on the first Friday of every month - a new rhythm of prayer, beauty and peace at the heart of our parish.

CWL Soup and Pud Lunch for Charity - Our next lunch for Charity will be on **Friday 11th September** (Please note change of date) in the Pastoral Centre and look forward to seeing you there!

SAVE THE DATE - EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

St Gregory's Feast Day Mass at St Gregory's Church on Thursday 3rd September at 7.00pm: This special Mass is an opportunity to come together in prayer and thanksgiving, honouring St Gregory and reflecting on his witness of faith and service to the Church. Parishioners, families and friends are warmly invited to attend and share in this joyful celebration.

Winchester Heritage Open Days running from 11th to 20th September - returns to Winchester this year, offering a wonderful opportunity to explore the city's rich history and heritage.

We are pleased to share that **St Peter's Church will be open on 12th September**, and we are delighted to be taking part in the programme with two special guided tours:

- **Saturday 19th September – St Peter Street & Catholic Life**
- **Saturday 19th September – The Story Behind the Church Door**

These tours will uncover fascinating aspects of our parish history and the traditions of Catholic life in Winchester, giving visitors a deeper appreciation of the story of St Peter's and its place within the city. A quick look at the Heritage Open Days programme reveals a wide range of events taking place at churches and historic sites across Winchester. To see the full programme, simply search for Winchester in the Heritage Open Days [What's on?](#) section. All events are free of charge, but advance booking is required. **Registration for the St Peter's tours will open on 27th August.** More details and tour timings will follow soon.

Centenary Parish Walk - Saturday 19th September: As part of our Centenary celebrations, Fr Mark is planning a special Parish Walk through our beautiful local countryside, visiting each of the churches across our parish. This promises to be a wonderful opportunity to enjoy fellowship, prayer and the natural beauty of our parish while reflecting on our shared journey of faith.

Refreshments and resting stations will be available at each church along the route, and parishioners are welcome to take part in the full walk or simply join for a section that suits them. Whether you are a keen walker or would just like to enjoy part of the day, we hope many of you will be able to join us for this special Centenary event. More details, including timings and the route, will be shared soon.

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. If you would like to attend please register by clicking: [Celebration Mass of Marriages 3rd October 2026](#).

Veneration of the Relics of St Gerard Majella on Thursday 29th October, from 1.00pm: As part of our Centenary Year celebrations, we are privileged to welcome the relics of St Gerard Majella to St Peter's Church. Beloved as the patron saint of mothers, children, expectant parents, and couples hoping to conceive, St Gerard's relics are touring England and Wales in celebration of the 300th anniversary of his birth (April 1726).

The relics, including an ex scapulis relic (from his clothing) and an ex ossibus relic (from his bones), will be available for veneration from 1.00pm. This is a special opportunity to pray through the intercession of St Gerard and bring your personal intentions before the Lord. All are warmly welcome.

Solemnity of the Blessed Winchester Martyrs on Friday 30th October at 7.00pm: Everyone is warmly invited to the Vigil of the Blessed Winchester Martyrs at St Peter's Church. We are delighted to welcome Austen Ivereigh, renowned Catholic author and commentator, who will speak during this special evening of prayer, reflection, and thanksgiving.

The Vigil will also mark Fr Mark's final Mass as Parish Priest here in Winchester, providing an opportunity for our parish community to gather in gratitude for his dedicated ministry and leadership.

Please join us for this significant and memorable occasion as we honour our local martyrs, celebrate our parish heritage, and give thanks for Fr Mark's faithful service.

Murder Mystery Evening: Mark your calendars for Saturday 31st October 2026 at 7.00pm and join the Geriactors for an evening of mystery, entertainment and good food at Weeke Community Centre. The event is being held in aid of the SVP Christmas Parcels Appeal. Tickets are £20 per person, including a two-course meal, and will be available to purchase in due course. More details will follow, but for now, save the date and get ready for a fun-filled evening!

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A NEW CHAPTER FOR RECEPTION AT ST PETER'S PASTORAL CENTRE

As our parish community continues to grow and evolve, we find ourselves entering an exciting new chapter in the life of St Peter's Pastoral Centre.

For many years, our reception service has been supported by a dedicated team of volunteers who have generously given their time, energy and commitment to the parish. They have welcomed visitors, answered enquiries, supported parish activities and offered countless acts of kindness, often quietly and faithfully behind the scenes. We are deeply grateful for all they have contributed. Their service has helped create the warm and welcoming atmosphere that so many people associate with St Peter's, and they have played an important role in the life and mission of our parish.



As our parish continues to grow, so too do the demands of supporting the many people who come through our doors each day. Alongside offering a warm welcome, reception now plays an increasingly important role in supporting the Parish Office and helping to coordinate the day-to-day life of the parish. As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting the parish community, it was decided to introduce a dedicated Parish Receptionist role to strengthen this support, provide greater continuity for parishioners and visitors and ensure that enquiries and day-to-day matters are supported through a consistent point of contact within the parish.

We are therefore delighted to announce that **Sarah Harfield** has been appointed as our new **Parish Receptionist** on an initial one-year contract. Sarah has faithfully served the parish for more than 25 years and is well known through her roles as housekeeper to our priests, Kitchen Manager of the Pastoral Centre and for the hospitality and catering that have supported countless parish events, from Alpha to our recent Centenary celebrations. To enable Sarah to take on this new role, she will continue as Kitchen Manager whilst reducing her housekeeping responsibilities to five hours each week. She brings a wealth of experience, an excellent understanding of parish life and many years of dedicated service, all of which will be invaluable as she begins this new role.

With the arrival of Fr Michael Fava in the autumn and as we continue to plan confidently for the future, this appointment forms part of our commitment to ensuring that St Peter's remains a safe, welcoming and well-supported parish community for generations to come.

During this initial period, we will also be taking time to review how volunteers can continue to support our reception service and the wider mission of the parish. Volunteers have always played an important part in the life of St Peter's, and we very much hope they will continue to do so. Over the coming months, we will be looking carefully at how future volunteer opportunities can best complement the new reception arrangements.

As we look ahead with hope and confidence, we do so with profound gratitude for everyone who has supported our reception service over the years. Their generosity and dedication have helped build the strong foundations on which we continue to grow, and we look forward to continuing that tradition of welcome as this new chapter unfolds.

Please join us in thanking our reception volunteers for their invaluable contribution and in congratulating Sarah on her appointment.

✨ *May God bless all who serve our parish, past, present and future* ✨

THE SANCTUARY WELCOME HUB PICNIC IN THE PARK

On Wednesday, July 29th, the Sanctuary Welcome Hub braved temperatures of 31°C and headed to the shade of the beautiful Beech Trees of River Park and the new Pavilion to enjoy a wonderful afternoon with food and games. There were approximately 50 people including guests, volunteers, family, friends and children. It was a joyous occasion and everyone felt part of our special sanctuary community. Together, everyone shared food, games, laughter and conversation. It was a joyful afternoon that reflected the heart of our sanctuary community where everyone was welcomed, everyone belonged and people of all ages and backgrounds mingled with ease.

BREAK THE CHAINS OF DEBT. BRING HOPE TO MILLIONS



Right now, millions of people around the world are being held back by a crippling debt crisis. Countries facing extreme poverty are forced to spend vast sums repaying debt instead of investing in healthcare, education, clean water, and opportunities for their people.

CAFOD is calling for urgent action to help build a fairer world where the poorest communities can thrive, not merely survive. **CAFOD representatives will be present at all our parish churches after Masses on Sunday 16th August**, where you can find out more and add your name to this vital campaign. You can also sign online by clicking the link [HERE](#) or by scanning the QR code below.

This is a simple action that can make a real difference. Together, we can stand in solidarity with our global neighbours and be a powerful voice for justice, compassion, and human dignity.

Please take a moment to sign the petition. Every signature strengthens the call for change. Every voice matters. Every action brings hope.



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

Please submit newsletter requests by **Wednesday mid-day!** Email: newsletters@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

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.

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST 2026 | YEAR A
MASS TIME TABLE:

Date	Times	Where	Intentions
Sat 1 Aug St Alphonsus Liguori Sunday VIGIL 18 Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	
	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	Celebration of Diamond Wedding David & Sue Platt
Sun 2 Aug 18 Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	
	9:00AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	
	9:15AM	Mass at St Stephen's	Dead & Founders
	10:30AM	Mass at St Peter's	People of the Parish
	11:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	
Mon 3 Aug 18 Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00AM	Morning Prayer, Adoration at St Peter's	
	12:15PM	Mass at St Peter's	
Tues 4 Aug St John Vianney	8:00AM	Morning Prayer, Adoration at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Neil Intentions
	12:15PM	Mass at St Peter's	Michael & George Nicholas
Wed 5 Aug Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major, Rome	8:00AM	Morning Prayer, Adoration at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	For the Intentions of Tim Blaber
Thurs 6 Aug The Transfiguration of the Lord	8:00AM	Morning Prayer, Adoration at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	Shelagh O'Donoghue RIP
Fri 7 Aug St Sixtus II, St Cajetan	8:00AM	Morning Prayer, Adoration at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Richard Sepencer & Concelebrating Priests
	12:15PM	Mass at St Peter's	
Sat 8 Aug St Dominic Sunday VIGIL 19 Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	For the Soul of David & Julia O'Connell
	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 Soul of Fabian Woodley

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](#)

FUNERALS

We pray for:
Noel Harding RIP - 6th August, 10.00am at St Gregory's Church.
Michael Benson RIP
May God grant them eternal rest.

PRAYER CORNER - 2ND & 9TH AUGUST

Let us pray that we use the holiday season for rest and renewal so finding our way to restored energy for mission in the parish.



Let us pray that we may set aside more time to spend with the Lord allowing Jesus to draw us ever deeper into the life He shares with the Father.

BAPTISM

Welcome to Darcey Pearson who was baptised last week at St Peter's Church. *May God bless her with His love and grace, today and always.*

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST 2026 | YEAR A
MASS TIME TABLE:

Date	Times	Where	Intentions
Sat 8 Aug St Dominic Sunday VIGIL 19 Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	For the Soul of David & Julia O'Connell
	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 Soul of Fabian Woodley
Sun 9 Aug 19 Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	
	9:00AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	Susan Bolger RIP
	9:15AM	Mass at St Stephen's	
	10:30AM	Mass at St Peter's	Shelagh O'Donoghue RIP
	11:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	People of the Parish
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	
Mon 10 Aug St Laurence	8:00AM	Morning Prayer, Adoration at St Peter's Cancelled	
	12:15PM	Mass at St Peter's Cancelled	
Tues 11 Aug St Clare	8:00AM	Morning Prayer, Adoration at St Peter's Cancelled	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	12:15PM	Mass at St Peter's Cancelled	
Wed 12 Aug St Jane Frances de Chantal	8:00AM	Morning Prayer, Adoration at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	Ewa Slinn
Thurs 13 Aug St Pontian & St Hippolytus	8:00AM	Morning Prayer, Adoration at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	Benefactors
Fri 14 Aug St Maximillian Maria Kolbe	8:00AM	Morning Prayer, Adoration at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	The Soul of Mary Keating
	12:15PM	Mass at St Peter's	Neil Intentions
Sat 15 Aug Our Lady Sunday VIGIL The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	
	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 - Assumption	Special Intentions for Theresa Emery

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](#)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON
Love to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your causes, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

FIRST READING
First reading: Kings 19:9a, 11-13a
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 85(84):9ab, 10. 11-12. 13-14. R.8
Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

SECOND READING
Romans 9:1-5
Gospel Acclamation: R. Alleluia, alleluia.
I long for you, O Lord, my soul longs for his word.
R. Alleluia

GOSPEL *Matthew 14:22-33*
COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
Ps 147: 12,14
O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.