

PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

20th – 31st DECEMBER 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, CHRISTMAS DAY, FEAST OF
THE HOLY FAMILY

Nothing is Impossible to God – Everything Will be Alright



WITH BLESSINGS FOR A JOYFUL AND HOLY CHRISTMAS FROM
FR MARK, FR ANTHONY, FR STEPHEN AND ALL THE CLERGY

Hold On - Nothing is Impossible to God - Everything will be Alright

Nine months is a long time. It's long enough for us to have accumulated sorrows and burdens and weariness and blessings during this pandemic. It's long enough for a newly-conceived child to be ready to make his or her appearance into the world. Nine months ago we celebrated the Annunciation - the announcement by the angel Gabriel that God had chosen Mary to be the mother of His only Son. It's a reading which we hear again this weekend, just a few days before Christmas. Mary responded with a resounding 'yes' to this invitation by the Creator of the Cosmos, a heartfelt 'Amen' to these angelic tidings, to God's Love.

The nine months and that 'yes' of Mary are, however, part of a bigger picture, a bigger story, the story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, the story of the universe and God's plan from before the beginning to save his people, the story of God's infinite, freely given, underserved love for us and His desire to be forever Emmanuel, God-with-us.

Before Mary says yes, however, she asks a question. It's not one of doubt or incredulity but one of wonder,

"How can this come about, since I am a Virgin?"

We can strip back the angelic response to two key phrases:

"the power of the Most High"

and

"Nothing is impossible to God".

"The power of the Most High" is, for St. Luke, another way of saying, "the Holy Spirit", who is the power of God, the 'dynamite' of God, the Love of God. Nothing is impossible to God because he will 'blow up' any obstacles in the way by the explosive power of His unstoppable Love. In short, Love will conquer everything.

What are some of those brick walls that you're facing at the moment? What are some of those areas where there seems to be no way forward, where you feel trapped?

- ✘ Are you struggling with financial debt and don't know where to turn?
- ✘ Are you feeling cut off from friends and family or caught in an unhealthy relationship?
- ✘ Are you suffering yourself with health issues or watching someone you love suffer?

I want you to know and trust that God's Love will always find a way forward. Over the loftiest fence or highest mountain, through the most barren desert or fiercest storm, across the most treacherous sea or iciest glacier, between the narrowest of gaps or along the deepest of valleys, through the densest forest or toughest wall, in the darkest of nights or the most endless of days, in the midst of the most bitter anguish or loneliest isolation, or even beyond death itself.

God's Love will always find a way forward because nothing is impossible to God and the Power of the Most High.

Are you able to say your 'yes' with Mary and let your life become your response in prayer?

Keeping Yourself and Others Safe this Christmas

Fr Anthony, myself and all the other priests are so looking forward to seeing many of you over Christmas. We are maintaining our measures - such as limiting numbers, providing hand gel, using track and trace, maintaining distance, wearing face masks, cleaning the churches after each mass, refraining from congregational singing and holding back from the sign of peace - to limit the risk of anyone picking up this awful virus at any of our churches. Please know that our highest priority is your health and safety and that of your loved ones. We don't want you to do anything which will make you particularly vulnerable. That is one of the main reasons we have invested so much time and effort into making sure our livestream only masses will be beautiful, holy, uplifting and joyful celebrations of Christmas, and that all our masses at St. Peter's will be available online.

Whichever way you are able, we really look forward to sharing Christmas with you this year.

Christmas Blessings

Fr Anthony, myself, Fr Stephen and all the clergy would like to wish you and all your family and loved ones a special Christmas blessing this year. May the Lord fill your hearts once more with peace, hope, love and joy so that, whatever your situation, you know Emmanuel, God is with us and, for that reason only, everything will indeed be alright.

The Christmas edition of our magazine Crosskeys is out now. If you get the newsletter emailed to you, it will be sent out to you directly (if you don't, why not add yourself to the list – email hello@stpeterswinchester.org.uk) Or you can find it [on the website](#) or this is a [direct link](#).



FREE Advent 2020
CROSSKEYS
The magazine for the Diocese of Winchester
God is with Us - Everything will be alright (Christmas Eve)
Peaceful Christmas and a healthy new year



Spot the Baby Jesus...

Around the newsletter we have added some of the wonderful pictures sent in by parishioners during Advent – cribs, nativity scenes and more. We hope you enjoy them. Meanwhile don't forget you can visit the **outdoor crib and trail at St Peter's** from the evening of the 19th, and on **Dec 28th the church will be open** all day to visit the indoor crib, to get a moment of peace, and to get a blessing from one of the clergy. More details below, p6.



God is with us,
everything will be alright

Christmas 2020

THE PARISH OF ST PETER
& THE WINCHESTER MARTYRS

We really want this to be a Christmas to Remember for all the right reasons. We want it to be a time when the central message of Christmas – that God-is-with-us and so everything will be alright – is able to penetrate our hearts and minds in a new and deeper way. And we'd love to share our Christmas this year with you and your family, friends, neighbours and loved ones.

Christmas Masses

At the heart of everything we do is prayer and that beautiful opportunity to listen to and speak with God, and at the heart of our Catholic prayer is the celebration of the Mass. This is our opportunity to connect with God and to connect with each other through our physical and spiritual communion. As with so much else, things are going to be a little different this year.

ALL masses from St Peter's will be livestreamed, so make the most of that– you can share the joy and you can join in with the music, singing as loudly as you can! There are special ways for children to join in with – see below for some things you might like to collect together before mass. The livestream will be as special as we can make it. **We especially recommend the two “Livestream only masses”, both on Christmas Eve – 6pm (especially for families) and midnight mass.** And please remember that you can come for Mass on another day in the Christmas Octave*. Enjoy Christmas Day mass at home, then come in peace another day....

Livestreamed Christmas Masses for:

Christmas Eve (24th)

4pm St. Peter's (aimed at families)
6pm St. Peter's (Livestream only, aimed especially at families)
8pm St. Peter's
10pm St. Peter's
Midnight St. Peter's (Livestream only)

Christmas Day (25th)

8am St. Peter's
10am St. Peter's
12 noon St. Peter's
6pm St. Peter's (public, no booking, first come first served)

(There are very few spaces left at any church for these 2 days, apart from the 6pm on Christmas Day - you can check [on website](#) to see if any come up)

After Christmas day but within the Octave:

St. Stephen's Day (26th)

10am St. Stephen's (no booking; first come, first served)
5:30pm St. Peter's (booking required)

Holy Family (Sunday 27th) - booking required in the normal way

8am St. Peter's
9am St. Thomas More
9:15am St. Stephen's
10am St. Peter's (Livestream only)
11am St. Gregory's
Midday St. Peter's
5:30pm St. Peter's

Holy Innocents (28th)

12:15pm St. Peter's (no booking; first come, first served)
7pm St. Peter's (no booking; first come, first served)

Everything from St Peter's is livestreamed. Normal booking arrangements resume from Sunday 27th(+ Sat vigil)

St. Thomas Becket (29th)

10am St. Peter's (no booking; first come, first served)
7pm St. Peter's (no booking; first come, first served)

6th Day within the Octave of Christmas (30th)

10am St. Peter's (no booking; first come, first served)
7pm St. Peter's (no booking; first come, first served)

7th Day within the Octave of Christmas (New Year's Eve, 31st)

10am St. Peter's (no booking; first come, first served)
7pm St. Peter's (no booking; first come, first served)

Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Day)

10am St. Peter's (no booking; first come, first served)

***Christmas Octave - Fr Mark writes:**

Although the 'obligation' to attend Mass on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation will remain suspended for the time being, we know that many individuals and families will want to go to Mass, particularly at Christmas. We want to accommodate as many as possible of those who desire to go to a Christmas Mass.

Like Easter, the Nativity of the Lord is one of the two solemnities in the Ordinary Form of the Church's liturgical calendar which has its own Octave. The Church regards each day in an Octave as if it were the solemnity itself. So, for example, the prayers for Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours during the Christmas Octave refer to each day as if it were still Christmas Day. Despite having days within the Octave that are feasts: St Stephen, St John the Evangelist, the Holy Innocents and the Holy Family, and the concluding Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, each of these days is as the Roman Missal states, a "day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord." This means that, liturgically, each of the days from 25th December to the 1st January is 'Christmas Day'. I would like to encourage you, therefore, to know that you can come and celebrate the mystery of the Octave days. This will allow you to plan for a day within the Octave when you would like to come to our churches to celebrate your Christmas Mass this year.

Please Note: This week's newsletter covers two weeks

The next one will appear around 31stDec/1st Jan. It will again cover two weeks, and will be only a very limited newsletter with just the basic timetables and a few other items. This is to give your volunteer newsletter team a festive break!

Back to normal the weekend of 16/17th January. Please bear this in mind, especially if you have an item for inclusion.

**We are planning on making some changes to the newsletter in the New Year - so we'd love to hear from you if you have any comments. Do you think it's too detailed or too long? What do you think of the cover email? Do you read every word, or just skim? Which features do you like, and which would you get rid of?

Email editor@stpeterswinchester.org.uk **

These are our Parish Christmas cards! A Christmas message for your friends and family.

At the end of this challenging year we would like to share Christmas with everyone! Here are two versions of a Christmas flyer for you to print to post to neighbours or you can email onto friends and family. We all need to hear 'God is with us – Everything will be alright'. With online masses we have space for everyone. If you click on the images you will get to a printable PDF of the image.

****you will then need to use your back button to get back to the newsletter – that's the way PDF's work ****

<p>God is with us</p>	 <p>THE PARISH OF ST PETER & THE WINCHESTER MARTYRS</p>	 <p>THE PARISH OF ST PETER & THE WINCHESTER MARTYRS</p>	<p>God is with us</p>
	<p>We send you love and blessings, peace and joy at this very special time, whatever your situation this Christmas.</p> <p>Fr Mark, Fr Anthony, Fr Stephen & all the parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs</p> <p>"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us.'"</p>	<p>Christmas Mass Times We'd love for you to be with us, in person or online. All the times and details are on our website or below. If you are coming to public masses you will need to book in advance.</p> <p>Christmas Eve 4pm (All Churches except St Thomas More) 5pm (St Thomas More) 6pm (Livestream only) 8pm (All Churches except St Thomas More) 10pm (St. Peter's & St. Stephen's) Midnight Mass (Livestream only)</p> <p>Christmas Day 8am (St. Peter's & St. Stephen's) 9am (St. Gregory's & St. Thomas More's) 10am (St. Peter's & St. Stephen's) 11am (St. Gregory's) Midday (St. Peter's & St. Stephen's) 6pm Mass (St. Peter's no booking required)</p> <p>Our parish website will provide all the information you need to book a place or join online and lots more. www.catholicwinchester.org.uk</p>	 <p>Everything will be alright</p> <p>We send you love and blessings, peace and joy at this very special time, whatever your situation this Christmas.</p> <p>Fr Mark, Fr Anthony, Fr Stephen & all the parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs</p> <p>"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us.'"</p>
<p>Hold on</p>	<p>Everything will be alright</p>		



Blue Christmas: Monday 21st December, 10:30am at St Peter's Church For many people there are split emotions as Christmas approaches. Some of us feel keenly the pain of loss, bereavement, separation, hurt or regrets. Others feel alienated by the manifest materialism and secularisation of the season: more than ever, this is a time of material difficulty for many, in a world where so many lack the basics of food, shelter, peace and justice. And there are few who have not been impacted by the spread of the Covid-19 virus, causing illness, isolation and death. As a result, many of us find Christmas a difficult time to celebrate, and worry that - especially this year - we have to bury our feelings to make everyone else happy.

Blue Christmas is a short service to enable us to recognise these more painful parts of our lives and of our world, not to cheer each other up or wallow in pity, but to offer God the whole of who we are. Do come and make use of this space, and pray with us for healing and wholeness. If you cannot come in person to St Peter's, we will be livestreaming the service to allow you to join us that way.

Please, where you can, encourage and help others to join in, particularly those who are most isolated and in need.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: individual Confession (St. Peter's & St. Gregory's, Sat 19th Dec, 10am – midday).



Advent Mass of Reconciliation Fr Mark says:

"We know that many of you would like to ask for and receive forgiveness and yet won't be able to come into the church for individual confession. This mass is being offered especially for you and, as we did in Holy Week, it will include an extended examination of conscience and an opportunity to make a perfect act of contrition."

St. Peter's and Livestream, Mon 21st Dec, 7pm
(public, no booking required)

Family Nativity with Carols will happen on **Tuesday 22nd December** at 4pm on Zoom. All families are invited to come along and watch, joining in with the carols from the comfort of your own homes. (It will be similar to the very successful family liturgy held on Zoom in Holy Week earlier this year.) Some of the families will take a short section of the Gospel narrative to present live during the liturgy, which will be interspersed with a few relevant carols also led live by families. It will conclude with a short reflection and blessing from Fr Mark. If you are interested, want to take part please join our Zoom, using the link below

Meeting ID: 819 5431 9863
Passcode: Nativity



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81954319863?pwd=bHF6K1Y0WS9BaHN4eDhoRlB0T0hZQT09>

Art for Advent -A talk by Dr. Antonia Whitley



As we move through Advent and seek to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus at Christmas, Antonia, an experienced art historian, lecturer and parishioner, is giving a talk on religious art, focusing on paintings of the Annunciation and the Nativity. There is a second chance to see and hear it on **Tuesday December 22nd at 7:45pm** If you would like to join us, please email:

Formation@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS

The main online mass for families is at **6pm on Christmas Eve** and we are hoping that children will dress up as an angel, sheep, shepherd or star. They may like to gather a crib figure of Jesus (or a picture of the baby Jesus), a candle, and a star to have with them during the mass. If parents visit the parish webpage (near the time) there will be colouring sheets to print out on [the young people's page](#).



A list of (nearly) everything for Advent all in one place:

Public Prayer, Liturgy and Worship

Christmas Crib / Nativity Scene outdoors - St. Peter's School now and St. Peter's Church (with outdoor trail) soon; indoors, St.

Peter's Church, soon, whenever St. Peter's Church is open, especially mon 28th Dec, 9am-5pm. Please call in for a visit and a moment of peace

Crib Offerings It's traditional each year to collect "crib offerings" to support those in need. This year, ours will go to the "Knights of the Holy Sepulchre" to assist children and schools in the Holy Land. www.khs.org.uk They are a Roman Catholic order of knighthood under the protection of the Holy See. The Pope is sovereign of the Order. They ask "Please pray at the crib for all our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East at this time."

Sacrament of Reconciliation - individual Confession (St. Peter's & St. Gregory's, Sat 19th Dec, 10am – midday)

"Blue Christmas Service" (St. Peter's and livestream. Mon 21st Dec, 10:30am) See above

Advent Mass of Reconciliation (St. Peter's and Livestream, Mon 21st Dec, 7pm)

Zoom Nativity / Carol Service for Families (Tues 22nd Dec, 4pm) – see above

Pastoral Care for Housebound & those in Care Homes All should have received an Advent Calendar this year as a reminder of God's love and our prayers. Our priests are also committing to write to, call or even visit (where possible and safe) as many of our housebound and sick parishioners as possible. If you know of any who are not on our list, please do get in touch (with the permission of the person concerned, where possible).

Advent Calendar in Reverse Some of us like to open a door of our Advent Calendar each day as we draw closer to Christmas. Fr Mark was particularly enamoured with his "Peppa Pig" version a few years ago (he has a more religious one too!). But an Advent Calendar in Reverse enables us to put something into the calendar rather than taking something out. If you have any of the following items (of good quality) that you could start to gather over the course of Advent, we will let you know the best way to get them to some of those in need through our partnerships with local charities such as the Apostleship of the Sea - <https://www.stellamaris.org.uk> - Trinity Winchester - <https://trinitywinchester.org.uk/> - or The Winchester Night Shelter - <https://wcns.org.uk/christmasdonations> : Woolly hats; soap; shampoo; toothpaste; combs; chocolates; deodorant; socks; jumpers/sweaters; woolly gloves; long underwear (tops/bottoms of various sizes); new socks and underwear, chocolates and sweets, Amazon gift cards, coffee shop gift cards, travel clocks, thermos flasks, headphones, rucksacks, nail care kits, waterproof trousers. ****We will be collecting items at St. Peter's Church before and after all masses during the Christmas Octave, from 26th Dec – 1st Jan. We hope to have other collection points available in the early New Year. If you have items to share but cannot leave your house, please contact the office – 01962852804 – and we will see if it's possible for them to be collected****

Private Prayer, Learning and Retreats

Art for Advent – a Talk by Dr Antonia Whitley (Tues 22nd Dec, 7:45pm) See notice above

"God is with you" Advent Retreat This retreat is offered by "Pray-as-you-go" - <https://pray-as-you-go.org/article/advent-retreat-2020>

Daily Advent Retreat with Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa and Chris Stefanick follow this link <https://coaching.reallifecatholic.com/unshakeable-joy>

Things you can do at home

Place Christian symbols / decorations outside your home or in your window Some are going to place a "Goan star" outside their homes – a quick google search will tell you what these beautiful stars look like and even how to make them! Others might like to play figures from the nativity scene or a Christmas Crib in their windows... Share on our facebook page!

Print and Share Christmas Cards – see above

CHRISTMAS DAY COLLECTIONS

The collections taken at our Christmas Masses are traditionally your personal gift to Fr Mark and Fr Anthony and, as always, your very kind generosity is much appreciated. This collection forms a substantial part of their annual income. This year, you can also donate online – by clicking on the link below:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/hampshire-downsclergy-christmas-collection>

You may also like to know that these donations can be gift-aided. Any gift aid received from the Christmas collections is donated to the Parish to support its good works.



Churches Together in Alresford Community Carol Service

Christmas is not going to be quite the same this year but even though we can't get together in person, Churches Together in Alresford is very pleased to announce that there will still be a Community Carol Service! Many people have been working very hard over the last couple of weeks to put together a service which you will be available to follow online. It will be available from **4.00pm on Saturday 19th December on St John's Arle Valley Benefice website**. The link will be www.arlevalleychurches.org.uk We hope many will join us in this celebration of Christmastime

CAFOD's Christmas Fun Run' – A virtual event on December 27th.

'Take to the streets in your local area on December 27th to run, walk or toddle 5km for CAFOD this Christmas.' There are loads of places where you can join this event. Please go to the [Eventbrite page](#) to sign up, or the [Facebook Event](#) to share. To fundraise, please go to [JustGiving](#). All are welcome, and if you fundraise over £100 we will send you a running vest!

And right now, don't forget CAFOD gifts – there are paper gift catalogues at the back of the church.

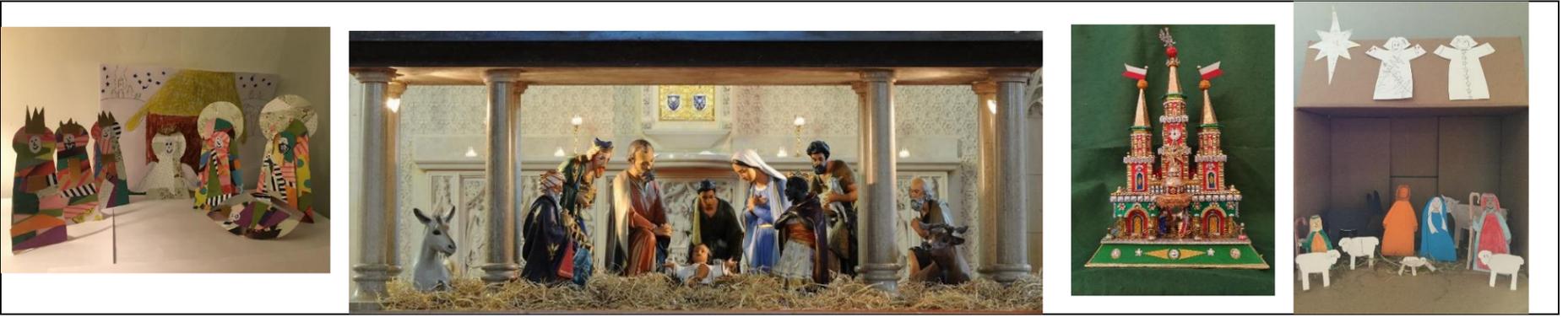


FLOWERS IN MEMORY AT ST. STEPHENS 2020.

If you would like to bring a white plant in memory of a loved one. Please bring it in a waterproof container with an attached label of the loved one and your own name. We should like them brought either just before 9:15am Mass on Sunday 20th December or at 10am on Wednesday 23rd December. Any difficulties phone Liz T on W. 861918.



Carols on the Doorstep – Our friends at Winchester Radio are hosting a **Community Carol singing event**. Why not pour a glass of mulled wine and step out on Sunday 20th at 5.30pm to toast your neighbours and sing along with the radio, and others all over the city, as we look forward to the coming of Jesus Christ. This is a wonderful opportunity to share the message of Christmas with everyone. <http://winchester.radio/carols>



CRIB PAGE

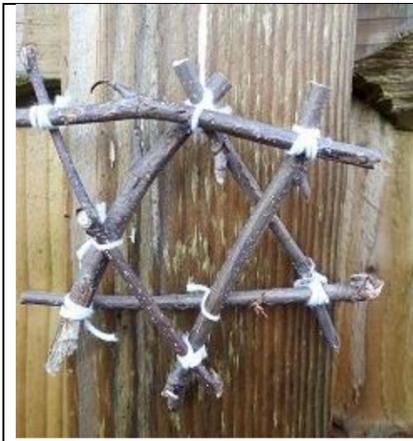


Prayers and Blessing at the Crib)

We will keep St. Peter's Church open all day on Monday 28th December, 9 till 5, including Mass at 12:15pm, to which you are most welcome. At all other times, you will be able to come into the church and say some prayers and light a candle before our beautiful Nativity Scene. Pope Francis wrote that the nativity scene is:

“like a living Gospel rising up from the pages of sacred Scripture.”

This will be an opportunity to come and “read” this Gospel, encountering the beautiful gift of God in his only son, Jesus. Everyone is invited to come and gaze upon the wonder and beauty of this miraculous birth and to allow it to speak God’s mercy and love into the depth of our hearts. One of our clergy will be on hand to offer you and your family and friends a Christmas blessing, if you wish. Please come in and spend a few moments of quiet with Jesus.



Outdoor Crib & Trail

From Saturday evening (19th) until the New Year everyone is welcome to come and visit our 'outdoor' crib. There is also a star trail particularly designed for families to follow the story of the Nativity. Children can add their own artistic touch by downloading an angel outline (from the young [people's page on the website](#)) to decorate at home and post through the pastoral centre 'Angel letterbox' to go on display in the windows. Or maybe make a stick star at home to hang in the church grounds. We look forward to seeing your creations.



A reflection on the crib by Tony Darlison

Picture the scene in the deep winter of 1223. A humble little friar travels home through Umbria and rests in the poor village of Greccio where he will spend Christmas. The friar knows well that we encounter God with all our senses – sight, hearing, touch, smell even. He asks a local man named John to help him realise his desire “to bring to life the memory of that babe born in Bethlehem, to see as much as possible with my own bodily eyes the discomfort of his infant needs, how he lay in a manger, and how, with an ox and an ass standing by, he was laid upon a bed of hay”. On Christmas eve the villagers gather with flowers and with torches to light the holy night. As the friar approaches the scene prepared by his friend John he finds an ox and an ass, and a manger. A local priest says Mass over the manger, reminding the people that Christ feeds us just as a manger feeds the animals. Thus it was that Saint Francis started the tradition of the Christmas crib.

Pope Francis urges us to maintain this tradition. The crib is scripture in statues - a physical image proclaiming God coming, from His glorious throne in heaven, down to earth, in all its darkness and cold and poverty. As we arrange our figures in the crib shortly before Christmas, we are encouraged to reflect on what they mean. Mary is shown in a gesture of presenting Jesus to us, beckoning us to draw close to the manger, to enter the presence of her son. Joseph, often shown with a staff, silently protects the woman and child from the ravages of Herod and the other dangers of the world. He is a model for all fathers. The angels, God’s messengers, herald the divine birth, and shepherds, illiterate outcasts, are the first to hear and understand, and come with their simple gifts. But Jesus draws the whole of humanity to Himself: the wise and wealthy magi, from an alien culture, and travelling from a distant land (perhaps symbolised by their progression across the mantelpiece from a distant corner of the living room) use their science to find the Christ portended in the stars. All are coming to adore the saviour of the world. And finally, perhaps after midnight Mass, with very sleepy children, or before dawn Mass, with very excited ones, we place the figure of baby Jesus in the manger. And in so doing, we are teaching our children, and ourselves, to enthrone Jesus in our hearts. As I reflect on the crib, I am reminded of a beautiful story about St. Therese of the Child Jesus. It happened when she was 13 years old, as she and her family returned home after midnight Mass. As usual her presents were laid out in the dining room ready for opening. Her father, though, was not in a good mood, and unfortunately the young Therese heard him grumbling that she was getting too old for this sort of thing, and hoping that this year would be the last for presents. Imagine Therese rushing upstairs, straining to hold back her tears until she reached the privacy of her bedroom. But then a beautiful thing happened, something she later called her “Christmas Miracle”: she decided, regardless of how she was feeling, that she would calmly go downstairs and open each present joyfully, showing her great delight and love for her father. How could it be that such a young child could show such great emotional maturity? I think it was because she had enthroned Jesus in her heart. I wonder what beautiful things the Lord, enthroned in our hearts, wishes to do in and through us this Christmas?

This reflection was inspired in part by Pope Francis’ Apostolic Letter Admirabile Signum (Wonderful Sign), 2019.

Welcome..... If this is your first time with us, or first time reading the newsletter, then you are particularly welcome. Please get in touch - we'd love to tell you about everything that's going on here, and invite you to join us. Just to start you off, elsewhere in the newsletter you will find our services, our virtual church timetable and other activities. Look on our website <https://www.catholicwinchester.org.uk/> or email office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Staying connected: Hello Calling Fr Mark wants to make sure we keep connected as a Parish, and to this end a team of parishioners will be calling round to people to pass on his good wishes and to try to make sure our contact details are up-to-date. Being able to reach out to each other has been even more vital in the time of the pandemic, so we hope everyone will understand and be happy to take the call. Of course you should always be careful on the phone – no-one from the Parish will be asking you anything sensitive. If you have any questions or issues contact the Parish Office: 01962 852804 or email office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

PLEASE PRAY FOR the repose of the souls of those who have died recently

Maggie Stimpson RIP
John Carter RIP
Joseph Pappachan RIP



SECURITY WARNING: A few people have reported getting fake emails, supposedly from Fr Mark, asking for a favour for him. ANY real email from Fr Mark will always have 'stpeterswinchester' or 'portsmouthdiocese' in the email address; and it will always have quite a full and elaborate signoff – with his name, diocese details and so on. Please be very careful and do not reply to the fake ones. Ask us, or forward the email to us, if you are in any doubt, using any of the usual (known!) email addresses: hello@stpeterswinchester.org.uk or editor@stpeterswinchester.org.uk, or you can ring the office 01962 852804. This has been reported to the diocesan IT department.

Useful Contacts

Clergy: Fr Mark Hogan (Parish Priest); Fr Anthony Njingo (Assistant Priest); & Fr Stephen Vooght
Deacon Gerard Dailly and Deacon Martin McElroy
Director of Evangelisation and Leadership: Allegra Mutanda
Finance Manager Annette Parr.; Facilities and Resources Manager Sean Reidy
Pastoral team: Sandra Drower, Rosanne Walker, Jo Donaldson
To get in touch with them, and for other general matters, please contact the Parish Office: 01962 852804 / email: office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk .

- **PeterCares :** petercares@stpeterswinchester.org.uk
- **Prayerline:** prayer@stpeterswinchester.org.uk
- **Newsletter:** editor@stpeterswinchester.org.uk
- **Newsletter list:** hello@stpeterswinchester.org.uk
- **St. Peter's School Office:** 01962 852820
- **St. Thomas More's Stockbridge:** please email Polly at christoesrus@hotmail.co.uk
- **For stewarding and volunteering:** please email Anna annasmylie@outlook.com

THE PARISH OF ST. PETER & THE WINCHESTER MARTYRS IS RECRUITING

We are looking for a
Parish Administration Manager
– a full-time post based in the Pastoral Centre.

Closing date for applications: **Monday 11th January 2021** – midday

Interviews: **Friday 22nd January 2021**

You can see [the full advert here](#)

You can read [the job description here](#)



Thank you to Sandra Drower (Senior Pastoral Worker)

On behalf of the parish, Fr Mark would like to offer an enormous “thank you” to Sandra Drower, who is stepping back from her role as our Senior Pastoral Worker at the end of this month, after six years in post. Sandra has offered excellent support, supervision and mentoring to our parish pastoral workers and others, and has been responsible for establishing and supporting much wonderful work in our Neighbourhood Groups. The activities of the hospitality group, including the Night of Lights, the “24 hours for the Lord” and Christmas lunches with Trinity, are just a few examples of the many blessings brought to us through Sandra’s expertise, wisdom and dedication. Many parishioners will also know her from her unstinting work at the Alpha sessions.

Sandra’s professionalism and commitment have shone through her work, complemented by her deep understanding of spirituality. Sandra has also given generously of her time as a volunteer. We’re delighted that Sandra will remain a fully committed member of our parish and very much part of our community life beyond as we move forward.



Bishop's survey for all parishioners

Bishop Philip writes: 'I want to understand better what the people and parishioners of our Diocese think and what they consider is important to them as we journey in faith together. So we have created a survey. It covers many areas and will take 10-20 minutes to complete. Here is a link to it: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2XRKQDS>. It can also be found on the diocesan website www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk We will publish the results in the Spring.' If you are not online and would like a paper copy, please let us know.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS dear Canon Peter Wilkie, who has decided to step back from duties at St. Thomas More for the time being. We know how loved and appreciated he is by all those who know him, especially the community in Stockbridge.

CLERGY HEALTH The rest of the clergy are keeping fit and well, and thank you all for your good wishes and concern. We hear from Medstead that the nuns there are all well too.

ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

Advent

In Monday’s Gospel assembly the children reflected on the words of Isaiah again ...

John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, “I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’” Mark 1:3

The children heard about how John was a prophet, sharing God the Father’s message to people 2000 years ago – and his message remains the same today for us. We then reflected on:

- How are we preparing for Jesus, the light of the world?
- Are there things we need to be doing differently in order to get closer to Christ?

And so we, as adults, can continue these reflections thinking about how our own pathways can at times be complicated – with lots of bends and times that travel is not pleasant for us or those around us. How can we make our lives less complicated, possibly simpler by ensuring we are walking with Christ?

Christ our light

Shine in our lives

with hope and promise

Give us right vision

so we remain attentive to this holy season.

Remind us to look for You in small acts of kindness and love.

We await Your coming with wonder. Amen

The children usually have a Gospel assembly challenge. This week it was for them to ‘help out at home as parents are very busy at this time of the year.’ I hope they rose to the challenge for you!!

Father Mark joined us for the Year 1 and 2 Advent liturgy on Friday when the children heard about making the way straight for the Lord - along with some of our children dressing up as an Advent wreath. Thank you Father Mark for helping to celebrate this with our children and staff, and for all your support this year.

Best wishes. Louise Buxton (Miss), Headteacher



Readings and Antiphons

Sunday 20 December 2020 - **4th Sunday of Advent**

Entrance Antiphon - Cf. Is 45: 8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First reading - 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16 ·

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 88(89):2-5,27,29

R/ I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

Second reading - Romans 16:25-27 ·

Gospel Acclamation - Lk1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:
let what you have said be done to me.
Alleluia!

Gospel - Luke 1:26-38

Gospel - Luke 1:26-38

Communion Antiphon - Is 7: 14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.



Sunday 27 December 2020 - **The Holy Family**

Entrance Antiphon - Lk 2: 16

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

First reading - Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14 ·

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 127(128):1-5

R/ O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

Second reading - Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel Acclamation - Heb1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!

At various times in the past
and in various different ways,
God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
but in our own time, the last days,
he has spoken to us through his Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel - Luke 2:22-40

Communion Antiphon - Bar 3: 38

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

PRAYER CORNER:

Each week, this section will contain an intercession that I hope every parishioner will pray for during the coming week. In this way, we will all pray to the Lord for the parish's mission, because "if the Lord does not build... in vain do the builders labour" (Ps 127:1) **Fr. Mark**

This Week's Intention "Let us pray that as we approach the birth of Jesus, we rejoice and are not afraid, placing our trust in God who hears us and for whom nothing is impossible"



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 'Adoration'

We cannot encounter God and remain unchanged however subtle the encounter.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Adoration) takes place every day in St Peter's Church. Come spend time with the One who knows you best!

Times:

8am – 9am, Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd December &
Monday 28th Dec – Thursday 31st December

11am – 12pm, Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd
December &

Tuesday 29th, Wednesday 30th,
Thursday 31st and

Saturday 2nd January.



To participate online or see the recorded services for Morning Prayer & Adoration and Night Prayer & Adoration, go to our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbGgrcbDyLY75pmCAopfLlg/live>.



Mass Timetable	December 19 th			
Date	Mass Times & Intentions			Livestream/Public
SATURDAY – December 19th	9 AM	Mass	Brendan Barry RIP	Livestream, Public
	10-12 NOON	Adoration & confessions		Open to public
	3.30 PM	Family mass at St Peter's		Livestream, Public, booking reqd
	5.30PM	Vigil Mass	All Souls in Purgatory	Livestream, Public, booking reqd
SUNDAY – December 20th <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8 AM	Mass	Intentions of the Neil Family	Livestream, Public, booking reqd
	9 AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	People of the Parish	Public, booking reqd *
	9.15 AM	Mass at St Stephen's		Public, booking reqd
	10.00AM	Mass	Claire McKenna RIP	Livestream only
	11 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Mary Julie Wheble RIP	Public, booking reqd
	11-11.45 AM	Adoration & private prayer		Open to public
	12 Noon	Mass	Peter Hankin	Livestream, Public, booking reqd
	5.30PM	Mass		Livestream, Public, booking reqd
MONDAY – December 21st St Peter Canisius	10.30 AM	Blue Christmas service		
	11-12NOON	Private prayer & adoration		Public
	12.15PM	Mass	Alfred Wild	Livestream & public
	7.00PM	Advent Reconciliation Mass	Bernard & Cherry Twomey	Livestream & public
TUESDAY – December 22nd	10AM	Mass	Mary Lucy King RIP	Livestream & Public
	10 AM	Mass at ST GREGORY'S		Public
	11-12 noon	Private Prayer and Adoration		Open to public
	7.00PM	Mass	Christopher & Paul Turner RIP	Livestream & public
WEDNESDAY – December 23rd h St John of Kanty		**see note below **		
	7PM	Mass	Beatrice Zulu (birthday)	Livestream & public
THURSDAY – December 24th Christmas Eve	4 PM	Mass [families]		Livestream, Public, Fully bkd
	4PM	Mass, St Gregory &, St Stephen's		Fully booked
	5 PM	Mass, St Thomas More		Fully booked
	6 PM	Mass	Austin Emery RIP	Livestream only
	6 PM	Mass, St Gregory's		Fully booked
	8 PM	Mass		Livestream, Public, Fully bkd
	8 PM	Mass, St. Stephen's		Public, booking reqd
	10 PM	Mass		Livestream, Public, Fully bkd
	10 PM	Mass, St Stephen's		Public, booking reqd
	MIDNIGHT	Mass		Livestream only
FRIDAY – December 25th <i>Christmas Day</i>	8 AM	Mass	James Arthur	Livestream, Public, Fully bkd
	9 AM	Mass, St Thomas More & St Gregory's		Fully booked
	10 AM	Mass		Livestream, Public, Fully bkd
	10 AM	Mass, St. Stephen's		Public, booking reqd
	11 AM	Mass, St. Gregory's		Public, booking reqd
	12 NOON	Mass		Livestream, Public, booking reqd
	6 PM	Mass		Livestream, NO booking, first come, first served
SATURDAY – December 26th St Stephen	10 AM	Mass, St Stephen's		NO booking, first come, first served
	5.30 PM	Mass	Ann KB RIP	Livestream, Public, booking reqd

SUNDAY – December 27th Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	8 AM	Mass		Livestream, Public, booking reqd
	9AM	Mass at St Thomas More's		Public, booking reqd *
	9.15 AM	Mass at St Stephen's		Public, booking reqd
	10AM	Mass	Fr Robbie Wirth RIP	Livestream only
	11 AM	Mass at St Gregory's		Public, booking reqd
	12 NOON	Mass		Livestream, Public, booking reqd
	5.30PM	Mass		Livestream, Public, booking reqd
MONDAY – December 28th Holy Innocents	12.15 PM	Mass	Eddie & Mary O'Shaughnessy RIP	Livestream , NO booking, first come, first served
	7.00PM	Mass		Livestream , NO booking, first come, first served
TUESDAY – December 29th St Thomas of Canterbury	10AM	Mass	Karen Holzapfel	Livestream , NO booking, first come, first served
	7.00PM	Mass		Livestream , NO booking, first come, first served
WEDNESDAY – December 30th	10AM	Mass	Beatrice, Zulu & Linda Sinisiwie & Fikile Mlotshwa	Livestream , NO booking, first come, first served
	7PM	Mass		Livestream , NO booking, first come, first served
THURSDAY – December 31st St Sylvester	10AM	Mass		Livestream , NO booking, first come, first served
	11-12 NOON	Private Prayer & Adoration		Open to public
	7PM	Mass		Livestream , NO booking, first come, first served
FRIDAY – January 1st 2021 Mary, the Holy Mother of God (New Years Day)	10AM	Mass		Livestream , NO booking, first come, first served
SATURDAY – January 2nd	9 AM	Mass		Public
	11-12 noon	Adoration and confessions		Public
	3.30PM	Family Mass, St Peter's		Livestream, Public, booking reqd
	5.30PM	Vigil Mass	All Souls in Purgatory	Livestream, Public, booking reqd
SUNDAY – January 3rd	8 AM	Mass		Livestream, Public, booking reqd
	9AM	Mass at St Thomas More's**		Public, booking reqd *
	9.15 AM	Mass at St Stephen's		Public, booking reqd
	10AM	Mass		Livestream only
	11 AM	Mass at St Gregory's		Public, booking reqd
	11-11.45 PM	Private Prayer & Adoration		Public & livestream
	12 Noon	Mass		Livestream, Public, booking reqd
	5.30PM	Mass		Livestream, Public, booking reqd

All at St. Peter's, except where stated. *To book mass at St Thomas More's Stockbridge, email Polly at christoesrus@hotmail.co.uk
All other bookings via website homepage Home - The Parish of St Peter & the Winchester Martyrs (catholicwinchester.org.uk) or call office 01962 852804

Night prayer (livestream only) every evening from St Peter's, 9pm - **except for 24th, 25th, 31st Dec, 1st Jan.**

Morning Prayer (open to public) every weekday, Monday to Friday, 8am, followed by Adoration till 9am - **except for 24th, 25th Dec, 1st Jan.**

Confessions are usually available (without booking) on Saturdays, 10.00 till 11, then 4.30 to 5. **Variations for Christmas period:**

CONFESSIONS on SAT 19TH, 10-12. No morning confession 26th Dec. From 11-12 on 2nd Jan. (also 4:30-5 on each of those Saturdays, incl 26th)

ALL SERVICES (INCLUDING MORNING PRAYER, NIGHT PRAYER & ADORATION) FROM ST PETER'S ARE LIVESTREAMED

****Please note:** no 10am Mass at St Peter's on Wed 23rd, and church not open for prayer and adoration 10-11, as the church flowers are being prepared for Christmas...

TWO WEEKS' VIRTUAL CHURCH TIMETABLES BELOW –

To access the Zoom virtual sessions, click <https://zoom.us/j/4388694572> Alternatively, sign into Zoom and enter Meeting ID: 438 869 4572.

Password: 287520 (may also be required with above link).

To participate in mass or any service online, [click here](#)

[Click here to see recorded services](#)

Virtual Church Programme - Week commencing 20th December

All public liturgies are also live streamed, except where stated.
For more details of our Advent & Christmas events, please check the newsletter or website.

	Sunday 20 th Dec <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	Monday 21 st Dec <i>21 December</i>	Tuesday 22 nd Dec <i>22 December</i>	Wed 23 rd Dec <i>23 December</i>	Thursday 24 th Dec <i>24 December</i>	Friday 25 th Dec <i>Christmas Day</i>	Saturday 26 th Dec <i>St Stephen</i>
8am – 9am	Public Mass @ St Peter's	Public Morning Prayer & Adoration	Public Morning Prayer & Adoration	Morning Prayer ONLY <small>(Lady chapel - no live stream)</small>		Please check the website or newsletter for details of Christmas day Masses.	
9.20 – 9.50am	Children's Liturgy Online <small>(See website for registration)</small>						
10am	Sunday Mass <i>Live stream only</i>		Public Mass @ St Peter's	No morning Mass			Public Mass @ ST STEPHEN'S
10.30am		Blue Christmas Liturgy					
11.15am	St Peter's Tea Room <i>Zoom Virtual room</i>						
11am – 12noon		Holy Hour (Adoration) @ St Peter's	Holy Hour (Adoration) @ St Peter's				
12noon	Public Mass @ St Peter's						
12.15pm		Public Mass @ St Peter's					
2.55pm		Divine Mercy Chaplet - Zoom		Divine Mercy Chaplet - Zoom			
4pm			Zoom Nativity / Carol Service for Families <small>(See website or newsletter for details)</small>		Please check the website or newsletter for details of Christmas eve Masses.		
5.30pm	Public Mass @ St Peter's						Vigil Mass @ St Peter's
7pm		Advent Mass of Reconciliation - St Peter's	Public Mass @ St Peter's	Public Mass @ St Peter's			
7.45pm			Art for Advent talk <small>(See website or newsletter)</small>				
9pm	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream only</i>	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream only</i>	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream only</i>	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream only</i>			Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream only</i>

Virtual Church Programme - Week commencing 27th December

All public liturgies are also live streamed.

	Sunday 27 th Dec <i>The Holy Family</i>	Monday 28 th Dec <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	Tuesday 29 th Dec <i>St Thomas Becket</i>	Wed 30 th Dec <i>6th day within the octave of Christmas</i>	Thursday 31 st Dec <i>7th day within the octave of Christmas</i>	Friday 1 st Jan <i>Mary, Mother of God</i>	Saturday 2 nd Jan <i>St Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen</i>
8am – 9am	Public Mass @ St Peter's	Public Morning Prayer & Adoration	Public Morning Prayer & Adoration	Public Morning Prayer & Adoration	Public Morning Prayer & Adoration		9am Public Mass @ St Peter's
9.20 – 9.50am	Children's Liturgy Online <small>(See website for registration)</small>						
10am	Sunday Mass <i>Live stream only</i>		Public Mass @ St Peter's	Public Mass @ St Peter's	Public Mass @ St Peter's	Public Mass @ St Peter's	
11.15am	St Peter's Tea Room <i>Zoom Virtual room</i>						
11am – 12noon			Holy Hour (Adoration) @ St Peter's	Holy Hour (Adoration) @ St Peter's	Holy Hour (Adoration) @ St Peter's		Holy Hour (Adoration) @ St Peter's
12noon	Public Mass @ St Peter's						
12.15pm		Public Mass @ St Peter's					
2.55pm			Divine Mercy Chaplet <small>Zoom Virtual room</small>	Divine Mercy Chaplet <small>Zoom Virtual room</small>	Divine Mercy Chaplet <small>Zoom Virtual room</small>		
3.30pm							Family Mass @ St Peter's
5.30pm	Public Mass @ St Peter's						Vigil Mass @ St Peter's
7pm		Public Mass @ St Peter's	Public Mass @ St Peter's	Public Mass @ St Peter's	Public Mass @ St Peter's		
9pm	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream only</i>	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream only</i>	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream only</i>	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream only</i>			Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream only</i>