

# PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2020

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## Hold On – With God-like Patience – Everything will be alright

**Fr Mark writes ...**

The last nine months have seemed like a very long time indeed for so many of us who have been experiencing the effects of the global pandemic. So much has changed and there is so much pain that has been experienced, so much weariness that has accumulated and, in spite of it all, so many blessings that have been offered.

Over these next few weeks, though, I want us to take a step back and view things from a different, broader perspective. What would our centuries-old Cathedral here in Winchester make of all this; what insights might St. Catherine's Hill offer if she were able to cry out; what wisdom could the planets and stars contribute in these days...And, most importantly, what does God have to say on the subject.

For 13.77 billion years, give or take 40 million years or so, God the Almighty, Creator of all that is, visible and invisible, planned to send Jesus, his only Son, born of the Virgin Mary, as Emmanuel, God-with-us. Throughout all that time, creation was yearning, the angels were waiting, humanity was holding on until God's plan to save Creation was revealed. From Adam and Eve's fall, through the building of arks and the crossing of deserts, the building and destruction of Temples and exiles in foreign lands, God was preparing his people until, in the fullness of time, he sent his only Son to bind the human family to himself with a new bond of love so tight that it can never be undone.

In Jesus, our Salvation is revealed, the Victory is won, Light has conquered darkness. And yet, we still find ourselves in the midst of battle, living in an imperfect world, holding on until Jesus returns in his glory. What are we to do in this 'in between time'? ***We are to hold on - hold on to Jesus our Saviour, keep close to him, our Good Shepherd, who leads us through The Valley of Darkness, knowing that if he is with us then all things will be well, everything will be alright.***

***Advent is a season of expectant, hope-filled waiting, of holding on.*** We know that something is not quite right. The world isn't as it should be (we can see this in our community; our parish; our family; even our own soul) and yet God is present, mysteriously so, waiting to reveal His face. God is up to something very special that we cannot yet see clearly.

After a year of challenges, changes, suffering, isolation, social distancing and blessings, perhaps there's never been a more important time to ask for the gift of Hope as we reflect on the Incarnation; on God's incredible plan to draw as close as possible to us, by becoming one of us. ***In this season, let us "hold on", waiting with patient and eager, hope-filled longing. Let us "hold on" tightly to Jesus Christ and our faith; let us also hold on to each other in love.*** Let us trust that God is with us and will reveal His face to us once more. ***Let us believe in God who alone is capable of making everything alright.***

Last week, I reflected on our understanding of God as a loving Father, who is still shaping us and forming us into the image of his Son Jesus, as a potter gently moulds clay at the wheel. We're not perfect yet and we can't make ourselves perfect; we need God's help.

This week, I'd like to consider *how* God continues to shape us and I'd like to emphasize that ***God forms us with immeasurable patience.*** St. Peter wrote:

*There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day.*

With the Lord, with our Heavenly Father, there's a whole different perspective on time. I remember when I was a child that time would often go so slowly when I was waiting for something: for dad to come

home from work, for the next meal to arrive magically on the table, for my birthday. As a proportion of my lifespan, a month was a pretty long time in those early years. For God, "sat on the mountain-top, watching us wander along the path of time which stretches out below", the vantage point is very different.

St. Peter continues:

*The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all.*

Those of you who are parents often impress me. You are just so incredibly patient. I'm sure that a grouch like me could never have as much patience as you do. Even when you think you're being impatient, you're much better at it than me! Maybe it's one of those gifts that turns up alongside your first-born in the package delivered by the kindly stork. Or maybe it's something that's learnt through blood, sweat and tears. Or maybe, and this seems most likely, it's because you love your child so much that you are willing to wait patiently whilst they struggle, make mistakes, push back, learn and grow. You have some idea of where they're heading, even if they cannot see that for themselves.

If that's the case, then imagine how much more patience the God of infinite love has for you, and for me. And thank God, as we mess up and wander down the wrong path and get things wrong time and time again, through a combination of resistance, ignorance, foolishness and sin. Thank God indeed that our Father is in no rush with us or I would have failed that exam countless times.

*"God is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways."*

Our Father has no intention of giving up on us. He keeps holding on.

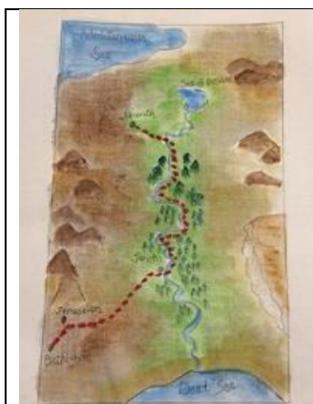
Are we able to learn something of that patience for ourselves? Can I discover how to be patient with God, as he continues to shape and form me, painfully at times? Even if I cannot see clearly yet what he's up to?

Can I learn to be patient with:

- ✘ my sibling, who winds me up more than anyone I know?
- ✘ my belligerent boss or complaining colleague or selfish staff member?
- ✘ my nosey neighbour or forgetful friend or imperfect parish?

Can I discover how to be patient with myself and those around me, knowing that none of us is the finished product?

Can I keep holding on, patiently, through tears of immense joy and intense pain, to the God who so patiently and lovingly waits and longs for me? – **Fr Mark**



**Map for Advent:**

One of our parish children drew this map for our Travelling Nativity (#TravNat) theme: it shows the Holy Family's journey. As we all make our journeys through Advent, we can all try to find our own map, and hope it is as beautiful as this one...

*Hold on just a little while longer,  
everything will be alright*

Advent 2020

THE PARISH OF ST PETER  
& THE WINCHESTER MARTYRS

## Advent and Christmas

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. So, for example:

We will be offering some public masses where people can join with us physically and be in one of our beautiful churches with each other; and we will be offering masses online for people to join in from their homes.

**For those coming to one of our public masses, you will need to book in advance, either on our website – [www.catholicwinchester.org.uk](http://www.catholicwinchester.org.uk) – or by phone – 01962 852804.** (Some Christmas Masses are already full; some are not yet open for booking whilst we confirm we have enough volunteers to keep everyone safe) For those of you joining us from home, no booking required!

For those in church we're planning to have some beautiful Christmas music, even if you cannot join in with the singing. For those at home, the music will be just as beautiful and you can sing to your hearts content.

For those in church, you will be able to receive Holy Communion or a blessing in person; for those at home, you will be able to make a spiritual communion and receive many spiritual blessings.

For those of you with young families, our 4pm Mass on Christmas Eve at St. Stephen's and our 6pm Livestream Mass will be especially for you.

Because space will be limited at our masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we want to encourage those of you who cannot join us in person then to come and be with us for Mass on another day in the Christmas Octave\*.

Here's a full list of the Mass times for the Octave:

### Christmas Eve (24<sup>th</sup>)

4pm St. Gregory's; St. Stephen's (families only); St. Peter's (families only) (*St P fully booked*)

5pm St. Thomas More (*Fully Booked*)

6pm St. Gregory's; **St. Peter's (Livestream only)** (*St G fully booked*)

8pm St. Stephen's; St. Peter's (if we have sufficient welcomers/stewards)

10pm St. Stephen's; St. Peter's (*St P fully booked*)

Midnight **St. Peter's (Livestream only)**

### Christmas Day (25<sup>th</sup>)

8am St. Stephen's; St. Peter's (if we have sufficient welcomers/stewards)

9am St. Thomas More; St. Gregory's (*St TM Fully Booked*)

10am St. Stephen's; St. Peter's (*St P fully booked*)

11am St. Gregory's

Midday St. Stephen's; St. Peter's (if we have sufficient welcomers/stewards)

6pm St. Peter's (no booking; first come, first served)

### St. Stephen's Day (26<sup>th</sup>)

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

3:30pm St. Stephen's (no booking; first come, first served)

5:30pm St. Peter's

### Holy Family (Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>)

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 (28<sup>th</sup>)

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

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

### St. Thomas Becket (29<sup>th</sup>)

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

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

### 6<sup>th</sup> Day within the Octave of Christmas (30<sup>th</sup>)

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

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

### 7<sup>th</sup> Day within the Octave of Christmas (New Year's Eve, 31<sup>st</sup>)

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)

**ALL MASSES WILL REQUIRE YOU TO BOOK IN ADVANCE UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE; ALL MASSES AT ST. PETER'S WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE ONLINE**

We will be giving all those who book for mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day the opportunity to "give up their seat for a guest". This would be a wonderful gesture of hospitality to any visitors who turn up without a ticket. You will be offered this option when you book your place.

### \*Christmas Octave

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 see how we can 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 their Christmas Mass this year. Christmas at any of the Masses during 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 their Christmas Mass this year.

## Little Ways of Making a Big Difference this Advent... a very important message

We really do have an opportunity to make this year a very special one if we all find something, even a very little something, that we are willing to give of ourselves.

The first and most important thing to ask from you all is your prayers. Please pray that this Christmas we are able to feel a true sense of connection and meaning: connection with families who we may not be able to be with this year, connected as a parish despite the restrictions on being able to celebrate in unison as we usually would, and connected to God. And that this sense of connection will continue to bear fruit into the coming months.

If you feel you may have a little time to spare to help out in the run up to, or over, Christmas there are a multitude of ways you can. Primarily we need to ensure that we are able to hold as many public masses as possible so that everyone who wishes to can attend. In order to do so safely we need welcomers to help with the smooth running of the services and making sure the church is ready to be used again. This would only require a couple of hours of your time and could be done by anyone planning on attending one of our masses. It's very simple and you will be given some basic guidance on what it involves.

If you might have a little more time then we have a few whole-parish projects we hope to be hosting: maybe you're a budding artist or set designer for our outdoor crib and star trail? Perhaps you're a tech wizard who could help with collating and editing a video montage? Or you're a great photographer and can take pictures to add to the video? Or a wannabe influencer who could share some great content on our parish Facebook or Instagram (themes each week – send a photo)? Or just maybe you're the generous type and would like to get involved with one of our giving activities or something more practical? And for people who find themselves at home a lot more at present but would still like to do something, we also need people to write Christmas cards or be part of a team in one of our virtual tea rooms. Take your pick!

Please have a think as to whether there is anything you feel you may have to offer our community this year and if you would like more information - or perhaps you already know exactly what it is you would love to help with. Either way, please contact the Christmas team via [editor@spteterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:editor@spteterswinchester.org.uk) or Anna Smyllie (for stewarding) at [annasmyllie@outlook.com](mailto:annasmyllie@outlook.com)

These are the SVP Christmas parcels being prepared...27 of them! Thanks to everyone involved



Here's one of our parishioners opening the first window of his Advent calendar! Photo and greeting sent in by his family. To the best of our ability, all of the housebound parishioners and those in care homes, who would usually be receiving regularly the Sacrament of Holy Communion, have been receiving an Advent Calendar so they know we care and are praying with and for them.



### Art for Advent -A talk by Dr. Antonia Whitley

As we enter into 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](mailto:formation@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

**There are going to be many opportunities to celebrate this Christmas**  
**Look out for more details as we move through Advent. We'll be updating these pages of the newsletter, and highlighting different events and features each week**

### **Public Prayer, Liturgy and Worship**

**Christmas Crib / Nativity Scene** (outdoors - St. Peter's School (see below, p5) and St. Peter's Church; indoors, St. Peter's Church, timings to be confirmed)

Pope Francis wrote that the nativity scene is "like a living Gospel rising up from the pages of sacred Scripture."

**Travelling Nativity Liturgy for families** Well under way now, with regular posts on Facebook... check them out each day

**Night of Lights (St. Peter's, Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Dec, 5pm - 8pm) COME and PAUSE for a few minutes from the rush of Christmas.** Come in and Light a Candle, for yourself, for a loved one, for anyone..... and give yourself a few, or many, moments of personal quiet. ALL are very WELCOME. There will be 'virtual' opportunities too.



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

**"Blue Christmas Service"** (St. Peter's and livestream. Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Dec, 10:30am) This liturgy is for those who are feeling a little "blue" this Christmas.

Maybe you've lost a loved one, are struggling in a relationship or with your physical, emotional or mental health. Maybe you just haven't got the energy to pretend to be cheerful. Then this is the gently uplifting service is the perfect one for you to come and allow the Lord to soothe your soul.

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

**Zoom Nativity / Carol Service for Families** (Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec, 4pm)

The Parish is offering a Nativity / Carol Service for families. Details soon...

**Zoom Christmas Carol Party** (Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> December, 8-9pm – doors from 7:45pm) Details to follow.

### **Caring for our Neighbours**

**Covenant with the Poor** Our Covenant with the Poor appeal this Advent is for vulnerable families suffering the effects of domestic abuse. See notice elsewhere in newsletter.

**SVP** Our amazing St. Vincent de Paul Society will continue to keep connected with Beneficiaries throughout the Advent and Christmas period, letting them know of opportunities to join in with Christmas celebrations.

**Thanks to all for enabling the distribution of 27 Christmas food parcels this year to those who will appreciate them. You can see some of the workers and some of the goodies at right and above on p3...**

**Petercares** Our wonderful Petercares team have been reaching out since the beginning of lockdown 1.0 and are going to carry on calling those isolated and in need of a chat and support.

**Crib Offerings** It's traditional each year to collect "crib offerings" to support those in need. This year, our crib offerings will go to the "Knights of the Holy Sepulchre".

**Pastoral Care for Housebound & those in Care Homes** We are trying to make sure they all receive 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). See also photo above on p3 to see the project in action!

**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/christmas-donations>: *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.*



### **Private Prayer, Learning and Retreats**

**Discovering More About the Gospels in Advent** (Zoom, Tuesday evenings –8<sup>th</sup> Dec; 15<sup>th</sup> Dec – 7:45-pm)

A series of four evening sessions of *Lectio divina*, led by Fr Stephen and Tony Darlison - join with us as we prepare to welcome into our hearts the holy mystery of God coming down to earth at Christmas, by reflecting prayerfully on the Sunday Gospels of Advent. We hope to help one another to listen to God speaking to us through His sacred scripture. If you would like to join us, please register your interest by emailing [formation@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:formation@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

**Art for Advent – a Talk by Dr Antonia Whitley** (Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec, 7:45pm) As we enter into Advent and seek to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus at Christmas, Antonia, an experienced art historian, lecturer and parishioner, will be giving a talk on religious art focusing on paintings of the Annunciation and the Nativity. If you would like to join us, please email: [formation@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:formation@stpeterswinchester.org.uk) See notice above

**"God is with you" Advent Retreat (Pray as you go and / or Sacred Space)**

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

**Unshakeable Joy – Daily Advent Retreat with Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa and Chris Stefanick**

This 26-day joy-filled digital retreat has started, but you can still join. Daily videos and reflections that fit into your busy day. You can access the retreat anywhere – on your mobile, desktop or tablet. Most importantly, you can learn to have joy, no matter the circumstances of your life.

To enrol, follow this link - <https://coaching.reallifecatholic.com/unshakeable-joy>

### **Things you can do at home**

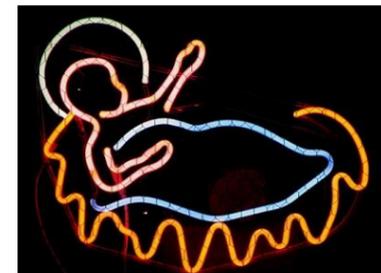
**Advent Wreath and Prayers** - Bishop Philip invites you to join him as he journeys through Advent this year by having in your home an Advent Wreath. Lighting and praying around it each evening using the prayers, songs and scripture found in the Diocesan Advent Booklet. The booklet, a step by step guide to making your own Advent Wreath, together with Bishop Philip's film of invitation can all be found on the Diocesan website <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/advent-project> (Send us a picture of yours, we are featuring them on social media)

**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!

**Winchester Cathedral Lockdown Poetry Burst** Some of you might be more wordsmiths than budding Michelangelos. Why not submit a poem for this competition by 9<sup>th</sup> Dec? There are prizes for various age groups. Look on the Cathedral website [Lockdown Poetry Burst - Winchester Cathedral \(winchester-cathedral.org.uk\)](https://www.winchestercathedral.org.uk/lockdown-poetry-burst)...

### **Print and Share Christmas Cards**

We're making a Christmas card available for you to print at home or email out and share with friends, family and neighbours, inviting them to share Christmas with us this year. You will be able to download it later this week from our website, and we will flag on social media.



## Advent at St Peter's School



On Sunday Advent began and so we enter a season of preparation, a time of prayer, a time of hope and a time of joy. As Christians we not only look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Son of God, but also look forward remembering that we must be ready to meet Him again, as we recall in the Creed that our Lord will come again to judge the living and the dead.



In Monday's Gospel assembly the children reflected on the words of Jesus...

*'Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.'* Mark 13:33

- For whose 'coming' are we preparing for? Remember and celebrate the first coming at Christmas but also need to prepare for the second coming.
- In the story Jesus told who are the man and the servants?
- When did Jesus leave His followers in charge?
- How can we prepare a welcome for Christ now and keep ourselves ready to greet him?



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

Thank you Father Mark for leading a pre-Advent liturgy for Years 3 and 4 in St Stephen's. It was lovely to be back in the church for worship led by Father.

Thank you to Marie Wright from St Stephen's for making the church wreath a week earlier than St Stephen's needed so that we could use it in our worship this week. It is very beautiful.



The crib outside St Peter's school! The plan is for the figures to be painted/decorated by the children and maybe sponsored by parents/parishioners to raise funds? See below. But they are splendid silhouettes at the moment...



The link to the PTA fund raising page is below:

<http://www.pta-events.co.uk/stpeterspta>

### 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](mailto:office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk) .

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

### 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.

**Sunday 6th December-** 'Today the Covenant with the Poor team will be appealing at all masses for support for **'Winchester Women's Refuge - play area for children'**. Please support generously as ever, by donating using the blue envelopes or by bank transfer to the parish bank account with the reference **CWP**. A link to the appeal leaflet with full details is on the parish website front page.

### Opportunity for those living in (or near) Winchester Village:

The Salvation Army are coming to Winchester Village on Sunday 13 December from 2.30 to 3pm to collect new toys for local children who might not otherwise receive any Christmas gifts. The collection point will be on Pitt Road by the Green and they will be playing Christmas carols. This is for their annual Christmas present appeal. Gifts should not be wrapped. Items for 8 to 15 year olds would be especially welcome. As it's a Sunday there is free parking in the Pitt Park and Ride.

### WORLD GIFTS

Wondering what to give as a gift this Christmas?  
 CAFOD have the World Gifts catalogue full of ideas where you can buy a gift which brings happiness and changes lives. The money you spend will make a real difference.  
 You can get a copy of their catalogue at:  
<https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk>



Mass Timetable	December 5 <sup>th</sup> – December 13 <sup>th</sup>			
Date	Mass Times & Intentions			Livestream/Public
<b>SATURDAY – December 5<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Of the 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent</i> & <i>Ss Birinus &amp; Hedda (mem.)</i>	10 AM	Mass IN WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL		Public, booking reqd
	11-12 NOON	Adoration & confessions		Open to public
	3.30 PM	Family mass at St Peter's		Public, booking reqd
	5.30PM	Vigil Mass	Benjamin James Summerfield RIP	Public, booking reqd
<b>SUNDAY – December 6<sup>th</sup></b> <i>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8 AM	Mass	Frederick Yard RIP	Public, booking reqd
	9 AM	Mass at St Thomas More's		Public, booking reqd **
	9.15 AM	Mass at St Stephen's		Public, booking reqd
	10.00AM	Mass	People of the Parish	Livestream only
	11 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Deceased members of the Clinton family	Public, booking reqd
	11-11.45 AM	Adoration & private prayer		Open to public
	12 Noon	Mass		Public, booking reqd
	5.30PM	Mass		Public, booking reqd
<b>MONDAY – December 7<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent</i> <i>ST Ambrose Bishop</i>	11-12NOON	Private prayer & adoration		Public
	12.15PM	Mass	Intentions of the Neil Family	Livestream & public
	7.00PM	Mass		Open to public
<b>TUESDAY – December 8<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent</i> <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity</i>	10AM	Mass	Richard Wheble RIP	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
<b>WEDNESDAY – December 9<sup>th</sup></b> <i>St John Diego Cuahtlatotzin</i>	10AM	Mass	David Morgan RIP	Livestream & public
	11-12 Noon	Private Prayer & Adoration		Open to public
	7PM	Mass		Livestream & public
<b>THURSDAY – December 10<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent</i> & <i>St Swithun Wells Martyr</i>	10AM	Mass	Teresa Laishley RIP	Livestream & public
	11-12 NOON	Private Prayer & Adoration		Open to public
	7PM	Mass		Livestream & public
<b>FRIDAY – December 11<sup>th</sup></b> <i>St Demasus</i>	10AM	Mass at ST GREGORY'S		Public
	11-12 Noon	Private Prayer & Adoration		Open to public
	12.15	Mass	Anthony Letchworth RIP	Public
	7.00PM	Mass		Livestream & public
<b>SATURDAY – December 12<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	9 AM	Mass	Mary Julia Wheble RIP	Public
	11-12	Adoration and confessions		Public
	3.30PM	Family Mass, St Stephen's		Public, booking reqd
	5.30PM	Vigil Mass	Dead and Founders	Public, booking reqd
<b>SUNDAY – December 13<sup>th</sup></b> <i>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8 AM	Mass	People of the Parish	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	Maria Cheng RIP	Livestream only
	11 AM	Mass at St Gregory's		Public, booking reqd
	11-11.45 PM	Private Prayer & Adoration		Public & livestream
	12 Noon	Mass		Public, booking reqd
	5.30PM	Mass		Public, booking reqd

All at St. Peter's, except where stated. Note 10am mass in Winchester Cathedral on 5th Dec, so no 9am mass at St Peter's

\*\*To book mass at St Thomas More's Stockbridge, email Polly at [christoesrus@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:christoesrus@hotmail.co.uk)

All other bookings via website homepage [Home - The Parish of St Peter & the Winchester Martyrs \(catholicwinchester.org.uk\)](http://catholicwinchester.org.uk)

Night prayer at 9pm every evening at St Peter's, livestream only. Morning Prayer every day Monday to Friday, 8am, followed by Adoration till 9am.

Confessions are available (without booking) on Saturdays – 10 till 11am, then 4.30-5pm

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

**Readings and Antiphons**  
 Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020 – 2<sup>nd</sup> **Sunday of Advent**

**Entrance Antiphon Cf. Is 30: 19, 30**

O people of Sion, behold,  
 the Lord will come to save the nations,  
 and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard  
 in the joy of your heart.

**First reading - Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11 ·**

**Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 84(85):9-14(Advent)**  
*R? Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.*

**Second reading - 2 Peter 3:8-14 ·**

**Gospel Acclamation – Lk3:4,6**  
 Alleluia, alleluia!  
 Prepare a way for the Lord,  
 make his paths straight,  
 and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.  
 Alleluia!

**Gospel - Mark 1:1-8**

**Communion Antiphon - Bar 5: 5; 4: 36**  
 Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,  
 and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

**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 the Lord will give us the strength not to give in but to be patient and to live in peace with each other as we await the joyful birth of Jesus.

**A Call to Adoration - 'Come to the One who knows you best'**

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Adoration) will take place in St Peter's Church when open for private prayer. Below are some ways these times of prayer could be used.

- **Adoration & Contemplation.** Come as you are. Relax into the reality that God loves you. Speak to Him as if you were speaking to a close friend. Listen, watch, wait.
- **Intercession.** As we come before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, what better place to intercede? For our families and friends, Church and government, health organisations and key workers, the lost and suffering, the end of the pandemic, those seeking God, etc.
- **Reflecting on Scripture.** The gospel for Sunday or another bible passage that is familiar to you. How is God speaking to you through His word?
- **Lighting a candle.** Jesus Christ is the Light of the World, our hope and salvation. In whose life or in which situation, would you like to bring the light of Christ?
- **Prayer Journaling.** Keeping a diary of the mix that is your personal and spiritual life and 'charting' that journey. What might God be saying or doing in your life at a particular time? Sometimes, it is only when we look back that we see that God was always there.

Know that we cannot encounter God and remain unchanged however subtle the encounter. The Church will be open for private prayer with Adoration at the following times (this week):

8am – 9am, Monday to Friday  
 11am – 12noon, every day except Sunday, when 11-11.45 because of the 12 noon mass

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



**St. Peter's Tea Room**



All welcome to join us for a cup of tea and a chat in our virtual tea room after 10am Livestream Mass. Find the link to join on the Parish Homepage, or on the YouTube channel alongside the links for the words and music.

**An invitation to read together Hopkins's "The Wreck of the Deutschland" - Monday 7th December, 18:00**  
**Deacon Martin writes:** Every year, on 7th December, since I first came across the poem as an 18 year old, I have read (aloud) Gerard Manley Hopkins's wonderful poem "The Wreck of the Deutschland" with family and friends. (As you may know, the events in the poem take place on December 7th, the eve of the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.)  
 Although we can't get together face to face this year, we will be gathering together via Zoom from 6pm on Monday 7th December. The reading should only take around 15 minutes, but we can spend as long as you want talking about the poem!  
 I'd be delighted if anyone wants to share the reading of the poem - it would be good to have at least 2 or 3 voices.

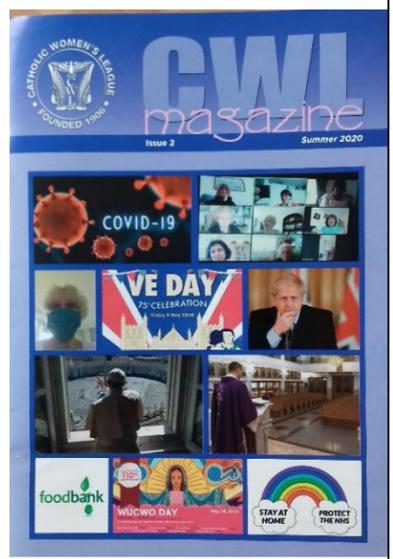
If you'd like to join me, please let me know, via email ([mmcelroy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:mmcelroy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)) or phone (01962 865169), so that I can give you the details of the Zoom meeting, and also to help you access a copy of the poem.

**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](mailto:office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk) . If you are a student, we'd love to link up with you. We have a facebook page for young people which is a great place to start: [www.facebook.com/groups/3316441145103881/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/3316441145103881/)

Ros Whiteman writes from the **Catholic Women's League:**

We, in CWL, achieved a groundbreaking piece of organisation last Sunday because of the Coronavirus. It was obvious our Advent Service wasn't going to happen in reality. CWL National thought of doing it online for each of the four Sundays of Advent, so, as parishioner Hilary Kemp is Chair of Portsmouth Branch, it was decided Winchester Section would do the First Sunday of Advent. Hilary compiled a service which she led and five of us were readers, Agatha Gooding, Anne Whitmarsh, Sue Dailly, Kate Butler and Rosalind Whiteman. The Advent wreath was borrowed from St. Gregory's.

At our age with the technology there is now, it's a process of learning "on the job," we're at one end of the scale and younger people are growing up with it at the other end. Unlike them, we've probably got gaps in our knowledge but it's fun doing what we can and gives a lot of pleasure when we succeed. We've been Zooming every week in lieu of Thursday meetings in the Pastoral Centre. Once everyone was muted, we made a start. Just imagine, everyone at home on their computer or similar and gradually, as people logged on, the number went up and up, until in the end there were 116 ladies. It went really well and everyone enjoyed the experience. Afterwards, the comment was made we had set a high bench mark. Given the circumstances, there must be all sorts of good things going on that wouldn't have happened were it not for the virus, every cloud - - -



**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](mailto:office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

# Virtual Church Programme - Week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> December

	Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec St Ambrose, Bishop	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity	Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec Wednesday of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> week of Advent	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec St Swithin Wells, Martyr	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec Friday of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> week of Advent	Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec Saturday of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> week of Advent
8-9am	Public Mass @ St Peter's <i>(ALSO live streamed)</i>	Public Morning Prayer & Adoration <i>(ALSO live streamed)</i>	Public Morning Prayer & Adoration <i>(ALSO live streamed)</i>	Public Morning Prayer & Adoration <i>(ALSO live streamed)</i>	Public Morning Prayer & Adoration <i>(ALSO live streamed)</i>	Public Morning Prayer & Adoration <i>(ALSO live streamed)</i>	9am Public Mass @ St Peter's <i>(ALSO live streamed)</i>
9.20 – 9.50am	Children's Liturgy Online (See website for registration)						
10am	Sunday Mass <i>Live stream only</i>		Public Mass @ St Peter's <i>(ALSO live streamed)</i>	Public Mass @ St Peter's <i>(ALSO live streamed)</i>	Public Mass @ St Peter's <i>(ALSO live streamed)</i>		
11.15am	St Peter's Tea Room Zoom Virtual room						
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	Holy Hour (Adoration) @ St Peter's	Holy Hour (Adoration) @ St Peter's
12noon	Public Mass @ St Peter's <i>(ALSO live streamed)</i>						
12.15pm		Public Mass @ St Peter's <i>(ALSO live streamed)</i>				Public Mass @ St Peter's <i>(ALSO live streamed)</i>	
2.55pm		Divine Mercy Chaplet Zoom Virtual room	Divine Mercy Chaplet Zoom Virtual room	Divine Mercy Chaplet Zoom Virtual room	Divine Mercy Chaplet Zoom Virtual room	Divine Mercy Chaplet Zoom Virtual room	
3.30pm							Family Mass @ St Peter's <i>(ALSO live streamed)</i>
5.30pm	Public Mass @ St Peter's <i>(ALSO live streamed)</i>						Vigil Mass <i>Live stream only</i>
7pm		Public Mass @ St Peter's <i>(ALSO live streamed)</i>	Public Mass @ St Peter's <i>(ALSO live streamed)</i>	Public Mass @ St Peter's <i>(ALSO live streamed)</i>	Public Mass @ St Peter's <i>(ALSO live streamed)</i>	Public Mass @ St Peter's <i>(ALSO live streamed)</i>	
7.45pm			Course: Discovering More about the Gospels in Advent (See website to register)				
8pm		Alpha Online					
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>	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream only</i>	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream only</i>

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).

**PLEASE CLICK HERE TO PARTICIPATE IN MASS ONLINE**

[Click here if you wish to see recorded services](#)

## KINDNESS CALENDAR: DECEMBER 2020

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 Share the Kindness Calendar with others and spread kindness	2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are.	3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment.	4 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today	5 Make a gift for someone who is homeless or feeling lonely	6 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about	
7 Leave a positive message for someone else to find	8 Do something helpful for a friend or family member	9 Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead	10 Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them	11 Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today	12 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank	13 See how many different people you can smile at today
14 Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one	15 Contact an elderly neighbour and brighten up their day	16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to	17 Practice gratitude. List the kind things others have done for you	18 Give away something that you have been holding on to	19 Buy locally and support independent shops near you	20 Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated
21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you	22 Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed	23 Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness	24 Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh	25 Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself!	26 Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature	27 Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat.
28 Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy	29 Turn off digital devices and really listen to people	30 Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why	31 Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2021	Let's look beyond our differences and help each other. Every act of kindness matters		

**ACTION FOR HAPPINESS**      #DoGoodDecember      [www.actionforhappiness.org](http://www.actionforhappiness.org)

Learn more about this month's theme at [www.actionforhappiness.org/good-december](http://www.actionforhappiness.org/good-december)      Keep Calm · Stay Wise · Be Kind