

# PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2020

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Hold On to What is Good, Hold On to Christ – Everything will be alright

Fr Mark writes ...

<p>Over the last nine months or so, we 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.</p> <p>In the context of the history of the cosmos, however, nine months is not so long. For about 13.77 billion years, 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 before the moment when Adam and Eve took the first bite of the forbidden fruit, 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.</p> <p>In Jesus, our Salvation is revealed, the Victory is won, Light has conquered darkness. And yet, we know that many things are 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.</p> <p><b><i>Advent is a season of expectant, hope-filled waiting, of holding on. We are invited 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.</i></b></p> <p>Two weeks ago, 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. Last week, I considered <i>how</i> God continues to shape us <i>with immeasurable patience</i>.</p> <p>This week, I’d like us to think about how <b><i>holding on to Jesus can bring us immense joy, in good times and in bad</i></b>. St. Paul says,</p> <p><i>“Rejoice always; pray unceasingly; give thanks in everything.”</i></p> <p>It’s a simple enough formula to express but a more challenging one to live out.</p> <p>I’d like to focus today, this “<i>Gaudete Sunday</i>”, on “rejoicing always”, on “joy”. It’s a theme to which Pope Francis often returns and one which has been prominent in his teachings, for example “<i>Evangelii Gaudium</i>” (The Joy of the Gospel) and “<i>Amoris Laetitia</i>” (The Joy of Love). He writes:</p> <p><i>“The great danger in today’s world, pervaded as it is by consumerism, is the desolation and anguish born of a complacent yet covetous heart, the feverish pursuit of frivolous pleasures, and a blunted conscience. Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God’s voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades. This is a very real danger for believers too. Many fall prey to it, and end up resentful, angry and listless. That is no way to live a dignified and fulfilled life; it is not God’s will for us, nor is it the life in the Spirit which has its source in the heart of the risen Christ.”</i> (Evangelii Gaudium, 2)</p>	<p>This is a beautiful place to begin an examination of conscience in this season of Advent, as we prepare for a very different Christmas.</p> <p>Is my heart complacent yet covetous? In other words, do I take time to care for my heart, to feed it and nourish it with healthy, life-giving food? Do I allow it to receive and experience true and pure, unconditional, freely given love? Do I exercise my heart, allowing it to grow and expand, to share love with others? Do I pay attention to what is going on in my heart, to those hopes and joys, fears and desires and learn to sift what is love-giving from that which is destructive, that which leads me towards God from that which leads me away from God? Do I have an excessive desire for what belongs to others, for wealth or possessions? Do I spend my time comparing myself with others, leading me to feel insecure? Is Christmas a time to numb the pain and restlessness I’m experiencing, or a time to open my heart up to new opportunities for gratitude and generosity?</p> <p>Do I engage in the feverish pursuit of frivolous pleasures? In other words, do I try to hop frenetically from one iceberg of temporary satisfaction to another, looking for the next buzz or kick or thrill? Is Christmas all about the next mince pie or glass of mulled wine and how many gifts I find under the tree? Or is there a deeper, longer lasting joy to be found?</p> <p>Do I have a blunted conscience? In other words, do I find it difficult to discern the difference between right and wrong? Am I able to make practical judgements of reason which enjoin me to do good and avoid evil? Am I able to recognise the voice of God, the gentle whisper or the strong command, or the urgent encouragement of the One who has loved me into existence? What softly spoken word or message does God have for me and my loved ones this Christmas?</p> <p>Have I become angry, resentful or listless? Or am I living a life in the Spirit which has its source in the heart of the risen Christ? In other words, when I am thirsting for joy do I drink from the deep well of Christ’s love for me, or do I look in some other place?</p> <p><i>“The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew.”</i> (Evangelii Gaudium, 1)</p> <p>What more beautiful message might we want to hear this Christmas than that, allowing it to sink into the depth of our being? Jesus was born into this messy, mucky world to look for you and to set you free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. He will never force you but he won’t give up on you either until you say ‘yes’ and allow him and the joy he brings to be born anew in you.</p> <p>St. Paul urges us further: hold onto what is good and avoid every form of evil. Hold on to Christ, who alone is good. Hold on to him with a loving embrace or hold on by the hem of his cloak. Whatever you do, hold on tight.</p> <p>That is why God came to dwell among us - so that we have not just some <b><i>thing</i></b> but some <b><i>one</i></b> to hold onto, someone who can lead us out of the deepest pit to the heights of heaven; someone who can carry us across the most barren deserts and through the fiercest of storms; someone who has both the power and the desire to soothe our aching souls, mend our broken hearts and heal our wounded bodies.</p> <p><b><i>Hold on to what is good; hold on to Jesus Christ - your lasting Hope and your eternal Joy - and everything will be alright.</i></b></p>
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## 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.

**Many of our public masses are already fully booked** – a few tickets may become available again if people change their arrangements – the best way to check is on our homepage [www.catholicwinchester.org.uk](http://www.catholicwinchester.org.uk) which always has the latest details.

**But ALL masses from St Peter’s will be livestreamed**, so make the most of it if that is your choice – you can share the joy and you can join in with the music, singing as loudly as you can! There are going to be suggested special ways for children to join in with – look out in next week’s newsletter for ideas and activities, and 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....

### 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) *(All fully booked)*

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

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

8pm St. Stephen’s; St. Peter’s *(both fully booked)*

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 *(St P fully booked)*

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

10am St. Stephen’s; St. Peter’s *(both 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)

#### 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**

#### \*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.

**We’re updating these pages of the newsletter, and highlighting different events and features, each week**



# 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 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 on to 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 PDFs work \*\**

God is with us



Hold on

THE PARISH OF ST PETER  
& THE WINCHESTER MARTYRS

We send you love and blessings,  
peace and joy at this very  
special time, whatever your  
situation this Christmas.

Fr Mark, Fr Anthony, Fr Stephen  
& all the parish of  
St. Peter and the Winchester  
Martyrs

"The virgin will conceive and give  
birth to a son and they will call him  
Emmanuel, a name which means  
'God-is-with-us.'"

Everything will be alright

THE PARISH OF ST PETER  
& THE WINCHESTER MARTYRS


**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.**

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**)

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**)

Our **parish website** will provide all the information you need  
to book a place or join online and lots more.  
[www.catholicwinchester.org.uk](http://www.catholicwinchester.org.uk)

God is with us



Everything will be alright

We send you love and blessings, peace and joy at  
this very special time, whatever your situation this  
Christmas.

Fr Mark, Fr Anthony, Fr Stephen  
& all the parish of  
St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and  
they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means  
'God-is-with-us.'"

### 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.

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





**NIGHT OF LIGHT - Friday 18th December at St. Peter's, 5.00pm - 8.00pm.**  
**COME and PAUSE for a few minutes from all that is going on.**  
Come in and light a candle, for yourself, for someone you care about, for the world..... and enjoy some precious moments of calm and peace.

**ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE.**

**You can join in virtually also!** Please use the link you usually use for Mass or select the **Night of Light** link from the virtual timetable.

If you would like to request a candle to be lit on your behalf, or if you would like our team of intercessors to pray for your intentions, please send us a message between 4:45pm and 7:30pm on the evening. We will acknowledge your request and you can watch your candle being lit. Either email us at: [parishevents@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:parishevents@stpeterswinchester.org.uk) or send us a message via our Facebook page: [St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs](#)

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation:**  
Extended hours on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec: 10-12 at St Peter's and St Gregory's (no booking required)



**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 21<sup>st</sup> Dec, 7pm**  
(public, no booking required)



Picture - Angels Singing and Making Music, Ghent Altarpiece, Van Eyck - courtesy Vanderbilt Divinity Library. Please note that they are angels and therefore don't need to social distance while singing, and also are part of one household. Probably.

**Zoom Christmas Carol Party (Thurs 17th December, 8-9pm – doors from 7:45pm)**

Did you want to gather round a piano, clutching a mince pie and a glass of something and singing a few carols along with some familiar and not so familiar faces? Well, now's your opportunity – join us on Zoom where everyone except the piano will be muted and you can sing your own versions of some well-known Christmas Carols. There'll also be a couple of breaks to chat to some old friends and meet some new ones. (Mince pies and glass / contents not provided)

Please [register in advance](#) for this meeting: link below the picture.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Fr Mark and the parish are looking forward to sharing the evening with you.

If you have any questions, please email Dcn Martin – [mmcelroy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:mmcelroy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZEucO6qqD8qHdRUYndp9PhojiTVUTXZ6GMu>

*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, timings to be confirmed.

**New - Prayers and Blessing at the Crib** (St. Peter's, Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Dec, 9am-5pm) We will keep St. Peter's Church open all day on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> December. We will celebrate 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.” It 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.



**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)** See above.

**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) See above  
**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 – see below  
**Zoom Christmas Carol Party** (Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> December, 8-9pm – doors from 7:45pm) see above

**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. You can still give to this cause – [see leaflet here](#). The **CWP APPEAL** will be repeated at the end of 10am mass, as technical problems stopped people hearing it last week. (And, FYI, we hope we have solved those problems!)

**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.**

**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, ours will go to the “Knights of the Holy Sepulchre”.

**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/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. \*\*\***We will be asking you to drop off the items at the masses in the octave** \*\*\*

**Private Prayer, Learning and Retreats**

**Discovering More About the Gospels in Advent** (Zoom, Tuesday evenings 15<sup>th</sup> Dec – 7:45-pm)  
A series of 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.  
Email [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) 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



**Remembering our Clergy at Christmas :** Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust are fundraising for the all the Clergy of the Parish of St Peter & the Winchester Martyrs. If you would like to give, then please do click on the link below:  
<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/hampshire-downs-clergy-christmas-collection>



<p><b>Churches Together in Alresford Community Carol Service</b></p> <p>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 <a href="http://www.arlevalleychurches.org.uk">www.arlevalleychurches.org.uk</a>. We hope many will join us in this celebration of Christmastime.</p>	<p><b>CAFOD’s Christmas Fun Run’ – A virtual event on December 27<sup>th</sup>.</b></p> <p>‘Take to the streets in your local area on December 27<sup>th</sup> 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 <a href="#">Eventbrite page</a> to sign up, or the <a href="#">Facebook Event</a> to share. To fundraise, please go to <a href="#">JustGiving</a>. All are welcome, and if you fundraise over £100 we will send you a running vest!</p> <p><b>And right now, don’t forget CAFOD gifts</b> – there are paper gift catalogues at the back of the church.</p> <div></div>
<p><b>FLOWERS IN MEMORY AT ST. STEPHENS 2020.</b> 🌸</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>Carols on the Doorstep</b> – Our friends at Winchester Radio are hosting a <b>Community Carol singing event</b>. 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. <a href="http://winchester.radio/carols">http://winchester.radio/carols</a></p>

**Family Nativity with Carols** will happen on **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 know more, want to take part, or want to be sent the link – email us on [editor@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:editor@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)


**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)

**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)

**KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS** 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.

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

Maggie Stimpson RIP  
John Carter RIP



Advent at St Peter’s School



Dear All

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

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way,  
the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”

Mark 1:3

They then heard about the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist and the children thought about the following questions...

- What did John want people to do?
- When did John realise Jesus was the Messiah?
- How did the Holy Spirit make Himself present?
- And God the Father?

And so we, as adults, can continue these reflections thinking about how we know that Jesus is our Messiah today and consider the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

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



Best wishes  
Louise Buxton (Miss)  
Headteacher

Readings and Antiphons  
Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020 – 3rd Sunday of  
Advent

**Entrance Antiphon - Phil 4: 4-5**  
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.  
Indeed, the Lord is near.

**First reading - Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11** ·

**Responsorial Psalm - Luke 1:46-50,53-54**  
*R/ My soul rejoices in my God.*

**Second reading - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24** ·

**Gospel Acclamation - Is61:1(Lk4:18)**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.  
He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel - John 1:6-8,19-28**

**Communion Antiphon Cf. Is 35: 4**  
Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.  
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

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>.





Mass Timetable	December 5 <sup>th</sup> – December 13 <sup>th</sup>			
Date	Mass Times & Intentions			Livestream/Public
<b>SATURDAY – December 12<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe (opt.mem)</i>	9 AM	Mass	Mary Julia Wheble RIP	Livestream, Public
	11-12 NOON	Adoration & <b>confessions</b>		Open to public
	3.30 PM	Family mass at St Stephen’s		Public, booking reqd
	5.30PM	Vigil Mass	Dead and Founders	Livestream, Public, booking reqd
<b>SUNDAY – December 13<sup>th</sup></b> <i>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8 AM	Mass	Aldo RIP	Livestream, 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	Maria Cheng RIP	Livestream only
	11 AM	Mass at St Gregory’s		Public, booking reqd
	11-11.45 AM	Adoration & private prayer		Open to public
	12 Noon	Mass		Livestream, Public, booking reqd
	5.30PM	Mass	People of the Parish	Livestream, Public, booking reqd
<b>MONDAY – December 14<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent</i> <i>St John of the Cross (mem.)</i>	11-12NOON	Private prayer & adoration		Public
	12.15PM	Mass	William Meader RIP	Livestream & public
	7.00PM	Mass	Aldo RIP	Livestream & public
<b>TUESDAY – December 15<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent</i> <i>Feria</i>	10AM	Mass	Carmel McClean 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
<b>WEDNESDAY – December 16<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent</i> <i>Feria</i>	10AM	Mass	Aldo RIP	Livestream & public
	11-12 Noon	Private Prayer & Adoration		Open to public
	7PM	Mass	Valerie Vonzer RIP	Livestream & public
<b>THURSDAY – December 17<sup>th</sup></b>	10AM	Mass		Livestream & public
	11-12 NOON	Private Prayer & Adoration		Open to public
	7PM	Mass	Mary Jane King RIP	Livestream only, note below **
<b>FRIDAY – December 18<sup>th</sup></b>	10AM	Mass at ST GREGORY’S		Public
	11-12 Noon	Private Prayer & Adoration		Open to public
	12.15	Mass	Ted O’Neill RIP	Livestream & Public
	5-8PM	Night of Light		Livestream & public **
<b>SATURDAY – December 19<sup>th</sup></b>	9 AM	Mass	Brendan Barry RIP	Public
	10-12 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
<b>SUNDAY – December 20<sup>th</sup></b> <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8 AM	Mass	Intentions of the Neil Family	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	Clare McKenna RIP	Livestream only
	11 AM	Mass at St Gregory’s	Mary Julie Wheble RIP	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](mailto:christoesrus@hotmail.co.uk)**

**All other bookings via website homepage [Home - The Parish of St Peter & the Winchester Martyrs \(catholicwinchester.org.uk\)](http://Home - The Parish of St Peter & the Winchester Martyrs (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 – except for coming Friday morning, 18<sup>th</sup>„ when livestream only BECAUSE floor is being polished so the church is beautiful for Christmas &**

**\*\* for this reason, 7pm mass on Thursday (17<sup>th</sup>) is livestream only. Note also, no 7pm Mass on Friday due to Night of Light.**

**Confessions are available (without booking) on Saturdays – 10 till 11am, then 4.30-5pm [[Confession extended on 19<sup>th</sup> Dec from 10-12 noon](#)]**

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

Virtual Church Programme - Week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> December

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

	Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec St John of the Cross	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec Tuesday of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> week of Advent	Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec Wednesday of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> week of Advent	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec 17 December	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec 18 December	Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec 19 December
8am – 9am	Public Mass @ St Peter's	Public Morning Prayer & Adoration	Public Morning Prayer & Adoration	Public Morning Prayer & Adoration	Public Morning Prayer & Adoration	Morning Prayer & Adoration – Live stream ONLY	9am Public Mass @ St Peter's
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	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	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				Public Mass @ St Peter's	
3.30pm							Family Mass @ St Peter's
5.30pm	Public Mass @ St Peter's						Vigil Mass @ St Peter's
5pm – 8pm						Night Of Light <i>(ALSO live streamed)</i>	
7pm		Public Mass @ St Peter's	Public Mass @ St Peter's	Public Mass @ St Peter's	Evening Mass <i>Live stream only</i>		
7.45pm			Course: Discovering More about the Gospels (See website to register)		Zoom Christmas Carol Party (See website for details)		
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](#)

