PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

17th JANUARY 2021

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Pivotal Moments III – Stop, Look, Listen

Fr Mark writes

I am talking over these few weeks about "Pivotal Moments".

Two people can attend the same event and walk out of it with completely different opinions about the experience and what happened to them. Their minds and memories have become fixed on different moments.

Moments matter because they come to stand for so much of how we view the world. Moments matter because they form a kind of lens through which we understand ourselves, our world, our place in the world, our relationships, our relationship with God.

Moments matter, and some moments matter more. God uses Pivotal Moments in your life to reveal his connection to you, his purpose and plan for your life and to encourage you to grow in trust for him.

The Prophet Samuel

Today we're looking at a Pivotal Moment of one of the heroes from the Bible and how it applies to us. We are looking at a Pivotal Moment early in the life of the prophet Samuel. And the moment he experienced is one I believe God wants to give to each and every one of you.

Samuel lived in a period of crisis and transition, 1100 years before Christ. There was a great leadership vacuum that was felt throughout the people. Samuel stepped into that vacuum and he helped guide the nation through the transition from a tribal culture to a united kingdom, eventually under the leadership of Israel's greatest leader, King David.

The passage we are looking at today is the Pivotal Moment that launched Samuel into his great and historic role, a moment long before he knew fame and influence. Samuel grew up working for the priest Eli, who was sort of the high priest at the time, kind of the spiritual leader of the nation. Eli was not a bad man but he was a weak one, and lazy too. His poor leadership began with his own family, with sons abusing their power in much the same way we've seen played out over the course of history.

One day Eli was asleep in his usual place. His eyes had lately grown so weak that he could not see.

Again, Scripture subtly tells us of Eli's poor leadership. His physical blindness and weakness are symbolic of a much deeper blindness and weakness. There was no vision for the nation because Eli could not see what was going on or what was ahead. He was so weak he could not see where God was the leading the nation or what God wanted to do.

Three times in the night, God calls out to Samuel but each time Samuel fails to recognise this as the voice of the Lord and thinks it is Eli calling him. Each time, Eli tells him to go back to sleep. Eventually, after the third time, Eli finally gets what's going on. At this point he gives Samuel a little piece of advice, a piece of spiritual advice that changes his life forever.

And do you know what? This advice could possibly change your life too. That's what happened to Samuel. This advice is incredibly, ridiculously simple. It is so simple that you might be tempted to dismiss it out of hand. But don't. Most spiritual practices are ordinary and simple, but powerful because they access the power of God. This one is no exception.

Eli tells Samuel to wait for the Lord to call him, and when he does, Samuel is to say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."

That's it. When you have the impression or feeling that God is trying to get your attention and speaking to you, respond to God and say,

"Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."

It's pretty simple advice, and the moment Samuel starts following it, everything changes.

Scripture tells us that God then reveals to Samuel that there is going to be a change of leadership in Israel, that Eli will be out and Samuel will be in. God reveals to Samuel his vision and plan for his life, what he's planning on doing through him.

Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

Samuel learned to tune into God so well that when he spoke God's words hit the mark and were always effective. <u>Because Samuel was effectively listening to the Lord</u>, he was speaking more effectively to everyone else.

The Christian life can contain moments of incredible impact and significance, power and grace. But it doesn't begin there. Bold deeds and historic achievements are instead the fruit of simple obedience and the humility to listen.

It is as simple as listening to the voice of God, being available to him, listening to him.

To hear God speak we have to listen. How do we do that?

- ₩ We listen by establishing a daily quiet time, even if only 5 or 6 minutes a day. Make it the same time and place every day and you're more likely to stick with it. You can do it at home or in your car or walking your dog.
- ₩ We listen by listening to others. Not every word spoken by someone else will come from God, but the Lord will often use other people as instruments to get our attention. If someone says something to you that hits a spot maybe a 'sweet spot' that brings joy or consolation or peace or maybe a 'raw spot' that causes pain then bring it to the Lord and ask if he's trying to say something to you through that word.

(By the way, as a Church we also need to get better at listening - to God and to his people, to know the hopes and fears, the joys and troubles of God's children and to be aware of God's response. Bishop Philip is currently conducting a survey so that we as a diocese can become more aware of where we are and where God is calling us. It will take about 10-20 minutes to complete and you can access it by clicking this link - www.surveymonkey.com/r/2XRKQDS We will be conducting a shorter - 2 or 3 minute - survey here in the parish in a few weeks' time to "take the pulse" of our congregation and see what God might be saying to us)

- We listen by seeking periods of silence in our days, away from technology and noise and the clutter of our culture.
- We listen to God by reading God's word, by spending time in Scripture, inviting God to speak to us through the words of the Bible.

Admittedly, God sometimes uses choirs of angels and stars rising in the East. Sometimes the heavens will be torn apart and there will be a voice from heaven. Maybe one day God will hire a pilot and skywrite a message to you. But more often God will use quiet Moments and silence to communicate.

Your relationship with God will change from the Moment that you recognise that God wants to communicate with you, that he has basic and practical

advice he can share with you on a daily basis, to help you, to lead you, to guide you, to comfort you, to challenge you, to inspire you, to love you. Until you have that Moment, your relationship with God will be stunted. God will remain a category, a class, an obligation, an idea, an insurance policy, but nothing more...of no real practical, daily help.

Samuel's life changed and he began an incredibly significant and successful life, a life of historic impact, when he said, simply,

"Speak Lord, your servant is listening."

It's that simple.

God wants to speak to you, but you have to believe he wants to speak to you. And you have to believe that so much, that you are willing to invest time in it.

"Speak Lord, your servant is listening."

Pray it every day.

It could be your Pivotal Moment.

Welcome....... If this is your 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 at our website

https://www.catholicwinchester.org.uk/ , or our Facebook page or email office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Charges for parking in the Library Car Park on Sundays

This is a gentle reminder that parking in the Library Car Park on a SUNDAY is no longer free - there is a charge of £2 for all day parking. The fine is £25 if paid within 14 days or else £50.

The new lockdown regulations

In other lockdown periods the church was closed to the public, or open only for private prayer, but this time we are able to stay open and hold services, and for the moment we have made only one change to the timetable: Please note that we will not be holding our 8.00am Sunday Mass until further notice.

We want everyone to stay safe and take due care: we – all of us - have been given a responsibility by being allowed to continue going to church so it's important that we observe the social distancing regulations. We've had a trust placed in us, and we must respect that – that's the only way we can keep our churches open.

If you can still come to church safely, please do so, bearing in mind safe behaviour at all times – it's particularly important that you keep your distance from those in the congregation from other households, and don't socialise or stop and chat with them at the end of Mass, either inside or outside church. Please: wave, nod, smile and greet from a distance. We know how hard that is, none of us likes it, but we have to observe the rules in the hope of a better future...

And remember that all services from St Peter's are livestreamed so you can always take part from home.

Update/Changes to our website

We've been making some changes to our website: you may have had problems accessing it this week, but it should be OK now. It's still a work in progress, so let us know what you think about the changes The link is still the same: The Parish of St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Newsletter We are planning on making some changes to the newsletter - 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

The Christmas Crib / Nativity Scene remains in St Peter's church until 2nd February and can be visited whenever the church is open. 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: see more here 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."



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

Sean Quinn RIP

Anne McMahon RIP



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 <u>www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</u> We will publish the results in the Spring.' If you are not online and would like a paper copy, please let us know.

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: 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: peterCares: peterCares: petercares@stpeterswinchester.org.uk
- Prayerline: <u>prayer@stpeterswinchester.org.uk</u>
- 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 Anne Keenan at anne@annekeenan.co.uk
- For stewarding and volunteering: please email Anna annasmyllie@outlook.com

Parish Diaries - Giveaway

If anyone would like a small pocket parish diary then please do email the Parish Office office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk or ring 01962 852804.



As we cannot leave these diaries out at the back of the church, the diaries will be posted out to you.

Second Collection for St. John's Cathedral, Portsmouth 23-24 January 2021

Next weekend we take the annual second collection in support of your Cathedral in Portsmouth

Appeal envelopes will be available at all masses for those who do not have gift aided planned giving envelopes for second collections. This collection is the only support our Cathedral receives from the wider Diocesan family.

Due to the lockdown and restrictions being imposed on many people travelling, a 'Give as you Live' page has also been created to enable you to donate online at:

https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/cathedral-annual-appeal

We are aware that these are difficult times for us all, but please give generously to support your cathedral, gift aiding your donation wherever possible.



Responding to the prompt (of the Holy Spirit)

A Portsmouth Diocese Meeting Saturday 6th February 10am to 1pm on Zoom

This online event, organised by a team working with our own Fr Mark (in his diocesan role), is an opportunity to inspire and to hear from others about how we, as Church, in Portsmouth Diocese have responded – or how we might respond—in practical ways, to the Great Commission (Mt 28: 19).

Register at www.tinyurl.com/6th-feb-21 to receive the Zoom link.

Opening with prayer led by Fr Kelvin from Boars Hill Carmel near Oxford. Fr Mike Schmitz will challenge and inspire us, in a video, to respond to the spirit just as the apostles did at Pentecost. In breakout rooms we will share how we think we might respond to Jesus's commission, or share what has already worked, or could work. Others will give short introductions to their approach to Mission.

Children's Liturgy Online

Our weekly Children's Liturgy is up and running again now via our online Zoom platform. The sessions take place at 9:30am - 9:50am on Sundays, so you are then free to join in with the 10am livestreamed Mass if you wish. To make the sessions as secure as possible, you will need to pre-register here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpd-CgqDsjHdFJalMzv9TVFB4Iu-9cEITv

You will then receive an email with an individual ID (please don't share this with anyone) and a few safeguarding reminders.

Printable activity & colouring sheets are put up in advance on the Children's/Young People's page on the website: https://www.catholicwinchester.org.uk/for-young-people-now/ and the other details are there too. We look forward to seeing you there!



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 weekdays

11am – 12pm every day(this week only: not Sat Jan 23rd) except Sunday, when it is 11 till 11.45 because of mass

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/UCbGgrcbDyLY75pmCAopfLIg/live



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 we can make our homes, and parish home, havens of support, encouragement and patience in these hard times.

600

Let us pray too for the courage to say sorry and the grace to forgive.'

Message from St. Peter's School



Dear Parents

Baptism of our Lord

Our Gospel assembly this week focused on the words of Matthew as the children heard about the baptism of our Lord.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Matthew (3:16-17)

We reflected on the presence of the three persons of God within this scripture and the revelation of Jesus as Son of God.

This links with our RE, where the children are learning how God reveals Himself in scripture and in our everyday lives through the topic 'Revelation'. The youngest will learn this through some of the parables that Jesus told us, as well as learning about some of his miracles.

Lower KS2 will be thinking about how Jesus is revealed at Mass, as well as the importance of light as a symbolism of revelation. Meanwhile, the oldest children will be thinking about the role of baptism in revealing God and learn about the importance of the Pope and Bishops and the role they play in revealing Jesus to us today.

God of light,

You sent your Spirit down upon your Son Jesus at his baptism.

Send us your Spirit too, so that we may be filled with the courage to do all that you ask of us.

Amen

The Gospel Challenge is for children to think of times in the Bible where water is important in the story of Jesus. The older children can consider what water represents and that ultimately Jesus is the 'Water of Life'.

Best wishes, Louise Buxton (Miss), Headteacher

COVENANT WITH THE POOR: THANK YOU

Thank-you to all in the parish who have contributed to the appeal for the Winchester Women's Refuge children's playroom, made by the Covenant with the Poor team during Advent. So far over £4,600 has been received (including gift aid), which brings us very close to the target of £5,000.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Parish 100 Club:

The winners of the December draw were: £50 Margaret Berryman, £100 Sue Trowbridge, £200 Nick Scallan and £500 Paddy Edworthy. Congratulations to all the winners, and congratulations too to all 100 Club members, who between them help to raise around £2,000 each year for parish funds.

Spaces are available for new members, and membership costs £4.00 per month, £24 for six months or £48 annually. For further information contact Piers Armstrong on 01962 734542 or piersmarmsatrong@gmail.com





You are warmly invited to a Zoom meeting to mark

Holocaust Memorial Day 2021: Be the Light in the Darkness

on Wednesday 27 January at 7.00pm

Jewish, Muslim and Christian leaders (Rabbi Maurice Michaels is leader at the Bournemouth Reform Synagogue; Peer-jada Qureshi is a lawyer and a founder of the Winchester Muslim Cultural Association; and our own Fr Mark) explore how their communities see the scriptural mandate to 'be a light in the darkness' and how the faithful interpret this in action.

There will be presentations from three leaders, as well as the chance in chatrooms to meet one another and share our responses and experiences of light in the darkness. The session will be chaired by Catherine Ogle, Dean of Winchester.

Fr Mark thinks that many of you would find this an interesting and thought-provoking conversation. Please register at box.office@winchester-cathedral.org.uk
For further details of this year's theme, see https://www.hmd.org.uk/what-is-holocaust-memorial-day/this-years-theme.

Each migrant and refugee is a human being These were the words of Bishop Paul McAleenan in his homily on the World Day of Migrants and Refugees. Pope Francis called us to recognise Christ in every displaced person. The 'tragic fate of the displaced and refugees', like that of Jesus' parents fleeing with him into Egypt, is 'marked by fear, uncertainty and unease'. https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/previous-events/days-of-prayer/world-day-of-migrants-refugees-2020/popes-message-wdmr2020/ At a local level, our parish strongly supports the work of the Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group, SWVG, in befriending and assisting refugees and people seeking asylum.

As has recently been reported in the press, the government is now planning to build a camp for people seeking asylum on Ministry of Defence land at Barton Stacey. There is indeed an urgent need for accommodation for people seeking asylum, exacerbated by the huge backlog that has built up in the asylum system during the pandemic, but along with Caroline Nokes M.P. and local councillors, SWVG is very concerned about this proposal, which would see 500 young men housed in portacabin-style blocks next to a village with a population of 1000, seven miles from the nearest town. As Chris Stephens, chair of SWVG wrote in a letter to the Hampshire Chronicle, https://www.hampshirechronicle.co.uk/news/18969527.letter-asylumseeker-camp-proposed-barton-stacey-wrong-place/, people who have fled conflict, torture or imprisonment need to be able to access medical and mental health facilities, libraries and English classes as well as legal support. The proposed site is completely unsuitable. If you would like to object to the scheme and support the right of vulnerable people to suitable accommodation and support, please write to your M.P. as soon as possible. To find your M.P. go to https://members.parliament.uk/members/Commons

Virtual Church Programme – Sunday 17th January - Saturday 23rd January

All public liturgies are also live streamed.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
8am – 9am		Public Morning Prayer & Adoration	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 (See above for registration)							
10am	Sunday Mass Live stream only		Public Mass @ St Peter's	Public Mass @ St Peter's	Public Mass @ St Peter's			
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		
12noon	Public Mass @ St Peter's							
12.15pm		Public Mass @ St Peter's				Public Mass @ St Peter's		
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		
5.30pm	Public Mass @ St Peter's	Public 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	Public Mass @ St Peter's		
9pm	Night Prayer - Live Stream only	Night Prayer - Live Stream only	Night Prayer - Live Stream only	Night Prayer - Live Stream only	Night Prayer - Live Stream only	Night Prayer - Live Stream only	Night Prayer - Live Stream only	

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

Readings and Antiphons

Sunday 17 January 2021 - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time ■

Entrance Antiphon - Ps 65: 4

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

First reading - 1 Samuel 3:3-10,19

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 39(40):2,4,7-10

R/ Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

Second reading - 1 Corinthians 6:13-15,17-20 ·

Gospel Acclamation - 1S3:9,Jn6:68

Alleluia, alleluia!

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

Gospel - John 1:35-42

Communion Antiphon Cf.Ps 22:5

You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

'The Father's Love Letter'

Did you hear Fr Mark reading out 'The Father's Love Letter' at the Sunday masses last week? It's an amazing text, entirely made up of Bible verses, and a joy to read. You can read it again here for some hope and encouragement...

https://www.fathersloveletter.com/text.html - just an example

My Child,

You may not know me, but I know everything about you.

Psalm 139:1

I know when you sit down and when you rise up.

Psalm 139:2

I am familiar with all your ways.

Psalm 139:3

Even the very hairs on your head are numbered.

Matthew 10:29-31

For you were made in my image.

Genesis 1:27

In me you live and move and have your being.

Acts 17:28

Mass Timetable	16 th - 23 rd January 2021						
Date	Mass Times	& Intentions	Livestream/Public				
	9 AM	Mass		Livestream, Public			
SATURDAY – January 16th	11-12 NOON	Adoration & confessions		Open to public			
Feria or Our Lady on Saturday	3.30 PM	Family mass at St Peter's		Livestream, Public, booking reqd			
	5.30PM	Vigil Mass		Livestream, Public, booking reqd			
	8 AM	THERE IS NO 8.00AM MASS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE					
	9 AM	Mass at St Thomas More's		Public, booking reqd *			
	9.15 AM	Mass at St Stephen's	Gladys Mullens RIP	Public, booking reqd			
SUNDAY – January 17th	10.00AM	Mass	People of the Parish	Livestream only			
2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	11 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Intentions of Neil family	Public, booking reqd			
	11-11.45 AM	Adoration & private prayer		Open to public			
	12 Noon	Mass		Livestream, Public, booking reqd			
	5.30PM	Mass	Intentions of Maria Burke	Livestream, Public, booking reqd			
MONDAY – January 18th	12.15PM	Mass		Livestream & public			
	7.00PM		Commordore Tony Cadogan RIP	Livestream & public			
TUESDAY – January 19th	10AM	Mass	Souls of the Neil family	Livestream & Public			
St Wulstan, Bishop	10 AM	Mass at ST GREGORY'S		Public			
	7.00PM	Mass		Livestream & public			
WEDNESDAY – January 20 th	10AM	Mass	Eileen Duffley RIP	Livestream & public			
St Fabian or St Sebastian	7PM	Mass		Livestream & public			
THURSDAY – January 21st	10AM	Mass	CWL	Livestream, Public			
St Agnes, virgin and martyr	7 PM	Mass		Livestream, Public			
	10 AM	Mass at St Gregory's		Public			
FRIDAY – January 22nd	12.15PM	Mass		Livestream, Public			
St Vincent, Deacon, Martyr	7 PM	Mass		Livestream, Public			
SATURDAY – January 23rd	9 AM	Mass	Deceased members of Blessed Sacrament League	Livestream, Public			
Saturday memorial of Blessed	3.30 PM	Family mass at St Stephen's		Public, booking reqd			
Virgin	5.30 PM	Vigil Mass		Livestream, public, booking reqd			

All at St. Peter's, except where stated. *To book mass at St Thomas More's Stockbridge, email Anne anne@annekeenan.co.uk. If you would like a phone number to call her, please ring the office 01962 852804 to ask for it.

All other bookings via website homepage - The Parish of St Peter & the Winchester Martyrs - or call office 01962 852804

Night prayer (livestream only) every evening from St Peter's, 9pm

Morning Prayer (open to public) every weekday, Monday to Friday, 8am, followed by Adoration till 9am St Peter's also open for Adoration and private prayer every day 11 till 12 (11.45 on Sundays) – not on Saturday 23rd Confessions are usually available (without booking) on Saturdays, 11 till noon, then 4.30 to 5 – not on Saturday 23rd ALL SERVICES (INCLUDING MORNING PRAYER, NIGHT PRAYER & ADORATION) FROM ST PETER'S ARE LIVESTREAMED