PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

26th September 2021

26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year B

How Good Is Good Enough?

Fr Mark writes:

Today, we are looking at this question: How good is good enough to get into heaven? When it comes to the end of our lives how good do we have to be, how much good do we have to do to get into heaven?

Most people would say to some extent that good people go to heaven and bad people don't. So how good is good enough? Most people assume that their level of good is good enough. Very few people who believe in life after death feel as though they aren't going to heaven. Most polls of people who say they believe in God say they think they're good people and they think they're going to heaven....or at least purgatory (the ultimate insurance policy). Many of us, especially many cultural Catholics, try and calculate how to be just good enough to get it into heaven. I don't want to be too good because then I will miss out on having a good time in this world, but not so bad that I tip the scale. We're going to take a look at a passage we find in the Gospel of Mark. At one point Jesus takes on the topic of heaven and hell and he appears to make it seem incredibly easy to end up in either place, which is probably not what you usually hear.

In our Gospel today, Jesus teaches the apostles an important lesson.

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.' (Mark 9:40)

So Jesus seems to say that receiving reward from God can be won as simply as by offering a cup of water to drink. That sounds crazy, there has got to be more to it than that. What's Jesus trying to emphasise? God's openness and accessibility, God's generosity. And God's generous view of us and our good works. Our acts of service actually have eternal value. He shows the great value of simple, humble acts of service. To receive a reward, we don't have to strive for amazing, incredible things for God, we can do simple stuff. Little things are big things to God. So, if you want rewards in heaven give someone a drink of water in Jesus' name and you're making a deposit in your account in eternity. It's the best value loyalty reward scheme there is. But please note what he doesn't say: he doesn't say the drink of water gets you into heaven. He says simply that it gets you rewards in heaven. We still don't know how good enough is good enough to get into heaven. All of which makes the next verse even more confusing and uncomfortable. He says,

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck.' (Mark 9:41)

Jesus took sin very seriously. And worse than sin, in itself, is leading others into sin. He says that if we lead someone into sin, especially someone who is either young and innocent, or just young in their faith, it is pretty much the worst thing that we could do (which underlines again the seriousness of the abuse crisis in the Catholic Church). Jesus pretty much says that violent death would be preferable. So he's pretty serious about sin. He continues in this same vein...

'And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out.' (Mark 9:42)

'Gehenna', translated as 'hell', was a real place, a steep ravine outside of Jerusalem that served as the town rubbish-dump. They burned the rubbish so it was constantly smouldering and, in the Middle Eastern heat, you can imagine the smell...Besides which the place also had a dark sinister history to it. At one point in history, idolatrous Israelites offered human sacrifice, sacrificing their own children on the altar of the pagan god Moloch. Jesus uses this cursed, wicked place as a metaphor for hell... and it is where most of our images of hell come from. The reality of living a life of unrepentant sin is tantamount to hanging out in that smoldering dump. It is worse than physical deformity. It is a terrible way to live, and that is Jesus's immediate concern here: not so much thWe seem to be presented with a contradiction: on the one hand, it is incredibly easy to please our heavenly Father and earn rewards in heaven, a ridiculously low bar. On the other hand, Jesus takes sin with terrifying seriousness, setting an incredibly high bar, which we have no hope of achieving. And we still don't know what's good enough, and what isn't good enough, to get into heaven.at we're going to hell when we die, but that we're living it right now, today. This is consistent with all Jesus' preaching and teaching. Over and over again, Jesus both raised the standard for virtue and charity and then would turn around assuring many of the most public sinners of his day of God's mercy and grace.

How good is good enough to get to heaven? Wrong question. You don't "get to heaven." Jesus never preached that God lets good people go to heaven and automatically sends sinners to hell. He taught that God was intent NOT on giving people what they deserved or what they had earned because that would never be good enough. God's desire is not to give us what we have earned but what Jesus has earned for us.

God gives heaven to anyone who is humble and willing to receive forgiveness through his son Jesus Christ. He takes sin so seriously he sent his son to offer himself as a sacrifice and suffer and restore our worth before God. And, as a result, in Christ, the smallest things we do carry eternal weight with God. Our actions matter, they bring us into the kingdom of heaven, but not because they tip the cosmic scales in our favour. Rather it is because we do them in Christ.



Every time we sin, it's as though we're hanging out in that rubbish dump. Every time we exercise charity or virtue, we're living in Christ, we're building up rewards in heaven, and our character is being shaped and transformed to be more like Christ. You don't have to worry about being good enough, because on the cross Christ is more than enough.

Good people don't go to heaven, forgiven people do.

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 and other activities. Look at our website https://www.catholicwinchester.org.uk/, or our Facebook page or email office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 26th September

Entrance Antiphon:

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments.
But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

First reading: Numbers 11:25-29

Responsorial Psalm

The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

Second reading: James 5:1-6

(alternative antiphons will be used at the Vigil Mass)

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Communion Antiphon:

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, By which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

A Warm Welcome: We wish a warm welcome to Deacon James Lewis who will be at all masses at St Peter's Church this weekend. We also welcome Fr Gaston, a good friend of Fr Anthony's and the Catenians who will be joining us for the 10.30am Mass at St Peter's.

Service cancellations this week — Please note, that the 10am Mass at St Peter's on Tuesday 28th September and 12.15pm Mass on Friday 1st October will not take place as Fr Mark and Fr Anthony will be attending a clergy retreat. Morning and Night Prayer and will also not take place, with the exception of Morning Prayer on Monday 27th September.

SVP Appeal this weekend — At all masses this weekend, there will be an appeal from the SVP group. September is SVP Awareness Month and as they are reporting, the need now for their support and ours is greater than ever. Please pray for the group and all those that they help through their work.





This is Winchester Green Week! The Laudato Si group have suggestions of ways you can get involved. The Climate Course starts on Friday October 1st to learn about Caring for Our Common Home and the part we must play in solving the problem for all. Click here to enroll https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on?q=Christian%20Climate%20Change%20Course Artists, photographers, writers and poets are being invited to explore the heart of

Winchester in response to the challenges of climate change this Autumn. Send your own creations to mslinn@stpeterswinchester.org.uk.
To find out more about this and other events across Winchester such as a 'community song flash mob', visit the Winchester Green Week Facebook page. The Parish Facebook page will have more ideas and inspiration for you this week.

Family Fast Day - By donating to CAFOD this Family Fast Day (Friday 1st October), you can help communities affected by the worst impacts of the climate crisis. CAFOD works with local experts to help people around the world to adapt to the changing climate and protect our common home. You can donate on the CAFOD website or by using a CAFOD envelope. We pray for all those striving to protect the earth, our common home: that God may strengthen them in their work and inspire us all to be guardians of the precious gift of creation.



Journey in Faith - Do <u>you</u> know someone (perhaps yourself) who might want to know more about the Catholic Church? Perhaps they are just waiting to be asked? Please tell them about the Journey in Faith programme.

It is for those seeking answers. For anyone who might want to know what Catholics believe. Perhaps for parents of children coming to St Peter's School who would like to learn more in order to support them. Or for those who have been coming to mass for years, but have never gone up for communion. The Journey in Faith will try and show you more about what we within the Catholic Church believe and do. We will try and answer any and all questions you might have about our faith, about the Church, about the Journey. Absolutely no commitment is requested or required – we are happy always, to share our journey with you for however long or short a period you choose.

Our programme starts on 5 October at 8pm in the Parish Centre, and if you're interested, or just want to know more, please speak to Nick Kelly on 07960 797963, email at explore@stpeterswinchester.org.uk, or just turn up!



Super Welcome Sunday, 3rd October – 10:30am mass at St. Peter's

Welcome Back! Whether you have been away from our pews for a while, are one of our much loved 'regulars', or are just passing through our doors for the first time, please know you are heartily invited to our church for mass and for teas and coffees after mass in the pastoral centre. **Sunday 3rd October** will officially mark the recommencement of refreshments after **10:30am mass** and we would love you to join us for a cuppa and catch up in the pastoral centre. We look forward to seeing you then! The Welcome and Hospitality Team

Young Adults Social: Join us on Saturday 25th for our first Young Adults and Students social! We will meet at 7.30pm outside of St Peter's Church, then head towards a pub (open to suggestions!) If you're looking to meet other catholic young adults or just want to chat, you'd be more than welcome to come along We will be meeting every Saturday evening, so if you can't make it this week don't worry! There will be plenty of opportunities to meet together.



Welcome to Carina Hill who was baptised in St. Peter's last weekend. May God bless her with His love and grace, today and always.



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 our Parish Community comes
together again to be revitalised, to allow God to re-set our lives and our
goals and allow Jesus fully and joyfully into our lives.



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

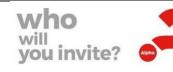
Marie-Antoinette Aline Russell RIP
Paul Everard Pengelly RIP

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Parish Party 'Thank you' — A big thank you to everyone who was able to come to the parish party last Sunday. It was an opportunity to come together as a community again and much fun was had by all. A special thank you to the planning team who have been working hard to prepare for the event over the last few months and to all those who supported in lots of ways on the day itself. Please go to the final page of Peterpost or our parish Facebook page to see some great photos from the afternoon.

Youth Ministry: Our Parish youth group has started up again! We have changed days to a Friday, but we are now meeting every week from 7pm - 9pm We have a new programme with a variety of topics and projects, and alongside that we will also have games, snacks and prayer This group is for anyone aged 11-17 (year 7-13). (Please email youthstuff@stpeterswinchester.org.uk for more information, and to receive sign up forms)

Alpha – it's not too late! There was a postitive start to the latest Alpha programme on Monday, but it is not too late to register if you would still like to join. Please visit https://catholicwinchester.org.uk/alpha to see our website and registration Form. If you have any questions please email alpha@stpeterswinchester.org.uk.



Christian Course in Climate Change - COP26 will soon be starting.... Join with us in learning about Caring for Our Common Home... and what part we must play in solving the problem for all. Starting on Friday October 1st, we will be holding a seven-week on-line course, via zoom, on Friday evenings from 7.30 to 9pm. The course will use material from the Laudato si' encyclical and the Dorset Green Living Guide, supplemented by videos and factual information. The course will be delivered by some 12 speakers from across the UK who are knowledgeable in the wide range of topics covered. Topics will include the causes of Climate Change, food, energy, transport, waste/throwaway culture, water and social justice. Book to register for the full course of 7 sessions via the parish website or by using the following link http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whatson?q=Christian%20Climate%20Change%20Course_Alternatively, you can speak to Michaela in the St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs parish office (01962) 852804). Please note that your email address will be required in order for the Zoom links for individual sessions to be sent to you each week, so ensure you have included this when booking.

Visit Magdalen Hill Down It's Winchester Green Week from 25th Sept to 3rd Oct - and our Parish Laudato Si group has come up with a great idea: introducing us to Magdalen Hill Down, 'one of Winchester's best-kept secrets'. The full leaflet is on the website - <u>read all about it</u>, and plan your own expedition.

Psalm 121: I will lift up my eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help

ENJOYING GOD'S WONDERFUL CREATION—
MAGDALIN PHILL DOWN

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https://catholicwinchester.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2021/09/WINCHESTER-GREEN-WEEK-2-Magdalen-Down.pdf

BOOKSHOP will open for browsing when the pastoral centre opens and in the meantime by arrangement. We sell missals, bibles, crosses, rosaries, a wide range of books and cards and 1st Holy Communion gifts and cards. Your support is appreciated. Susan Henry email: bookshop@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Churches Together AGM 7pm at the United Church, Jewry Street - Churches Together will be a holding a 'face to face' meeting on 27 September at the United Church. We hope to have an opportunity chance to catch up with each other and to reflect on our experiences over the past year or so. This date also marks the beginning of Green Week with news of Climate Justice activities, together with any updates on those who have been air-lifted out of Afghanistan. We will also appoint office holders for the coming year. Fair Trade refreshments will be served at 7pm. We do hope you are able to join us. Dorothy Lusmore - Administrator, Churches Together in Winchester

An invitation from the Portsmouth Diocese Nigerian community...together with St Edmund's church, Horndean. There will be



In thanksgiving for God's protection against Covid-19

- To pray together for God's continued protection
- And to celebrate Fr Daniel Agber's 30th anniversary of ordination

Contact office@stedmundhorndean.org.uk or nigerianchaplaincy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk to RSVP or find out more

a mass of Thanksgiving and celebration at the church on Saturday 16th October at 11am, followed by a reception

Useful Contacts

Clergy: Fr Mark Hogan (Parish Priest) (mhogan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk); Fr Anthony Chiatu Njingo (Assistant Priest (cnjingo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk);

Deacon Gerard Dailly (gdailly@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

and Deacon Martin McElroy (mmcelroy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Director of Evangelisation and Leadership: Allegra Mutanda (allegra@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

Finance and Property Manager: Annette Parr (<u>annette@stpeterswinchester.org.uk</u>)
Facilities and Resources Manager: Sean Reidy (<u>sean@stpeterswinchester.org.uk</u>)

Parish Administration Manager: Michaela Waterfield (michaela@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

Sacristan: Laurie Howe Caretaker: Richard Phiri

Pastoral team - Baptism and First Holy Communion: Rosanne Walker (baptism@stpeterswinchester.org.uk), (FHC@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

Pastoral team - Youth Ministry: Jo Donaldson (youthstuff@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

Outreach Ministry Lead: Mike Elks (mike@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

Volunteer Director of Operations: Dcn Gerard Dailly (gdailly@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)
Volunteer Director of Communications: Moira Redmond (moirar@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

To get in touch with them, and for other general matters, please contact the Parish Office: 01962 852804 office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk.

PeterCares: petercares@stpeterswinchester.org.uk Prayerline: prayers@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

 $\textbf{Newsletter} \ (\text{deadline for items Wednesday evening}): \ \underline{\textbf{newsletters@stpeterswinchester.org.uk}} \ \textbf{Newsletter list:} \ \underline{\textbf{hello@stpeterswinchester.org.uk}} \ \textbf{Newsletter list:} \ \underline{\textbf{hello@stpeterswinchester.org.uk}} \ \underline{\textbf{newsletters@stpeterswinchester.org.uk}} \ \underline{\textbf{newsletters@stp$

St. Peter's School Office: 01962 852820 admin@st-peters.hants.sch.uk

St. Thomas More's Stockbridge: please email stm@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Representative - We will soon be recruiting a new Safeguarding team, who will be supported by Michaela Waterfield, our Parish Administration Manager. In the interim period, any safeguarding concerns or requests for advice can be routed through to the central team via this email address safeguarding@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or telephone number: 02394 216486. Email is probably best as, with current restrictions etc, the office is not always resourced. If there is a concern that someone is at immediate risk of harm, people should be advised to contact 999 for the emergency services. In the meantime, please use the safeguarding@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk address for any queries or contact Ruth Attfield, our diocesan safeguarding coordinator on 02394 216486.

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Mass Timetable	25 th September – 2nd October 2021			
Date	Mass Times & Intentions			Livestream/Public
SATURDAY – September 25 th	9.00AM	Mass	Mary Trinnick RIP	Livestream, public
26 th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Vigil)	5.30 PM	Vigil Mass	Johan Heinst RIP and Marie Heinst	Livestream, public, booking reqd
SUNDAY – September 26 th 26 th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.00 AM	Mass	Eithne Dunne RIP	Livestream, public, booking reqd
	9.00 AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	People of the Parish	Public, booking reqd *
	9.15 AM	Mass at St Stephen's	Ted & Joan Kenny RIP	Public, booking reqd
	10.30AM	Mass	Jackie Chatto RIP	Livestream, public, booking reqd
	11.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's		Public, booking reqd
	5.30PM	Mass	Jack Panico Thomas RIP	Livestream, public, booking reqd
MONDAY – September 27 th St Vincent de Paul, Founder	12.15PM	Mass	The McClean Family RIP	Livestream & public
TUESDAY – September 28 th St. Lawrence Ruiz	10.00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Angelo Bonus Snr RIP (1st anniversary)	Public
WEDNESDAY – September 29 th	10.00AM	Mass	Isabella Carter (5 th Birthday)	Livestream & public
The Holy Archangels, Michael, Gabriel & Raphael - Feast				
THURSDAY – September 30 th St Jerome, priest & doctor	10.00AM	Mass	Intentions of the Catholic Women's League	Livestream & public
FRIDAY – October 1st	10.00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	For the Dead & Founders	Public
St Teresa of the Child Jesus, religious & doctor of the Church				
SATURDAY – October 2 nd	9.00AM	Mass	Intentions fo the Neil family	Livestream & public
The Holy Guardian Angels, memorial	5.30 PM	Vigil Mass	All Souls in Purgatory	Livestream, public, booking reqd

All at St. Peter's, except where stated.

FOR ALL ONLINE BOOKINGS please use website homepage - The Parish of St Peter & the Winchester Martyrs - or call office 01962 852804. Or you can email office if any issues: office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

*To book mass at St Thomas More's Stockbridge, email: stm@stpeterswinchester.org.uk If you would like a phone number to call, please ring the office 01962 852804 to ask for it.

There will be no 10am Mass on Tuesday 28th September at St Peter's and no 12.15pm Mass on Friday 1st October. Adoration (11am-12pm) will recommence soon.

Morning Prayer will take place on Monday 27th September only this week and there will be no Night Prayer from Monday until Sunday 3rd October.

Confessions every Saturday 11.00am till 12.00pm and 4.30pm-5.00pm in St Peter's Church – booking not required.

To participate online or to join with the recorded services for Morning Prayer & Adoration and Night Prayer, go to our <u>YouTube channel</u> ALL SERVICES FROM ST PETER'S ARE LIVESTREAMED



St Anne's is an outstanding 11-18 state funded Catholic school for girls with a mixed sixth form in the heart of Southampton, with excellent transport links to all points of the compass. Places are open to all families seeking a school with a strong Catholic ethos. The school has been placed in the top 10% of all schools nationally in recent years for the exceptional level of progress achieved by students of all abilities, and strong academic achievement at GCSE and A Level consistently places St Anne's as one of the highest performing school in Hampshire. Parents may book a time slot to visit us on Wednesday 29th September 2021, during

our Open Morning (9.00 - 11.00am) and/or during our Open Evening (6.00 - 8.00pm) As a school we are conscious that although national Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted, there are still cases within the community and many people will still be cautious about gathering in larger numbers or visiting unfamiliar places. Therefore, unlike previous years, we will be asking families to book a time slot to visit for whichever open event they choose to attend to manage the flow of visitors to the site and ensure a safe and comfortable experience for all. Bookings can be made via the links which can be found on our website: www.st-annes.uk.com and below: Open morning (9-11am) www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/169787134891 Open Evening (6-8pm) www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/169707272019 Open mornings give parents the opportunity to see the school on a normal working day and talk to their student guides as they tour the school. Open evening includes the opportunity to tour the whole site, take part in activities in the specialist areas and talk to subject specialists and student leaders. We look forward to seeing you at St Anne's in late September when you can see our school in action and find out why St Anne's is hard to beat!

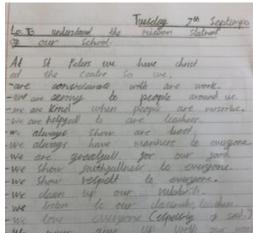
St Anne's Catholic School



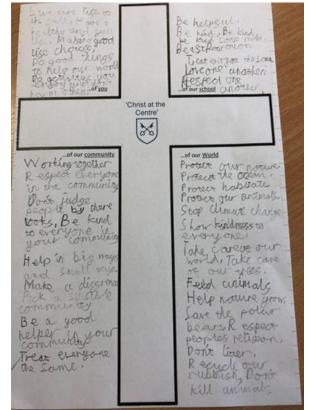
Dear Parents Message from St. Peter's School

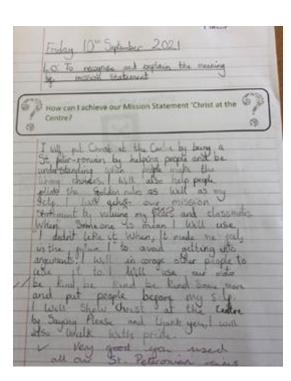
'Christ at the Centre'

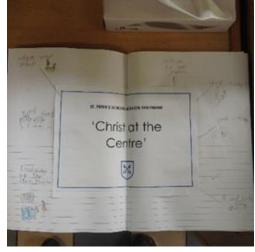
Last week we revisited our Mission Statement in class, thinking about what we value in school and how we behave. We have been talking about what it is to show good manners, what a 'St Peteronian' is and what it means to have the St Peter's Polish. In order to do all of these things, we have to keep 'Christ at the Centre' of all that we do. Each year group focussed on different elements but throughout the school we thought about what this looks like for ourselves, our school, our community and our world. Here is some of the work from our children...

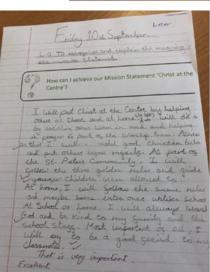




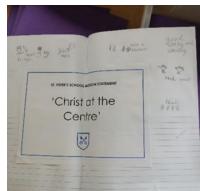












If you have pre-school children and like the sound of St Peter's School then why not contact us to find out about the application process? Telephone 01962 852820 or email admin@st-peters.hants.sch.uk.

Best wishes

Louise Buxton (Miss)

Headteacher

















Parish Party 2021

"What a swell party, a swelligant, elegant party that was!"























