

PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

5th September 2021

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year B

Being healed and Singing God's Praises

Fr Mark writes:

“Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region.”

The first thing to notice is that Jesus is outside of Jewish territory, to the east of the River Jordan. Immediately before this passage Jesus has healed the daughter of the Syro-Phoenician woman (who persists in her prayer despite Jesus's initial response that it is not good to take the children's loaf and fling it to the little dogs!) Jesus wasn't among his own people but in the centre of Greek and Roman culture ('Decapolis' is Greek for 'ten cities').

“And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him.”

It's not clear who “they” are but, as with the men who bring Jesus a paralysed man at the beginning of this Gospel, their role is critical. We too are encouraged to bring people to Jesus with the hope of him healing them, offering them hope, transforming their lives. We can do that physically, of course, perhaps by bringing people to Mass or to healing services. We can also do that by prayer. Our main weapon or instrument in bringing people to Jesus is our prayer. Is Jesus asking you to bring anyone to him in prayer? Or in some other way?

Note too how they ask Jesus to lay his hands on this man. He cannot speak and so they speak on his behalf. Are there times when we too need to speak out for the voiceless, for those who cannot speak for themselves, asking for justice or mercy or charity?

“He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle.”

Notice how Jesus gives the man some privacy, some space. He is about to do something very intimate; he is about to touch this man and bring him back to life, to re-create him. In particular, I invite you to notice how Jesus uses his fingers...

Some of you may be familiar with the painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel by Michelangelo. There at the centre of this incredible masterpiece we have God about to bring Adam, humanity, to life. He does so by stretching out his arm, and his hand, and his finger.

The finger is seen by the Church as one of the symbols of the Holy Spirit: "It is by the finger of God that [Jesus] cast out demons." If God's law was written on tablets of stone "by the finger of God," then the "letter from Christ" entrusted to the care of the apostles, is written "with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts." The hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus* invokes the Holy Spirit as the "finger of the Father's right hand." (CCC 700)

Jesus is re-creating this man by pouring the Holy Spirit completely into his life. God touches us and gives us his own life, transforming that man and, as we will see, everyone around him.

“Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, ‘Ephphatha’, that is, ‘Be opened.’”

Jesus sighs – perhaps mirroring the groaning of the man he was about to heal – and then speaks the word which opens him up. Jesus also asks us to be open. He speaks his words to us and invites us to open our ears to hear him and our hearts to welcome him. Sin closes us to God and His love but grace opens us to experience his presence. How open are you to God's Word? How open are you to the Holy Spirit, to God's love? “And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly.” The miracle is performed and the man is healed. His life is transformed and will never be the same again,

thanks to the people who brought him to Jesus and the healing finger of God. “And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. ‘He has done all things well,’ they said ‘he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.’”

It's strange but the more Jesus tells people not to mention what he has done for them, the more likely they seem to share the Good News. As we move in our parish towards a place where we feel more comfortable sharing the Joy of the Gospel with others, perhaps I should adopt the tactic of Jesus and ask you not to say anything about how wonderful he is, how beautiful God is, how awesome is the healing power of the finger of God...For these “foreigners”, they couldn't contain their praise of Jesus, recognising and speaking of him implicitly as Peter will soon recognise and speak of him explicitly in Caesarea Philippi – as the Messiah, the Chosen.

At the end of this Gospel passage, all the people sing God's praises. At the end of time, all people will be singing God's praises forever in heaven. This is our eternal vocation, our highest calling: to praise him who made us. The deepest vocation of the Church is to sing the praises of God.

The prophet Isaiah, as we will hear in our first reading this weekend, looks forward to the coming of God among His people, to a time when “the ears of the deaf will be unsealed” and “the tongues of the dumb will sing for joy”. For Isaiah, this healing presence of God will bring life to God's people – but also to the earth: “for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.” All of Creation will join in with the singing of God's praises.

In his encyclical, *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis writes of this relationship between our own need for healing and that of this beautiful planet which we inhabit:

Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. “Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs”.

(*Laudato Si* 1)
This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. (LS2)



This weekend, as we mark Care for Creation Sunday, let us pray for God's healing for our sick sister, and that we will play our own part in bringing her to the Risen Christ, who embraces and illumines all things. Let us pray that “we come together to take charge of this home which has been entrusted to us, knowing that all the good which exists here will be taken up into the heavenly feast. In union with all creatures, we journey through this land seeking God...Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope. (LS 244)

God, who calls us to generous commitment and to give him our all, offers us the light and the strength needed to continue on our way. In the heart of this world, the Lord of life, who loves us so much, is always present. He does not abandon us, he does not leave us alone, for he has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward. Praise be to him! (LS245)

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

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 5th September (alternative antiphons will be used at the Vigil Mass)

Entrance Antiphon:

You are just, O Lord,
and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord
with your merciful love.

Gospel Acclamation:

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

First reading: Isaiah 35:4-7

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

Responsorial Psalm Ps 145:7-10. R. v.1

My soul give praise to the Lord.

Communion Antiphon: Ps 41:2-3

Second reading: St James 2:1-5



Farewell and thank you, Fr Stephen – next week, Fr Stephen will be leaving Winchester to continue the Lord's work in his new role as assistant priest at St. Thomas's Newport and St. Saviour's Totland Bay on the Isle of Wight. We would like to take this opportunity to wish him well and to thank him for all the love and support he has given to us all during his time here in the parish. We very much look forward to inviting Fr Stephen back to celebrate Mass with us at some point in the future and ask that you keep him in your prayers during this time of change.



Changes to 10am Sunday Mass - Sunday 5th September is the last live streamed only Mass at 10am which means that after this weekend, all masses will be public, and that includes Sunday morning. The time will change from 10 till 10.30 from 12th September, and we will be welcoming people in real life (booking required) and we will also be welcoming as much as ever all those who join us online - that mass in particular was attended by people from all over the world, and we hope that will continue. We would like to take this opportunity to send our thanks to all of the musicians and readers who have done so much to enhance our on line worship since the beginning of the lockdown in March 2020. Thanks to the team of readers and also to the 37 or so musicians of all ages across the Parish who have contributed so beautifully. Especial thanks much go to Arthur Hickson whose talents and skills with the technology has smoothed out our coughs/ dog barks/crackling fires/door bells and so on. He has speeded us up, slowed us down, quietened and raised our voices and never failed to deliver on time. Finally, we are now slowly returning to normal, and still need your talents. St Stephens and St Gregory's are well provided for with talented musicians but there is always room for more. We need to build up St Peters again as some of our organists have retired. We would like to hear from you if you are able to offer your voices and/or your instruments so we can begin to think about how we return to congregational singing. Let us know if you can offer yourself, particularly as cantor. Come and find one of us after Mass.



St. Gregory the Great - September 3rd is the feast of St. Gregory the Great, the patron saint of the parish's church in Alresford. The stone sculpture shown here is on the pulpit of St. Peter's church in Winchester. In Christian art, St. Gregory is usually shown with a dove. There is a tradition that once, when Gregory was writing a homily, the Holy Spirit appeared as a dove and told him what to write; literally the word of God. Gregory was a scholar, celebrated theologian, and a prolific author, so is often also depicted holding a book. On his death, Gregory was declared a saint by popular acclaim and his relics placed in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, where they remain. He is the patron saint of musicians, singers, students and teachers. Especially appropriate at present, with congregational singing allowed again in church and schools beginning a new term.

Mass at Winchester Cathedral – On Saturday 4th September, Fr Mark will be celebrating 10am Mass in Winchester Cathedral. Please book via the parish website or by phoning Michaela in the Parish Office. The mass will be livestreamed and can be accessed here <https://youtu.be/dKTCsh8ewz0>

Annual Mass for the Tichborne Family - On Sunday, 5th September at 6.00pm Fr Mark will be celebrating mass at the St Andrew's Church, Tichborne, one of only three Anglican churches in the country which incorporates a Catholic Chapel. During the mass we remember the deceased members of the Tichborne Family, who worked diligently, and at great personal risk, to keep the Catholic faith during the reformation. All are very welcome!

Have you got your tickets yet? It's nearly time for the Parish Party! – 19th September 2021 – if you haven't yet booked your tickets for this special event, please book soon as numbers will need to be finalised for catering purposes. You can book (no charge) via the parish website www.catholicwinchester.org.uk or contact Michaela in the Parish Office and she will book them for you. When booking through the website, scroll down to the bottom of the mass booking options which can be found near the end of the home page. Please see poster at the end of the newsletter for further details and the new start time of 12pm, with food being served from 12.30pm.

First Holy Communion Programme 2021-2022 Save the date! There will be an information evening on Thursday September 23rd – more details to follow soon. To register your interest for the programme, please email Rosanne at fhc@stpeterswinchester.org.uk indicating your child's name(s). Children participating in the programme should be in Year 4 (or above).



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: We pray for the start of the new Alpha course this autumn and for abundant blessings upon the team and all the guests. May we, as a parish community, have the courage and boldness to invite others to come and experience the Lord in new ways.



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

- Sally Mogford RIP
- Noreen Tatham RIP
- Eileen Murphy-Koenig RIP

Nuala Scarisbrick RIP - this week, Life announced the death of co-founder Nuala Scarisbrick on Tuesday 31 August. Nuala was the driving force behind the building of the client support services you see today - especially her "hotline" which evolved into our National Helpline. Her tireless passion to support women and families in crisis saved lives on a daily basis and will continue. May she rest in peace.



Limited parking in September - We apologise in advance for the disruption that will be caused to parking along the north side of St Peter's from 9th September. We have building works starting which will tidy the area in front of the north wall amongst other things. In order to give the contractors room and to keep everyone safe, the whole area will be closed to parking and turning for the duration. We expect it to take a couple of weeks. If for this short time you are able to park elsewhere and walk to the church, it will leave the remaining spaces for those who would find that more difficult. Thank you.

BOOKSHOP : The bookshop will open when the Pastoral centre opens. We have good stocks of Bibles, Missals, Prayerbooks, Rosaries, Crosses, First Holy Communion gifts and cards, Alpha books and Mass cards and cards for all occasions. Your support is appreciated. Many thanks - Susan Henry



The Parish Laudato si group has a vision!

To Bring People Closer to Jesus through Care of our Common Home

This week is a "heads up" to remind you of Green Week, 25th September til 3rd October. This is a Winchester wide project steered by Churches Together and local Charities. The Parish Laudato si group is leading on an Art Project - details can be found on Facebook(Winchester Laudato si) Also after 5.30 Mass on Saturday 2nd October and 10.30 Mass on Sunday 3rd October, there will be a Fairtrade stall in the Parish Centre. Hope to see you there!



Monday Movers creative dance classes for older adults (men & women 65yrs+) will be returning to the Pastoral Centre from 20th September. Please get in contact if you would like to join either the existing Monday 10am class, or our new Monday 11.15am class, where we will be taking things just a little slower. Call Julia 07964 361598 or email julia.f.bray@btinternet.com for more information and a registration form. We are also looking for a volunteer to help set up and reorganise the room at the end so any offers of help would be greatly appreciated.



Job vacancy – Cleaner at St Peter's Catholic Primary School

Contract/hours: 2 hours per day, Monday to Friday, permanent

Salary range: Grade A

Start date: as soon as possible

Closing date: Midday, 17th September 2021

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and hardworking cleaner to join our supportive caretaking team. The successful candidate will report to the Site Manager. We are looking for a hard-working and enthusiastic person who takes pride in their work and has high standards, so that our children can learn in a clean and safe environment. The successful candidate will ensure that designated areas of the school are kept clean and hygienic and also carry out a range of defined cleaning duties in line with agreed procedures and standards. If you are reliable and resilient, hardworking and flexible, then we would welcome hearing from you. For more details, please visit the school website: <https://www.stpetershants.co.uk/vacancies/>

Job vacancy – WinACC Admin - We have vacancies for admin support for our busy staff team and volunteers.

Hours to be agreed with the successful candidate(s). Flexible, can vary between term-time and holidays. Occasional evening or weekend working if possible. The job description covers different types of activity, including general admin, basic finance, equipment, events, secretarial and more.

Candidates who are strong in some areas and less strong in others are welcome to apply, highlighting which parts of the job they are suited for.

WinACC is willing to split the role between two or possibly even three candidates to suit the best applicants.

Pay between £11 and £14 an hour, depending on experience. · job description · person specification To apply, send a CV and letter to coordinator@winacc.org.uk to tell us:

- how you match what we need, as we've set out in the person specification
- which parts of the job description are best suited to your skills
- the number of hours a week you want to work, and if there are restrictions on days or times and please complete and attach this equal opportunities monitoring form. WinACC is committed to equal opportunities. Equality and Diversity Policy. We plan to interview on September 16, 17, 23 and/or 24. Please tell us in your application if you are unavailable on any of these days.

Closing date: midnight 11 September 2021

Useful Contacts

Clergy: Fr Mark Hogan (Parish Priest) (mhogan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) ;

Fr Anthony Chiatu Njingo (Assistant Priest (cnjingo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) ;

& Fr Stephen Vooght (svooght@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 (annette@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

Facilities and Resources Manager: Sean Reidy (sean@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

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

Sacristan: Laurie Howe

Caretaker: Richard Phiri

Pastoral team: Rosanne Walker (rosanne@stpeterswinchester.org.uk), Jo Donaldson (joanna@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

Newsletter (deadline for items Wednesday evening): newsletters@stpeterswinchester.org.uk **Newsletter list:** hello@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

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.

ALPHA IS
STARTING SOON!

ALPHA PRAYER CAMPAIGN!

*Please join us as we pray for the success of this season
and that God may help us bring people closer to Him
through this course.*

who
will
you invite?



THE NEW ALPHA COURSE WILL
START FROM 7.30PM
MONDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER
FOR IN-PERSON MEETINGS
(PARISH CENTRE)

**Ecumenical prayer evening for
Alpha: Wednesday, 15th September,
7pm-8pm.**

Together with the local churches also
leading Alpha this term, we are
organising an evening of prayer.
Please do join us as we pray for God's
blessing upon our teams and guests.

This event will take place in the
parish centre at St Peter's church.

**For the next 3 weeks, we invite you to join us in
praying daily for the course:**

- *for us as a parish, that God may give us the courage and
boldness to invite people we know into this journey of
discovering faith.*
- *for the team as they serve and walk alongside people.*
- *for the guests, that God may bless them and speak into their
hearts.*

There will be a basket at the front of the church where you can
leave those you have invited or would like to come to Alpha. Or
text **ALPHA PRAYER** + name of person to **07825494715** and we'll
add their name to the basket so we can pray for them daily.



SCAN ME

Please visit:
<https://catholicwinchester.org.uk/alpha/>
or use the QR code to see our website and
Registration Form

If you have any questions please email
alphastpeterswinchester.org.uk



Have a nice chat
and share your thoughts

With the success of our online 'Zoom' Alpha
we are excited to be able to continue
offering this 'remote' option for those who
can't attend physically. See the Registration
Form if this appeals to you!

Starting Online Wednesday 22nd
September

| Mass Timetable | 4 th September – 11 th September 2021 | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Date | Mass Times & Intentions | | | Livestream/Public |
| SATURDAY – September 4th Our Lady on Saturday | 10.00AM | Mass at Winchester Cathedral | Soul of Rev. J Martin | Public, booking reqd |
| | 5.30 PM | Vigil Mass | Intentions of the Neil family | Livestream, public, booking reqd |
| 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Vigil) | 8.00 AM | Mass | Soul of Mary Perry | Livestream, public, booking reqd |
| | 9.00 AM | Mass at St Thomas More's | | Public, booking reqd * |
| | 9.15 AM | Mass at St Stephen's | Josephine Monica O'Shea RIP | Public, booking reqd |
| | 10.00AM | Mass | Souls of Thomas, Mary & Dreda Rudd | Livestream only |
| | 11.00 AM | Mass at St Gregory's | People of the Parish | Public, booking reqd |
| | 12.00 Noon | Mass | Intentions of the Barber family | Livestream, public, booking reqd |
| | 5.30PM | Mass | Colm O'Neill RIP | Livestream, public, booking reqd |
| | 6.00PM | Mass at St Andrew's Tichborne | | Public |
| MONDAY – September 6th | 12.15PM | Mass | For the Dead & Founders | Livestream & public |
| TUESDAY – September 7th | 10.00AM | Mass at St Gregory's | | Public |
| WEDNESDAY – September 8th THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY | 10.00AM | Mass | Carmela Kelly | Livestream & public |
| | 7.00PM | Mass | | Livestream & public |
| THURSDAY – September 9th | 10.00AM | Mass | | Livestream & public |
| FRIDAY – September 10th | 10.00AM | Mass at St Gregory's | | Public |
| | 10.00AM | Mass & Funeral | Soul of Rose Margaret Fletcher | Livestream, & public |
| SATURDAY – September 11th Our Lady on Saturday | 9.00AM | Mass | Thanksgiving | Livestream & public |
| | 5.30 PM | Vigil Mass | All Souls in Purgatory | Livestream, public, booking reqd |
| 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Vigil) | | | | |

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.

Morning Mass on Saturday 4th September will be at 10am at Winchester Cathedral.

There will be no 10am Mass on Tuesday 7th September at St Peter's Church.

Morning Mass on Friday 10th September will be at 10am.

Adoration (11am-12pm) will recommence later in September – dates to be confirmed soon.

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

Night Prayer (livestream and open to public) every Monday – Thursday and Sunday evening from St Peter's, 9.00pm.

Morning Prayer (livestream and open to public) every weekday, Monday to Friday, 8.00am, followed by Adoration till 9.00am

To participate online or see the recorded services for Morning Prayer & Adoration and Night Prayer & Adoration, go to our [YouTube channel](#)

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

ST PETER & THE WINCHESTER MARTYRS

PARISH PARTY

GET READY TO CRUMBLE!

19TH SEPTEMBER 2021

SUNDAY FROM MIDDAY

AT ST PETER'S PARISH CENTRE

HOG ROAST - VEGGIE BURGERS
FRUIT CRUMBLES - BAR*/SOFT DRINKS

MUSIC - GAMES - RAFFLE* - FAMILY FUN

NO CHARGE, JUST BOOK ONLINE
WWW.CATHOLICWINCHESTER.ORG.UK
OR CALL THE PARISH OFFICE ON 01962 852804

*CHARGEABLE