

PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

26th December 2021

Christmas Day
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Epiphany of the Lord
Year C

It's a Wonderful Life

Fr Mark writes:

Christmas is one of my favourite times of the year and one of the best things is watching Christmas films and Christmas TV specials. When I was a child, one of the early treats of the season was the Christmas edition of the Radio Times, which used to be the only reliable place to find out what tv and radio morsels lay ahead. Each year I would welcome its arrival with great excitement and accordingly plan my viewing time, which in fairness was most of my holiday time, interrupted only by Midnight Mass, eating and trips to Fratton Park.

One of the most popular and most famous Christmas films is "It's a Wonderful Life." You're likely to find it somewhere on the TV schedule just about every year. You're possibly familiar with the plot. A desperate man, George Bailey, contemplates taking his life on Christmas Eve but has a total change in thinking when, with the help of his guardian angel, Clarence, he gets to see what the world would have been like without him.

The film is all about growing in appreciation and gratitude for the gifts we have in life. It's interesting to note that George Bailey's perspective changes before his situation changes. He comes to see that he had a wonderful life, even when it appears he is going to go to jail for a mistake he didn't make. He recognises all the gifts he had been given and the impact he had made on the lives of others.

Two obstacles can get in the way of seeing our blessings: big problems and little problems. When we are facing the big problems in life such as health concerns, financial stress, marital woes, for example, it is easy to lose any sense of gratitude, sadly at the very time we could use it most. This is what happens to George Bailey. He is hit with the huge problem of owing a huge amount of money that he cannot repay. Then he is also hit by little problems at every turn, from the annoyance of his noisy kids to a punch in the nose from an irate neighbour. The big problems and little problems get in the way of him having an attitude of gratitude until the angel Clarence helps him recognise the blessings of his life and why his life mattered.

The first step to gratitude is recognising our blessings. But if we are honest, we need help to do it. The shepherds to whom the angelic host appeared needed help recognising the Saviour because no one would think to look for one in the time or place or manner in which our Saviour came. God sends his blessings in surprising ways which we can't always see on our own.

Luke tells us,

"And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'" (Luke 2:13-14)

Gratitude is a great way to live. It begins by recognising the gifts we have been given, which means turning to God in prayer to help us spot them. Even a few minutes a day in quiet time can make a difference. If we can learn to see our blessings, regardless of the circumstances, we're going to recognise more and more blessings because we tend to see what we're looking for. And when, day after day, we consciously choose to recognise God as the ultimate giver of our gifts and blessings, we come to know more deeply his love for us. His love moves from being a general, abstract love for humanity to a love for you and me, personally.

His gifts are personal, because his love is personal. God gives us gifts that are unique to each of us. He has given me gifts he has not given you. He has given you gifts he has not given me, so that we will be drawn into a relationship with Him and each other.

I want to end this message by thanking God for you, my beloved flock. I am so very blessed by you in countless ways that many of you don't even realise, often through small, barely recognised gestures of love and generosity and care and faith and hope and joy...I pray that God will bless you and your loved ones, and all our guests and visitors this Christmas season and that we will recognise and enjoy many more blessings in the year ahead...

Maybe life isn't always wonderful, but cultivating gratitude is a wonderful way to live.



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

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (Year C) – 26th December

Entrance Antiphon:

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph
and the Infant lying in a manger.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

First reading: Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 83:2-3, 5-6,9-10. R.v.5

They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

Our God has appeared on the earth,
And lived among us.

Second reading: John 3:1-2, 21-24

Peterpost Christmas Edition – please note that this edition of Peterpost covers the next 2 weeks so do keep it somewhere safe! The next edition will be shared on Friday 7th January.



Changes to Mass Times Over Christmas – There will be no **8am Mass on Sunday 26th December** and no **5.30pm Mass on Saturday 1st January**. Please see the timetables at the end of Peterpost to check mass times and dates for all masses.

Solemnity of St Stephen – The Solemnity of St Stephen will now be celebrated at St Stephen’s Church on **Sunday 26th December** at the 9.15am Mass. All other churches in the parish will celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on this day.

Online Christmas Masses If you are intending to watch livestream Mass (or catch up on it later) you may like to know that the 5.30pm on Christmas Eve, and the 10.30pm Mass with carols later that evening (both St Peter's) should be the more viewer-friendly versions, with different camera angles and close-ups. Also, we have been preparing a slideshow of events in the Parish throughout the year, which will be shown before as many of the online Christmas Masses as possible. We hope you enjoy it and share it with others. It will also be available on YouTube and Facebook - look out for it, and see how many people you know in it!



Our Christmas Gift to the Priests - ways of giving



Every Christmas we have a collection which is our personal gift to our clergy. As well as the traditional ways, you can also give safely via contactless at St Peter’s or online: for online donations, there is a dedicated link here <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/parish-of-st-peter-and-the-winchester-martyrs-christmas-collection-2022> It's our way of saying thank you to our parish priests (Frs Mark and Anthony) for all the dedication, guidance and care they give us here at St Peter & the Winchester Martyrs. It's a key part of their annual income. Anyone wishing to make a gift to any of the other clergy should put that in an envelope clearly marked.

The Proclamation of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

At the start of Midnight Mass at St Peter's, Deacon Martin will announce the birth of Jesus, with a solemn proclamation. (Take a look at the word sheet for Midnight Mass, to see the words of the proclamation). The *Roman Missal* says "The announcement of the Nativity of the Lord from the Roman Martyrology draws upon Sacred Scripture to declare in a formal way the birth of Christ. It begins with creation and relates the birth of the Lord to the major events and personages of sacred and secular history." And so, we hear of the creation of mankind, the Flood, of Abraham, Moses and David - but also the 194th Olympiad, the foundation of the city of Rome, and the 42nd year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus. In doing so, the proclamation reinforces the central truth of the Incarnation: that Jesus Christ is truly divine and truly human, born at a specific point in human history. We too have been born into a specific point in human history, just like Jesus; will we use the time given to us, to love Him, serve Him, and proclaim Him to all people?

Fr Mark’s Boxing Day Morning Thought – tune in to the Special Faith section of Lucy Ambache’s show on Radio Solent (96.1FM) to hear Fr Mark’s morning thought on Sunday 26th December. It will also be available on catch-up.

Crib Offerings – Friends of the Holy Land

Crib offerings this Christmas will be donated to the Friends of the Holy Land. Friends of the Holy Land help the most deprived Christian families, especially those living around Bethlehem, in Gaza, Israel and Jordan. With no pilgrims and tourism since March 2020 and no government support to individuals or businesses, many families, have lost all their income and are increasingly calling on Friends of the Holy Land for help with day to day living. You will also have the opportunity to offer simple ‘thank you’ offerings this year. Slips of paper will be available for you to write down the things you are grateful for and then leave them in the basket next to the crib. If you have a crib at home, why not do they same and try to add something new each day over the Christmas period.

Epiphany of the Lord On Thurs 6th Jan, we will celebrate the 12th Day of Christmas, the Epiphany of the Lord, when we commemorate the visit of the three Magi (Wise Men) to the infant Jesus, bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Here Jesus is revealed, or made manifest, to the nations as the Magi kneel down and worship him. We will be celebrating Mass in St. Peter’s at **7pm on Weds 5th Jan (Vigil); 12:15pm and 7pm on Thurs 6th Jan.**

Crosskeys The latest edition of Crosskeys, our regular Parish magazine, is available now online. If you receive this newsletter by email, you should have received a file copy last weekend. You can also find it on our website, <https://catholicwinchester.org.uk/crosskeys/cross-keys-magazine-advent-2021/>.



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 Christmas celebrations bring hope and joy both to our parish and to our many welcome guests.



Who is Jesus? Why did He die? How can I have faith? Why and how do I pray?
 These are just some of the questions we explore on Alpha. The course creates a space where we can have conversations about faith, life and God which are authentic and unforced.
 A recent guest said, 'On Alpha, I found a place where I could be open and transparent, suspending judgement and engaging in profound, meaningful discussions, many of which would leave me still pondering over, long after the session had finished'. One of the joys of Alpha is the faith-based friendships it fosters as we grow in relationship with one another, giving us a sense of belonging and community. Each evening begins with a free cooked meal.
 Our next Alpha course starts on Monday 31st January 2022 at St Peter's Church, Jewry Street, SO23 8RY. To register, visit www.catholicwinchester.org.uk/alpha
 For more information, ring us on 01962 852804 or email alpha@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Acorn Groups Acorn Groups (launched in the parish in April this year) are a community of small groups designed as a continuation of the Alpha experience but with a longer-term focus. They are intended to be a place where members can continue their faith-based friendships and spiritual growth.



The new season of Acorn Groups starts in January and we would love you to join! We begin on Thursday 20th January and meet once a fortnight. As the number of groups increases, we will have additional meeting times available so please do register and choose a day that suits you.
 If you would like to register, please use the link <https://forms.office.com/r/A1p3TR5jKE>
 Or for more information, please email acorn@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Youth Group Returns! We are pleased to announce that the youth group will be resuming again in January! We are starting the term off with a film night on **Sunday, 9th January 6:30pm-8:30pm in the Parish Centre**. We will then have our youth group at the same time every Sunday evening after the 5:30pm Mass.
 The group is for anyone aged 11-19, and all are welcome. If you'd like to come, please email or just come on the 9th! 😊



Welcome David Bateman is one of our diocesan seminarians, studying at St. Mary's College, Oscott in the Archdiocese of Birmingham. He will be coming to our parish, staying in Peterhouse, for a placement, from 2nd-19th January. He will try to accompany the priest at as many of our Masses as humanly possible (or wise) and will be engaging in various pastoral activities, including visiting some of our sick and housebound parishioners. Please do everything you can to make him feel welcome in our parish.

Baptism Celebratory Mass – Postponed Due to concerns regarding the current Covid19 situation, the decision has been made to set another date for this special celebration. Families will be notified by the Baptism team once the new date and time is confirmed.

The Night of Light at St Peter's was a wonderful experience, making the most of the church's being in the city centre. A constant flow of people came in to light a candle and say a prayer - parishioners, passersby, people going out for the night, people who haven't been in a church for years, or ever. The peaceful loving candlelit atmosphere gave everyone a moment of calm in the middle of everything that's going on. And other places in Winchester might have bouncers on a Friday night, but we had the best welcomers in the business!




Diocesan Formation for Mission Team – Upcoming Events The Diocesan Formation for Mission team will be running the following online courses in January and February 2022, which may be of interest to parishioners and catechist in all parishes:

- For Catechists:** Essential Training for Catechists (5 Mondays, 10th Jan – 7th Feb, 7.30 to 9.00 pm) followed by our new course, Further Training for Catechists (5 Mondays, 21st Feb – 21st March, 7.30 to 9.00 pm) – in the first course, we will look at the fundamental principles of catechesis to discover **what it is**, and in the second course, we will look at specific questions: **how to speak** to adults, young people and children about God, Jesus, salvation, the human person and the Church. To find out more and register, check our website: <https://www.pffm.org.uk/> or register directly for the Essential Training: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcud-CgpzspGNNmzyxwCIFle2MiqfHahOnK> and for the Further Training: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkcuytpzMrGNTFXcThp9NMAfCmfl8GloOh>
Both courses are open to everyone – you don't have to be a catechist to sign up.
- For those who care of children with Additional / special needs:** we are offering 3 workshops on **Thursdays 13th, 20th and 27th January, 7.00 - 8.30 pm** for the parents, catechists and priests of young Catholics with additional needs: **Being Acceptional**. Workshop 1. At Mass: inclusion in the Liturgy; Workshop 2. In Catechesis: sacramental preparation; Workshop 3. In the Home: the domestic Church for children with additional needs. You can register here for the workshops: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMofuqqqD4oGdX6gk02PYnXzHGGPblvzPBI>



We Are Acceptional

We are committed to enabling young Catholics with additional needs to take their full role in the Body of Christ.

Join us for a series of **Zoom workshops** for the **parents, catechists and priests** of young Catholics with additional needs!

Being Acceptional...

- ...at Mass:** inclusion of children with additional needs in the liturgy. **Thurs 13th January, 7pm-8.30pm.**
- ...in Catechesis:** inclusion of children with additional needs in sacramental preparation. **Thurs 20th January, 7pm-8.30pm.**
- ...at Home:** creating a domestic church for children with additional needs. **Thurs 27th January, 7pm-8.30pm.**

All our initiatives are listed on our website: <https://www.pffm.org.uk/>

Reverse Advent Calendar Donations Boxes are available in the porch of St Peter's and at the back of St Stephen's for the collection of items you have kindly collected as part of the alternative advent calendar suggestion.

Synodal Process Some of you will be aware that Pope Francis is inviting us as a Church to learn to "walk together" (that's what 'synod' means). In our own parish the ESG (Evangelisation Strategy Group) are taking on the responsibility for how we as a parish respond to the request from the Pope. I've asked that they do so in a way which allows all those who wish to have their voice heard to be enabled to do so, that reaches out to the peripheries and even beyond the parish community, and that enables us to respond to the questions. Details to follow soon into the New Year (we had planned earlier but the Pope has given us an extension), so please watch this space...

Parish Events/Dates for the Diary

- Ecumenical service of evensong at Winchester Cathedral (Fr Mark will be preaching) – 30th January 2022 at 3.30pm



Mass Timetable	24 th December – 31 st December 2021			
Date	Mass Times & Intentions			Livestream/Public
FRIDAY – December 24th THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - Vigil	10.00AM	Mass at St Gregory's		Public
	3.00PM	Children's Nativity Mass	Austin Emery RIP	Livestream, public, booking reqd
	5.30PM	Christmas Vigil Mass	Ursula Hill RIP	Livestream, public, booking reqd
	5.30PM	Christmas Vigil Mass at St Stephen's		Public, booking reqd
	8.00PM	Christmas Night Mass at St Peter's	Jim Steele - Thanksgiving	Livestream, public, booking reqd
	8.30PM	Christmas Night Mass at St Gregory's	Margaret McIvennie RIP (anniv)	Public, booking reqd
	10.30PM	Christmas Night Mass	Bridie Mc Cready RIP	Livestream, public, booking reqd
	10.30PM	Christmas Night Mass at St Stephen's	People of the Parish	Public, booking reqd
SATURDAY – December 25th THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	8.00AM	Christmas Day Mass	Ursula Hill RIP	Livestream, public, booking reqd
	9.00AM	Christmas Day Mass at St Thomas More's		Public, booking reqd
	9.15AM	Christmas Day at St Stephen's		Public, booking reqd
	10.30AM	Christmas Day Mass	Pat Keenan RIP	Livestream, public, booking reqd
	11.00AM	Christmas Day Mass at St Gregory's	People of the Parish	Public, booking reqd
SUNDAY – December 26th THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH ST STEPHEN - SOLEMNITY (at St Stephen's Church)	9.00 AM	Mass at St Thomas More's		Public, booking reqd *
	9.15 AM	Mass at St Stephen's	Safe return of travellers	Public, booking reqd
	10.30AM	Mass	Soul of Mary Lucy King	Livestream, public, booking reqd
	11.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	People of the Parish	Public, booking reqd
	5.30PM	Mass	Michael O'Leary RIP	Livestream, public, booking reqd
MONDAY – December 27th St John, Apostle, Evangelist	10.00AM	Mass	Felix Holzapfel RIP	Livestream & public
TUESDAY – December 28th The Holy Innocents	10.00AM	Mass	Nicola Iarossi RIP	Livestream & public
WEDNESDAY – December 29th St Thomas of Canterbury	10.00AM	Mass	Fred & Lilian MacManus	Livestream & public
THURSDAY – December 30th	10.00AM	Mass	Beatrice Zulu RIP	Livestream & public
FRIDAY – December 31st	10.00AM	Mass at St Gregory's		Public
	12.15PM	Mass	Patrick Doyle RIP	Livestream & public

Mass Timetable	1 st January – 8 th January 2022			
Date	Mass Times & Intentions			Livestream/Public
SATURDAY – January 1st Mary, The Holy Mother of God	10.00AM	Mass	Peter Wyles RIP	Livestream, public
SUNDAY – January 2nd SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	8.00 AM	Mass	Rose Wigan RIP	Livestream, public, booking reqd
	9.00 AM	Mass at St Thomas More's		Public, booking reqd *
	9.15 AM	Mass at St Stephen's	People of the Parish	Public, booking reqd
	10.30AM	Mass	Clare McKenna RIP	Livestream, public, booking reqd
	11.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's		Public, booking reqd
	5.30PM	Mass	Michael O'Shaughnessy RIP	Livestream, public, booking reqd
MONDAY – January 3rd	10.00AM	Mass	All Souls in Purgatory	Livestream & public
TUESDAY – January 4th	10.00AM	Mass	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Livestream & public
	10.00AM	Mass at St Gregory's		Public
WEDNESDAY – January 5th EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (VIGIL)	10.00AM	Mass	Soul of Molly O'Brien	Livestream & public
	7.00PM	Mass		Livestream & public
THURSDAY – January 6th	12.15PM	Mass	Cathy Wade RIP	Livestream & public
	7.00PM	Mass	Ricardo Bugayong RIP & Lourdes Bugayong	Livestream & public
FRIDAY – January 7th	10.00AM	Mass at St Gregory's		Public
	12.15PM	Mass	Souls of the Bristol family	Livestream & public
SATURDAY – January 8th	9.00AM	Mass		Livestream & public
	5.30 PM	Vigil Mass	Cathy Wade RIP	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.

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

Morning Prayer (livestream and open to public) every weekday, Monday to Friday, 8.00am at St Peter' followed by Adoration till 9.00am **Please note, Morning Prayer will recommence on Tuesday 4th January 2022.**

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

Parish Safeguarding Representative - Any safeguarding concerns or requests for advice can be discussed with Michaela Waterfield in the Parish Office or routed through to the central diocesan safeguarding 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.

Job Vacancy – St Peter's Catholic Primary School

Administrative Assistant

Contract/hours: 9.00am to 1.00pm Monday to Friday, 20 hours per week, term time only, permanent

Salary range: Grade B (pro rata)

Start date: January 2022

Closing date: 10th January 2022 (midday)

Interview date: 17th January 2022

We are looking for a friendly, enthusiastic, committed and self-motivated person to join our busy team. The ability to prioritise your workload and be able to work under pressure are essential qualities. You will need to be cheerful and well-organised with the capacity to communicate effectively with colleagues, teachers, parents and children.

The role includes front office responsibilities such as answering the phone, dealing with visitors and contractors and supporting the pupils' first aid and medical needs (including the administration of approved medicines) alongside general administrative duties. Experience of working in a school office is preferred, however, training will be given. Recent experience of using Microsoft packages is essential. For more details, please visit the school website: <https://www.stpetershants.co.uk/vacancies/>