

PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

30th January 2022

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

The Story of Your Life – Sharing the Word You've Received

Fr Mark writes:

This is the fifth message in our new series for the New Year...which is all about "story." Our stories matter. Your story is important. It matters. It's important because of God, and his role in your story.

Our story can have an impact on others. And that's what we're looking at today, a story to tell you about somebody who was a little reluctant when it came to the whole God, Church, religion deal. But then he went on to do great things for God and even wrote a book of the Bible, Jeremiah, named after him.

Jeremiah is a young man who's just living his life when, one day, he is "called" by God. We read about such calls over and over again in the Bible. The Bible puts a great deal of emphasis on the call of men and women into God's work. You can read about the call of Abraham, the call of Moses, the call of Samuel, the call of Gideon, Peter, Matthew, and Paul and many more. So Jeremiah tells us about his call:

"The word of the Lord was addressed to me". (Jeremiah 1.4)

The word of the Lord actually comes to us all the time. It's always active and coming in our direction. It's not God who drifts out of the conversation, we do. Up until this point, Jeremiah isn't in the conversation, but then something changed, something happened.

Personally, there are plenty of times when I fail to pray or forget about it, or just don't feel like it, and other times when I'm just going through the motions. The word of God isn't reaching me, because I'm not listening. But, every once in a while, I do listen properly, and the experience is clear and strong. Whether or not you've had the same or a similar experience, the point is that you can. And when the word of God does come, it comes personally. The word of God came to Jeremiah in a deeply personal way. God says:

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you." (Jeremiah 1.5)

Usually the word "know" in the Bible does not mean intellectual knowledge. The Bible tells us that Adam "knew" Eve and they had a child together. In the Bible "knowing" is a relationship word that indicates intimacy and a connection to the heart.

So God tells Jeremiah that he knew all about him and he knew him intimately even before he was born. As we have been saying throughout this series, God is the main author of our story and he knows each of our stories intimately, better than we know our own story. God tells Jeremiah,

"before you came to birth I consecrated you; I have appointed you as prophet to the nations." (Jeremiah 1.5)

God's will isn't just for "church people" but it's "universal", for ALL people. God wants you to know him very personally as a Father who loves you, as a Saviour who died for you, as a Spirit that lives within you and wishes to guide you in the right direction.

God wants to:

- ❖ move you out of the obligation mentality you've been operating under, or
- ❖ the religious rulekeeper approach you've been trained in, or
- ❖ the guilt trip you're on, or
- ❖ the excuse you're currently relying on: "I'm just doing it for my children because they need some basic grounding in ethics, that's why I'm here"

He wants to move you beyond a superficial attitude into a real, authentic and eventually intimate relationship with Him.

Some of you already know that. And you have a story of how that happened. For you it may have been a season of life. There was a time when you just started getting into God's word, or approaching the Eucharist with greater attention and appreciation and even affection and gradually God started emerging as a real person, a real presence.

Or maybe someone invited you and you came with them and it started that way. Maybe it was music or a message that touched your heart and God began speaking to you that way. And more and more, you just moved into that relationship. More and more you found yourself returning to it and relying on it. Maybe it was as simple as that. Or maybe it wasn't, maybe it was dramatic.

Either way, the story you are called to live, however you're called, is the story of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Personal but not private. Look at the last part of the conversation between God and Jeremiah. So God says,

"before you came to birth I consecrated you; I have appointed you as prophet to the nations." (Jeremiah 1.5)

"Ah, Lord God. I do not know how to speak; I am only a child." (Jeremiah 1.6)

Jeremiah's like, "Uhhh, God, sorry but you've got the wrong chap. That isn't the right job for me. I don't have the qualifications and I don't have the experience."

It sounds kind of funny arguing with God, but we do it all the time. The word of God actually comes to us and we ignore it, or reject it. In this case, however, Jeremiah stayed with the conversation to hear God out. God tells him:

"Do not say, 'I am only a child'; for you must go to all to whom I send you and say whatever I command you." (Jeremiah 1.7-8)

When you receive the word of God, you've got to share the word of God. You can't be in a relationship with God and love God and fail to love people, to reach out to them and love them and serve them.

Jeremiah was called a prophet, and that sounds like something strange and spooky but it is neither. You are supposed to be a prophet for him. At your baptism you were anointed a prophet for the Lord. You are called to share the word of God that you have received.

You might think, just like Jeremiah did, "Not me, I don't know what to say."

But if you receive the word of God you must share the word of God. You might not know what to say and you might not have to say anything. We've got dozens of people working in the parish each weekend who are sharing the word they have received in simple loving service, serving tea and coffee, welcoming at the door, sharing the word they received in our Liturgy of the Word with your children and grandchildren.

That's the centre and the heart of your story: sharing the word you have received.

Whoever you are, whatever station or state of life you're in, whatever your story has been, you can write a different story moving forward, a better story. Sharing the word you have received, you can write a better story.

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

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C) – 30th January

Entrance Antiphon:

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

First reading: Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 70:1-6, 15, 17. R.v.15
My lips will tell of your help.

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord;
No one can come to the Father except through me.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

Communion Antiphon:

Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your merciful love.
O Lord, let me never be put to shame,
for I call on you.

Churches Together in Winchester There will be an ecumenical service of evensong at the Cathedral at 3.30pm on 30th January 2022 when our very own Father Mark will be preaching. Please note that this replaces the previously planned Unity Service on Sunday 23 January at 6 30pm. All are welcome to join the service in the Cathedral or via [livestream](#).



Alpha - YOU ARE INVITED. YOU ARE WELCOME...
Join us on the Alpha course starting this week as we explore some of the big questions of faith and life in an informal and relaxed manner. One of our guests said, 'It was a place where I felt 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'. Now is the time. Here is the place. The course starts **Monday 31st January at 7.30pm** in St Peter's Pastoral Centre. Each evening begins with a cooked meal. To register, visit www.catholicwinchester.org.uk/alpha or email alpha@stpeterswinchester.org.uk
If you would like to invite a friend to join Alpha but are unsure who to invite or why, please watch this short clip <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OI5wAFuky1w>

Pope Francis invites us to be a Listening Church
The whole Church throughout the world, at every level, is being invited by the successor to St. Peter to enter into a deep process of listening – to one another and to the Holy Spirit. We too, here in the parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs, are asked to play our part. The Pope would like us all to reflect deeply on what it is to be Church – and to participate in the early stages of a process that will culminate in a "Synod on Synodality" in 2023 (the word 'synod' comes from a Greek word meaning the 'walking together' (syn-) on a 'particular way' (-hodos)). The overall theme is "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission" and the starting point is a listening exercise: in parishes, schools and beyond. We would very much value hearing from as many voices as possible – both from within our parish community and from the wider community. We certainly want everyone who wishes to participate to be enabled to do so. This isn't about convening a parliamentary delegation or a lobby group but rather the start of a process of mutual listening, with humility and love, and discerning the voice of the Holy Spirit together. Fr Mark has asked the parish Evangelisation Strategy Group (ESG) to take a lead on this and he is enormously grateful for the energy and passion with which they've taken up the challenge. Preparations are well underway. **Please read the Diocesan leaflet on the process.** If you receive the newsletter by email then it is attached to the email; it is also available on the website <https://catholicwinchester.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Synod-introduction-Portsmouth-Diocese.pdf>; and there will be copies at the back of the churches this weekend. Then, **look out for announcements and invitations to participate in a Listening Session soon, in person or online.**
Please pray for our parish as we embark on this journey, and please pray for the whole Synod process, and indeed for the Universal Church.



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 Alpha course starting this Monday. We pray for God's protection and blessing upon guests and team as they embark on this journey. We continue to pray for those still to say yes; may God reveal Himself to them and open their hearts to this invitation.



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

Laudato si Corner

Make 2022 the year you took action on Climate Change
WinAcc is a local group based at the University whose aim is to Help Winchester to cut Greenhouse gases to zero. There are so many opportunities to get involved, from Incredible Edible to Retrofit Coordinators. Have a look on [the WinAcc Website](#) and check out the Campaigns, or attend an Open meeting - held at 10.30am on the last Saturday of the month, details on the website.

Discovering More...About our Care for God's Creation We are told by media reports and politicians, in ever more urgent tones, that we are experiencing an environmental crisis. We have received on this subject an encyclical from the Pope, Laudato Si, and a recent pastoral letter from our Bishop. We are told that this is a pressing moral issue. Join with us in discovering more about what the Church teaches on the beautiful mystery of Creation and our place in it, why we are called to care for it, and how we can respond. The sessions will take place on Tuesday 8th, 15th and 22nd February, starting at 7.30pm and will be held in the Pastoral Centre. If you would like to book a place, please use the following link <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-peter-and-the-winchester-martyrs/t-yrzkmooor> email office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk.

Eucharistic Adoration
in St Peter's church every Monday and Friday
from 11 till 12 am

Tuesdays – Coffee, Cake and Chat Come and enjoy a coffee, cake and chat in the Pastoral Centre on Tuesday mornings between 10.30am and 12noon. All welcome after Mass, before or after shopping or just call in.



Introducing Our Parish In this corner of the newsletter we'd like to let you know more about what's going on, how the parish runs, and who the people are that you see in church! Let us know if there's anything or anyone you'd particularly like to hear about.

Our Prayerline is nearly two years old - it was an early initiative in lockdown, and is now a permanent part of Parish life. Our group of intercessors offer a straightforward, instant and confidential way of asking for prayer.

Fr Mark recently celebrated a weekday Mass for the prayer intercessors, and many of them were able to attend in person or watch online, and gather for tea and coffee and chat afterwards. For some of them it was the first chance to meet in person their fellow prayer warriors.

As well as personal requests, the prayer intercessors also pray for the Parish generally, and for the Mission and vision for the Parish. As Fr Mark says, intercessory prayer is central to what we do as a parish, and we know that we need the Holy Spirit to effectively direct us in our mission.

Requests come in via the email address (below), from PeterCares callers, via social media, from personal requests, and from the leadership of the parish.

The prayers give help and comfort to those who ask, and for the prayer team a chance to do something for others. We know the ministry has reached a huge number people, and we have had many messages telling us how much it helped, whatever the outcome.

Contact the **Prayerline** – whether to ask for prayers or to offer help if you are called to this ministry – via email prayers@stpeterswinchester.org.uk, or by any of the other usual methods.

Getting to know you...



Name: Carol Roe

Favourite saint: St Thérèse of Lisieux, The Little Flower. We share the same birth date - 2nd January.

Favourite hymn or worship song: On Eagle's Wings

How long have you been connected with our parish? 13 years

Which ministries are you involved in? Welcoming and home visiting

What drew you to this particular ministry? Being able to be part of a team that enabled parishioners to go to church safely (during the pandemic) and to have the much needed contact with their church family.

Which Mass would we usually find you at, in case other parishioners would like to chat to you about your ministry? I usually attend 10.30 Mass on a Sunday and once again, I am able to go and have coffee and meet and chat with members of my church family.

Tell us something you are grateful for: I am very grateful for my loving, amazing children, grandchildren, getting to know the delightful Anna and my "partner in crime", Mike.

Tell us an unusual/little-known fact about yourself: My son, Johnny, used to be a Mutoid. He is an entertainer and artist and was part of a commune called Mutoid Waste Company in Berlin.

Mass Timetable	29 th January – 6 th February 2022			
Date	Mass Times & Intentions			Livestream/Public
SATURDAY – January 29th Our Lady on Saturday	9.00AM	Mass	Angela MacManus RIP	Livestream, public
	5.30PM	Mass		Livestream, public, booking reqd
SUNDAY – January 30th FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.00 AM	Mass	Healing for Daniel & Melissa Cuevas	Livestream, public, booking reqd
	9.00 AM	Mass at St Thomas More's		Public, booking reqd *
	9.15 AM	Mass at St Stephen's	Martin Tatham RIP	Public, booking reqd
	10.30AM	Mass	Rachel McDonald RIP	Livestream, public, booking reqd
	11.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's		Public, booking reqd
	5.30PM	Mass	Margaret Gardiner RIP	Livestream, public, booking reqd
MONDAY – January 31st St John Bosco, Founder	12.15PM	Mass	For the Benefactors	Livestream & public
TUESDAY – February 1st	10.00AM	Mass	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Livestream & public
	10.00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Soul of Archbishop John Henry King	Public
WEDNESDAY – February 2nd THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD, feast	10.00AM	Mass	For the dead in cemeteries	Livestream & public
THURSDAY – February 3rd St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr	10.00AM	Mass	Intentions of the Neil family	Livestream & public
FRIDAY – February 4th	10.00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Soul of Canon Anthony Zollo	Public
	12.15PM	Mass	Soul of Mrs Giles	Livestream & public
SATURDAY – February 5th Our Lady on Saturday St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr	9.00AM	Mass	Soul of Gillielmi Meader	Livestream & public
	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.

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

Adoration every Monday and Friday 11.00 till 12.00noon.

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

Night Prayer (livestream) **Monday to Thursday this week**

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 – Portsmouth Diocese

Campaign/Gift Aid Officer

- £20,000 - £25,000 per annum (fte) dependant on experience, plus contributory pension.
- Full time 35 hours per week / part time hours will also be considered
- Reporting to the Senior Accounts Technician

Overall job purpose

- To undertake the bulk of the day to day responsibility for claiming Gift Aid for the Diocese.
- Responsible for collections/donations/direct debits for all campaign fundraising.
- The administration of the cash collection and accounting for the 5 year campaign (Closer to Christ).

About you

- Good communication skills, with the ability to provide instruction, guidance and advice to other staff and volunteers
- Numeracy and attention to detail
- Ability to self-motivate and undertake a wide variety of tasks
- Able to meet deadlines and identify and resolve problems
- Collaborative approach to working, willingness to support other Finance team members
- Basic accounting experience preferred

For Job Description and details of how to apply please contact recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

If you would like a confidential discussion about the role, please contact: Clare Shore E-mail: cshore@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Tel: 02394 216457

Closing Date: Friday 4th February 2022 at 12 noon



Dear Parents

Junior Road Safety Officers – special lunch!

Thank you to our Junior Road Safety Officers, Emily, Fleur, Khyan, Nicholas and Leanne, who helped organise a special school dinner menu last week. Obviously, thanks also goes to our wonderful kitchen team.



Snail Art – Year 1

Year 1 have been working hard in art last week. They began their unit of work by drawing spirals, and then using different media to make their shapes. They moved onto clay, making some rather wonderful snail models. We look forward to seeing their drawing skills when they move onto feathers and birds.

Miss Pestana, one of our TAs in the year group, brought in her African land snails to encourage the children’s interest.



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.

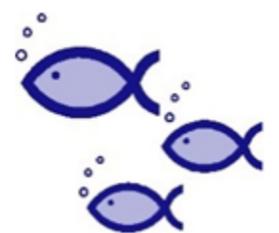
Best wishes

Louise Buxton (Miss)
Headteacher

Little Fishes Pre-School

We are now taking applications for Little Fishes Pre-School for September 2022-July 2023. Children can attend Little Fishes from when they are 2 years & 9 months old, subject to place availability and we offer opening hours around the school day, during term-time.

You will find full Little Fishes information on the school website, www.stpetershants.co.uk including details of parent visits, a virtual tour and the application form. Or contact the school office on 01962 852820 for any queries.



Job Vacancy at St Peter’s School

Administrative Assistant

Contract/hours: 9.00am to 3.00pm Monday to Friday, term time only, permanent. Hours negotiable and job share considered for the right candidates.

Salary range: Grade B, £18,562 (pro rata)

Start date: As soon as possible

Closing date: 3rd February 2022 (midday)

Interview date: 8th February 2022

We are looking for a friendly, enthusiastic, committed and self-motivated person to join our busy, experienced and welcoming team who enjoy their job as well as the occasional coffee and cake! 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/>