

PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

20th February 2022

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

Heart Surgery for a Giving Heart

Fr Mark writes:

I need heart surgery – at least when it comes to the area of giving.

I remember my ordination well, when I lay face down on the sanctuary of the Cathedral in Portsmouth and handed over everything, my whole life and will into God’s loving hands. And yet still, I cling on to some things...As shocking as it sounds, all of us are born self-centred. We come forth into the world and the first sound we cry out is not, ‘Mumma’ or ‘Dadda’ but “Waaahhh!” (which basically translates as “feed me” or “clean me” or “help me get to sleep” – or all of the above). I know I still have a long way to go, and it is my attitude to ordering food that reveals this most clearly to me.

On a few occasions, I’ve gone out for a meal in a restaurant and it’s got to the time to order dessert, and the person I’m with says something like, “No, I’m fine, I’m going to pass.” This in itself would be absolutely ok. But then they follow up with the line, “I’ll just have some of yours.” “Some of mine?!” I think, “Don’t they understand that ‘mine’ means, well, ‘mine’?! I’m going to order my pudding because I want to eat, well a whole pudding.” Of course, I don’t actually say this out loud. Rather, I just gently say something along the lines of, “Please, just let me know what you’d like and I’ll order it for you. If you want a brownie, I’ll order a brownie.” “Oh no, I’m honestly fine, thank you. I’m not really hungry.” The brownie arrives, along with two spoons, and ten minutes later I have reluctantly and disgruntledly sacrificed half of my own brownie to his allegedly unhungry deity...



Even as I share this story, I can feel my own grip on the brownie tightening and my own sense of injustice rising. My default position is to hoard and avoid sharing with anyone, especially food. I need heart surgery...

Then, our loving and Heavenly Father comes along and says to me, “I want to deal with this selfish heart and make you a giver. I want you to have a heart like mine.”

So, I need to admit that I have a selfish heart, and then I need to ask God’s grace to help me have a selfless heart. I also need God to prevent me from having a grieving heart and regretting what I’ve shared, helping me give out of generosity rather than because I feel pressured (that’s where a healthy sense of stewardship can come in handy, reminding me that my time, my talents, my treasure are not “mine” but have been loaned to me by God to use responsibly for the building of His Kingdom).

Then I also need God’s help to give me a generous heart. God didn’t create giving because He needs my money to pay the electricity bill in Heaven or because He’s running out of gold for the streets up there. God created giving for our benefit, for my sake, to drive selfishness out of my heart.

The final bit of surgery I need in this area is to ask God to give me a grateful heart – to recognise and give thanks for all the blessings I’ve received and am continuing to receive. There are so many of them – my family, my friends, my faith just as starters.

‘Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.’

Jesus commands us to be generous – with our compassion, our understanding, our mercy, our patience and yes, our time and our talents and our treasure too. We’re to have generous hearts because Our Heavenly Father has a generous heart and can never be outdone in giving. Jesus wants us to give forgiveness so that we may receive an abundance of forgiveness, to sow love so that we may reap an overflowing harvest of love. But the receiving and the getting should always be the result of our giving rather than our motivation to give.

God is a giver, with a giver’s heart, and Jesus’s message in this sermon is simply, “Give!” Give to those who ask of you and to those who can’t pay you back; give love to those who don’t deserve it; mercy to those who wrong you; give the kind of treatment you would hope to receive from others. Give, give, give! And, by the way, when you do, your Heavenly Father will ensure you get so much more back in return.

God pours blessings on givers – freeing us slowly from the fear and selfishness and grief which keep us from giving more generously – so that we can give even more to His Kingdom. But he doesn’t expect us to do it all on our own, out of our own willpower. God also gives us the grace to be more generous if we ask him, even if we think we have nothing to give. I know that I need that heart surgery so that I can give with an unselfish, generous heart of gratitude towards God. Who knows, I might even one day be willing to share my brownie...

Stewardship Sunday

Each year, just before Lent, I would like us to take stock of where we are and give thanks for the many ways in which we have acted as faithful stewards of the time, talents and treasure which God has given us. Last week, we shared our Parish Annual Report, which gives details of our parish finances but also a full and lively description of what has been going on in St. Peter & the Winchester Martyrs over the past 12 months: a comprehensive review of the life, activities and achievements of the Parish, with photos [Annual report: Finance, & Parish Priest’s review – The Parish of St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs \(catholicwinchester.org.uk\)](#). There’s also an opportunity to join us online this Tuesday evening to make comments and ask questions about the Stewardship of our Financial Resources.



This prompts a huge thank you from me for all the ways in which so many of you have been generous givers. I would also like to offer my heartfelt thanks to all of you who have been so generous in contributing towards our Closer to Christ campaign. We have now surpassed £600,000 in pledges and are well on our way towards our goal of £850,000 over the next five years. I know many of you are still prayerfully considering what you might be able to commit to as we make this final push. This really is incredibly generous, so thank you, thank you, thank you.

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

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C) – 20th February

Entrance Antiphon:

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord
who has been bountiful with me.

First reading: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 102:1-4, 8,10, 12-13 R.v.8

The Lord is compassion and love.

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Gospel Acclamation:

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

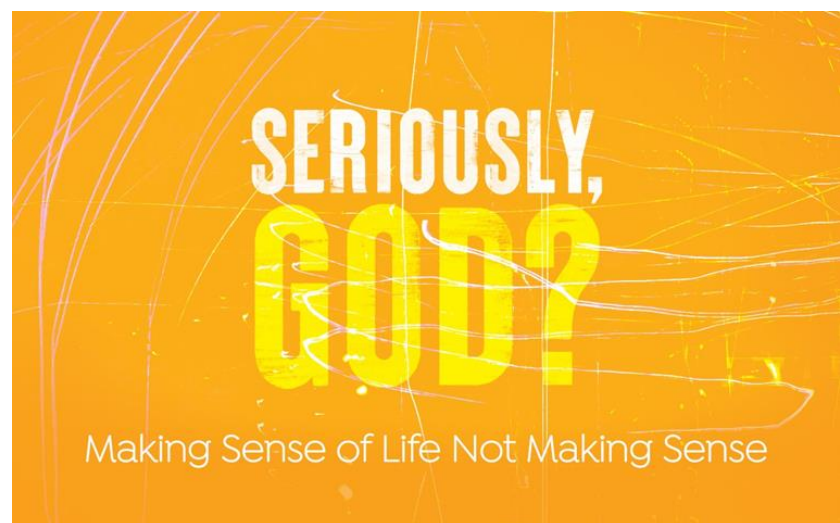
Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Communion Antiphon:

I will recount all your wonders,
I will rejoice in you and be glad,
and sing psalms to your name,
O Most High.

Change to Mass time – On **Wednesday 23rd February**, Mass at St Peter’s Church will be at 12.15pm and not 10am due to the beautiful church floor needing to be buffed (having been polished the night before) by our hardworking floor polishing team.

Road Closure (Jewry Street) Please note that Jewry Street is due to be closed from 8.30am on **Sunday 20th February** for the Winchester 10km run. We have also been informed that it will be closed between 9am and 4pm on **Thursday 3rd March**.



Hopefully by now you will have heard about or seen the start of our special parish spiritual journey for Lent, called **Seriously, God?** We are inviting everyone to get to know God and each other during Lent by meeting in small groups. Please join us as we begin this eight week video and book study of *Seriously, God? Making Sense of Life Not Making Sense* by Fr. Michael White and Tom Corcoran. Each week the group will watch a short video and cover a chapter from the book, exploring the feelings we experience when we face hardship, pain, and grief: we will journey through Lent with each other as we come to a place of deeper faith in God. Experienced leaders will guide the groups and the meetings will last around an hour.



This is a great way to prepare spiritually for Easter and we look forward to welcoming you to join one of the groups. For more details visit catholicwinchester.org.uk. Email hello@stpeterswinchester.org.uk with any questions. To register (from Sat) click [here](#) Or scan the QR code above.

REGISTRATION WILL OPEN ON SATURDAY 19th FEB

Synodality and a listening church Initial discussions on our vision for the future of our Church are taking place now in our parish and the fruits of this will be passed to the Bishop. This discussion involves all of us in the parish - including those who feel shut out of the Church. We want to hear your views so please join one of our face-to-face and online discussion groups.

To see the questions so that we are being asked [click here](#) or look on the website. You can then start to ponder and discern and have a discussion in your family, church groups, or among your friends. All the information can be accessed on our website catholicwinchester.org.uk

Please see below for the finalised dates for the remaining sessions and the Zoom links for registering to attend online meetings.

Date	Time	Venue	Online Zoom link or face to face
Saturday 19 th Feb	10am-11.30am	St Peter’s	https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJltd2urTMpEt36DYag5OT8EcAr7kxB06m9
Sunday 20 th Feb	9.00am -10.30am (after Mass)	St Peter’s	Face to face
Sunday 20 th Feb	10.15-11.45am (after Mass)	St Stephen’s	Face to face
Sunday 20 th Feb	12noon-1.30pm (after Mass)	St Peter’s	Face to face
Wednesday 23 rd Feb	8.15pm-9.45pm		https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUudOirpzwuHdPGw8havqVFKQa2666K-A4P
Saturday 26 th Feb	10am -11.30am		https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYuceCsrlpGNzRnvUyNjC74ufOkR2HDW9B

Please let the Listening team know which meeting you would like to attend by phoning the parish office or by email to Listening@stpeterswinchester.org.uk. We pray for the success of the Synodal Listening Events. That through our engagement, with humble and open hearts, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we may learn to better listen to each other, to our faith tradition, and to the signs of the times, in order to discern what God is saying to all of us.

Welcome to Harry Purcell who was baptised in St. Peter’s Church last weekend. We also welcome George Mills and Archie Sawyer who were baptised in St Stephen’s Church. May God bless these wonderful children with His love and grace, today and always.

Fely Roberts RIP – Fely sadly passed away on 31st January. May she rest in peace. Her funeral will be held at 11.30am on Thursday 24th February at St Peter’s Church. Please keep Fely and her husband Paul in your prayers at this sad time.



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 many of us will make the time to sign up for a small group and take part in the *Seriously, God?* Lenten Spiritual Campaign



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

- Fely Roberts RIP
- Jim Steele RIP
- Renée Juliette Thompson RIP



Laudato si Corner



This week's tip:

Candlemas has come and gone and the light is returning. Time to get out and about (gales permitting). We have so much to be grateful for in our Parish with lovely areas to visit. My personal favourite is the Magdalen Hill Down. It is a large reserve on a steep facing chalk hillside on the site of Winchester's ancient fair and once the site of a large army camp for soldiers setting off for the First World War.

At this time of year you can spot early Cowslips; as the year goes on you will see a range of butterflies and moths and the most beautiful wild flowers. Go to the end of the path and you will come to the cemetery and a line of graves of soldiers from World War One.



(Map reference SU506293 on the OS Ranger Map 185)

There is limited parking opposite the cemetery on a gravel lay by. If you are walking, go to the bottom of Winchester and walk up Magdalen Hill and then Arlesford Road, until you come to StSwithun's School, and the reserve is on the opposite side of the road. Thank you - Kathy

Mass Counts – As you will have seen in the recently revised Mass schedule and guidelines, we are no longer required to book in for Masses in our parish. We understand that some people may still have concerns and so going forward, we will share the information we have on numbers attending the different masses (and the capacity for that church building) in order for people to make an informed judgement on which one they would feel most comfortable attending. Please see the table for the Mass counts from last weekend. From next weekend, you will find this information included in Peterpost under the Mass Times listing.

Mass	Church	Capacity	Attendance
Saturday 5.30pm	SP	381	65
8am	SP	381	45
9am	STM	98	39
9.15am	SS	150	99
10.30am	SP	381	98
11am	SG	115	59
5.30pm	SP	381	53



Super Welcome Sunday returns on **27th February** after the 10.30am Mass at St Peter's Church. Do come along and enjoy good company and tasty refreshments!

Getting to know you...

Name: Wojtek (Voy-tek) Rakowicz

Favourite saint: Saint Wojciech (also known as Adalbert of Prague). My personal take on my namesake is that he dedicated his life to God and to doing what he believed to be right and yet, on the face of it, was not terribly successful.

Favourite hymn or worship song: The hymn of the pandemic for me has become John Bell's "We are gathered at your table".

How long have you been connected with our parish? Since 2013.

Which ministries are you involved in? I am a member of the Evangelisation Strategy Group ("ESG"), currently leading a subgroup organising Church Listening Sessions – in-person and Zoom meetings from which we are preparing our parish's contribution to the Synod on Synodality. Previously I also worked with the Children's Liturgy of the Word group at St Peter's.

What drew you to this particular ministry? Canon Paul pointed his finger at me when he convened the ESG. Although this time by email, Fr Mark asked for a volunteer to lead on our parish's Synod response. I had heard a series of inspiring talks on this hosted on Zoom by the Margaret Beaufort Institute last October and so had to say yes.

If we wanted to talk to you about your ministry, which Mass would we usually find you at?

I think of myself as a 10.30 Mass man. But with children singing in different choirs across Winchester at various times on a Sunday, I do a lot of juggling and you might find me at any of the Masses across the parish.

Tell us something you are grateful for: The gift of great friends – in many places around the world.

Tell us an unusual/little-known fact about yourself: I love growing and pruning climbing plants, in particular climbing roses.



Parish Financial Report to August 2021 The latest Parish Annual Report is now available to [view on the Parish website](#).

The Annual Report includes details of our parish finances but also a full and lively description of what has been going on in the parish over the past 12 months with a comprehensive review of the life, activities and achievements of the Parish, with photos. Please do take a look.

Following the publication of the report we will be holding an open meeting when members of the Parish Finance and Property Advisory Committee will be presenting the Financial Report and you will have the opportunity to ask questions about the Parish finances. You are warmly invited to attend the meeting which will take place by Zoom on Tuesday 22nd February 2022 at 7pm. To confirm your attendance <https://forms.gle/KdHrdp2mcWD6sinP8>

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent Appeal Every child should grow big and strong. **Family Fast Day is Friday**

11 March, a day when we eat simply and give generously to support mums around the world, like Amie in Sierra Leone, with expert training in growing and making healthy food. Your small act of love this Lent will make a big difference to many communities affected by extreme hunger and children suffering from malnutrition. You can donate in church using a CAFOD envelope or by visiting the CAFOD website.



CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

Lent 2022

Mass Timetable	19 th February – 26 th February 2022			
Date	Mass Times & Intentions			Livestream/Public
SATURDAY – February 19 th Our Lady on Saturday SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - VIGIL	9.00AM	Mass	Intentions of the Neil family	Livestream, public
	5.30PM	Mass	Deceased members of the Hill family	Livestream, public
SUNDAY – February 20 th SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.00 AM	Mass	Lilian Rankin RIP (1 st anniversary)	Livestream, public
	9.00 AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	People of the Parish	Public*
	9.15 AM	Mass at St Stephen's		Public
	10.30AM	Mass	Deceased Members of the Catenians	Livestream, public
	11.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's		Public
	5.30PM	Mass	Pamela Henry RIP	Livestream, public
MONDAY – February 21 st	12.15PM	Mass	Marie Fry RIP	Livestream & public
TUESDAY – February 22 nd THE CHAIR OF ST PETER	10.00AM	Mass	Soul of Edmund Nicholson	Livestream & public
	10.00AM	Mass at St Gregory's		Public
WEDNESDAY – February 23 rd St Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr	12.15PM	Mass	Soul of Margaret Merriman	Livestream & public
THURSDAY – February 24 th	10.00AM	Mass	Sunniva Kelly RIP	Livestream & public
FRIDAY – February 25 th	10.00AM	Mass at St Gregory's		Public
	12.15PM	Mass	Linda, Sindiswe, Fikile Mlotshwa & Beatrice Zulu	Livestream & public
SATURDAY – February 26 th Our Lady on Saturday EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME- VIGIL	9.00AM	Mass		Livestream & public
	5.30 PM	Vigil Mass		Livestream, public

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.



WINCHESTER STREET PASTORS January 2022 We are recruiting NOW!

For our next training cycle starting in March, we are looking for:

- Street Pastors – who will patrol on one Friday or Saturday evening each month as part of a team of 3 or more volunteers
- Street Pastors for our April-October only, early Friday evening, non-city centre teams.
- Prayer Pastors – who pray either from our base or from home

If you want to find out more – contact Mark on:

winchester@streetpastors.org.uk or 07740 288654 or find us

ON

Fully escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, celebrating the feast of St. Patrick. 14th March 2022. £699.00 per person sharing.

Price includes flight with 10kg hand luggage, all transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Lunches on days out. Wheelchair accessible rooms. Single room supplement £100. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com. Knock Pilgrimages is a member of the Travel Trust Association and is fully protected by ATOL T7613.

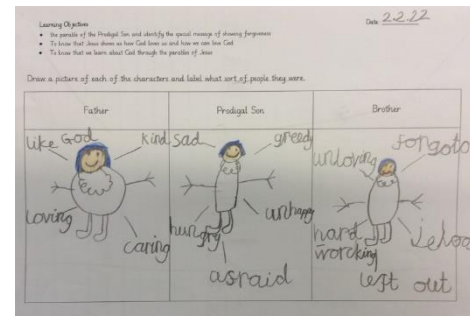
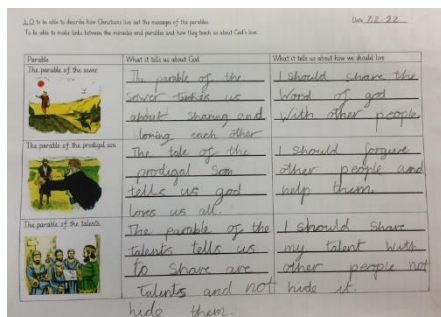


The children have been learning about how Jesus is revealed to us in scripture.

‘One of my favourite parables is the story of the yeast. A woman mixes in flour into yeast and the flour then becomes dough, and so bread.’ (Matthew 13:31-35) Iris (Year 5)

‘The parable of the sower is a favourite as it is about following God and represents it well.’ (Luke 8: 4-15) Elizabeth (Year 5)

‘I like the parable of the weed as the enemy of the sower planted weeds at night. The sower wisely did not remove the weeds until harvest when they could be seen and then dealt with. This tells us one day the good people will be accepted into the kingdom of God.’ Sam (Year 5)



‘I enjoyed learning about the key points in Laudato Si as it is important to know how the Pope would like us to look after our planet.’ Alice (Year 6)

‘I enjoyed writing a letter to the Pope. It was good to put in what I thought about Laudato Si into words. I wrote about digital pollution and the importance of seeing and being with people when we can be.’ Imogen (Year 6)

‘My favourite piece of work has been writing a letter to the Pope and it was good to write about how I felt. I wrote about sins destroying love.’ Joshua (Year 6)

‘Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop.’ Matthew 13: 8

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