

PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

20th March 2022

Third Sunday of Lent - Year C

Seriously God IV – Seriously, those people are in charge?

Fr Mark writes:

We're in the fourth week of a new message series for Lent called "Seriously, God? Making sense when life doesn't make sense". Today we are looking at why God seems to allow the wrong people to be in charge. Why does God allow corrupt people to gain power? Why does he allow incompetent people to be in charge?

It could be global politics or you may have seen it up close and personal. And then there is the Church. Of all places we would think God would make sure there were good leaders, it would be there. How does God allow people who abuse their authority to stay in power in the Church? And this isn't a new problem. Napoleon once reputedly told the pope that he would destroy his church. The pope responded, "If 1800 years of clergy haven't done it then how can you hope to succeed?" This is not a new question. Throughout the Bible, we see leaders who work against God's purposes and bring pain into people's lives.

So - let's delve into the passage about the call of Moses, where we see God's attitude when the wrong people are in charge.

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. (Exodus 3:1-2)

Moses would have been doing something that he did every day. However, on this day something different happens: God gets his attention with a burning bush, one that isn't being consumed by the fire. God does the same with us - if this week you see something different in your normal routine, it may mean that God wants you to stop and pay attention. That's what Moses does.

'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am,' Moses answered. (Exodus 3:3-4)

When Moses pauses and takes a step back from his life, then God speaks to him. To hear from God we need to put aside what we are doing and pay attention to the signs around us of God's presence and activity.

'Come no nearer,' God said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your fathers,' he said, 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God. (Exodus 3:5-6)

Moses hides his face. He is afraid to look at God. Later in his life Moses will develop a close intimacy with God. He will talk to him as a friend. Often in the beginning of a faith journey, we fear God. We carry guilt or shame or just have a distrust. If that is where you are with God right now, and maybe why you have stayed away from Church, you should know that you can grow past that as Moses did.

So Moses hides from God, but God still speaks to him.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow. (Exodus 3:7-8)

These verses perhaps help to clear up some of the issues we have with God when the wrong people are in charge. Often we think God doesn't notice the pain and affliction they are causing. But God does hear the

cries of suffering people at the hands of bad rulers, bad bosses and bad leaders.

Then he tells Moses he has a plan to rescue his people from the slavery of Egypt and to lead them to freedom. Do not mistake the pain and suffering of your current situation for God's will. God wants to lead you to a better place.

God has a plan, but he is looking for a partner. When we read the Scriptures, over and over we see that God looks for human partners. Then there is a dialogue between God and Moses, in which Moses tells God that he is the wrong person to free the Israelites from slavery, and God answers Moses's concerns.

- ❖ Moses tells God, "I am a nobody". God tells Moses He will be with him.
- ❖ Moses tells God that he doesn't really know Him well. God reveals Himself and tells Moses that he will get to know Him better by working with Him.
- ❖ Moses tells God that no one will believe him and his mission. God gives Moses signs he can show others to prove he isn't crazy.
- ❖ Moses tells God that he just isn't competent. God tells Moses He will give him the competence and send him the right people to lead.
- ❖ Finally, Moses says, "I don't want to do it" and asks God just to send someone else and God becomes angry with Moses and that finally motivates Moses to do what God asks him to do.

Here are three lessons to take away:

Firstly, God does see bad leadership. He's not ignoring it. If you are under some bad leadership right now, God wants to lead you to a better place. Cry out to God and share your frustration. God hears it. Keep in conversation with God so he can lead you out of Egypt. Trust God.

Secondly, when you see the problems of bad leadership, God might be calling you to step up and lead. One of the reasons we have bad leadership is because good people don't step up to lead. That is definitely not the only reason, but it is a factor. The wrong people rush forward, wanting to be in charge and tell others what to do, while good people often have a false humility.

You may have some of the same concerns as Moses: I'm not that smart. I'm not that talented. I'm not qualified. Well, you're right, you're not. God doesn't call experts - he makes experts of those he calls. If you accept that it is ONLY together with God that you can be capable of leading, then He can take you to great places. So if you see bad leadership - listen for God telling you to step up.

Thirdly, whatever leadership you have now, you need God in order to do well. Whether in a household, a classroom, or a company, be the leader others want to follow, by humbly relying upon God.

God is evaluating how people use their authority. Those who misuse their power and authority will lose it in time, according to God's timing. God calls on his people to step into places of authority and lead well. So let's pray to God and ask God for the grace to use our power and authority in a way that honours him.

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

Third Sunday of Lent (Year C) – 20th March

Entrance Antiphon:

My eyes are always on the Lord,
For he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

First reading: Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 102:1-4, 6-8,11.R.v8
The Lord is compassion and love.

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

Gospel Acclamation:

R. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the word of God!
Repent, says the Lord,
for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.
R. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the word of God!

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Communion Antiphon:

The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young:
by your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my king and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

Second Collection – CAFOD Family Fast Day – Small acts of love can make big things happen

Following the presentations at all masses last weekend, the CAFOD Family Fast Day collection will take place this weekend. This year, we remember that there are many people who need our love and support all around the world. Children experiencing malnutrition like Amie’s daughter Lombeh in Sierra Leone or families affected by conflict, as we are seeing now in Ukraine. Thanks to your generous giving on previous Fast Days CAFOD was able to respond very quickly to the current emergency by sending £100,000 to our partner agencies Caritas Poland, Moldova and Ukraine. Donating to CAFOD this Lent will enable local experts across the world to provide support to families in times of need or conflict. You can donate in church using a CAFOD envelope or by visiting the CAFOD website: www.cafod.org.uk/lent. Whilst the Donar card machines in St Peter’s have been a great success, we are currently experiencing technical difficulties with them so please bear with us as the Diocese works to address the issues.



Solemnity of St Joseph – There will be a Vigil Mass at 7pm on **Friday 18th March**, followed by Stations of the Cross at St Peter’s Church. We welcome Bishop Philip to St Peter’s for the 9am Mass on Saturday 19th March.

Change to Mass Time – Tuesday morning Mass at St Peter’s Church will now be at **12.15pm every week**. Coffee/Cake and Chat has now moved to **WEDNESDAYS, 10am-12noon** (maybe before/after Mass or shopping). All are welcome!

Stations of the Cross – Please note that there is a change to the previous listings of dates for Stations of the Cross at St Peter’s. There will be no Stations on Friday 24th March due to the 24 Hours for the Lord event taking place.

Praying for Ukraine

Prayer Vigil at St Peter’s – There will be a prayer vigil before the Blessed Sacrament for Ukraine in St Peter’s Church after the 7pm Vigil Mass of the Solemnity of the Annunciation of our Lord on **Thursday 24th March**. Please do come along and join your prayers with others from across the Parish and elsewhere.

Rosary for Ukraine in St Peter’s - Our Bishop encourages us in his pastoral letter to embark on a spiritual campaign of prayer for the Ukraine. In St Peters, we are responding to his invitation to pray the Rosary for Ukraine. Please join us: Saturdays (after 9am Mass), Wednesdays (after 10am Mass), Thursdays (after 10 am Mass) and Mondays and Tuesdays at 11.30 (before 12.15 Mass). We are in the Lady Chapel most days, and in front of the Blessed Sacrament on Mondays.

Ways to help - The Caritas web site is a good source of information for those wanting to know how the Catholic church and our Diocese are responding to the crisis in Ukraine at this time. It will be updated regularly as information comes through about Ukrainian refugee work and the Homes for Ukraine scheme.
<https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk/news-events/>

A Prayer for Ukraine
Loving God,
we pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.

We pray for the world,
that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity
to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways
so that peace and justice
become a reality for the people of Ukraine
and for all the world. Amen.

Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Bishop Philip will be celebrating Mass at 12:15pm in the Cathedral on Friday 25th March 2022 in unity with the Holy Father for the intention of consecrating Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The 10am Mass at St Gregory’s Church will also be offered for this intention on the same day.

Thank you all again for the amazing response to the recent CAFOD appeal for Ukraine. Over £5,500 is on its way to CAFOD, with more to follow.



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 participation in the Seriously, God? Lenten Spiritual Campaign is helping our community to make sense of current events, as we share our thoughts, feelings, hopes and struggles.



PLEASE PRAY FOR the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:
John Tracey RIP
Philip Gretton RIP
Claire Lantaya RIP
Fr Michael Peters RIP

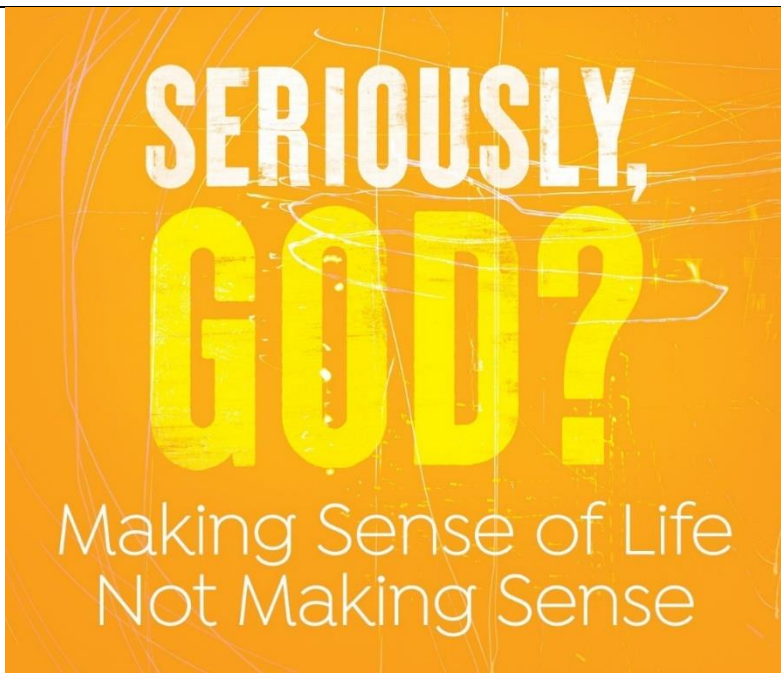
LENT 2022

Join us on our journey through Lent,

Experience the wonder of renewal through guided small groups

Come to Mass to listen to the message from Father Mark & Father Anthony

[Sign up for daily emails](#) to support your journey



Seriously, sharing! As we move into the third week of our spiritual journey, it's hard to believe that so many of us are meeting in small groups across our parish far and wide! So here is a picture of one group - you can see from their faces that although the Seriously, God? program asks us challenging questions, there are also many blessings which come from being together, trusting and sharing.



We are full of hope of the books arriving next week – watch this space!

Ways to follow through Lent:
Come and listen at Mass to Father Mark & Father Anthony or sign up to daily emails which follow the Seriously, God program. To subscribe click here at [Flocknote](#)

Join us on our journey!

Early Morning Mass – thinking about taking on something extra in Lent? How about getting up (a little/a lot) earlier and attending the 7am Mass every Thursday at St Peter's Church. What a fantastic way to start your day and to commit some additional time each week to God!



Stations of the Cross

St Peter's – Fridays at 11.30am and 7pm (no Stations on Friday 24th March)
St. Stephen's – Mondays at 7pm
St Gregory's – Sundays at 5.30pm
St Thomas More's – Fridays at 5.30pm (from 11th March)
[Click here](#) to discover more about the history of **Stations of the Cross**.



Living Lent, Holy Week and Easter as a Family Join us as we journey through Lent with our children! Each week we are posting a few things on the website to help you guide your children. It includes: a brief overview of the Sunday Gospel, saints' feast days or other notable days to celebrate, colouring sheets, suggested activities, and an invitation to prayer. There is a Lenten Path and Calendar to download too! More activities added each week. [You can find it all in the 'Lent for Families' section of the Parish website.](#) Scroll down to click for this week's offering. You can also look in the 'Latest News' section of the Homepage.
Wishing you all a continued blessed and grace-filled Lent

Receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Lent – In addition to the normal times each Saturday, there will be a longer opportunity for confession on Saturday 9th April (9.30am-11am), with extra priests supporting. The parish Lenten Reconciliation Service will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 12th April at St Peter's Church. This beautiful sacrament will also be available to all during the 24 Hours for the Lord event (please see below for details).

24 Hours for the Lord - Vigil of Eucharistic Adoration Come and join us in celebrating The Mercy & Compassion of God.



7.00pm Friday 25th March – 7.00pm Saturday 26th March
The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered throughout the 24 hours.
St Peter's Church, Jewry Street, Winchester. All warmly welcomed!



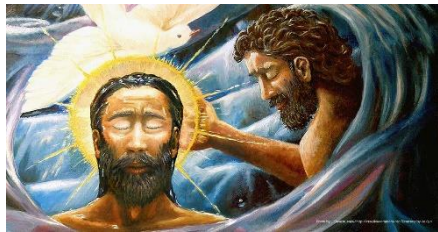
From the official message of Pope Francis for Lent 2022: "Let us not grow tired of doing good"
(Gal 6:9)

The Story of the Passion: Bible Readings and Chorales from JS Bach's St John Passion Please join us for this ecumenical act of worship on **Wednesday 23 March at 7.30pm at St Swithun's Church, Church Lane, Martyr Worthy SO21 1DY**

Praying with and for those preparing to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation this Easter

For those preparing to be initiated into the Church at Easter, Lent marks the final stage of preparation, the period of Purification and Enlightenment. It begins with the Rite of Election on the First Sunday of Lent. During the season of Lent, the Scrutinies will be celebrated this year at the Sunday evening Mass, on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays, in preparation for Claire's Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Please also keep in your prayers Naomi and David who are to be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil (with the Rite of Welcome celebrated for them on the 5th Sunday Lent at St. Stephen's and St. Gregory's respectively).

The Church asks that, during Lent, all of us parishioners take care to give the elect the example of our own renewal in the spirit of penance, faith, and charity. At the Easter Vigil, we are also asked to attach great importance to renewing our own baptismal promises.



Calling everyone who might like to be an Altar Server

Perhaps the Lord is calling you to this wonderful ministry to serve on his holy sanctuary and help everyone who comes to Mass to adore God with reverence and love.

Have you made your First Holy Communion and would like to become an altar server? Have you previously been an altar server and have missed serving during the pandemic?

Please consider saying 'yes' to God's invitation to serve. Now is such a good time to come forward as we start to prepare for our Holy Week Liturgy.

If you would like to serve, or are not sure but would like to know more, please come along to the 'get-to-know you' meeting in the Pastoral Centre at **3:00pm to 4:00pm on Saturday 26 March**. Alternatively, if you cannot make the meeting, please register your interest at the Parish Office (01962 852804, or e-mail hello@stpeterswinchester.org.uk).

Parents: please be sure to bring a completed consent form (available from the office) or fill one in when you drop your children off.

Fr Anthony and Tony Darlison



Winchester Basics Bank appeal – There will be a collection of goods in support of the Winchester Basics Bank at all masses over the weekend of **26th and 27th March**. Please do consider contributing items, some of which will go to families who were previously entitled to Free School Meals over the Easter break before the scheme came to an end. There is a particular need for UHT milk, small jars of tomato based pasta sauces (not spicy), meat pies (not steak or steak and kidney), instant coffee, loo roll and washing-up liquid. Many thanks!



Mgr Paul Townsend, previously parish priest here, has a number of visits and a day surgery procedure at Salisbury hospital to look forward to in the next couple of weeks. He's currently reduced his working hours to avoid Covid complicating things and would appreciate any prayers we can offer.

Bookshop – We sell a wide range of books, gifts and cards, including missals, bibles, prayer books, crosses, crucifixes, Alpha books, Lent books, First Holy Communion and Confirmation gifts and cards. We also have St Patrick's Day cards and Easter cards. The bookshop is open during office hours and after Mass on Saturday mornings. Contact Susan Henry at bookshop@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Useful Contacts

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

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

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

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

Finance and Property Manager: Annette Parr (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



Modernisation in the shipping industry On the one-year anniversary of the Ever Given ship getting stuck in the Suez Canal, Catholic charity Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) is hosting a webinar about modernisation in the shipping industry. It will look at the history of the container ship, the rise of the ultra-large container vessels, and explore what impact modernisation of the shipping industry has had on seafarers around the world. Please register now at www.stellamaris.org.uk/modernisation

Mass Timetable	19 th March – 26 th March 2022			
Date	Mass Times & Intentions			Livestream/Public
SATURDAY – March 19th St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (Vigil)	9.00AM	Mass	Agnes Fitzpatrick RIP	Public
	5.30PM	Mass	Joseph Kelly	Livestream, public
SUNDAY – March 20th THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	8.00 AM	Mass	Conlon & Murphy families	Livestream, public
	9.00 AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	People of the Parish	Public*
	9.15 AM	Mass at St Stephen's	People of Ukraine	Public
	10.30AM	Mass	Maria Luiza Alves RIP & Domiciano Alves de Almeida RIP	Livestream, public
	11.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's		Public
	5.30PM	Mass	Chimaobi (Thanksgiving)	Livestream, public
MONDAY – March 21st	12.15PM	Mass	For the Benefactors	Livestream & public
TUESDAY – March 22nd	10.00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Margaret Lee RIP	Public
	12.15PM	Mass	Intentions of the CWL – Peace in Ukraine	Livestream & public
WEDNESDAY – March 23rd	10.00AM	Mass	Soul of William Meader	Livestream & public
THURSDAY – March 24th The Annunciation of the Lord - Vigil	7.00AM	Mass	Fr Anthony's Intentions and God's blessings	Livestream & public
	10.00AM	Mass		Livestream & public
	7.00PM	Vigil Mass	Intentions of Chidimma and God's blessings	
FRIDAY – March 25th THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	10.00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	The consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary	Public
	12.15PM	Mass	Rodel (birthday) & intentions of the Franco family	Livestream & public
	7.00PM	Vigil Mass	The suffering people of Ukraine	
SATURDAY – March 26th FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT- VIGIL	9.00AM	Mass	Soul of Patrick G. McCall & family	Public
	5.30 PM	Mass	Mary John RIP	Livestream, public

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

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)

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. 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.

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 below for the average mass counts from the last 3 weeks.

Mass	Church	Capacity	Attendance
Saturday 5.30pm	SP	381	65
8am	SP	381	45
9am	STM	98	52
9.15am	SS	150	90
10.30am	SP	381	98
11am	SG	115	44
5.30pm	SP	381	53



Dear Parents

Human Dignity - The Common Good

In our prayer sessions this week we focussed on the common good in KS2 and everyone is special in KS1. This area of Catholic Social Teaching teaches us that the fruits of the earth belong to everyone. No one should be excluded from the gifts of creation. We read 1 Peter 4:8-11 which reminded us to love each other deeply and serve each other through the strength of God. If you are considering this as a focus at home, you may want to share a prayer together.

Loving God,

You call us to look beyond our own interests to what is good for all people.

May we work towards a world where everyone has their fair share in order to live life to the full.

Amen

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



Job Vacancies at St Peter's School

Higher Level Teaching Assistant (EYFS)

Contract/hours: 31.25 hours per week, term time only, permanent

Salary range: Grade D (pro rata)

Start date: ASAP

Closing date: 21st March 2022 (midday)

Interview date: 24th March 2022

St Peter's Primary School is looking for a higher level teaching assistant to support children in our reception classes (EYFS). The role will include supporting children 1:1 as well as within a small group and class. It will also include some whole class teaching responsibility. We are looking for someone with a holistic, nurturing approach focusing on children's education and their well-being.

Teaching Assistant (EYFS)

Contract/hours: 31.25 hours per week, term time only, permanent

Salary range: Grade B/C depending on experience (pro rata)

Start date: ASAP

Closing date: 21st March 2022 (midday)

Interview date: 24th March 2022

St Peter's Primary School is looking for an excellent teaching assistant to support children in our reception classes (EYFS). The role will include supporting children 1:1 as well as within a small group and class. We are looking for someone with a holistic, nurturing approach focusing on children's education and their well-being.

You will be joining a friendly, supportive team of staff who are committed to being the best that they can be. Part-time working is possible for the right candidate. The above positions could also be suitable for an individual who is seeking school-based experience prior to training to teach. For more details, please visit the school website: <https://www.stpetershants.co.uk/vacancies/>