

# PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2023

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – YEAR A

*The Sunday of the Word of God*

## **Deacon Martin writes:**

This Sunday has been designated by Pope Francis as the “Sunday of the Word of God”. The Holy Father encourages every parish to devote this day to “the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word”.

There are a number of ways in which we can join in this celebration. I am going to focus on just 2.

First of all, I hope you will join me in thanking those who undertake the ministry of reader across our parish. We thank them for their faithful service in helping us to hear God’s word at weekend and daily Masses. More readers are always welcome: contact the parish office if you feel called to this ministry, and they will pass you on to the relevant co-ordinator of readers, for the church in the parish that you attend.

Second, and something that should apply to each of us: perhaps this Sunday of the Word of God is an opportunity for each of us to deepen our own engagement with God’s word. I invite you to make a commitment to spend 5 minutes each day in prayer using the Scriptures. This is one of the “6 holy habits” that Bishop Philip encouraged us to adopt in his pastoral letter that he sent to us in October. Perhaps we can re-allocate 5 of the minutes that we spend right now reading social media, or the newspaper, or watching videos on our phone, devoting that time instead to listen to the Lord, speaking to us in His word.

But you may ask: how will I use that 5 minutes a day? How do I pray with Scripture?

There are many answers to that question, but the Church’s own tradition gives us one approach that She has been teaching for centuries. It is called the “4 senses” – and I’m going to give you a “worked example” using the first reading from today’s Mass, so that you can see how it works, and try it for yourself. Sunday’s first reading is from the prophet Isaiah (Isa 9:1-4). If you don’t have a Bible, or a Missal where you can find the reading, just click on the link, which will take you to an online Bible.

Let’s work through the 4 senses together:

### 1. **The first of the senses is the literal sense.**

• In this first sense, we simply try to gain a basic understanding of what the passage is saying.

So, we learn that a people that once walked in darkness have seen a great light, and it has given them joy, because a yoke has been lifted from them – with the result that when in the past they had been humbled, now they will see glory.

• Now with the help of a Bible commentary, you might be able to find out more about the specific people Isaiah was talking about (the people of Israel, in the 8th century before Christ; Zebulun and Naphtali are two of the Twelve tribes of Israel, and their kingdoms were in the north, in the land close to the Sea of Galilee). You might also find out why they were “humbled” and “in darkness” (they were being invaded by Assyria, the superpower of the time). And you might even get Google to help you with the significance of the name “Midian” (it refers to Gideon’s miraculous victory, with the Lord’s help, over the Midianites, described in the Book of Judges chapter 7; if you do get this reference, you will see a hint of the Lord saving His people despite apparently overwhelming odds).

• But even if you don’t have access to any of these aids, don’t worry. Because let’s return to the basic idea of the text – which is clear without any of the above knowledge: someone (even if we don’t know who they were) was in trouble and suffering great despondency (I’m sure we can all get the idea of “darkness” as a metaphor for difficulty, and of “light” as hope, transformation, a way forward that can now be seen). And they have now become joyful, because “you” have broken the “yoke” of an “oppressor” (can we guess that this “you” is the Lord, as he has already been mentioned in verse 1?).

• So, it doesn’t need a Scripture scholar to work out the literal sense: that a people who have endured great distress are now being made joyful – and the Lord has been the means of their freedom.

2. **The next sense is the allegorical sense.** We might call it the “Jesus sense”, for it encourages us to ask how the Scripture text is pointing to Jesus.

• This doesn’t deny that the text had an original meaning, for the people for whom the human author originally wrote it – but it encourages us, in faith, to see how all Scripture ultimately points us to Jesus, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

• So let’s start by asking ourselves: where can I see Jesus, or a hint of Jesus, in this passage? One way of doing it is to substitute Jesus for occurrences of “he” or “you” – and if we do this, we see that Jesus is the one who “confers glory” on this area of the world; Jesus is the one who has made a people joyful; Jesus is the one who has set them free from their oppressors.

• In this particular case, this Sunday’s Gospel (Mt 4:12-23) gives us a huge helping hand, because Matthew makes clear that Jesus fulfils this specific text of Isaiah, by starting His ministry in Galilee, the very places in the north of Israel near the Sea of Galilee that had been “humbled”. Jesus is now bringing light where before there was darkness; Jesus is promising freedom, and the kingdom of heaven, to those who repent – and He is already showing signs of that freedom by healing people of the oppression of illness.

3. **The third sense is the moral sense.** It points us to what the passage may say about our own personal situation. But we do so in the light of what Jesus has done, and continues to do, for us.

• Now, don’t get bogged down in “moral” questions about how to behave. They may come later, but first focus on the question: what does this passage tell me about myself, in relation to God? One trick is to substitute “me” or “my” or “I” into many of the sentences: in days past the Lord humbled me, in days to come he will confer glory on me. I walked in darkness, and have seen a great light; you made my joy increase; you break the yoke on my shoulders. Reading the passage in this way helps us find ways to praise God for the ways He is working in our lives, or give us hope that He may bless us.

• Then it may be appropriate to focus even deeper on my own situation: what areas of darkness in my life do I need the Lord to shine His light on? Am I joyful whatever the immediate circumstances, or do I remain in “deep shadow”? Am I, as Pope Francis once memorably said, one of those Christians “whose lives seem more like Lent than Easter”? Do I trust God that He can save me, even against impossible odds?

4. **The final sense is the anagogical sense,** or perhaps more simply, the “hope sense” (anagoge in Greek means “leading up”).

• This sense helps us look to the future: where is the Lord leading us? What does this passage encourage us to hope for?

• The perspective we’re looking for in this sense, is of the “end times”, of the Lord’s coming (we pray) to save us. Where the allegorical sense leads us to reflect on Jesus’s first coming, the anagogical points us towards Jesus’s second coming.

• So, where can I see hints of God’s plan of salvation?

We pray that He will “confer glory” on us when He comes again. We hope for the “joy” of the kingdom of heaven, and the relief of the “yoke of oppression” of human suffering and death. The “light” can point us to the promise of eternal life with Him who is the source of heavenly light (see Rev 22:5). The “harvest” can be the work that the Lord will accomplish to gather humankind into the kingdom of God (see Mt 9:38).

Now, this won’t all come easily, but it is worth persevering with. Perhaps if you don’t feel confident alone, you can work through it each day with someone else: a friend, or spouse, or child (the latter are often the best interpreters of Scripture!) But the key purpose is to lead us into prayer, into hearing God speak to us. It’s not study, or sharing (they also have their place): it’s about you and the Lord – and learning to see and hear Him in His word.

If you want to find out more about this approach to reflecting on Scripture, take a look at paragraphs 115-118 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. And if you need any further guidance, speak to me: I’m always happy to help a fellow “seeker of the Word”!

**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](mailto:office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk). We are part of the [RC Diocese of Portsmouth](#)

If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic Church, or becoming a Catholic, visit our [Journey in Faith webpage](#).

**3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A) 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2023**

**Entrance Antiphon:**

O sing a new song to the Lord;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
In his presence are majesty and splendour,  
strength and honour in his holy place.

**First reading:** Isaiah 8:23-9:3

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 26:1, 4, 13-14. R. v.1  
The Lord is my light and my help.

**Second reading:** Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia!**  
Jesus proclaimed the Good News of the kingdom,  
and cured all kinds of sickness among the people.  
**R. Alleluia!**

**Gospel:** Matthew 4:12-23

**Communion Antiphon:**

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.

**Mass, confession and prayer time changes**

Please note the following changes to this week's timetable:

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January – No Morning Prayer**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January – There will be 10am Mass**

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January – No 9am Mass (Baptism Celebration Mass at 10am)**

**A very big thank you to Bishop Peter, Fr Peter Codd and Fr John Chadwick for celebrating masses across the parish this weekend, and to Fr Antony who will be celebrating Mass on Wednesday.**

**A warm welcome back to Fr Mark as he returns from holiday on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January.**



*Discovering More about The Holy Spirit*

In this Year of the Holy Spirit, join with us in entering more deeply into the action of the Holy Spirit and His transforming work in the depths of each of our souls.

-  **The Mystery of the Blessed Trinity**  
Thursday 02 February, 7:30pm - 9:00pm
-  **The Holy Spirit, God's Mighty Hand**  
Thursday 09 February, 7:30pm - 9:00pm
-  **The Holy Spirit, Guest of our Souls**  
Thursday 16 February, 7:30pm - 9:00pm

An online "Discovering More" course delivered by Tony Darlison and the Parish Formation Team. For registration details, email [formation@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:formation@stpeterswinchester.org.uk) or call the parish office on 01962 852804



**You can also register by clicking [here](#).**

**New Readers!** Have you ever considered reading at Mass or wondered what's involved? We are looking to grow our team of readers; we welcome anyone of any age with training provided so why not get in touch to find out more about this special Ministry. We will be celebrating all our readers during Masses 21/22 January on Sunday of the Word of God. Have a chat with one of the team after mass or drop us an email at [readers@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:readers@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

**'Lord, teach us to pray' - A course on Prayer**

Allegra will be leading a series of prayer evenings starting next Monday 23rd January. For us all, prayer can be challenge. How or why do we pray? Through these sessions, we will not only explore different forms of prayer, but we will have the opportunity to practise that way of praying together and on our own. These sessions will take place on Monday evenings in the Pastoral Centre of St Peter's Church EXCEPT Monday 6th Feb when the session will take place on TUESDAY 7th February. Timings: 6.30pm-8pm. To register to join the course please click here - <https://forms.office.com/r/XF45AGJuKk> or email [allegra@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:allegra@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

**WINCHESTER CATHOLIC HISTORY SOCIETY** - Dr Lucy Wooding of Lincoln College Oxford is giving a talk on **The Winchester Martyrs** on Tuesday 21 March 2023 at 7.00 pm at Winchester College. There will be a Memorial Service in Chapel preceding her lecture and an exhibition on Winchester and the Reformation in the Eccles Room. There is no charge for tickets, but it is a **PRE BOOKED ONLY EVENT**. For further information please email [win.cath.history@gmail.com](mailto:win.cath.history@gmail.com)

**Funeral Notices:**

Gillian Allen - **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 11am**, at Chesil House, Winchester  
Matthew Leeming – **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 2pm**, at St Peter's  
Dorothy Felton – **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 during the 12.15pm Mass** at St Peter's Church  
Philip McLaughlin – **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 12noon**, St Peter's Church  
Please pray for their family and friends at this difficult time. May God grant them eternal rest.



**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:** In our Year of the Holy Spirit, let us pray that He will confirm within us the Father's love and draw us ever closer to Christ in hope and joy.



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

- Gillian Allen RIP
- Matthew Leeming RIP
- Dorothy Felton RIP
- Fr Michael Beattie SJ
- Sr Theresa McAnnelly

Mass Timetable	21 <sup>st</sup> January – 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2023		
Date	Mass Times & Intentions		
SATURDAY – January 21 <sup>st</sup> St Agnes, Virgin, Martyr THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - VIGIL	9.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of William Meader
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Mary & Peter Pawlowski RIP
SUNDAY – January 22 <sup>nd</sup> THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Mieczyslaw Kazmierczyk
	9.00 AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	People of the Parish
	9.15 AM	Mass at St Stephen's	Dr Anna Wilson RIP
	10.30 AM	Mass at St Peter's	David Fox RIP
	11.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	People of Ukraine
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Patrick George McCall & family
MONDAY – January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Deceased members of the Blessed Sacrament Guild
TUESDAY – January 24 <sup>th</sup> St Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	10.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Jacob Cook
WEDNESDAY – January 25 <sup>th</sup> THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL, feast	10.00AM	Mass at St Peter's	Philip McLaughlin RIP
THURSDAY – January 26 <sup>th</sup> St Timothy, Bishop, Martyr & St Titus, Bishop	10.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Eleanor Meader
FRIDAY – January 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Alison Poulter RIP
	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Theresa Hytton RIP
SATURDAY – January 28 <sup>th</sup> FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Vigil St Thomas Aquinas, Religious, Doctor of the Church	No 9.00 AM		
	10.00AM	Baptism Celebration Mass at St Peter's	
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Tom O'Donoghue RIP
<p>Confessions every Saturday 9.30am till 10.30am and 4.30pm-5.00pm at St Peter's Church – booking not required.  Morning Prayer (livestream and open to public), 8.00am at St Peter's followed by Adoration till 9.00am. <b>There will be no Morning Prayer on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January.</b>  <i>To participate online or see the recorded services for Morning Prayer &amp; Adoration, go to our <a href="#">YouTube channel</a></i>  <b>ALL SERVICES (INCLUDING MORNING PRAYER) FROM ST PETER'S ARE LIVESTREAMED.</b></p>			
<b>Useful Contacts</b>			
<p>Clergy: Fr Mark Hogan (Parish Priest) (<a href="mailto:mhogan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk">mhogan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</a>) ;  Deacon Martin McElroy (<a href="mailto:mmcelroy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk">mmcelroy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</a>)  Director of Evangelisation and Leadership: Allegra Mutanda (<a href="mailto:allegra@stpeterswinchester.org.uk">allegra@stpeterswinchester.org.uk</a>)  Housekeeper: Sarah Culhane (<a href="mailto:sculhane@stpeterswinchester.org.uk">sculhane@stpeterswinchester.org.uk</a>)  Finance and Property Manager: Annette Parr (<a href="mailto:annette@stpeterswinchester.org.uk">annette@stpeterswinchester.org.uk</a>)  Facilities and Resources Manager: Sean Reidy (<a href="mailto:sean@stpeterswinchester.org.uk">sean@stpeterswinchester.org.uk</a>)  Parish Administration Manager: Michaela Waterfield (<a href="mailto:michaela@stpeterswinchester.org.uk">michaela@stpeterswinchester.org.uk</a>)  Sacristan: Laurie Howe      Caretaker: Richard Phiri  Pastoral team – Baptism and First Holy Communion: Rosanne Walker (<a href="mailto:baptism@stpeterswinchester.org.uk">baptism@stpeterswinchester.org.uk</a>), (<a href="mailto:FHC@stpeterswinchester.org.uk">FHC@stpeterswinchester.org.uk</a>)  Pastoral team – Youth Ministry: Jo Donaldson (<a href="mailto:youthstuff@stpeterswinchester.org.uk">youthstuff@stpeterswinchester.org.uk</a>)  Outreach Ministry Lead: Mike Elks (<a href="mailto:mike@stpeterswinchester.org.uk">mike@stpeterswinchester.org.uk</a>)  Volunteer Director of Communications: Moira Redmond (<a href="mailto:moirar@stpeterswinchester.org.uk">moirar@stpeterswinchester.org.uk</a>)  To get in touch with them, and for other general matters, please contact the Parish Office: 01962 852804 <a href="mailto:office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk">office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk</a> .  <b>PeterCares:</b> <a href="mailto:petercares@stpeterswinchester.org.uk">petercares@stpeterswinchester.org.uk</a> <b>Prayerline:</b> <a href="mailto:prayers@stpeterswinchester.org.uk">prayers@stpeterswinchester.org.uk</a>  <b>Newsletter</b> (deadline for items Wednesday evening): <a href="mailto:newsletters@stpeterswinchester.org.uk">newsletters@stpeterswinchester.org.uk</a> <b>Newsletter list:</b> <a href="mailto:hello@stpeterswinchester.org.uk">hello@stpeterswinchester.org.uk</a>  <b>St. Peter's School Office:</b> 01962 852820 <a href="mailto:admin@st-peters.hants.sch.uk">admin@st-peters.hants.sch.uk</a>  <b>St. Thomas More's Stockbridge:</b> please email <a href="mailto:stm@stpeterswinchester.org.uk">stm@stpeterswinchester.org.uk</a></p>			