PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

19th February 2023

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time - YEAR A

Belong and Believe - Learning to Love Ourselves in Order to Love Others

Fr Mark writes:

Mother Theresa said: "The most terrible poverty is loneliness and the feeling of being unloved".

Loneliness is "being without company." But the feeling of loneliness is not confined to being physically alone. It can happen anytime, anywhere, even in a crowd. That experience can be painful. And we will often try anything or everything to ease the pain or avoid it all together, especially through many behaviours and habits that are all ultimately self-defeating.

Did you know that the original cause of loneliness was sin, Original Sin? When God created the world, he said:

"It is not good for the man to be alone." (Genesis 2.18)

Loneliness was not a part of the experience God designed for us.

But then sin entered the world. Our first parents decided to disobey

the only law God had given them. They put themselves at the centre of things rather than holding God there. In Scripture we can see very clearly that their sin, in turn, almost immediately leads to a three-fold alienation: our alienation from others; our alienation from ourselves; and our alienation from God.

Our loneliness is a reminder of our human condition. We have work to do, we all do, to restore harmony in these relationships and to cooperate with God's grace to bring healing into our world.

Ultimately, Jesus Christ came to help us out and make that happen, offering healing and wholeness by restoring and re-establishing our relationship with God, thereby making possible right relationships among ourselves and within ourselves.

<u>Belong and Believe – Our Lenten Spiritual Campaign</u>

It's hard to believe but Lent is only a few days away, beginning as always with Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on 22nd February. Lent can be tough for some but it is my favourite season of the year. It can give us a wonderful opportunity to get rid of some of those bad habits and "spiritual anaesthetics" like chocolates or the telly, to come closer to Christ, to become more dependent on the Holy Spirit, and to grow closer to each other.

We are taking as our "Lenten theme" this year, "Belong and Believe". Our hope is that all of us by Easter will have a deeper sense of belonging to our parish community and that we will more boldly and sincerely be able to proclaim our baptismal promises. To this end, we would like to encourage you to participate and walk alongside your brothers and sisters this Lent in at least one of the following four ways:

- By just committing to being here every weekend for Mass especially if you're new or just "trying us out";
- By <u>signing up for Alpha</u> if you haven't already participated maybe bringing a friend along too;
- By <u>signing up to join one of our Lenten small groups</u> for 5 weekly sessions, based on short videos on the theme 'Belong and Believe', rooted in Celtic spirituality;
- By signing up for regular emails of encouragement and prayer. You can sign up for <u>daily emails here</u> and <u>weekly emails here</u>.

All of these are ways in which we can help overcome loneliness, breaking down barriers, making new connections, with God and each other.

Today, though, we are looking at how we are alienated *from ourselves*. Our First Reading this weekend reminds us of that key part of God's law:

"Love your neighbour as yourself." (Leviticus 19.18)

Pretty much everybody wants to do that. But your *ability* to do it will only match your ability to love yourself. You know how to take care of your body, for example through diet, exercise, brushing your teeth, etc. You know how to take care of your mind, through study and exposure to healthy, thoughtful things.

Then there is the soul, your essence, your spirit. Your soul is the *you* in *you*. The soul is that aspect of your whole being that integrates and enlivens everything else going on. It integrates every aspect of you. The key to loving ourselves, the key to really loving ourselves in a way that is not just selfish and self-deceptive, is to care for our souls.

How do you do that? There are lots of ways and I'd like to suggest three.

Speak to Your Soul

Step back from whatever situation you're in and be objective about it, in a way that is mindful of the presence of God. Speaking to your soul naturally leads to prayer. If you get upset this week, step back and talk about it, talk it through with your soul.

Practice not being hurried.

Please note, I am not saying stop being busy. Busyness is almost inevitable if you are in certain stages of life. *Busy* is an outward condition, an objective fact. But *hurried* is an entirely subjective one, a choice, one which if chosen too often becomes an inward condition of the soul. Being busy means having a full schedule with lots of things to do. Hurried means not being fully present to anything you do. Busyness can be physically demanding but hurriedness is spiritually exhausting.

Busyness can serve as a reminder that we need God to fulfil our responsibilities. But being hurried just distracts me from the help God or anyone else can provide.

The soul is not well when we habitually hurry. Jesus was often busy, but never hurried.

Practice this week as we approach Lent, try slowing yourself down. Schedule yourself wisely, don't over commit, give yourself some margin, observe the speed limit, don't text while you drive, maintain patience with those you have to deal with who are not operating at your warp speed.

Embrace solitude.

In solitude, we are alone but not lonely. We don't try to accomplish anything. This is not time to descend into worry, or dwell on what's not going well, just a little quiet time, to be mindful and thankful before God. 5 or 6 minutes a day can have a big impact on the health of your soul.

A healthy soul helps us understand we're never really alone after all because the soul stands in the presence of God who knows you perfectly and loves you completely.

"The most wonderful blessing is wholeness and the feeling of being loved".

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/. We are part of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic Church, or becoming a Catholic, visit our <u>Journey in Faith webpage</u>.

7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A) 19th February 2023

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: Leviticus 19:1-2,17-18

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

The Lord is compassion and love.

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Gospel Acclamation:

R. Alleluia, alleluia!

If anyone loves me he will keep my word, And my Father will love him, And we shall come to him.

R. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

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.

ASH WEDNESDAY (Year A) 22nd February 2023

Entrance Antiphon:

You are merciful to all, O Lord,

And despise nothing that you have made.

You overlook people's sins, to bring them to repentance, And you spare them, for you are the Lord our God.

First reading: Joel 2:12-18

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 50:3-6, 12-14,17. R. v.3 Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Second reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2

Gospel Acclamation:

R. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

A pure heart create for me, O God, and give me again the joy of your help.

R. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Communion Antiphon:

He who ponders the law of the Lord day and night

Will yield fruit in due season.

Changes to Masses Next Week – There will be no Mass on Monday 20th February.



PRAYER CAMPAIGN – THE ALPHA COURSE

The new Alpha course starts at 7.30pm on Monday 20th February 2023 in the Pastoral Centre at St Peter's.

We invite you to join us in praying daily for the course:

- for us as a parish, that God may give us the courage and boldness to invite people we know into this journey of discovering faith.
- for the team as they serve and walk alongside people.
- for the guests, that God may bless them and speak into their hearts.

There will be a basket near the sanctuary at St Peter's church where you can add the names of all those you would like to invite on Alpha so that we can pray for them each day.





ALPHA PRAYER John



Alternatively, text **ALPHA PRAYER** name of person to <u>07833 863716</u> and we'll add their name to the basket.

To register to join the Alpha course, visit www.catholicwinchester.org.uk/alpha
For more information, email alpha@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Ash Wednesday, 22nd February, is Ash Wednesday; a day of fasting and abstinence. Masses will take place at St Peter's Church at 7am, 12.15pm and 7pm, and at St Gregory's at 10am, and ashes will be distributed. (Please note that the usual 10am Mass on Wednesdays has been moved to 12.15 on this day).

Parish Annual Report to August 2022

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 Fr Mark will be sharing his thoughts on the year and members of the Parish Finance and Property Advisory Committee will be presenting the Financial Report. 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 21**st **February 2023 at 7pm**. To confirm your attendance please register here.

Parish Safeguarding Minister – If you have any safeguarding concerns or requests, such as help with applying for a DBS check, please contact the Parish, by emailing safeguarding@stpeterswinchester.org.uk or by phoning 01962 852804 (Option 2, followed by Option 1). If there is a concern that someone is at immediate risk of harm, people should be advised to contact 999 for the emergency services.





Welcome to Ciara Westoby who was baptised at St Peter's Church last weekend. May God bless her with His love and grace, today and always.



Congratulations to Athena Pangaldan and Nikki
Hazzard, who were married at St Peter's Church on Saturday
11th February. May their lives together bring glory to God and
much joy to one another.

Funeral Notices:

Peter Cullinane – Thursday 23rd February at 12noon at St Joseph's Church, Havant.

Liam (Bill) Coram – Wednesday 1st March 2023 at 12noon in St Peter's Church, Winchester

Ruth Graham – Thursday 2nd March 2023 at 2pm in St Thomas More Church, Stockbridge

Gail Toulon – Memorial Service on Wednesday 15th March at 2pm in St Thomas More Church, Stockbridge

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 stir up in us a joyful faith and awaken in us the graces of our baptism, bringing us closer to Christ in hope and joy.



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

Ruth Graham RIP Bill Coram RIP Lady Théresè Lawson RIP Peter Cullinane RIP Beryl Wallis RIP Gail Toulon RIP

Funeral Mass for Peter Cullinane at St Joseph's Parish Church, Havant on Thursday 23 February at 1200.

This will be a New Rite Mass.

Given Peter's longstanding attachment and support of the Traditional Mass, including as a Latin Mass Society representative in Portsmouth Diocese, as well as his many other contributions to Catholic life and the wider community, the Marian Franciscan Friars in Portsmouth will sing a Requiem Mass for the intentions of Peter's soul. It will be at St Agatha's Ordinariate Church, Portsmouth PO1 4RL, with the kind permission of Fr John Maunder, on Saturday 25 February at 0900.

Neville McNally is trying to organise a male voice schola for the Requiem. If you are available and/or know someone who could sing too, would you please contact him via St Joseph's Parish Office. Similarly, volunteers to serve would also be appreciated and please circulate the information widely, particularly to anyone who you think might have known Peter and would like to attend.

Year of the Holy Spirit - Our Year of the Holy Spirit started in Advent, and we have been using the Holy Spirit Prayer ever since. Many of you were inspired by the visit of Fr Xavier from Quarr Abbey and his wonderful talk in December. And many have attended the Formation Team's Discovering More about the Holy Spirit course. If you missed it, a recording of the sessions will be available soon.

So, what else is happening? What is coming up?

For families – Messy Church will get going on Tuesday mornings in March (in the parish centre) and there are plans for Praise and Worship sessions for families - watch for more details!

There will be a **Lenten Talk** on the evening of Thursday 9thMarch, from Sr Hyacinthe of the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph. More details soon - keep the date free. And the **Lent Spiritual Campaign** will be running throughout the season – following on from the successful small groups last year. This year the theme will be **Belong and Believe**. You can sign up now! Details below, and you can <u>watch a trailer here</u>; (- you may be asked to sign in or join, but you should be able to watch the video without doing that).

Alpha is a huge part of Parish life anyway but is completely underpinned by the Holy Spirit so is part of the Year! New season starting this week – <u>sign</u> <u>up here.</u>

And looking ahead – we have plans for Pentecost, but more about this later. Further ahead into the Autumn, we hope to have some sessions to help us see the role of the Holy Spirit as seen in the Bible.

So, there is a lot going on! Keep checking in for the latest plans – the newsletter will always have up to date details. And please let us know how the Year of the Holy Spirit is going for you....

LENT 2023

Early Morning Mass – In past years, there has been the opportunity to attend an early 7am Mass one weekday during Lent. Sadly, with Fr Mark being our only priest in the parish at this time, we are very sorry to say that these masses will not take place this year.

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 22nd February is Ash Wednesday: Masses at 7am,

12.15pm and 7pm in St Peter's or 10am in St Gregory's

Stations of the Cross:

St Peter's - Fridays at 11.30am

St Thomas More's – Fridays at 5.30pm

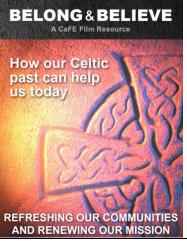
St Gregory's – Sundays at 5.30pm

St Stephen's – Mondays at 7pm

Mass at Winchester Cathedral – Saturday 11th March at 10am

Parish Reconciliation Service – Tuesday 4th April at 7pm in St Peter's

Details of Holy Week and Easter masses and services will be shared in the next few weeks.



Lent 2023 - Belong & Believe - In our post-pandemic world, the need for a vibrant and welcoming Christian community has never been stronger. **Belong & Believe** is a program about discovering how our Celtic past can help us today.

You are invited on this journey to get to know God and each other this Lent by meeting in small groups online or in person. Over 5 weeks we'll watch a short 20-minute video, then we will explore some key questions together.

For details on how to register see www.catholicwinchester.org.uk or click the link: https://bit.ly/LentenSpiritualCampaign if you don't have access to the internet, please call the office and they will take your details.

We have a wonderful chance to strengthen our faith and understand the different perspectives of our community and prepare ourselves for Easter renewal.

Why not join us?



Earthquake Relief: The terrible news from Turkey & Syria continues: if you want to help, a very good way is via **CAFOD**, the Catholic aid agency, who are part of the DEC (Disaster Emergency Committee where aid organizations work together when something like this happens). You can go straight to their homepage and donate from there.



Meanwhile – news from one of the charities we have supported in the area: "Firefly International is a small but extremely effective charity, with local origins, that delivers education in war zones to refugee children. It has worked in Northern Syria and



adjoining Turkish cities for the last seven years, where several million refugee families have taken refuge. Our parish has donated over £10,000 in response to two Covenant with the Poor appeals on their behalf. While the impact of the earthquake has been massive, Firefly is already well on the way to restoring vital education services despite having lost a key staff member in a collapsed building. Any donations they receive now will go towards ensuring their team have their basic needs met, including providing mobile phones to facilitate communication between team members, now quite widely dispersed. They will also support the evacuation of staff and families whose homes are either destroyed or unsafe to re-enter. You can donate and get more information at: https://fireflyinternational.org/news/.

TRANSPORT TO SUNDAY MASS

Several parishioners would greatly welcome the opportunity to worship with us in St Peters Church at the 10.30 Sunday Mass.

We now need helpers! Please, could you help? Before the pandemic, we were able to offer some of our less-mobile parishioners a lift by minibus to the Sunday 10.30 Mass in St Peters Church. This service was provided by a wonderful team of volunteer drivers on a rota basis.

We now want to resume the service and we are asking for new volunteers to assist on an occasional basis.

You would be asked to accompany the minibus driver (a fellow parishioner) in picking up, helping into church, and taking our parishioners back home, after some post Mass hospitality in the Pastoral Centre. DBS checks may be

If you would like to find our more, please could you contact: -

The Parish Office 01962 852804 or office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk Or Mike Elks on mike@stpeterswichester.org.uk

Winchester Basics Bank - St Peters and the Winchester Martyrs Parish is asked to donate goods to WBB this month, in place

of a harvest collection, in order to spread donations across the year.

We are very grateful for the support shown throughout the year, but the current cost of living pressure has led to an increase in demand for our provisions, especially noticeable in the school holiday lunches scheme which we will continue in all the main holidays.

Boxes are available at all Churches this week for contributions. Other ways of giving are available on the website Give help – Winchester Basics Bank.

We particularly need Semi-skimmed UHT Milk, dried pasta, Pasta/curry sauce, Tinned fruit, Cereals and Laundry Tabs.

Thank you again for your support for those in emergency need in Winchester.

Contacting the Parish Office — Our Parish Administration Manager, Michaela, will be taking extended leave from next week in order to have major surgery and further chemotherapy treatment. During her time of absence, please direct any mass intentions, queries or requests for help to the reception desk volunteers (01962 852804 – Option 2, followed by Option 2 again) or by emailing office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk. The parish office will continue to be open from 9am-4pm daily. Please keep Michaela and all her family in your prayers at this time.

St Peter's Sanctuary Welcome Hub and Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group (SWVG) is running the following training module:

Working in a Safe and Trauma-Informed Way

On Wednesday Feb 22nd at 2pm to 3pm at the Pastoral Centre. For anyone who comes in for coffee after the 10.30am Mass on Sundays as we are extending our welcome to people seeking sanctuary. The training will help you welcome them safely and help you converse with people whose first language is not English.





Laudato Si Corner



If you are interested in environmental and ecological matters then do consider joining the Parish Laudato si' group. We are particularly looking for more involvement from our young people (contact Jo Donaldson), looking to extend the viewing of The Letter (contact Liza Nahajski) and getting more contributors (poetry, artwork, prayer or information) to the Laudato si' section of our parish weekly newsletter (contact Mike Slinn, Beth Taylor or Mary Siddall). Please email the Parish Office to contact anyone mentioned here.

In the Steps of Jesus: enjoying Lake Galilee (Tuesday 28 February):

Peter Walker, the Rector of the Itchen Valley churches, will be giving a presentation in Itchen Abbas Village Hall (SO21 1BQ), which will include the showing of two 20-minute videos filmed on location around Lake Galilee, based on his book In the Steps of Jesus (colour revised edition: SPCK, 2022).

Coffee and refreshments will be served from 7.30pm. A good opportunity at the start of Lent to gain fresh insights into the ministry of Jesus in the Gospels.

St Peter's School Job Vacancies

Class Teacher KS2

Contract/Hours: Full time, permanent OR maternity cover Salary range: Main Pay Range or Upper Pay Range **Start date**: April 2023 (after Easter holiday)

Closing date: Tuesday 21st February 2023 **Interview date:** Tuesday 28th February 2023

We are seeking to appoint two experienced, well-organised and enthusiastic teachers to join our supportive and committed staff team in Upper Key Stage 2. The successful candidates will have a passion for engaging children in their learning and helping them to become the best person they can

Please see our school website for more information on each role and to download an application form: https://www.stpetershants.co.uk/ks2- teacher/

We also currently have a vacancy for an After School Club Assistant. For further details and an application form please see the Vacancies page on our website: https://www.stpetershants.co.uk/vacancies/

Mass Timetable	18 th February – 25 th February 2023		
Date	Mass Times & Intentions		
SATURDAY – February 18 th	9.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Guillelmi Meader
Our Lady on Saturday SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Vigil	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Mary Alfreida O'Donoghue RIP
	8.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	James & Kate Kelly RIP
	9.00 AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	People of Ukraine
SUNDAY – February 19 th	9.15 AM	Mass at St Stephen's	People of the Parish
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.30 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Deceased Members of the Catenians
	11.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Mary Williams Birthday
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Intentions of David Lucas
MONDAY – February 20 th		No Mass at St Peter's	
TUESDAY – February 21st	10.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
St Peter Damian, Religious, Bishop & Doctor of the Church	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Marie Fry RIP
WEDNESDAY – February 22 nd	7.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Edmund Nicholson
ASH WEDNESDAY -	10.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
distribution of ashes at all Masses	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Intentions of Joe & Vera Kelly
	7.00 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Penny Roberts RIP
THURSDAY – February 23 rd	10.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Margaret Merriman
FRIDAY – February 24 th	10.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Nandita Connolly RIP
SATURDAY – February 25 th after Ash Wednesday	9.00AM	Mass at St Peter's	Sofia Saldanha RIP
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - Vigil	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Thanksgiving - Ben's Family

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.

To participate in any service online (including Morning Prayer & Adoration) or to see the recorded services, go to our <u>YouTube channel</u> ALL SERVICES (INCLUDING MORNING PRAYER) FROM ST PETER'S ARE LIVESTREAMED.

Useful Contacts

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

Deacon Martin McElroy (mmcelroy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

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

Housekeeper: Sarah Harfield (sharfield@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 - Baptism and First Holy Communion: Rosanne Walker (baptism@stpeterswinchester.org.uk), (FHC@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

Pastoral team - Youth Ministry: Jo Donaldson (youthstuff@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

Outreach Ministry Lead: Mike Elks (mike@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

Volunteer Director of Communications: Moira Redmond (<u>moirar@stpeterswinchester.org.uk</u>)

To get in touch with them, and for other general matters, please contact the Parish Office: 01962 852804 office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk.

PeterCares: 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

MASS WITH PRAYER FOR HEALING & SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

ST PETER'S CHURCH at 2PM on SATURDAY, 4 MARCH 2023

Anyone who is sick and suffering in any way, emotionally, physically or spiritually, is invited to attend this mass with family and friends.

- all may receive prayer to be spiritually fortified and experience that peace that God alone can give.
- baptised Catholics who have serious or chronic illness, or are frail due to old age, may receive the grace and healing hope provided by the Sacrament.

Light refreshments will be available afterwards.

Please call the parish office on 01962 852804 to register your interest.

