

PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

23rd April 2023

3rd SUNDAY of Easter – Year A

Third Sunday of Easter - Getting in Position to Hope for Something Bigger

Fr Mark writes:

“Faith has to do with things that are not seen, and hope with things that are not at hand”. (St. Thomas Aquinas)

Hope corresponds to our natural desire for happiness. It is faith directed to the future, anticipating the good that is coming, reaching to take hold of what we do not yet have, what is not yet to hand.

St. Luke tells us that on the evening of the very first Easter Sunday, two of Jesus disciples or followers were leaving Jerusalem. They were heading for a town called Emmaus, a journey that would have taken about two hours to complete on foot. They were walking away from the other followers of Jesus because they believe his movement was dead. Maybe they were at risk too, if people thought they were part of this movement.

They are walking west, into the sunset, at the close of day, which adds an element of melancholy to the tale that Luke tells. It is getting darker and darker. Luke continues:

Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. (Luke 24:15-16)

Jesus himself draws near to them, but they don't recognize him. This can happen all the time. All we see is darkness. We focus only on the negative. Many times, we can find ourselves with thoughts or even conversations that go round and round and round in our heads but don't necessarily bring us any kind of clarity. We need some perspective and clarity that goes beyond our own current knowledge and understanding.

Then Jesus asks the 'elephant in the room question' to open up the difficult conversation. He prompts them to share what is in their heart.

'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free.' (Luke 24:19-21)

Our own hope **had been**. You can hear the sadness, the wistfulness. They used to hope but had stopped hoping. They'd lost hope. These are words of total hopelessness.

We could say that there are three degrees of hope. On the first level we find casual hopes.

- ✦ I hope it doesn't rain today.
- ✦ I hope it's pizza for lunch.
- ✦ I hope Pompey win this week.

Casual hopes are good to have. They're good for our heart because positive thinking is more heart-healthy than negative thinking. It's just that whether these hopes are fulfilled is not of ultimate or even important consequence. When we lose out on casual hopes we experience some disappointment, but it is short lived.

On the second level of hope are precious hopes. These are hopes for the major areas of our lives.

- ✦ You hope to have a great and life-giving marriage.
- ✦ You hope to run a successful business that is respected and successful in your community
- ✦ You hope for good health and long life

Our precious hopes are far more valuable and much deeper than our casual hopes. When those hopes are dashed, it has a big impact, and it is sometimes heart-breaking. But a disappointment here need not leave us *completely* hopeless because there is still a deeper degree of hope.

Finally, there is our ultimate hope. Our ultimate hope is what we rest our hearts and souls upon.

When our hopes are in their proper places, attached to the right things, we are preserved from hundreds of heartbreaks and thousands of heart aches, and we flourish as more successful individuals. When our hopes are properly ordered it's a mark of maturity, a fruit of good character.

The problem, of course, is that we mix up these different levels of hope *all the time*. We turn casual hopes into precious hopes and make a precious hope our ultimate hope.

This is what these two disciples had done. They were hoping for a political reversal of fortunes for the nation of Israel....not a bad hope to have, just not an ultimate one...

'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself. (Luke 24:25-27)

Your hope was too small. You were hoping in something that was much smaller than God's plans. Through Jesus' death and resurrection and the faith it awakens, Israel would become a light to the nations and the hope of the world. That is God's bigger plan.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them (Luke 24:28-29)

Freed from their focus on self, the two begin to listen to the stranger, to turn outward, even extending hospitality. The disciples move from their own sadness to a willingness to care for someone else. And it prepares them to recognize God's presence.

Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. (Luke 24:30-31)

In the breaking of the bread, their eyes are opened, and they recognize Jesus, just as we recognise him in the Eucharist which we celebrate at the Altar.

With hope restored, they return to their friends, precisely to restore their faith and hope in turn.

So, what are you hoping for? What are you hoping for over these next few days or weeks or this year? Why not make a list. List as many things as you can think of. Make it a list of 10, 20 or 50. Then identify what kind of hopes you're hoping for. Is each one a casual hope, a precious hope or an ultimate hope.

Then, in your quiet time this week, bring it to God. Make it a part of your prayer:

God, what do you want to do with this hope of mine. How does it fit into your larger story?

Maybe something that you think has dashed your hopes is a way in which God wants to raise up something far greater, far grander than you have imagined.

Maybe you're hoping too small. Maybe you need to hope bigger.

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 [Journey in Faith webpage](#).

3rd SUNDAY of EASTER (Year A) 23rd April 2023

Entrance Antiphon :

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

First reading: Acts 2:14,22-33

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 15:1-2,5,7-11. R. v.11
Show us, Lord, the path of life.

Second reading: 1 Peter 1:17-21

Gospel Acclamation:

R. Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us.

Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us.'

R. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Communion Antiphon:

The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus
in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

Changes to Masses in the Coming Week Mass at St Peter's on Tuesday 25th April is at 8.00am, combined with Morning Prayer, as our clergy will be attending a Clergy Training Day.
No Morning Prayer on Friday 28th April.

We thank Bishop Peter Doyle, for celebrating Mass.

Funeral Notices:

Viv Guppy – **Monday 24th April at 11.00am** at St Peter's Church, Jewry St. Winchester.

Maureen McKenna – A Memorial Service will be held at St Peter's Church, Jewry Street on **Friday 5th May at 12.15pm**, followed by the CWL Charity Soup & Pud Lunch.

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: As we continue our journey through the season of Easter, and celebrate together the Resurrection of the Lord, let us pray that we do so with hope, joy and a growing sense of belonging to the risen Christ.



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

Viv Guppy RIP

Year of the Holy Spirit

Diocesan Mission Event - "Then You Will Be My Witnesses" - Fri 12th, 7:30-9:30pm and Saturday 13th May, 10am-4:30pm

In this Year of the Holy Spirit, Fr Mark Hogan, Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation, would like to invite you to a Diocesan Mission Event at St. Peter's Church, Winchester on the evening of Fri 12th May and the daytime of Sat 13th May. It will give us the opportunity to come together, to receive input from Allegra Mutanda, our parish Director of Evangelisation and Leadership, who has spoken at several international and national events, such as the New Dawn Conference; to worship God and to be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit. The theme we have chosen is "Then You Will Be My Witnesses", which links closely with our Diocesan 10-year Mission Plan and reminds us that the disciples had to wait in Jerusalem to receive the Holy Spirit before stepping out and allowing God to change the world through their witness. Please click on this link by 5th May to book <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/620724673207>. And please do come, even for just a little while...



Life in the Spirit Sessions for Children Age 7 – 11 (Years 3 - 6) Fridays 3:30pm – 4:30pm (Arrival up to 3:45pm) Beginning on Friday April 28th!

An offering for children in our Parish and Diocesan Year of the Holy Spirit!

A chance to grow in faith and love of God, and to welcome the Holy Spirit into your life in a new way!

Please think about encouraging your child to attend the Life in the Spirit seminars for children that will start next Friday (April 28th). These will be 5 weekly sessions beginning at 3:30pm in St Stephen's Church (next to the school). If warmer weather, we may also use the outside space during the welcome time.

We will start with a time of transition from the school day with (nut/dairy-free) refreshments and games/ice breakers. This will hopefully give children from schools further away time to join for the main session at 3:45 – 4:30pm. Each week, following a time of singing praise to God, the children will discover in interactive ways how we can live a life of joy in the

Holy Spirit, how we can really know that God loves us and is with us, how God speaks to us through the Bible and in our day to day lives, and how He has a special plan for each of us...and more!

In the final session on Friday May 26th (just before Pentecost Sunday on May 28th) the children will be individually prayed with by Fr Mark and the team, for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Please don't expect your children to suddenly become perfect little angels 😊 but do expect there to be a positive change in them in the weeks that follow. For some this may be gradual, for others almost straight away.

Sign up for those at St Peter's school will be through the school, and those from other schools will be at the first session (quick form to fill in).

For further information, please contact rosanne@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Diocesan Life in the Spirit Course (Zoom)

Bishop Philip has announced that this year in the diocese is to be the Year of the Holy Spirit. Do you wonder about what the Holy Spirit is doing in your life? Have you made the time to really consider the issue? Why not come and join the Life in the Spirit course running after Pentecost! This will be held on Zoom from Thursday 1st June until Thursday 13th July at 7.30pm until 9pm. Get involved in Praise and Worship of the Lord. Listen to sound teaching on the Holy Spirit. Meet up with other members of the diocese - and beyond - to discuss what you believe. It is in articulating our thoughts that we really come to know what we do believe. Link to follow soon.

Farewell Message from Father John Chadwick

Dear Brothers and Sisters, I just wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to Mark, Martin, the SLT, along with you all, for allowing me to be briefly part of the family at St Peters, St Stephens and St Gregory's. It has been a privilege and a real joy to spend the past 5 months with you. You have been most generous with your welcome. Thank you also for taking such a keen interest in my work within the Margaret Clitherow Trust (www.margaretclitherow.org) serving members of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. Your practical, as well as prayerful, support has been much appreciated. God bless you all. Until we meet again. John Chadwick.

Volunteers required for the Youth Ministry Programme We are looking for more fantastic volunteers to help us with our Youth Ministry programme for those aged 11-18. We have a variety of roles available including facilitating small groups, preparing food or resources, or even help with the flow of sessions. We run several courses in the year; some continuous, others more seasonal so there are options to help with either a short-term or a long-term group. These groups run on different days of the week so if you can commit to a specific day, that's okay! Our young people are wonderful, and it is very rewarding to work with them. So, if you would like to give generously of your time to our teenagers, please do get in touch for an initial chat about our Youth Ministry, the vision in our parish, gifts and skills you might be able to offer. There is no requirement to commit at this stage. As the role will be working with young people a DBS check (Children) will be needed which the Parish will provide. Thank youuuuu.

Divine Renovation Fundraising Dinner

Many of you will know that our parish belongs to a network of parishes, called "Divine Renovation". We are trying to support each other to become more outward-focussed and missional in our approach to parish life. We receive an enormous amount of support from "DR", both internationally and here in the UK, all of which is for free, due to the generosity of donors across the world. Fr James Mallon, author of the book, "Divine Renovation: Bringing Your Parish from Maintenance to Mission" and one of the founding members of the network, will be giving a keynote address at a fundraising dinner in London for approximately 50 people on Thursday **6th July**. The evening will focus on the opportunities that lie ahead of us to transform the Catholic Church in this country! We've been given the opportunity to fill a table at this event with parishioners who have a passion for renewal and the capacity to give substantially. Please speak as soon as possible with Fr Mark. in confidence, if you would like more details.



The next CWL Charity Lunch (in aid of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance) will be on **Friday 5th May**, in the Pastoral Centre from 12 noon to 1.30pm. Delicious homemade soups and lovely puddings for £5. Great place to meet up with friends. Come along and join us.

Winchester Catholic History Society. There are a few spaces remaining on the Guided Walking Tour of the Village of St Cross, part of the Water Meadows & the Hospital & Grounds of St Cross during the afternoon of Tuesday 2 May 2023. Further information from win.cath.history@gmail.com

Laudato Si Corner

Over the last few weeks, many of us have been enjoying David Attenborough's spectacular television series about the British Isles – 'Wild Isles'.

The programme lets us look at Britain's stunning scenery and its wildlife with fresh eyes. It's a powerful reminder about the beauty of God's creation, wherever in the world we live.

Do you know that the RSPB, National Trust and WWF-UK have joined forces to launch a special project on the back of the BBC programme? Save Our Wild Isles calls for an immediate halt to the destruction of UK nature and urgent action for its' recovery.

There are a number of ideas for small steps that we can take within our homes and our local communities to support wildlife.

At a time when the task can seem enormous, why not join with others across the country in doing our bit to restore our amazing countryside?

You can find more information about the campaign here <https://www.saveourwildisles.org.uk>

Come to meet **Jenny Lelean, the new Caritas director** on **Tuesday April 25th** at 7.30pm at a meeting in the Parish Centre to explore how our parish can support her work. Alternatively contact Mike Slinn (mslinn@stpeterswinchester.org.uk) to get a Zoom link to join the meeting remotely.

May Rosary Chain

We have many things to pray for in our world and this May we turn to Mary again to ask her to pray for us. The parish statue of Mary will travel from home to home, linking us in a chain of prayer again this May. You may also like to make a little prayer space for Mary in your own home and send us a picture for the Facebook page.

Please contact:

prayer@stpeterswinchester.org.uk to find a date.

If you do not have a car, please let us know.



Missing Easter Basket



The basket pictured here went missing at the end of the traditional Polish Easter blessing of the food on Easter Saturday at St Peters. It was placed along with the other baskets on the steps towards the Altar at the beginning of the Service but had disappeared when the basket owners went up to collect their baskets. The basket's owner is especially upset about losing her basket as it is Jamaican, over 50 years old and was used to hold her daughter's toiletries when she was born there in 1973.

If anyone knows anything about it or has it could they please let the office or the front desk know or leave it with the Office. Thank you

Call To The Permanent Diaconate?

Have you ever wondered about becoming a Deacon in the Catholic Church, but something has held you back from finding out more about it? Is there a little voice in your head, that can't be silenced?

If that's YOU, why not 'Come & See' for yourself without committing to anything further? We'll be holding an information event on **Saturday, 27th May, 2023 @ The English Martyrs Church, Didcot** from **9am – 2pm** where you'll get to hear first-hand, from those who are involved and what it's been like for them. You've got nothing to lose! If you'd like to attend, please call Pam on 07883 059529 to book a space and to help with catering requirements. If you can't make it on the day, but would like to know more, please contact Pam on 07883 059529 or email diaconate@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



Dear Parents

The Season of Easter

Welcome back for the summer term, a term of many educational visits for the children, Masses to celebrate some of our important Church Feast Days, sports day with a family picnic and this year celebrations for the King's coronation. I hope you all had a lovely Easter – a time for family, friends and looking forward to the sun and growth we see in spring. As a school we focus also on the season of Easter – a time for giving thanks for Christ's resurrection following his death, and what that means for us both for today and for eternal life. The children are learning all about Easter in their RE - the scripture associated with this season and what it means to us as Christians today. Our youngest children will be learning about Jesus' resurrection and how the disciples felt when they saw the empty tomb, then realised that Jesus had risen. Lower KS2 will start to make links between the resurrection, Jesus' ascension into Heaven and the Christian belief in eternal life. Meanwhile, the oldest children will show a good understanding of eternal life by answering questions such as, *Does everyone have eternal life?* Class and school worship will be based on the joy of Easter.

'He has been raised from death, and now he is going to Galilee ahead of you; there you will see him.' Matthew 28:7

Prayer for Easter

Risen Lord,

We give thanks today, that through the power of the resurrection,
all things have been made new.

We pray that this renewal may inspire us to do what we can
to bring about a change for better in our own lives and in our world.
Knowing that nothing is impossible for You, Lord, who defeated death itself,
we rejoice and are glad.

We are filled with hope, that we can make a difference.

We praise You for Your glory! Christ is risen.

Alleluia!



We 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/>

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

BEFRIEND THE END

One of our parishioners in Alresford, Tim Tyler, has recommended this group to us:

Are you curious? Do you have questions about death and dying? We are all on the path to death from the moment we are born but the tradition and culture of accepting death as part of Life has altered, and present-day society has distanced itself from this type of conversation. Do you have thoughts as to what could make a 'good death' possibly for someone you may need to support or physically care for or even for yourself? You do not need to be dying to engage in this interesting topic, nor even old!

Starting on 3rd May, a new group set up by a small group of people, both medical and non-medical, who believe that by openly acknowledging the reality of death we are better equipped to engage with 'Life', will meet in Alresford on the first Wednesday of the month in the Alresford library from 2-3pm. The meeting will be a safe space to ask any questions about death and dying and to discuss anything around this subject.

All are welcome to these informal afternoons to meet like-minded people to share and discover more about living well and dying well, over a cuppa and a slice of cake. For further information email: contact@befriendtheend.co.uk

BOOKSHOP We sell Missals, Bibles, Prayerbooks, rosaries, crucifixes and crosses. There is a good selection of books for Alpha and books on the Holy Spirit. We also have gifts and cards for First Holy Communion and Confirmation, as well as cards for all occasions.

Many thanks, Susan Henry.

Cultural Friday at St Edward the Confessor (Chandler's Ford) – A Talk by Professor Alexander Belyaev

Every month someone in St Swithun Wells Parish is invited to speak at their "Cultural Friday".

Next Friday (**28th April**) at **7pm** Professor Alexander Belyaev, who teaches Astrophysics at the University of Southampton, has been invited to speak.

Professor Alexander will give a talk called, "**The Highest Energy Machine on Earth to Solve the Biggest Puzzles of the Universe**".

He will also speak about his personal journey as a scientist and the link between God and science.

Mass Timetable	22 nd April 2023 – 29 th April 2023		
Date	Mass Times & Intentions		
SATURDAY – April 22 nd	9.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	For the Benefactors
3 rd SUNDAY of EASTER - Vigil	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Mary Joseph RIP
SUNDAY – April 23 rd 3 rd SUNDAY of Easter	8.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Brookes & Whiteman Families RIP
	9.00 AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	People of the Parish
	9.15 AM	Mass at St Stephen's	
	10.30 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Brother John Church
	11.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	People of Ukraine
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Daniel Jordan Randle RIP
MONDAY – April 24 th - ST GEORGE, Patron of England, Solemnity	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of William Meader
TUESDAY – April 25 th – ST MARK, Evangelist, Feast	8.00 AM	Mass & Morning Prayer at St Peter's	Victoria Hebron RIP
	10.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
WEDNESDAY – April 26 th	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Simona Murphy & the Baby
THURSDAY – April 27 th	10.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Katherine Smith
FRIDAY – April 28 th St Peter Chanel, Religious, Martyr, or St Louis Grignion de Montfort, Founder	10.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Carol Taylor RIP
SATURDAY – April 29 th ST CATHERINE of SIENA, Religious & Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe, feast 4 th SUNDAY of EASTER - Vigil	9.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Tricia Carpenter RIP
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Wilfred Perara 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. There is no Morning Prayer on Friday 28th April. To participate in any service online (including Morning Prayer & Adoration) or to see the recorded services, go to our YouTube channel ALL SERVICES (INCLUDING MORNING PRAYER) FROM ST PETER'S ARE LIVESTREAMED.</p>			
Useful Contacts			
<p>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: Lisa Justice (ljustice@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 Wedding information – weddings@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</p>			
<p>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.</p>			
<p>Contacting the Parish Office – Our Parish Administration Manager, Michaela, is taking extended leave 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.</p>			