

PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

4th June 2023

TRINITY SUNDAY – Year A

Trinity Sunday - "O Love, you are my God, for you I long"

Fr Mark writes:

Who is the 'you' when we speak to God – "O God, you are my God, for you I long, for you my soul is thirsting"? Or, to put it another way, who picks up the phone when we pray to "God"?

It is not simply God the Father, as if we can think of Him without the other persons of the Trinity. Nor is it some divine essence, which we specify only later as God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

In our first reading this weekend, God reveals who He is to Moses. It is not the first time God has done this and the answer enriches the one he gave from the burning bush (Ex 3:1ff), the bush which burns but is not consumed. It reveals what happens when someone truly encounters the living God. "Moses said, 'I will turn aside . . .'" He is still thinking and exercising his will. He is still his own master. He is the one who is in charge (or believes he is in charge) of what is taking place. But now God bursts onto the scene and imposes his law.

Firstly, he calls Moses by name: "Moses, Moses". "Here I am" Moses replies. "Do not come near... "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Everything has immediately changed. Moses suddenly becomes docile and submissive and he hides his face, like the Seraphim who cover their faces with their wings (see Is 6:2). The "numinous" is in the air. Moses enters into the mystery. In this atmosphere, when Moses asks God for a name, and God responds with the answer, "YHWH".

Countless Scripture scholars, theologians and others have wrestled with this answer, the 'tetragrammaton' or four-letter word, over the millennia. There are three main strands of thinking, all of them perhaps offering some insight.

One interpretation is that God is saying, "I am who I am" (or "I will be who I will be"). God is revealing Himself as the One who is. Addressing the Father, Saint Catherine of Siena said in her Dialogue, "I am she who is not...You alone are he who is; my being and every other grace that you have given me beyond my being I have from you, which you gave and give to me through love, and not because it was owed to me" (Ch. 134). Since only God exists by his own power and because everything else exists only because he created, Catherine recognized that everything she was and had came from God. God is pure. What we are apart from God is an abyss of nothingness.

Another view is that God is saying, simply, "I am here (or I will be here) for you". It refers more to the existence and presence of God than to his essence – more about "being here" than "what God is". Following this line, God is the Living God, a reality who is operative in history, someone Moses can rely on. The soul that thirsts for the living God is guaranteed to find Him and with Him will find everything else in Him, as the words of St. Teresa of Avila remind us:

*Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things pass away:
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things.
He who has God
Finds he lacks nothing;
God alone suffices.*

St. Francis echoes this when, after encountering Christ in prayer following a period of darkness and discomfort, went around repeatedly exclaiming to himself, "Dieu est et cela suffit" ("God is and that suffices!"). He knew God was there and that was enough. How many of our own clouds might disperse by repeating these simple words to ourselves..?

A third line of interpretation is that God is deliberately giving a "non-answer", that the name 'YHWH' is deliberately ambiguous and untranslatable. In the Hebrew Scriptures (our Old Testament), when the name of the Lord is encountered, it is never spoken but always replaced by 'Adonai', which we translate as 'Lord'. We are not to use the name because using names implies a certain level of control over things (remember Adam was entrusted with naming the animals) and we do not and cannot have control over God.

This weekend is 'Trinity Sunday' and it's helpful for us to recall that when we speak of God as Trinity, we are speaking of God who is, of God who is with us, present to us and active in our lives and a reminder that when we talk of God, we don't really know what we're talking about. We cannot have control over God and we can never grasp God as some 'concept'. St. Augustine helpfully points out that if we understand fully then it's not God that we're understanding.

The passage in today's first reading finds Moses returning up the mountain, asking for a copy of the Law. He has smashed the first tablets in anger at the people's lack of faithfulness to God when he was up the mountain the first time. This time God reveals Himself in a richer way to Moses, as merciful (forgiving), gracious (a giver of gifts), kind (demonstrating compassion) and as faithful (steadfast and reliable). All of these are seen throughout the Bible, revealed in the context of God's covenantal relationship with His people.

The doctrine of the Trinity tells us that God is all these things – merciful, gracious, kind and faithful – in Himself, that is even if He has never created at all. Something like Love, which lies behind all these things, must belong to the very dynamics of God's being. Most religions will tell us that God loves. As far as I'm aware, it is only the Christian religion which boldly claims and tries to live out the message that God is Love.

The living God of Christians, in conclusion, is none other than the living Trinity. The doctrine of the Trinity is contained, *in nuce*, in a nutshell, in the revelation of God as love. To say, "God is love" (1 Jn 4:8), is to say God is trinity. Every love implies a lover, a beloved, and a love that unites them. Every love is a love for someone or something; there is no such thing as love "in a vacuum" that has no object.

There is something that is even more blessed that we can do with regard to the Trinity than contemplate and imitate it, and that is to enter into it! We cannot wrap our arms around the ocean, but we can enter into it; we cannot encompass the mystery of the Trinity with our minds, but we can enter into it! Christ has left us a concrete way to do that: the Eucharist.

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](#).

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (Year A) 4th June 2023

Entrance Antiphon :

Blest be God the Father,
and the Only Begotten Son of God,
and also the Holy Spirit,
for he has shown us his merciful love.

First reading: Exodus 34.4-6,8-9

Responsorial Psalm: Dn 3:52-56. R. v.52
To you glory and praise for evermore.

Second reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Gospel Acclamation:

R. Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
the God who is, who was and who is to come.

R. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 3:16-18

Communion Antiphon:

Since you are children of God,
God has sent into your hearts the Spirit of his Son,
the Spirit who cries out: Abba, Father.

Changes to Masses in the Coming Week:

There is **no Mass at St Peter's at 9am on Saturday 3rd June**. Mass will be held at **Winchester Cathedral at 10am**.



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



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

Fr Brian Croughan RIP
Rory Culhane RIP

Funeral Notices:

Fr Brian Croughan – **Friday 2nd June at 2.30pm** at Sacred Heart, Waterlooville.

Please pray for his 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: On the 25th anniversary of our Covenant with the Poor, let us pray for a new vigour in our compassion and consideration for those who are marginalised and in need.

First Holy Communion 2024: Registration now open!

If you are the parent/guardian of a child currently in Year 3, wishing to make their First Holy Communion next year, please contact Rosanne at fhc@stpeterswinchester.org.uk to inquire about the programme, and/or to receive a registration form. If your child is presently in Year 2 but you feel they would be ready next year and you attend Sunday Mass regularly, please do get in touch.

Covenant With The Poor Appeal Sunday 4th June- 'Today the Covenant with the Poor team will be appealing at all masses for support for 'Rare Charity - changing girl's lives in Malawi'. Please support generously as ever, by donating using the blue envelopes or by bank transfer to the parish bank account with the reference CWP. A link to the appeal leaflet with full details is on the parish website front page in the CWP section.

At each of our four churches in the parish, the Covenant will be signed by the Celebrant and a member of the CWP team during mass, to renew parish commitment to this cause.'

CAFOD Did you know that Church teaching says that we should not only support those in poverty but also tackle the root causes of poverty? Pope Benedict XVI said that "Love — caritas — is an extraordinary force which leads people to opt for courageous and generous engagement in the field of justice and peace." For decades CAFOD has spoken out against injustice. To find out more about our seeds campaign and get involved in tackling the root causes of poverty, please go to cafod.org.uk/latestcampaigns

Bookshop We have an excellent selection of **Ordination cards** as well as missals, Bibles, Prayerbooks, crosses and rosaries etc. We also have a good selection of books, including Alpha books and books about the Holy Spirit and cards for all occasions, including cards and gifts for **First Holy Communion**. Many thanks for your support, Susan Henry, Bookshop.

Cleaner Appeal for St Peter's

Sweepers desperately needed please for St Peter's. - Just one hour, every nine weeks.

Very simple work and with other team members.

Please call Pam Freeborn on 01962 864391, Text 07912 178934 or Email: pam.freeborn@btinternet.com

Can you help out in the Pastoral Centre?

Please can you help in our Pastoral Centre? Indoor or outdoor light domestic tasks for an hour or two a week?

If so, please contact Sean Reidy, our Facilities & Resources Manager at the Pastoral Centre, to find out more about the different options that could suit your availability. Sean's contact details are: Mob: 07825393005, Office: 01962 852804. Email: sean@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Diocesan Vacancies

Catholic Home Care Manager. The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth is looking for someone to take over the role of co-ordinating the activities of Catholic Home Care. **This post will require a full DBS check.**

Salary – around £15 per hour. Closing date for applications: **3 July 2023 with interviews on 7 July 2023**

For an application form or more details, please call Anne Monaghan or Marina Joyce 023 8017 0498 or contact recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

IT Manager. The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth is looking for an IT Manager with 3 or more years' experience within IT management.

Full Time: 35 hours per week. Based in Portsmouth. Salary: £35 to £40K. Start Date: October 2023.

For full Job Description please contact: recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Closing date for applications: 9th June 2023. Pre-interview phone call 16th June & Interviews will take place 29th June 2023.

Choral Director. The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth is seeking to recruit an enthusiastic and appropriately qualified Choral Director who, working with the diocesan Education Service, will be responsible for partnering with up to 12 local schools in the diocese, to implement and develop the National Schools Singing Programme (NSSP). Based at St. Edmund House, Portsmouth, with travel to schools in the diocese.

Full Time: 35 hours per week (part time would be considered). Fixed Term Contract (2 years), Salary: £26,000 to £28,000 per annum

Closing date for applications: 12 noon on 28th June 2023. Interviews will take place in Portsmouth on 10th July 2023. Start Date: September 2023.

For more details about the role, please email the Director for Education, Catherine Hobbs chobbs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

WINCHESTER CATHOLIC HISTORY

SOCIETY. The next meeting will take place at WINCHESTER COLLEGE on **Wednesday 14 June** when Leanda de Lisle will be speaking on her new book on Henrietta Maria.

This is at **7.30 pm in Musa**, (the Museum) when Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch, the Honorary President, will be introducing Leanda.

As this is taking place during term time, for safe guarding purposes the College needs to know who is on site.

Please email win.cath.history@gmail.com for a ticket and any further information.



Wanting to volunteer?

Caritas Portsmouth supports parishes and schools to become the 'church beyond walls' to help meet the needs in our local communities. Our volunteer team help make this happen, by running and supporting specific projects, promoting our work within the community and fundraising so we can get new projects off the ground. We would be delighted if you would join us. Visit our website for details (<https://caritas.org.uk/act/>) or email us at caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Thank you, Jenny LeLean, Caritas Portsmouth.

Laudato Si Corner

"What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?"

Pope Francis is challenging us to reflect on the ways we're treating our common home and recognise that what we do today will affect the lives of our sisters and brothers tomorrow.

Our common home is suffering from devastating harm. Millions of our sisters and brothers worldwide are facing food and water shortages or are being forced from their homes.

But many millions more will face this reality in coming generations – unless we act today to change tomorrow.

We're inviting you to answer the Pope's call. Join us and say a *Prayer for Tomorrow*, asking God to guide us in our efforts to care for our common home and leave a better world for future generations.

| Mass Timetable | 4th June 2023 - 11th June 2023 | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| Date | Mass Times & Intentions | | |
| SATURDAY – June 3rd – St Charles Lwanga & Companions, Martyrs, memorial. THE MOST HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY - Vigil | 10.00 AM | Mass at Winchester Cathedral | Jose Aponte RIP |
| | 5.30 PM | Mass at St Peter's | Molly & John O'Donoghue |
| SUNDAY – June 4th THE MOST HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY, Solemnity | 8.00 AM | Mass at St Peter's | Soul of Lady Mariangela |
| | 9.00 AM | Mass at St Thomas More's | People of Ukraine |
| | 9.15 AM | Mass at St Stephen's | |
| | 10.30 AM | Mass at St Peter's | Zara Hanna Al Shaikh RIP |
| | 11.00 AM | Mass at St Gregory's | People of the Parish |
| | 5.30 PM | Mass at St Peter's | Soul of Mary Keating |
| MONDAY – June 5th – St Boniface, Religious, Bishop & Martyr, memorial | 12.15 AM | Mass at St Peter's | The welfare of Joseph Gomez |
| TUESDAY – June 6th – St Norbert, Founder, Bishop. | 10.00 AM | Mass at St Gregory's | Peter & Kathleen Cook RIP |
| | 12.15 PM | Mass at St Peter's | Andrew Gardiner RIP |
| WEDNESDAY – June 7th | 10.00 AM | Mass at St Peter's | Soul of Rev Patrick T Savage |
| THURSDAY – June 8th | 10.00 AM | Mass at St Peter's | Fr Joe O'Donnell RIP |
| FRIDAY – June 9th – St Ephrem, Deacon, Doctor of the Church. | 10.00 AM | Mass at St Gregory's | |
| | 12.15 PM | Mass at St Peter's | Soul of James Wheble |
| SATURDAY – June 3rd CORPUS CHRISTI - Vigil | 9.00 AM | Mass at St Peter's | Deceased Members of the Platt & Gilbert Families |
| | 5.30 PM | Mass at St Peter's | |
| <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. <i>To participate in any service online (including Morning Prayer & Adoration) or to see the recorded services, go to our YouTube channel</i> 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) Fr Benedict Ndikum (Assistant Priest) (bndikum@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> | | | |