

PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

23rd July 2023

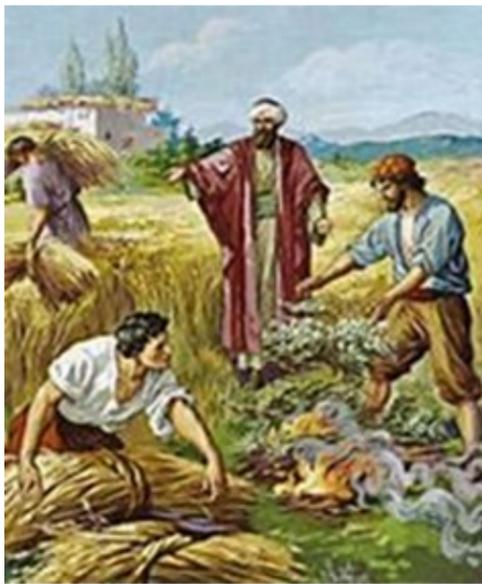
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

The Patience of God the Farmer

Fr Mark writes:

I wonder how many of you know what darnel is, or what it looks like...

Jesus put another parable before the crowds: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn".



I've heard the parables from this weekend's Gospel countless times, and I guess I knew that darnel was a weed, but until fairly recently I knew very little more than that. What I didn't know, and which the ever-useful Wikipedia has taught me, is that:

Darnel usually grows in the same production zones as wheat and is considered a weed. The similarity between these two plants is so great that in some regions, darnel is referred to as "false wheat". It bears a close resemblance to wheat until the ear appears.

And suddenly the parable started to make sense a little bit more. So *that* is why it was better to give it time for the darnel and the wheat to grow up together rather than trying to remove the darnel straightaway. It would be too easy to pull out some of the wheat by mistake as well.

Evil rarely presents itself as evil. Usually when someone does something which we call evil they think they are doing it for a *good* reason. It is their understanding of what is good that we would say is misplaced or narrow or naïve. The devil doesn't advertise his evil ways as evil – he is the father of Lies and tries to seduce us into 'eating the apple' by presenting it as something good for us.

As an example, I remember a debate in the House of Lords on the Assisted Dying Bill. It is not that one side is saying that they want to do something really cruel and the other is saying they want to do something really good. The Archbishop of Canterbury was speaking on *Newsnight* and put it this way:

This is not a difference between one group of people with a hard line of doctrine and another group of people who are saying we ought to be compassionate. It's actually saying how are we compassionate and, for what it's worth, I think the way [Lord Carey] has described compassion is written far too narrowly and with a lack of appreciation for the risks and dangers to people who would be put under pressure if the law changed and that's why we're so against it.

The same is true of many of those decisions in our own lives. Some of them are fairly minor and some of them more serious but many of them require us to discern between darnel and wheat, between what is good and what is less good. This discernment, I suggest, can be aided by 3 key elements:

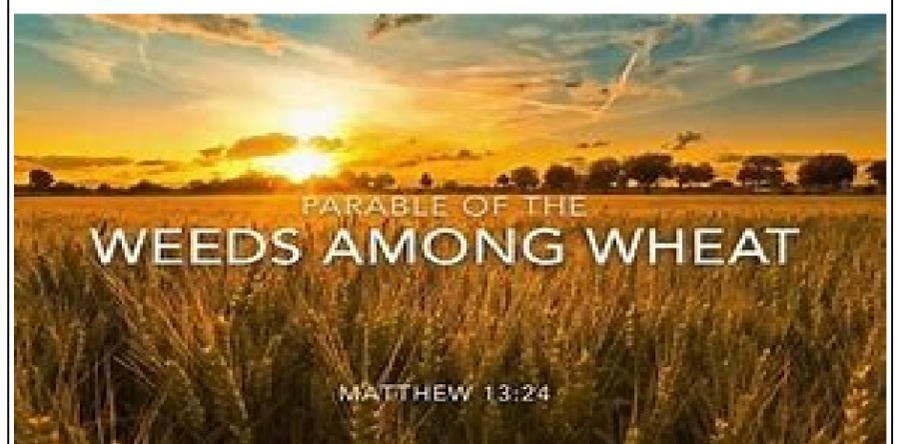
Firstly, we can be helped by experience. The experienced farmer will learn to recognise the difference between darnel and wheat, false wheat and real wheat. We too, when we have been down a similar road before many times, will begin to spot patterns and danger signs and will be better placed to judge.

The second element, closely related, is that of time. This is what Jesus is pointing to in the Gospel today. We cannot force the wheat and darnel to grow more quickly so that we can tell the difference. We need the patience to wait, when this is possible, and it isn't always, to wait and see what sort of plant is growing.

The third element is to seek the wisdom of others. The farmer might ask some of his farmer friends for a second or third opinion. We should turn to the teachings of the Church and the wisdom of the Scriptures and Tradition. We should ask wise friends and others whom we trust for their thoughts – not to delegate responsibility but to seek support and counsel.

In particular, we need to bring these decisions to prayer. God is the one who can most help us in our discernment. We should ask him to enlighten us with his Holy Spirit. We should share the situation with Jesus, asking him to guide us. We should know that he is with us as we make the decision and then also to bring it back to him afterwards, asking him to show us if we made the right call or what we could have done differently. This on-going conversation is so important.

Having said all this, the parable in this weekend's Gospel isn't primarily about our own discernment between good and evil. It is about God's patience with the world. It would be so easy for Him to tidy up this world, to annihilate the wicked and reward the good; but God is immensely patient. We see this in Jesus – he never gives up when people abandon Him, misunderstand Him or deny Him but carries on sowing that good seed. Maybe we too, in the midst of frustrations and the temptation to abandon doing good, can seek His help in continuing to sow the good seed of the Kingdom, mindful of God's lenience and patience with us, until we reach the fullness of the Kingdom when "All nations shall come to adore you and glorify your name, O Lord!"



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](#).

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) – 23rd July 2023

Entrance Antiphon :

See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

First reading: Wisdom 12.13,16-19

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 85:5-6,9-10,15-16. R. v.5
O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Second reading: Romans 8:26-27

Gospel Acclamation:

R. Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our mind,
so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.

R. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43

Communion Antiphon:

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful,
has made a memorial of his wonders;
he gives food to those who fear him.

Changes to Masses in the Coming Week:

Morning Prayer on Friday 28th July is cancelled.

St. Peter's Centenary - 2026

It seems like a good time to flag up that we are now only three years away from marking the centenary of our beloved church. We want to make this as memorable and significant a year in the Parish as it was in 1926.

We have formed a small committee to oversee the plans for the event. We have taken on board the input we received last year and have had some ideas ourselves but we are really keen for this to be a parishioner-led event. This means we want to hear from you on how we should celebrate the centenary year across the whole parish.

We have set up the email address centenary@stpeterswinchester.org.uk so you can send us your ideas and we look forward to hearing from you over the summer.

At this stage we already have some projects planned for the year that you may be able to help us with:

(a) We will produce a book covering the history of the parish over the past 100 years, a Centenary Chronicle so to speak, and we would welcome your contributions, stories and photographs. Get in touch with anything you think relevant to the Chronicle by emailing chronicle@stpeterswinchester.org.uk - we want to make this as much as possible a history of the people of the parish since 1926.

(b) As it is the centenary celebration, of a faith community, we want to record 100 Faith Stories or Journeys in Faith as experienced by parishioners of all ages. To get in touch and share your faith story get in contact with us at 100stories@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

If you would prefer to get in touch on any of the above by phone, please contact the Parish Office on 01962 852804.



Welcome to Lilian Kirby 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:

Pauline Hill RIP



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 reach the height of the summer holidays, let us pray that we may all make time to rest, relax, reflect and refocus each week on the Sabbath, so that we may become closer to Christ with hope and joy.



Catholic Women's League Charity Lunch

Please make a note in your diaries that the **next CWL Charity Lunch** will be on **1st September**.

Please do come and support.

Confirmation Registration is now open

Registering for Confirmation is now open for the 2023-2024 cohort. You can register and find out more information via this link:

<https://catholicwinchester.org.uk/confirmation-2023-2024/>

You can also email youthstuff@stpeterswinchester.org.uk directly to chat.

The course starts in September and lasts an academic year. All sessions take place on a Sunday afternoon from 4pm-5:30pm.

The Confirmation course is for anyone in years 9-13 (age 14-17). 😊

David Bateman ordination to the priesthood

Please keep in your prayers Deacon David Bateman, who is to be ordained a priest for our Diocese of Portsmouth this weekend in our Catholic Cathedral. Some of you may remember David, who spent a few weeks on placement here in the parish in January last year. He's now completed his studies at St. Mary's College, Oscott, and Bishop Philip has asked him to serve in the City Centre Parish in Southampton with Mgr Vincent Harvey (and then Canon Michael Dennehy). Dcn David is in his final weeks of formation for our Diocese. God willing, he will be Ordained a Priest by Bishop Philip on Saturday 22nd July at 11am at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth. Save the date!

David writes: "Where does time go? Six years ago, I started seminary at St Mary's College Oscott, in Birmingham. Every moment in my life has been leading up to my ordination to the priesthood, because that is my vocation, to be a priest.

However, like with most journeys throughout people's lives, I have experienced challenges and sometimes doubt in my calling. Even in these difficult moments I thank God for them because it has only enriched my experience here in seminary and strengthened my belief in God's calling."



Knock Pilgrimage Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 2nd October 2023. £699.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre & National Museum. Single supplement £150.00. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly. This coming Sunday (23rd July) our Church celebrates the World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly, the third such day since it was established by Pope Francis in 2021. This year's event is being held on the Sunday before the feast day of Ss. Anne and Joachim, the grandparents of Jesus. Pope Francis has selected "His mercy is from age to age" (Lk 1:50) as the theme for this year's celebration. Pope Francis says: "The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly is meant to be a small but precious sign of hope for them and the whole Church. I renew my invitation to everyone – dioceses, parishes, associations and communities – to celebrate this Day and to make it an occasion of joyful and renewed encounter between young and old".



Pope Francis greets an elderly couple at his general audience on Jan. 11, 2023 | Vatican Media

Read the full message here:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/nonni/documents/20230531-messaggio-nonni-anziani.html>



The Vatican's Department for Laity, Family, and Life emphasized the connection between this year's theme and the theme for World Youth Day 2023, which is also based on a passage from the Gospel of Luke's first chapter: "Mary arose and went with haste" (Lk 1:39).

As an 86-year-old himself, Pope Francis has persistently advocated for the respect and dignity of older people, often emphasizing the vital role that grandparents have in passing on the Catholic faith.



The Retrouvaille Programme is a lifeline for married couples facing difficult challenges in their Marriage Relationship. It is for couples whose marriages are struggling, who are not communicating well and those who are considering marriage separation or divorce. It helps couples restore and rebuild a loving relationship is also for those who are already separated or divorced that want marriage help.



You will not be sharing your struggles with other people. Hope is a phone call away. To speak to a Retrouvaille couple in confidence ring + 44 7887296983 or +44 7973 380443, email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or visit the website: www.retrouvaille.org.uk.

Laudato Si Corner



Our burning world:

This summer, there has been an alarming and dangerous rise in temperature levels in the western world, currently reaching previously unrecorded levels. This is having a major impact in some of the world's richest countries. At present the response is focused on the urgency to reduce the damage being caused to people, and their homes and livelihoods. Let us hope and pray that those actions we can all take now, and in the future, to reduce the evident harm being caused by climate change will be adopted with increased vigour by the world's governments, financial bodies and industries. We too can and must take action to reduce the impact of climate change and to pray that our world will be protected for future generations.

*Lord,
We ask you to change us so that we protect your world, not destroy it
Help us to see that we are all connected to each other
To understand that even small steps matter
And to build our commitment to the changes we need to make.
Amen.*

Bookshop We have a selection of Alpha books and books about the Holy Spirit and cards for all occasions, as well as missals, Bibles, Prayerbooks, crosses and rosaries etc. Many thanks for your support, Susan Henry, Bookshop.

Diocesan Vacancies

FLEET AND CHURCH CROOKHAM PARISH ADMINISTRATOR – Fleet Parish has a vacancy for a part-time Parish Administrator.

Hours of work: **25 HOURS PER WEEK. SALARY: £12 per hour.**

Please contact recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for a job description and details of how to apply. **Closing date Monday 31st July.**

Our Lady Immaculate, Westbourne Parish Administrator & Bookkeeper Westbourne parish has a vacancy for a part time Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper. Hours of work: 10 hours per week. Salary **£12.00** per hour.

Please contact recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for a job description and details of how to apply.

Closing date for applications: Friday **31st July 2023**, Interviews **8th August 2023**, Proposed Start Date **4th September 2023**.

IT Technician

Permanent Full time, 35 hours per week. Based in St Edmund's House, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth PO1 3QA. Salary: £22,000 per annum.

For Job Description and details of how to apply please contact: recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk:

Closing Date: Monday 31st July 2023. Interview Date: Thursday 3 August 2023



End of Year Message from St Peter's School

Thank You

These 'end of year' newsletters seem to be coming around so much more quickly as I get older. I can't believe another year has passed!

An end of the year is a good opportunity to thank every member of the St Peter's school family for all they have contributed this year. Thank you to all the teaching team, teachers and TAs who have supported the children pastorally and academically. The children's end of year results are very good.

I would like to personally thank Mrs Hutchins, along with our leadership team, for helping to provide direction and aid the smooth running of St Peter's. We are ably supported by a wonderful office team - which I am so thankful for. They all certainly keep me organised!

I would also like to thank Mr Mahony and the governors for the support and challenge they provide to ensure the children get the best we can give them. A special mention must be made about Eleanor Kinsella who, after years of service, has stepped down from the role as she has moved area. She has been pivotal in helping to drive school improvement. We will really miss her counsel and support.

I would like to thank Father Mark for his time throughout the year. Father Mark attends school, at times weekly. His time and effort is very much appreciated by all. I know from doing inspections in other Catholic schools that we are so fortunate having Father Mark's support and time as we grow in the Faith.

Thank you Mr Docherty and his team of cleaners. We know we have a beautiful school and grounds that you work hard to maintain. We also know our cleaners will be working hard during our summer to get it ready for September, while Mr Docherty will be overseeing many building and maintenance projects.

Finally, although last but not least, I want to share that we think our children here at St Peter's are awesome. I now just want to ask for God's blessing on all our families and staff - that you remain safe over the following weeks away from school, find time to replenish and so are ready to come back refreshed on Monday 4th September.

Pope Francis said: "Together with a culture of work, there must be a culture of leisure as gratification. To put it another way: people who work must take the time to relax, to be with their families, to enjoy themselves, read, listen to music, play a sport." Wishing you and your family a wonderful summer. God bless. Louise Buxton (Miss) Headteacher



*"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!" Psalm 107:1*

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.

St Peter's School has a vacancy for a **SENCO** in January 2024. Please visit the school website at <https://www.stpetershants.co.uk/vacancies/> for more details on the role and how to apply:

Contract/hours: 3 days a week, permanent Salary range: MPR/UPR plus TLR 2a

Closing date: 8th September 2023, Interview date: 20th September 2023 Start date: 1 January 2024

Mary's Crescent Tim Goulder has just had a book published that links 7 St Mary churches and the Lady Chapel at Chichester Cathedral in a 4 day crescent shaped walk from Portchester to Chichester. It particularly focusses on architectural features still present in the churches that were important to the pre-reformation Christian service.

This is a link to his website for the book, where you can download OS maps of the walks and find out more about it as well as buy a copy if you wish.

<https://www.maryscrescent.com/>

Summer Notice

The Newsletter Team are going to be having a break in August. So the last newsletter will be issued for the 18th Sunday in Ordinary time on Friday 4th August and the next one will be issued on Friday 25th August for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Anything you would like to be included in the newsletter in August must be forwarded by Wednesday 2nd August please. And anything for inclusion in the newsletter on 25th August should be submitted by Wednesday 23rd August. Thank you.

Mass Timetable	22nd July 2023 – 29th July 2023		
Date	Mass Times & Intentions		
SATURDAY – July 22nd – ST MARY MAGDALENE, feast. 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Vigil	9.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Stanley Evans
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Souls of Kay & Eric Kearney
SUNDAY – July 23rd - Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	8.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Michele Attruia RIP
	9.00 AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	
	9.15 AM	Family Mass at St Stephen's	People of the Parish
	10.30 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Lisa Wong RIP
	11.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	People of Ukraine
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Intentions of Richard Luker
MONDAY – July 24th – St Sharbel Makhlof, Priest, Religious.	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Souls of the Dead & Founders
TUESDAY – July 25th - ST JAMES, Apostle, feast.	10.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of John Henry King
WEDNESDAY – July 26th – Ss Joachim & Anne, Parents of Our Lady, memorial.	10.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Intentions of the Neil Family
THURSDAY – July 27th	10.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	John Snow RIP
FRIDAY – July 28th	10.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Agatha Zulu RIP
SATURDAY – July 29th – Ss Martha, Mary & Lazarus, memorial. 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Vigil	9.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Baron Ventry
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Intentions of the Neil Family
<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), every weekday 8.00am at St Peter's followed by Adoration till 9.00am. There is no Morning Prayer on Friday 28th July. <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) Deacon Tony Darlison (tdarlison@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) Director of Evangelisation and Leadership: Allegra Mutanda (allegra@stpeterswinchester.org.uk) Parish Music Team Leader: - Alastair Ross (aross@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>			