

PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

30th July 2023

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

ASK WHAT YOU LIKE

Fr Benedict writes:

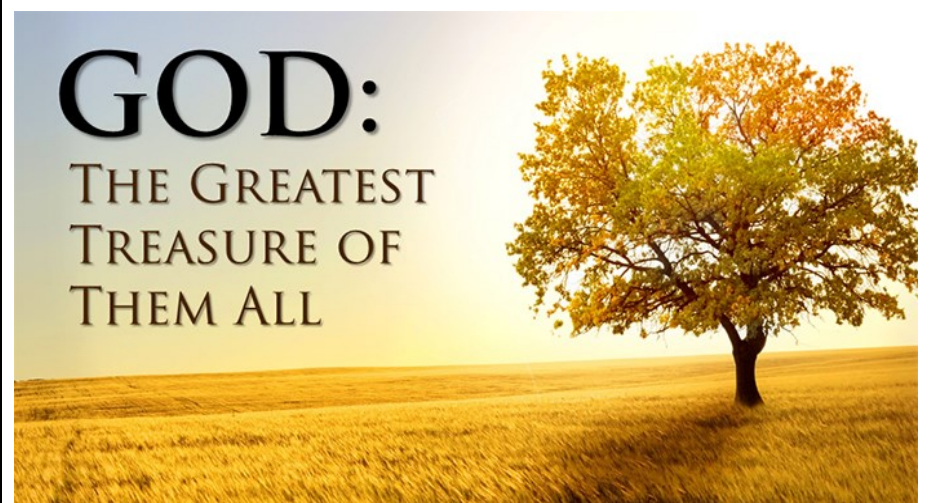
We live and work in a material world with a culture becoming more reliant on things that facilitate our day to day lives and work. And at different stages in life; age, sex, class or position of responsibility, our list of needs also differs. What seems to be luxury at one stage becomes a necessity in another. Realistically, one cannot live today without what used to be thought of as superfluous and what we view today as essential. We possess too much 'stuff' which makes our ability to choose increasingly difficult.

Yet so many people make demands simply for show or fame. No matter the stage in life, every individual has needs and wants which **MAY** bring fulfilment when provided. Imagine being caught up in a dilemma not knowing how to meet so many demands; to be surprised by a donor willing to provide everything and anything we demand? The confusion in what to ask for especially if he/she has not made a list of requirements and scale of preference. Before continuing, we should remind ourselves of the following, "Strong lions suffer want and go hungry but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing" (Psalm 34:10).

Today's readings focus our attention on the wisdom of God in making any of our choices. The first reading recalls how Solomon requested the gift of understanding instead of material good and power. We have God telling Solomon, "Ask what you would like me to give you." If we were to grant any wish, would we follow Solomon's example asking not for long life or riches, but for wisdom to know God's ways and to desire His will?

In John's Gospel, Jesus says, "And I will do whatever you ask for **in my name**, so that the Father's glory will be shown through the Son. If you ask me for anything **in my name**, I will do it" (John 14:13-14). The stress here is on asking for anything **IN THE NAME OF GOD** which automatically gives an assurance of receiving them. Are we to forget that Jesus also assures us, "**ask, and you shall receive**; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door shall be opened to you. **For everyone who asks will receive**, and anyone who seeks will find, and the door will be opened to anyone who knock(s)" (Mtt. 7:7-8).

Without getting into the question of unanswered prayers, it is clear that an assurance is given to us when we ask from God. Nevertheless, we are not certain that everyone receives **exactly** what he or she asks for. We can suggest some reasons why we do not receive what we ask for. Firstly, there are a good number of us who can be called "Proud Beggars." We are not talking about maintaining our dignity but of being too proud even to follow instructions meant at directing us to what we need. Secondly, there are some of us who are too fluid and unable to respect those in position yet want to blame others. Many people who may not fulfil their purpose in life are those who have resisted God's will (God's appointment or call into a particular career). Thirdly, most of us block ourselves from receiving what is destined for us. A good number of people in need may even be too dubious and try to cheat others with their legitimate portion. Even if the donor intended simply to test us before granting us what is ours, we fail the test. Let us hear what St. James says in his letter: "You want things, but you cannot have them, so you are ready to kill. You strongly desire things, but you cannot get them, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have what you want because your motives are bad; you ask for things to use for your own pleasures" (James 4:2-3).



The second reading tells us that God turns things to the good of those who love Him, that is, those whom God calls according to His purpose. And in the Gospel, Jesus gives us more parables related to the kingdom of God, including the treasure in the field, the pearl of great value, and the things from the storeroom new and old. It is only with Divine wisdom that the characters in the Gospel become distinct. The precepts of the Lord can make us wise and distinct as the Psalm reminds us that God's commands are more precious than finest gold. At the end, we all know God was so pleased with Solomon because he asked for a discerning judgement but not for personal riches or the lives of his enemies, God promised wisdom and riches. From Solomon's example we learn to seek first the kingdom of God and all that is required, and everything will be given to us (Cf. Mtt. 6:33).

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like..."



-Matthew 13:45

A young man went to meet a guru and asked him what would be of help to him in his entire life. The guru said "If a good choice is made, the results would be wonderful while if a wrong question is asked, the outcome would be disastrous". The young man who thought he was going to meet a very old man was surprised to meet a very young and beautiful lady. In his shock he spoke out aloud (of what was buried in his heart and subconscious) and asked the lady if she were married. It was only when the lady answered that the young man discovered he had exhausted his opportunity. Opportunity comes just once, be careful what you ask for as you have been given the chance. Do not be distracted by the beauty and attractions of this world.

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](#).

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) – 30th July 2023

Gospel Acclamation:

Entrance Antiphon :

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

R. Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.

First reading:

Kings 3.5,7-12

R. Alleluia!

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 118:57,72,76-77,127-130. R. v.97

Lord how I love your law!

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

Second reading:

Romans 8:28-30

Communion Antiphon:

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And never forget all his benefits.

Changes to Masses in the Coming Week:

Morning Prayer on Friday 4th August 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 Mabel and Margot Edwards who were baptised at St Peter's Church last weekend. May God bless them with His love and grace, today and always.



Congratulations to Elise West and Frederick Horn, who were married at St Peter's Church on Saturday. May their lives together bring glory to God and much joy to one another.



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 give us eyes of mercy and compassion and help us recognise those in need, bringing us closer to Christ in hope and joy.



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

Pauline Hill RIP
Eddie Lawlor RIP
Otto Bingeris RIP

Funeral Notices:

Pauline Hill RIP –at St Peter's, Funeral Mass **on Friday 18th August 2023 at 12:15pm.**

Please pray for her family and friends at this difficult time. May God grant her eternal rest.



The Closer to Christ Campaign

It's been 2 years since the Diocese embarked on this exciting initiative and the campaign is now entering the final chapter. £8.5 million has already been pledged, which will enable the realisation of the vision of 'Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church' With two thirds of the parishes now engaged, Bishop Philip wishes to offer his sincerest thanks for the generous contribution everyone has made. St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs was part of the Pilot Group and has pledged £791,282, (ie: 153% of the Basic Goal of £500,000!). Please don't forget we are now taking all donations for this year, if you haven't honoured your pledges already. The final group of parishes, Group 7, has now been recruited and will begin their timeline in August.

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). 😊

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.

Laudato Si Corner

Water is something we all take for granted - until nothing comes out of the tap. A typical adult uses over 150 litres of the wet stuff every day - rather more if you take a daily bath, or need to do a lot of watering in the garden in hot weather.

With the climate crisis, our rainfall patterns are changing - in long hot spells we can expect hosepipe bans to increase, as annual rainfall in the UK falls below the total we all need. So, it's time to think more about how much we each use.

Some tips:

- Have a daily shower if you have been used to taking a bath regularly.
- Make sure you have a water butt to collect rainfall that you can use in the garden during dry spells.
- Use a refillable water bottle - and save money!

Pope Francis makes water poverty and water safety a key issue at the beginning of his Laudato Si encyclical!

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: Monday **31st July 2023**, Interviews **8th August 2023**, Proposed Start Date **4th September 2023**.

IT Technician

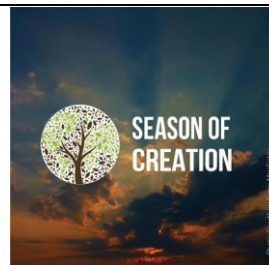
Permanent Full time, 35 hours per week. Based in St Edmund's House, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth PO1 3QA. Salary: £22,000 per annum.

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

An online seminar exploring strategies for all Catholics to fulfil their mission to bring people closer to Christ

by bestselling author Sherry Weddell will be presented by the Diocese in partnership with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales on Tuesday **21st November**. Tickets are £10 per person from <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/engaging-the-disengaged-how-to-accompany-non-religious-persons-tickets-646139539>



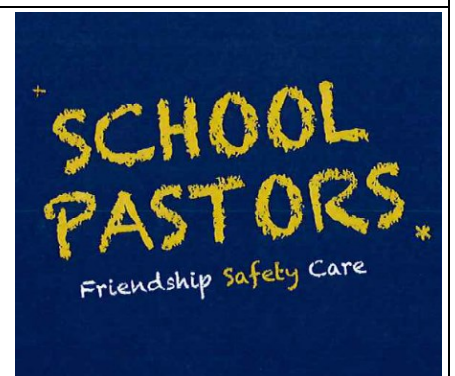
The Season of Creation runs from 1st September to 4th October, the feast day of St Francis of Assisi. The theme is 'Let Justice and Peace Flow' Amos (5:24). To help, Caritas has created a specific webpage to share ideas, resources and events. Further information can be found on the Season of Creation website. <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

SCHOOL PASTORS

Could **YOU** spare a daytime hour or two, once or twice each week during term-time, to be a volunteer School Pastor in and around one of the schools in Stanmore?

You would :

- Receive relevant online training (this autumn)
- Wear an identifying uniform
- Operate with another volunteer as a pair
- Build relationships with staff, parents and pupils at 'your' school
- Witness a change in the atmosphere of the school and the surrounding area as you spend time there and pray for the school and the area



To find out more, contact Mark Hibbert-Hingston by email : winchester@streetpastors.org.uk or 07740 288654

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/>

Loving 4 Life – Turn Your Marriage into a Great Marriage



Loving 4 Life is a Catholic Marriage Enrichment apostolate dedicated to strengthening spousal love through one-day and weekend retreats. Whether just married, married for a while or in the golden years, this Retreat is for you.

The next Retreat is on Friday 27th October 6.30pm to Sunday 29th October at 4pm and will take place in the Milner Hall, St Peter St., Winchester. SO23 8BW.

To book, email Aba at marriagefamily@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or ring 07387 645211.



Summer Notice

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

Anything you would like to be included in next week's newsletter 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 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
SUNDAY – July 30th - Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	8.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Mary Esther Townsend RIP
	9.00 AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	People of Ukraine
	9.15 AM	Family Mass at St Stephen's	Francis Mendonca RIP
	10.30 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Felix Holzapfel RIP & Paris Holzapfel RIP
	11.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	People of the Parish
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Ewa Slinn RIP
MONDAY – July 31st – St Ignatius of Loyola, Founder, memorial.	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Thanksgiving St Jude
TUESDAY – August 1st - St Alphonsus Liguori, Founder, Bishop, Doctor of the Church, memorial	10.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	James Gomez Murphy – Successful scan
WEDNESDAY – August 2nd.	10.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Souls of the Dead & Founders
THURSDAY – August 3rd - St Ethelwold, Bishop, memorial.	10.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Mary Keating
FRIDAY – August 4th - St John Vianney, Priest, memorial	10.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	CWL
SATURDAY – August 5th Transfiguration of the Lord - Vigil	9.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Deceased members of the Muldoon Family
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Souls of the Benefactors
<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 4th August. <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>			