

## PARISH SUPPORT GROUP FOR WINCHESTER PRISON

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...I was in prison and you came to visit me. -Matthew 25:36

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### Who are we?

- We are a small but growing group of volunteers supporting Fr Jean Patrice Coulon's Chaplaincy within Winchester Prison.

### Our Purpose?

- We represent the Parish of St Peter's demonstrating to all prisoners that they have not been forgotten by the community.

### What we do?

- We attend Prison Mass held every Saturday morning.
- We demonstrate Christ's love to all without judgement by listening and talking with prisoners and prison staff before and after Mass.
- We signpost prisoners to the Prisoners Advice and Care Trust (PACT) and make them aware of the support available for their families and themselves on their release.
- There is opportunity to become involved in supporting Father Jean Patrice in his Chaplaincy duties at other times.

### Links with other Outreach Ministries?

- We have links with SVP to help fund commodities such as reading glasses and stress balls.
- We share specific prisoner prayer intentions with our Parish Prayer Intercessors.

### Requirements?

- Volunteers will need to go through a Prison Vetting process should they feel called to this Ministry.
- Prospective volunteers should email the Contact Person who will explain the process in more depth.

*'Believing that we are all made in the image of God, and that each of us is given a divine spark at birth, a spark sometimes hidden so deep that its almost extinguished, should propel us to look for that spark in the prisoner. In the words of John's Gospel, The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:5)'. Excerpt from: Reverend Paul Cowley's autobiography: Thief, Prisoner, Soldier, Priest, 2020.*

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