

PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

29th October 2023

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

Rainbows and the Joy of the Holy Spirit

Father Mark writes:

Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens, bright copper kettles and warm woollen mittens, and brown paper packages tied up with strings all have their place. But bacon sandwiches, curries and rainbows are certainly a few of my own favourite things. They bring me joy. Especially rainbows.

It was whilst in the Sixth Form (Year 12 or 13 in modern money, I can't remember which), that I began to notice that rainbows would appear in the sky just in those times when I was going through a dark period in my own life and emotions. Maybe there would be things at home that I'd be struggling with, or friendship issues, or Pompey had lost, again. And then, there it would be, a glorious rainbow in the sky. The week after my dear dad passed away, some twenty years ago now, when I was on holiday with my beloved mother and sisters, again another beautiful rainbow appeared, seemingly from nowhere.

That's why I'm so grateful for the various rainbow images that have winged their way across cyberspace to my inboxes of choice in these last couple of weeks. They force me to "raise my eyes to the Lord", even when so much in our world (think Holy Land and Ukraine and conflict in Bamenda), in our neighbourhood (think cost of living crisis and mental health struggles and tribalism), in our parish family (think seriously ill parishioners, those caught up in seemingly impossible situations, emotional and spiritual woundedness) and even in my own heart (the daily struggle with sin and self-centredness and negative thoughts) seems irredeemably dark.

Rainbows don't take away the rain and the murkiness, but they remind me that the sun is still shining, that the clouds will pass in due season, that there will again, in time, be bright clear blue skies above. Rainbows remind me that the light of God's Love still shines on, scattering temporarily the darkness which can try to overwhelm me, and that the clouds of gloom and struggle and pain won't last forever. Rainbows remind me that there is joy to be found even now, whilst awaiting that glorious new dawn and the perfect joy of heaven. Rainbows offer beauty, even in the mess.

Although rainbows bring me such joy, it is the Holy Spirit who can offer us all a joy much deeper and everlasting.

In today's second reading, Paul writes to one of his favourite communities, in Thessalonica, Greece. He says:

"you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit"

The affliction they were suffering was probably some form of persecution. In other words, they weren't in some "cosy, snug place", with rainbows and butterflies and warm woollen mittens. They were probably being mocked or abused, possibly even tortured or killed. And yet they received "the Word" with the joy of the Holy Spirit.

As we prepare to celebrate our Patronal Feast on Monday, the Solemnity of the Blessed Winchester Martyrs, we remember that so many of those who gave their lives as witnesses to "the Word" did so joyfully. In the 3rd century AD, the Roman Emperor Valerian ordered St. Lawrence, one of the seven deacons of Rome, to be executed in a particularly cruel way. Such was the emperor's rage that Lawrence was to be burned alive on a grill. Yet Lawrence showed not the least fear; instead, at one point during his martyrdom, he is said to have turned to his executioners and joked: "You can turn me over now; I'm done on this side." How could they, and countless other saints, have gone to their deaths with joy and humour, singing hymns?



If we are open to the Holy Spirit and ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit, then one of the fruits which will grow in our life is joy. Sometimes it happens instantly. We've seen that here in our Alpha and Acorn groups, for example. We've prayed for people to be filled (anew) with the Holy Spirit, and they've just discovered as a gift this incredibly deep joy, personally

experiencing the perfect Love of their Heavenly Father, quite unlike anything else. Sometimes, it's a slower process, and the fruit grows steadily, perhaps even without us noticing it ourselves, until someone says to us, "there's a change in you; you seem so much more joyful" (or words to that effect).

The joy of the Thessalonians brimmed over and was infectious. So much so that St. Paul was able to continue:

"you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."

How much joy that would give me as parish priest if we were truly a community filled to overflowing with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so much so that it attracted others to desire an encounter with the Risen Jesus. How much joy it would give me if others would tell me of the joy they experience when they encounter our beautiful, if messy, parish family.

If Pope Francis is correct when he says,

"The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew."

then perhaps Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa is also right when he says,

"Joy is the only sign that even unbelievers are able to understand, and it can place them in serious crisis (far more than reproach and argumentation)."

The Holy Spirit can bring you joy, even in the midst of suffering and affliction, so allow yourself to be brought (once more) to the feet of Jesus, just like the paralysed man in the Gospel, so that you may experience for yourself (once more) and share with others the true joy of the Holy Spirit.

One of the rainbow images I was sent this week came with the words, "We must be doing something right"., I hope and pray that this is the case.

**THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A) –
29th October 2023**

Entrance Antiphon : Cf. Ps 104:3-4
Let the Hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;
turn to the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

First reading: Exodus 22:20-26

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 17:2-4,47,51. R. v.2
I love you, Lord, my strength.

Second reading: St Paul to the Thessalonians 1:5-10

Gospel Acclamation: Cf. Ac 16:14

R. Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.
R. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 19:6
We will ring out our joy at your saving help
and exult in the name of our God.

Changes to Masses in the Coming Week.


The Winchester Martyrs Patronal Feast Mass will be celebrated on Monday 30th October at St Peter's. – The 12.15pm Mass been moved to 7pm.

Mass times for All Saints are: Tuesday 31st October at 7pm (Vigil Mass), Wednesday 1st November at 7am, 12,15pm and 7pm at St Peter's, 9.15am (School Mass) at St Stephen's – All are welcome and 10am at St Gregory's.

All Souls Masses on Thursday 2nd November are 6.30am, 10am and 7pm at St Peter's, plus 10am at St Gregory's.

No Morning Prayer at St Peter's on Friday 3rd November.

Solemnity of the Blessed Winchester Martyrs. On Monday, we will be celebrating the **Solemnity of the Blessed Winchester Martyrs**. As this is one of our two parish-wide **Patronal Feast Days**, the prayers, readings, and so forth are chosen for the Solemnity. The clergy will be wearing red rather than green.

 **Welcome to Maisie Lynch** and to **Maximilian & Evie Lumb**, who were baptised at St Peter's Church, last weekend. May God bless them with His love and grace, today and always.



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 by his power, we are reassured of God's love and that we may find a new boldness

to share our faith with others in our mission to bring people to Christ in hope and joy.



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

Anne Ponsonby RIP

Kim Woodham RIP

Leslaw Wiszniewski RIP

Funeral Notices:

Anne Ponsonby RIP – at **St Peter's Church, Winchester**, Funeral Mass on **Monday 30th October at 11.00am.**

Kim Woodham RIP – at **St Peter's Church, Winchester**, Funeral Service on **Tuesday 14th November at 2pm.**

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



Thank You from Deacon Tony

I just wanted to say a huge and heartfelt thanks for everyone's prayers and encouragement before, during and after my ordination to the Sacred Diaconate, and for the many cards and gifts (The Rites I and II, and the order of Celebrating Matrimony).

With love and prayers, Tony

Winchester Lord's Flock Community 8th Anniversary Celebration – Saturday 28th October at 2.30pm

The Catholic Charismatic group called the Lord's Flock was established in 1984 in the Philippines. It's a non-profit Charismatic group where we praise and worship together as a community, through singing, dancing and fellowship and bible study.

The Winchester Community was commissioned in October 2015 and will be celebrating their 8th Anniversary in the **Pastoral Centre on Saturday 28th October at 2.30pm.** All are welcome to come along.



CWL Charity Soup & Pud Lunch.

The next CWL Charity Lunch, on **Friday 3rd November**, will be for **GoLD** (Go Learning Difficulties). All are very Welcome.

Finding God In the Non-Christian World – An opportunity to learn about the Church's engagement with other religions.

Saturday 4th November 10am to 3.30pm at **St Bede's Church**, Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX. Speakers include Fr Jan Nowotnik, Fr Michael Barnes SJ, Elliot Vanstone and Dr Yvette Harrington. To register for the event, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/mr74sbxt>

Bamenda Sunday – 5th November 2023.

We shall be celebrating **Bamenda Sunday** in the Diocese on 5th November, when we shall be giving thanks for our link with the Archdiocese of Bamenda and for the ministry of their five priests serving in our Diocese; praying for our brothers and sisters in Bamenda and for the restoration of peace and justice in the region; and giving to our annual appeal to support projects in Bamenda in 2024, the 50th anniversary of the formation of the link! Please read the annual Bamenda News for an update, which can be accessed on the Bamenda and Portsmouth website:

<https://www.bamendaandportsmouth.com/index.php>

Donations can be made via the parish second collection or online securely at: <https://www.bamendaandportsmouth.com/donate.phpm> where gift aid and standing order forms can also be downloaded and bank details can be found for direct transfers. If you already have gift aided your donations to Bamenda, please complete and submit a new form to address the change of name to CDP Bamenda Commission. Thank you for your generosity!

Bookshop. We have a selection of Advent Calendars and Christmas Cards and more will be arriving soon. Bibles, Missals, Alpha books, Prayerbooks, Rosaries, general books, crosses, small statues and gifts, as well as cards for all occasions and copies of the new encyclical "LAUDATE DEUM". Thank you for your support. Susan Henry.

Soup and Pud Lunch in aid of Basics Bank – Tuesday 7th November at St Gregory's at 12.30pm

Following the success of the lunch in July, the next Soup and Pud lunch in aid of the Basics Bank will be at St Gregory's on **Tuesday 7th November** from 12.30pm.

Please do come and support this worthy cause.

Lost Property. Are you missing any of the following items?

- A bracelet, found in the St Thomas More's car park area?
- An iPad, found in St Peter's Church.

If one or other of these items belong to you, please contact Annette in the Parish Office. Security questions will be asked to prove ownership.



THE HOLY SPIRIT IN SCRIPTURE - RECORDINGS NOW AVAILABLE

Deacon Martin's series on *The Holy Spirit in Scripture* is continuing; you are still welcome to [sign up via this link](#) to join him on Friday evenings from 19:30.

And now the recordings of [episode 1](#) and [episode 2](#), plus copies of the presentations with links to Scripture texts, are also available via [our parish YouTube site](#), so you can view them in your own time. (You may need to expand the Description in the grey box under the title on YouTube, to get to the link with the PDF presentation documents).

The recordings and presentations can also be found via [our parish website](#) - scroll down the home page until you see the heading "The Holy Spirit in Scripture".



Laudato Si Corner



A vision for the future

Members of the Laudato Si Group met on 23 October. We reflected upon the key message that Pope Francis has set out in Laudate Deum: that action to avert climate catastrophe is not proceeding fast enough. We must all respond to the challenges that the world is facing, at a global, community and individual level.

It is easy to feel despondent, especially when the world is ravaged by conflict that makes the task even harder. Yet despite the frustrations, those who attended were brimming with ideas about how we could bring Pope Francis' words to a wider audience and take practical steps to reduce our own environmental impact.

Following the meeting we have decided upon a period of reflection and assessment with a view to coming up with an action plan before Christmas. Ideas include:

- Communication of the key themes of Laudate Deum to the wider parish
- Working towards certification as an Eco Church
- A Lenten campaign
- Steps to engage and enthuse the whole parish community

We invite you to join us and get involved by sharing your views on what could be done. Contact mel.e.mills@googlemail.com if you are interested in working with us towards our next action plan.

Laudato Si Group

Crosskeys Deadline for Christmas

The deadline for the Christmas edition of CrossKeys, the parish magazine, is Monday, 13 November. If you have an article or item of news or picture you would like to be included please send your submission to the editor, Brian Mustoe, at the following email address:

crosskeys@stpeterswinchester.org.uk as soon as possible.

Diocesan Vacancies

Permanent Full-time **IT Technician** - Based in St Edmund's House, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth PO1 3QA. 35 hours per week; Salary: £22,000 per annum depending on skills and experience.

For Job Description and details of how to apply please contact: recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk: For an informal chat about the role please contact our IT Manager: itmanager@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk **Closing Date: 6 November 2023 Interview Date: 15 November 2023.**

Permanent Full-time **Health and Safety Officer (H&S)**. Based in St Edmund's House, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth PO1 3QA. 37 hours per week; Salary: £30,000 to £35,000 per annum depending on skills and experience.

For Job Description and details of how to apply please contact: Pauline Clarke, Tel: 02394 216493 email: recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk: Please note a covering letter must be provided with your application. **Closing Date: 10th November 2023.**

Permanent Full-time **SCHOOLS ESTATES MANAGER**. Based in St Edmund's House, Bishop Crispian Wat, Portsmouth. PO1 3QA. 37 hours per week; Salary £50,000 - £60,000. To arrange an informal discussion about the role or request full job description and details of how to apply please contact: andy@pp-recruitment.com

St Stephen's Travelling Nativity

This Advent, Mary and Joseph are travelling with the little donkey to Bethlehem. On their way they are hoping to find a different inn to stay at every night. Could they come to stay at your house?

The Travelling Nativity will come to you for a night and then you are expected to pass them on to the next family.

This is a lovely opportunity to explore the Advent story with your family and even meet other families to have a cup of tea/glass of wine, and pray together during Advent (although we know that people are busy so a get together is not always possible).

Please let me know if you would like any further information or to participate and I will add your family to the rota. If you would like to be added please send your name, email address, home address and a contact number by the 19 November. Your details will be shared with others participating in the travelling nativity, let us know if you have any concerns.

You can contact me on lidiaotero@hickman1@gmail.com. Thank you. Lidia Otero



Mass Timetable	28 th October 2023 – 4 th November 2023		
Date	Mass Times & Intentions		
SATURDAY – October 28 th – Ss SIMON & JUDE, Apostles, feast. 30 th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Vigil	9.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Sunna Cowling-Kelly
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Intentions of Norma Hencher.
SUNDAY – October 29 th - Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time.	8.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Mr Jim Armstrong RIP & his family
	9.00 AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	People of Ukraine
	9.15 AM	Mass at St Stephen's	People of the Parish
	10.30 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Winchester Lords Flock Community Anniversary
	11.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Agnes Mary Robinson
MONDAY – October 30 th – BLESSED WINCHESTER MARTYRS, solemnity.	11.00 AM	Funeral Mass at St Peter's	Anne Ponsonby RIP
	7.00 PM	Patronal Feast Mass St Peter's	
TUESDAY – October 31 st –	10.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Soul of John McKendry
	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Richard Wheble
	7.00 PM	All Saints Vigil Mass St Peter's	
WEDNESDAY – November 1 st – ALL SAINTS, solemnity.	7.00 AM	All Saints Mass at St Peter's	
	9.15 AM	All Saints School Mass at St Stephen's	
	10.00 AM	All Saints Mass - St Gregory's	
	12.15 PM	All Saints Mass at St Peter's	Souls in Purgatory
	7.00 PM	All Saints Mass at St Peter's	
THURSDAY – November 2 nd – Commemoration of ALL SOULS.	6.30 AM	All Souls Mass at St Peter's	
	10.00 AM	All Souls Mass at St Peter's	Soul of David Tutton
	10.00 AM	All Souls Mass at St Gregory's	
	7.00 PM	All Souls Mass at St Peter's	Holy Souls
FRIDAY – November 3 rd – Blessed John Body, Martyr, memorial.	10.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	CWL for Go-LD (Go Learning Difficulties)
SATURDAY – November 4 th – St Charles Borromeo, Bishop, memorial. 31 st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Vigil	9.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Mrs Giles
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Deceased Members of the Hill Family.

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 will be no Morning Prayer on Friday 3rd November.**

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.

Useful Contacts

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

Online Seminar with Sherry Weddell The Diocese of Portsmouth, in collaboration with the Bishops' Conference Department for Evangelisation, has organised an online seminar led by Sherry Weddell called **Engaging the Disengaged: How to Accompany Non-Religious Persons in Daily Life**. It takes place on **Tuesday 21st November 2023** from 6 pm until 8pm and tickets cost £10. This seminar will be of special interest to all those in parishes and dioceses who are actively engaged in evangelisation and catechesis such as clergy, catechists, Catholic teachers, lay ministers, parish groups etc. For more details, please click here: "[Eventbrite Engaging the Disengaged](#)".