

PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

15th October 2023

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

Realigning - Loving People by Inviting them to the Feast

Father Mark writes:

We all want to be loving people. *And we all know* we have room for improvement. There is a gap, and when we're stressed or tested or stretched, that gap can grow. When we see people as *God sees* them, however, it is easier to *love them* as *God loves them*.

Today we are looking at a key way of loving people highlighted by a parable from the Gospel of Matthew.

"And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast..."

Jesus used these parables, these stories because people love stories and they made people think.

Jesus says the kingdom of heaven is like a wedding, a big one. In the Jewish culture, there was no bigger party than a wedding feast. They meant even more than they do today. A wedding feast would not just last for a day but for an entire week. Everyone in town would come out to a wedding feast because it was a huge break from the tedium and drudgery that characterized daily life. There would be food and drink and dancing.

So, any wedding would be a big deal. But *this* wedding was being given by a king. A king would have the best party imaginable, with the richest foods and the finest wines. No expense would be spared. It was an honour to be invited, a privilege, a tremendous opportunity. So, of course everyone would want to come, wouldn't they? Nope. Not this time.

"[The King] sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast but they would not come."

That was absurd. So much so, that his audience probably laughed out loud. Nobody would refuse to come to such a wedding.

"Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, 'See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.'"

Everything is ready, the food is prepared. This second invitation is even more urgent. But the response is more pronounced...

"But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business..."

Previously they *refused* the invitation, now they *ignore* it and just get on with their daily duties as if nothing had happened. Worse still...

"...while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them."

Here, the absurdity of the story turns dark. They murder the king's servants and the king in turn sees that justice is done. But the king still wants guests for his party, so...

"The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find."

The first group of guests proved themselves *unworthy*. Why? Simply because they rejected the invitation. Worthiness before the king is *determined solely* by a willingness or otherwise to accept his invitation. Since they proved themselves unworthy, the king's servants look for anyone who will accept the invitation.

"those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So, the wedding hall was filled with guests."

They fill the hall and have a party.

In a parable someone is usually God and someone usually represents us or the people to whom Jesus addresses a parable. In this parable, God is

represented by the king. And the wedding feast is heaven.

The guests who refuse to come to the party represent the chief priests and religious rulers to whom he was speaking, who are rejecting his teaching and would be responsible for his death. But they also represent anyone else who feels like they are too good for God. They represent people who think they are better off without him/refuse the invitation.

Meanwhile, Jesus calls us to identify specifically with the king's servants. Jesus tells us that we should see ourselves humbly as servants. We are servants entrusted with wonderful good news, in the form of an invitation from the Lord to those who don't know him.

While some people do reject or ignore God outright, I am convinced that most people stay away from God and Church because that invitation is (i) misrepresented by Church people and (ii) misunderstood by unchurched people.

The invitation becomes all about judgment and guilt, religion and religious rule keeping, dogma and doctrine, arcane rituals/churchy church ceremony. They believe that an invitation to Church is about being "good", being "holy", being "worthy" / They miss the fact that worthiness is predicated wholly and only on their willingness to accept the invitation. And that invitation is to a life changing opportunity for a more joyful life now and rewards to come.

Pope Francis offers his own words of challenge:

"In some people we see an ostentatious preoccupation for the liturgy, for doctrine and for the Church's prestige, but without any concern that the Gospel have a real impact on God's faithful people and the concrete needs of the present time. In this way, the life of the Church turns into a museum piece or something which is the property of a select few..."

God save us from a worldly Church with superficial spiritual and pastoral trappings! This stifling worldliness can only be healed by breathing in the pure air of the Holy Spirit who frees us from self-centredness cloaked in an outward religiosity bereft of God. Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of the Gospel!" (Evangelii Gaudium, 95-97)

We are the people God has chosen to invite and bring people to His table and His Feast – the Eucharist in this life and the Eternal Wedding Banquet in Heaven.

Who is the person thirsting for Christ, the 'paralysed man' waiting to be carried to Christ that you will encounter this week?

Be open to the Holy Spirit pointing out someone to you and then take that risk of inviting them to Mass, or simply to come in and light a candle, or to some other encounter with the Crucified and Risen Christ this week.

The Parable of the Wedding Feast



TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A) –

15th October 2023

Entrance Antiphon :

Ps 129:3-4

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who should stand?
But with you is found forgiveness,
O God of Israel.

First reading:

Isaiah 25:6-10

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 22. R. v.6

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

Second reading:

St Paul to the Philippians 4:12-14,19-20

Gospel Acclamation:

Jn 1:12,14

R. Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word has made flesh and lived among us;
to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God.

R. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Communion Antiphon:

Cf. Ps 33:11

The rich suffer want and go hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

Changes to Masses in the Coming Week.

No Morning Prayer on Friday 20th October, but there will still be Holy Hour (Adoration).



Welcome to Otilie and William Saunders, 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: Let us pray for all those taking part in the Holy Spirit in Scripture course, that they may deepen their faith and be inspired afresh to use what they have learnt in our mission of bringing others closer to Jesus Christ in hope and joy.



PLEASE PRAY FOR the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:
Edward John Harper RIP
Sharon Tracey-Burner RIP
Anne Ponsonby RIP

Funeral Notices:

Edward John Harper RIP – at **St Peters Church, Winchester**, Funeral Service on **Friday 20th October at 1.30pm**.
Anne Ponsonby RIP – at **St Peter's Church, Winchester**, Funeral Mass on **Monday 30th October at 11.00am**.
Please pray for their family and friends at this difficult time. May God grant them eternal rest.



Second Collection this Weekend is for CAFOD Harvest Appeal October 2023 There will be speakers at all Masses.

Dr Nasha's mobile medical clinic gets life-saving help to where it's needed most, fast – so when her team arrived in Meera's village in Pakistan after it had been destroyed by flooding, Meera rushed to the clinic to get her children the treatment they needed. Donate to CAFOD today so that more families can get the expert help they need. Use the envelope in church, donate via Contactless at the back of St Peter's and St Stephen's Churches or give online at cafod.org.uk using this QR code.

This link takes you to the CAFOD Harvest Appeal video 2023 and lets you hear Dr Nasha and Meera's inspiring stories from their own mouths: <https://youtu.be/NJr5jOvp1hU>



Thank you to St Stephen's parishioners for their huge generosity of support on Prisoners Sunday.

St Stephen's cake sale on Sunday morning raised a staggering £192 for Prisoners Sunday! All of that will go to items for prisoners as identified by Fr Jean-Patrice.

VOLUNTEERS -YOU ARE INVITED! - Do **YOU** volunteer in the Parish of St Peter & the Winchester Martyrs?

Then please come along to a Thankyou tea party in St. Peter's Pastoral Centre on **Sunday 15th October at 3pm**.

Everyone who serves in the Parish is invited for tea and cakes, as a small measure of appreciation and recognition for all you do - we want to reach every single person who contributes, no matter how big or small that contribution may seem.

THIS is your invitation – if you can, please let us know you are coming via this link to ticketsource, via the button on the [Parish website homepage](http://parishwebsitehomepage), or by emailing moirar@stpeterswinchester.org.uk. Obviously, there is no charge, and the booking is just to give us an idea for numbers for catering. The important thing is that you come! You'll get the chance to meet other volunteers, and Fr Mark will get the chance to thank you. Please pass the word on to anyone you know who volunteers here.



Churches Together in Winchester (CTiW) October Update:

Prayer for the City – Tuesday 17 October, 7.30 – 9.00 pm. We are again being welcomed by the Vineyard church and led by Nigel Hemming looking at issues that really matter in our communities.

Launch of the Wellbeing café and hub – Thursday 26th October. "Come and join us at **19.30 pm on Thursday 26th October** at Winchester Salvation Army Hall on Parchment Street, SO23 8AZ to hear about the launch of this exciting new project to help support the needs of those struggling with their mental health and experiencing social isolation in the community. In this first year, with the support of individuals from churches across Winchester, we will establish the café in a city centre church one afternoon per week. In the course of time, we hope to extend the project and see it expand into a full-blown wellbeing hub. Please RSVP to Alison Dolphin wellbeingcafeandhub@gmail.com (so we know how many to expect").

Pies & Puds – Wednesday 18th October

It's time for our monthly lunch event! Come along on **Wednesday 18th October** to the Pastoral Centre, **12.45 for 1pm**. We'll be serving home-made pies, all the vegetables you can eat, vegetarian and gluten-free alternatives, and proper puddings with custard. Lunch, social time, and then a talk: this month we have someone coming from the Winchester Repair Cafe, which should be fascinating. Come on your own or with a partner or friend - everyone is made welcome. There is no booking or commitment necessary, but do contact moirar@msn.com with any questions, or to be added to our mailing list.

Winchester Catholic History Society. The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 18 October at 7.15 pm** in the Parish Centre. 'Anglo Papal Relations & The Pope as a Protector & Diplomat in Medieval History'. Dr Gabrielle Storey will discuss the position of the Medieval Papacy as protectors of the weak and vulnerable and how the relationship between England and the Papacy came into heightened conflict in the 12th and 13th centuries with tensions between John, King of England, and his son Henry III.

New members most welcome, visitors £7 on the evening.

Churches Together in Alresford's Away Day: On **Saturday 21st October** CTIA is having a day of "interdenominational activity and fellowship" on the theme of Making Disciples. It will be held at the recently - and beautifully! - restored church of St Peter's, Ropley. Participation will be free of charge, with a Bring and Share Lunch. More information is available from piermarmstrong@gmail.com or by calling Piers on 01962 734542.

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.



CWL Charity Soup & Pud Lunch Thanks.

THANKYOU from the CWL to all who supported their October Soup & Pud Lunch, which raised **£180 for Winchester Youth Counselling.**

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

Laudato Si Corner

What connects Winchester with Louisiana and Africa?

Last Tuesday, Fr Benedict gave a talk about the effects of climate change upon African farmers. We know that developing countries are being hit particularly hard by global warming. This follows years of exploitation by richer nations. Many slaves were taken by British traders from Cameroon to the USA – but we tend to associate large ports such as Bristol and Liverpool with the slave trade. What about Winchester?

As part of Green Week, Winchester Cathedral organised a walk from East Stratton to the Grange at Northington. The estates around Northington were owned by Sir Francis Baring, founder of Barings Bank. He was a wealthy and influential merchant. Slave labour contributed significantly to the family's fortunes. In 1803 Alexander Baring arranged the financing of the Louisiana Purchase, a massive land acquisition that expanded the United States. The extension of slavery into the deep South followed.

Dr Ibrahim Seck, an academic based in Dakar Senegal who is also director of the Whitney Plantation Slavery Museum, accompanied the walkers. His work focuses on the links between West Africa and Louisiana.

The walk reminded us that we have always been part of an interconnected world and that what happens thousands of miles away impacts upon us here in Hampshire and the UK. We do indeed live in a 'common home'. As Catholics we reflect on our history and stand in solidarity with all our brothers and sisters. Something to think about when you go on a country walk!



Photo: Northington Church.

Message from St Peter's School:



Dear parents

Year Group News

Year 6 Osmington Bay Residential

Thank you once again to all the staff and volunteers who enabled this year's residential to take place. Mr Heys in particular spent many hours completing the paperwork and ensuring that it was the success that it was. I know the staff were absolutely shattered by the Friday but delighted at the children's behaviour and how they rose to the various challenges. The children have been very keen to share everything they got up to, including allegedly eating 14 hash browns for breakfast! (a slight exaggeration I believe).



We currently have a vacancy for a SENDCo and a Teaching Assistant in EYFS. Please see our website for further details:

<https://www.stpetershants.co.uk/vacancies/>

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.

Best wishes Louise Buxton (Miss) Headteacher

Do You Need A House-Sitter? Message from a Parishioner: Do you need a house-sitter for insurance or pet sitting for 3-6 months whilst you are away? We have had to move out of our house whilst work is done on it and are looking for somewhere to stay where we can also be helpful. Please contact Annette in the Parish Office if you can help or know of someone that may be able to. Thank you.

Bookshop We have a selection of Bibles, Missals, Alpha books, Prayerbooks, Rosaries, general books, crosses, small statues and gifts for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Cards for all occasions and copies of the new encyclical "LAUDATE DEUM" have arrived. Thank you for your support. Susan Henry.

Mass Timetable	14 th October 2023 – 21 st October 2023		
Date	Mass Times & Intentions		
SATURDAY – October 14 th – St Callistus 1, Pope, Martyr. 28 th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Vigil	9.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Alessandro Patel (exam)
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Geraldine Lozano
SUNDAY – October 15 th - Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time.	8.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of William Meader
	9.00 AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	People of the Parish
	9.15 AM	Mass at St Stephen's	Des Le Grys RIP
	10.30 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Sharon Tracey-Burner RIP
	11.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	People of Ukraine
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	P I Jose Kerela RIP
MONDAY – October 16 th – St Hedwig, Religious.	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Mary Lady Mannock
TUESDAY – October 17 th – St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop, Martyr, memorial.	10.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Soul of Margaret Merriman
	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Beatrice Hew Tompson
WEDNESDAY – October 18 th – ST LUKE, Evangelist, feast.	10.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Souls of Peter Louth & Benefactors
THURSDAY – October 19 th – Ss John de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues & Companions, Religious, Martyrs.	10.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Thomas & Kathleen Pendleton RIP
FRIDAY – October 20 th –	10.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Deceased Members of Hogan & Fitzgerald Families
SATURDAY – October 21 st – Our Lady on Saturday. 29 th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Vigil	9.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Julia Cave
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Alessandro Patel (Thanksgiving)
<p>Confessions every Saturday 9.30am till 10.30am and 4.30pm-5.00pm at St Peter's Church – booking not required.</p> <p>Morning Prayer (livestream and open to public), every weekday 8.00am at St Peter's followed by Adoration till 9.00am. No Morning Prayer on Friday 20th October, but there will still be Holy Hour (Adoration).</p> <p><i>To participate in any service online (including Morning Prayer & Adoration) or to see the recorded services, go to our YouTube channel</i></p> <p>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>			
<p>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".</p>			