

# PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

*The Shocking Power of the Holy Spirit*

## **Father Mark writes:**

As I tap these words out on the screen, I'm preparing for a visit to a Mallorcan monastery, followed by a four hour walk back to the hotel. I'm looking forward to seeing the monastery but I'm much more excited about the hike home. There's something about exploring new hills and valleys, breathing fresh and different air whilst keeping an eye out for interesting flora and fauna, that connects me with the Creator and re-creates me.

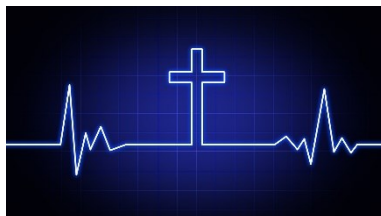
It wasn't always thus, however. I have always been blessed with a love of sports but the idea of training or walking when I didn't need to all seemed like a bit of an effort. It's a mini-miracle that I achieved my Chief Scouts Award, especially after my first night hike. It was long, it was cold, we got lost and, unsurprisingly for night time, it was dark! It was the latter which I blamed for my first encounter with an electric fence!

Never one with a high pain threshold - stinging nettles to me were a particularly unnecessary evil - the zap that I got whilst trying to clamber over the fence, unaware that such things existed and could be filled with this menacing power, left a lasting memory. The shock I received, both physical and metaphorical, was immense.



Power is a valuable commodity. Not only does it keep wandering sheep inside fields, and meandering scouts outside, for the most part at least. It also enables us to do so much that wouldn't be possible by our own human efforts. Think of all the things you do and use every day, from the electric toothbrush to the car and oven and washing machine and smart phone, that simply wouldn't be possible without this superhuman strength. No wonder, then, that oil is so valuable and that now we are rightly looking not just below but also above, to the wind and sun, for renewable sources of energy and power.

What is true for our physical life also holds for our spiritual life. If we try and live the life to which God calls us, if we try and become saints, simply by our human efforts, we are doomed to a life of slavish burden at best and complete failure at worst. We know that we cannot make it to heaven on our own, by our own merits, without grace, without the supernatural help that God offers us. But it is equally true that we cannot live the Christian life on Earth solely by human means. We need God's grace to be at work within us, we need the power of the Holy Spirit, God's love. We need to be 'touched by', experience in a personal way, 'the finger of God's right hand', the 'power from on high' which Jesus promised to his disciples.



When Jesus spoke and acted it was always with 'power' and 'authority', which made people wonder who He was. Who is He, that even the wind and the waves obey him? Who is He that He can heal the sick, cast out evil spirits, give sight to the blind, comfort the suffering, give food to the hungry, set captives free?

On the day of Pentecost, which we might call the "big bang" of the Church, when those gathered were filled with the Holy Spirit, there were two accompanying signs: a heavenly sound like a mighty rushing wind and tongues as if of fire.

The Hebrew word for 'spirit' is ruah, which the Greek translates as pneuma. The same word is used to denote 'wind' and 'breath'. We all know the power of 'mighty wind', hurricanes which can pull down trees and cause danger to life. It 'blows where it will' and carries with it an awesome energy. Windmills and wind turbines can harness this energy and transform it into something which we can use. At the same time, our breath is something totally intimate and yet vital for life.



Similarly, the Holy Spirit has an incredible force which can move hearts and minds and change the course of history, whilst at the same time possessing an intimacy which can reach down into the most secret part of our selves, bringing healing and life to that which is decaying or rotten. The Holy Spirit is unstoppable power and infinite tenderness.

The sun is an incredibly powerful ball of fire, and we feel its effects despite it being some 93 million miles away. Its rays bring warmth and light and life. Solar energy has incredible potential to fuel our physical lives. The Holy Spirit is energy from the Son, empowering us with the very life of our almighty, all-powerful God.

Where do we look for the energy we need? Do we look 'below' to our own Human Resources and strength, intelligence and creativity? Or do we look 'above', seeking what we need from the Holy Spirit, the power of the Risen Christ?

Just as Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power at his baptism, so too have we been anointed and sealed with the same Holy Spirit and power at our own baptism and confirmation. Just as the body of Jesus was broken on the cross, like an alabaster jar, in order to pour forth the Holy Spirit upon the Church and the world, so too are we called to release the anointing which has been given to us. In such a way, we can at times almost feel this anointing filling our being - reassured of God's loving presence, fears washed away, a new boldness given to us - and then the fragrance becomes a blessing to those whom we encounter and minister.

St. Paul writes to us in this weekend's second reading:

*We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.*

We need to hear the Good News, the joy of the Gospel again and again and again in our own lives, so that we can be convicted of its truth, strengthened in our faith and



experience anew the power of the Holy Spirit recharging us for the mission of building up the Kingdom of God. It is then, filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit, that we can speak and act in ways that not only make sense to others but further give them that 'electric shock' which, as it did for Thomas when he put his finger into the side of Jesus, dissolves all doubts and fears and enables them and us to proclaim, "My Lord and my God!"

**TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A) –  
22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023**

**Entrance Antiphon :** Ps 129:3-4  
To you I call, for you will surely heed me, O God;  
turn your ear to me; hear my words.  
Guard me as the apple of your eye;  
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

**First reading:** Isaiah 45:1,4-6

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 95:1,3-5,7-10. R. v.7  
Give the Lord glory and power.

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

**Gospel Acclamation:** Jn 17:17


**R. Alleluia, alleluia!**  
Your word is truth, O Lord,  
consecrate us in the truth.  
**R. Alleluia!**

**Gospel:** Matthew 22:15-21

**Communion Antiphon:** Cf. Ps 32:18-19  
Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him,  
who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep them alive in famine.

**Changes to Masses in the Coming Week.**

**We welcome Brothers of the City of Winchester Circle of the Catenian Association, who will be joining us at the 10.30am Mass at St Peter's on Sunday (22<sup>nd</sup> October). They are celebrating their annual President's Sunday here.**

 **Welcome to Samuel Webb and Aiden Barwell, 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 prisoners and their families, for those who visit and support them and for more volunteers to our mission to bring Jesus Christ to them in their time of need, giving them comfort and hope for the future.



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

**Funeral Notices:**

Anne Ponsonby RIP – at **St Peter's Church, Winchester**, Funeral Mass on **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October at 11.00am**. Please pray for her family and friends at this difficult time. May God grant her eternal rest.



**World Mission Sunday (22<sup>nd</sup> October) is our Second Collection this weekend.** Your donations build much needed infrastructure, from chapels and schools to orphanages, clinics and dispensaries. Requested by the local community, the support from Missio transforms lives. It creates a hub from which the young Church can spread the God News of the Gospel, minister to the faithful, and deliver essential services in health and education. Donations can be made using the envelope in church, use Contactless at the back of St Peter's and St Stephen's Churches, give online through the secure website: [www.missio.org.uk/wmsdonate](http://www.missio.org.uk/wmsdonate) or scan this QR Code.



**Churches Together in Winchester (CTiW) October Update:**

**Launch of the Wellbeing café and hub – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October.** "Come and join us at **19.30 pm on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:wellbeingcafeandhub@gmail.com) (so we know how many to expect").

**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 Seven Days of Creation banners in St Stephen's.** You will have seen the Seven Days of Creation Banners in Crosskeys magazine. Seven banners designed and stitched by members of the congregation. On **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October** we are having an **Open Afternoon in St Stephen's Church between 2.00 and 4.00pm**, when everyone is welcome to come and view the banners. Contact for any queries: [Ststephens@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:Ststephens@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

**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 27<sup>th</sup> October 6.30pm to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:marriagefamily@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or ring 07387 645211.



**CWL Charity Soup & Pud Lunch.**

The next CWL Charity Lunch, will be for GoLD (Go Learning Difficulties), on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



**The Holy Spirit in Scripture: Deacon Martin started a series of talks and discussions on October 13<sup>th</sup> – IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP!!**

This 7-session series will cover how the **Holy Spirit** is depicted in the Old Testament, Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, the letters of Paul, the "general letters" and the book of Revelation.

To register, go to <https://bit.ly/HolySpiritinScripture> or scan the QR code



**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.

**Laudato Si Corner**

The Pope's new Apostolic Exhortation (a follow up to Laudato Si which was published 8 years ago) is now available in the Parish bookshop. Entitled **Laudato Deum**, in it he addresses very bluntly our failure to reduce the damage we continue to do to our world, our common home. In an earlier encyclical, Fratelli Tutti, he wrote "our own days seem to be showing signs of a certain regression... Goodness, together with love. Justice and solidarity are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realised each day".

Each of our days are filled with opportunities to consider how we might reduce our harmful impact on nature and contribute to the common good so as to ensure the future of our children and grandchildren. For example, the Laudato Si Group is currently discussing working towards the **Eco Church qualification**. If this would interest you, and you could help in any way, do let us know. You can find a link to us on the parish website.

**Message from St Peter's School:**



**Harvest Festival**

Thank you for your generosity towards our Harvest Festival. Both the Carroll Centre Food Pantry and Winchester Basics Bank are very thankful.

Also thank you Father for celebrating Harvest Mass, along with Christel and Anne for being sacristans and Mrs Cooney for accompanying the school band. It was a wonderful celebration of the gifts we are given by God.

*When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.*

Deuteronomy 24:19



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](mailto:admin@st-peters.hants.sch.uk).

Best wishes Louise Buxton (Miss) Headteacher

**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](#)".

**Diocesan Vacancy**

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](mailto:recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk); For an informal chat about the role please contact our IT Manager: [itmanager@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:itmanager@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) **Closing Date: 6 November 2023 Interview Date: 15 November 2023.**

<b>Mass Timetable</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> October 2023 – 28<sup>th</sup> October 2023</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Mass Times &amp; Intentions</b>		
<b>SATURDAY – October 21<sup>st</sup> – Our Lady on Saturday.</b> <b>29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Vigil</b>	<b>9.00 AM</b>	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Julia Cave
	<b>5.30 PM</b>	Mass at St Peter's	Alessandro Patel (Thanksgiving)
<b>SUNDAY – October 22<sup>nd</sup> -</b> <b>Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time.</b>	<b>8.00 AM</b>	Mass at St Peter's	Margaret Guppy RIP
	<b>9.00 AM</b>	Mass at St Thomas More's	
	<b>9.15 AM</b>	Mass at St Stephen's	People of Ukraine
	<b>10.30 AM</b>	Mass at St Peter's	Geo Paily RIP
	<b>11.00 AM</b>	Mass at St Gregory's	People of the Parish
	<b>5.30 PM</b>	Mass at St Peter's	Marisa Yu RIP
<b>MONDAY – October 23<sup>rd</sup> – Diocesan Day of Prayer &amp; Reparation for Life.</b>	<b>12.15 PM</b>	Mass at St Peter's	Intentions of the Neil Family
<b>TUESDAY – October 24<sup>th</sup> – St Anthony Claret, Founder, Bishop.</b>	<b>10.00 AM</b>	Mass at St Gregory's	Alistair Day RIP
	<b>12.15 PM</b>	Mass at St Peter's	
<b>WEDNESDAY – October 25<sup>th</sup> –</b>	<b>10.00 AM</b>	Mass at St Peter's	Souls of the Dead & Benefactors
<b>THURSDAY – October 26<sup>th</sup> – Ss Chad &amp; Cedd, Bishops.</b>	<b>10.00 AM</b>	Mass at St Peter's	G. Gratton-Storey RIP (Anniversary of death)
<b>FRIDAY – October 27<sup>th</sup> –</b>	<b>10.00 AM</b>	Mass at St Gregory's	
	<b>12.15 PM</b>	Mass at St Peter's	Ceser's Birthday Thanksgiving
<b>SATURDAY – October 28<sup>th</sup> – Ss SIMON &amp; JUDE, Apostles, feast.</b> <b>30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Vigil</b>	<b>9.00 AM</b>	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Sunna Cowling-Kelly
	<b>5.30 PM</b>	Mass at St Peter's	Intentions of Norma Hencher.

**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.

*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](mailto:mhogan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk))

Fr Benedict Ndikum (Assistant Priest) ([bndikum@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bndikum@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk))

Deacon Martin McElroy ([mmcelroy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:mmcelroy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk))

Deacon Tony Darlison ([tdarlison@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:tdarlison@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk))

Director of Evangelisation and Leadership: Allegra Mutanda ([allegra@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:allegra@stpeterswinchester.org.uk))

Parish Music Team Leader: - Alastair Ross ([aross@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:aross@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)).

Housekeeper: Sarah Harfield ([sharfield@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:sharfield@stpeterswinchester.org.uk))

Finance and Property Manager: Annette Parr ([annette@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:annette@stpeterswinchester.org.uk))

Facilities and Resources Manager: Sean Reidy ([sean@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:sean@stpeterswinchester.org.uk))

Parish Administration Manager: Michaela Waterfield ([michaela@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:michaela@stpeterswinchester.org.uk))

Sacristan: Laurie Howe      Caretaker: Richard Phiri

Pastoral team – Baptism and First Holy Communion: Rosanne Walker ([baptism@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:baptism@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)), ([FHC@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:FHC@stpeterswinchester.org.uk))

Pastoral team – Youth Ministry: Jo Donaldson ([youthstuff@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:youthstuff@stpeterswinchester.org.uk))

Outreach Ministry Lead: Mike Elks ([mike@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:mike@stpeterswinchester.org.uk))

Volunteer Director of Communications: Lisa Justice ([ljustice@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk) .

**PeterCares:** [petercares@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:petercares@stpeterswinchester.org.uk) **Prayerline:** [prayers@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:prayers@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

**Wedding information –** [weddings@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:weddings@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

**Newsletter** (deadline for items Wednesday evening): [newsletters@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:newsletters@stpeterswinchester.org.uk) **Newsletter list:** [hello@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:hello@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

**St. Peter's School Office:** 01962 852820 [admin@st-peters.hants.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-peters.hants.sch.uk)

**St. Thomas More's Stockbridge:** please email [stm@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:stm@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)