

PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

21st January 2024

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

2024 – Prayerfully Listening to the Word of God

Father Mark writes:

In our first reading this weekend, we have a delightful portion from the book of Jonah. Notice the contrast between Jonah, the reluctant messenger who does his best to run away from God's instructions, and the Ninevites, who all repent immediately upon hearing the Word of the Lord. Even the Babylonian animals fasted and put on sackcloth!

Jonah lends God his voice and the King of Nineveh immediately bows low. In the Gospel this weekend, the Word of God summons His chosen ones on the shore of Galilee and immediately they drop everything and follow. Similarly, in Hampshire this weekend, the Father whispers his Word to you, his beloved child, in the depth of your soul and...

And what..? How do you respond..? With hope and joy..? With delight and faith..? Or with fear and anxiety..? Or do you even hear His voice amongst the countless others which clamour for your attention..? Or do you even believe it's possible for you to hear Him speak His Word to you..? "Would God really want to speak to little old me..?" "How is God supposed to speak to me if he has no body? If I can't see him, how am I supposed to hear him?"

There is a power in God's Word which transforms and reforms, which unites and ignites, which fills and instils us with dignity and value and life in Love. God's word calls us and comforts us, challenges and chides us, draws us and desires us in Love. Our Father whispers in our ear, beckons us come near, casts our every fear in Love.

But if we don't know how to hear from him..?

On this Sunday of the Word of God, as we begin our Year of Prayer, let's call to mind the words of St. Teresa of Calcutta:

"God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer."



If prayer is "a vital and personal relationship with the living and true God" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2558) then, like any relationship, we need to listen to the heart of the Other, as we speak from our own heart to the One who listens to us. Prayer requires, as St. Francis de Sales puts it, that "heart speaks to heart".

How would you like to learn how to listen to God speaking to your heart during Lent this year..? I'm confident that this would transform your life, if you could hear your Heavenly Father talking to you personally, telling you how precious you are to Him, shepherding you away from those dangerous paths, leading you towards those green pastures and those streams of living water, sharing with you what is on his heart for you and for the people around you, inviting you into the privilege of helping him to bring healing and peace to those who are hurting and wounded...

Can you believe this Lent not only that your Heavenly Father *wants* to speak to you but that he *can* speak to you, that he *is* speaking to you..?

Lent begins this year, as every year, with Ash Wednesday. This year that falls on 14th February (aka Valentine's Day!) Please join our Lenten Spiritual Campaign 2024.

You will receive our daily emails, which will take you just a couple of minutes to read and leave you with a thought or two to ponder throughout the day. The



messages will usually include a Word of God from the Bible to nourish you as you chew it over. We'll also guide you through some different ways of praying in this year of prayer, with optional prayer exercises that will take just a few minutes and help you practise listening to God's voice in different ways. Nearly 280 people were receiving our Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter daily email messages last year. Why not be part of that community?

You will also be able to read or hear our weekly Homily Message, at Mass and elsewhere, encouraging you and giving you some practical tips for learning to listen to God as he speaks to you in prayer and in your daily life (making that daily life become itself a prayer).

You will also be able to sign up for our weekly small groups. These give you the same opportunity to practise prayerfully listening to God, but alongside others. This means that you can also listen to God speaking through the insights of others and share your own experience of trying to listen to God - the joys and frustrations - with those who are on the journey alongside you.

Across our spiritual campaign this Lent, we will be particularly focussing on learning to listen to God's voice through the ancient art of *Lectio Divina*, which literally means "Holy Reading". We will be exploring this prayerful approach to Scriptures in new and fresh ways. *Lectio Divina* is a way of reading the Bible prayerfully, to listen to God's word with the ear of the heart. Pope Francis describes *Lectio Divina* in *Evangelii Gaudium* as a "way of listening to what the Lord wishes to tell us in his Word and of letting ourselves be transformed by the Spirit" (152). You can read more from Pope Francis on *Lectio Divina* [here](#).

I would LOVE everyone to sign up for a Lenten Small Group this year. Registration will open next weekend.

Or, instead of a *Lectio Divina* small group, you could sign up for this season's Alpha: a wonderful opportunity to hear Jesus himself speaking to you and proclaiming the Good News of God, just as he did in Galilee, as we hear in our Gospel this weekend. "The time has come", he says to you, "and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News." Why not come and hear the Good News that God loves you so much that he died for you, so he could fill you with his love and lead you safely home to heaven..? Alpha this year will run on Tuesdays, starting 20th February.



Will you join us this Lent as together we learn how to speak heart to heart with God? Then watch this space for sign-up details...

Changes to Masses in the Coming Week.

Mass at St Gregory's on Friday 26th January has been cancelled.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B) – 21st January 2024

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 95:1,6
O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.

First reading: Jonah 3:1-5,10

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 24:4-9. R. v.4
Lord, make me know your ways.

Second reading: First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 7:29-31

Gospel Acclamation: 1 S 3:9; Jn 6:68

R. Alleluia, alleluia!
The kingdom of God is close at hand;
Believe the Good News.

R. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 33:6
Look toward the Lord and be radiant;
Let your faces not be abashed.

Welcome to Revd Simon Cansdale, who will be speaking at **10:30am Mass at St Peter’s**, as part of **Christian Unity Week**. Simon Cansdale is the Vicar of Christ Church, Winchester, a Church of England church near the Prison, University and Hospital. Simon has served in churches in Milton Keynes, Cambridge, Nottingham and Chesham. Simon is married to Naomi, who teaches locally, and they have three grown-up children.



Second Collection this weekend is for the Cathedral

Father James (Dean of the Cathedral since 2022) writes: “I fully appreciate the financial pressures being felt by you and by your parishioners but would appeal to you to support the Second Collection for the Cathedral on 21st January. Never has this annual collection by parishes for the Mother Church of the Diocese been more critical or needed. Your support is vitally important to us.”



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 our new parish initiative, Family Fridays – that these times may enable parents to feel the support of our community as they come together in friendship and faith, bringing them closer to Christ in hope and joy.



PLEASE PRAY FOR the repose of the souls of those who have died recently
Marion Smith RIP
John Wilson RIP
Carole Embrey RIP
Win Bromley RIP
Roy Thomson RIP

Funeral Notices:

Marion Smith RIP – **Funeral Mass at St Peter’s Church, Winchester on Monday 22nd January at 10.00am.**
Carole Embrey RIP – **Funeral Service at Basingstoke Crematorium on Tuesday 30th January at 11.00am.**
Roy Thomson RIP – **Funeral Mass at St Peter’s Church, Winchester on Wednesday 7th February at 12.15pm**
Win Bromley RIP – **Funeral Mass at St Peter’s Church, Winchester on Friday 9th February at 12.15pm.**
Please pray for their family and friends at this difficult time. May God grant them eternal rest.



Lent 2024 – Our Small Groups

This Lent why not try something new. Join us for a parish-wide small group Lenten journey, starting the week commencing Sunday 18th Feb. This five-week course is a simple way for us to hear God through praying the Bible. Facilitators will lead the group through each session of about an hour and a half. There will be a video to watch and questions to explore and experiences to share. Can’t make a meeting in person? No problem - we will have both online and in-person groups for you to join. Encounter God beyond the Bible through shared experience. Watch this space for more information and sign-up opportunities...

Bacon Butties at St Peter’s - KEEP THE DATE: Sunday 4th February for Bacon Butties (+ trimmings) served by the CWL, after the 8 am and 10.30 am Masses at St Peter’s
There will also be Cakes for “afters” sold by St Peter’s School after the 10.30am Mass.
Donations for both will go to help support the new parish initiative ‘**Family Fridays**’. All welcome. Do come!



CWL Soup & Pud Lunch at St Peter’s. The next CWL Charity Lunch, in the Pastoral Centre, will be on **Friday 2nd February, 12-1.30pm**, all are very welcome to come along and enjoy delicious home cooked food, suggested donation **£7**.



Laudato Si Corner

Small steps to change the world.

As we look around us in this first month of 2024, we can see the huge challenges that our world faces in terms of conflict, climate change and extreme poverty. Yet as Christians we always have hope. Perhaps it is a good time to remember that we are a Live Simply parish. The CAFOD website is full of good ideas about how each of us can take small steps to make a difference. These include:

- **Abstaining from meat on Fridays.** It is part of our Catholic tradition – and we know that plant-based food contributes fewer emissions than meat production!
- **Recycling and re-using our clothes.** Can we reduce our consumption and lessen our impact upon the world’s resources by pledging to buy fewer clothes? Dragging some old favourites out of the wardrobe to wear again and donating unwanted items to charity?
- **Keep your phone for longer.** Manufacturing phones and laptops uses lots of minerals and metals mined from the earth. Some of us replace our phones every year or so – could we reduce our impact by hanging onto them for longer?
- **Travel sustainably to Church.** Could we change our practice by walking, cycling, car-sharing or taking public transport to Mass on Sunday – and reduce the traffic congestion in Winchester city centre?

By ourselves, our actions may seem tiny, but as a community, there is much we can achieve!

BOOKSHOP We sell Sunday Missals, Children’s Missals and Mass books, Bibles, Rosaries, Crosses, gifts and cards for Confirmation and First Holy Communion, Encyclicals including Laudate Deum. And, for the Year of Prayer, we have several copies of the book “**Heaven on Earth**” which includes a chapter by Allegra Mutanda. We are open weekdays during office hours and payment by cheque or cash is appreciated. Many thanks Susan Henry.

What does it mean to be human? Medical Ethics and Social Care Today will take place on **Saturday 16th March 2024** from 10.00am at the **ARC, Winchester**.

The Symposium will feature presentations from well-known experts and is led by David Wells, the popular motivational speaker. It is open to people of all faiths and none, specialist and lay, to students and to anyone with an interest in medical and social care. The aim of the Symposium is to bring the Christian Tradition and its values into a constructive and fruitful dialogue with those of other viewpoints. Tickets cost £20, including sandwiches and refreshments, and are available on-line via Eventbrite [here](#)

Trekkers sought for Winchester Hospice Fundraising Sahara Challenge: 6th to 11th November 2024

3 nursing staff are seeking fellow explorers to join them on a 50km challenge as part of Team Winchester Hospice, to raise funds and experience a once-in-a-lifetime adventure - trekking for 2 full days and 2 half-days across Moroccan sand dunes, sun-baked plains and ancient dried-up riverbeds; stargazing, camping and being immersed in the Berber way of life. The challenge, which is sponsored by Quilter Cheviot, costs £375 alongside a fundraising ask which includes flights, meals, accommodation and more. For further details or to register for the information evening, visit: <https://winchesterhospice.com/our-events2/2024/11/6/sahara-trek-winchester-charity-challenge>. There is an information evening at Winchester's Chesil House in the city-centre on **Monday 22 January at 6pm**.



Message from St Peter's School:

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." - Dr. Seuss

As we are nearly half-way through the school year we thought we would remind everyone about reading at St Peter's.

Reading at St Peter's School

The teaching of reading is at the core of all learning at St Peter's. It is our aim to produce an environment where the children are enthusiastic, capable readers who love books. A range of texts encourage reading with confidence, fluency, vocabulary development and understanding.

How do we teach reading?

Children are taught phonics from the start of Reception and our staff are experts in early reading. In Reception and Key Stage 1 home reading books are chosen in line with phonics and are matched to the sounds that the children know thus consolidating phoneme learning. The content and sequence of *Letters and Sounds* supports progress which is taught through the Little Wandle Phonics programme.

In addition, the children are encouraged to read for pleasure choosing books from the class and school libraries. Staff foster a love of reading as they share class texts, introduce new books and revisit old favourites. Foundation stage, KS1 and Year 3 have access to the online resource "Collins Big Cat", both at school and at home, to support the development of reading using decodable books.



We currently have a vacancy for a Deputy Headteacher, a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant and a Teaching Assistant. 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

The Boaz Project Vacancy

The Boaz Project are looking for a deputy manager at their base in Sutton Scotney near Winchester.

Boaz is a farm-based charity, set up to provide brighter futures for people with learning difficulties (mainly young adults).

The ideal candidate will be sympathetic to the ideals of the charity and have plenty of energy!

Interested? - For more information, please contact the Manager, Stuart Palmer, in the first instance, on 01962 761749 or 07971 688930

ONLINE WEEK OF GUIDED PRAYER

"I am doing something new,
can you not see it?"
(Is. 43:18-19)

22 - 26 JANUARY 2024

To Register:
verbumdei.iow@gmail.com



A Week of Guided Prayer online, 22nd - 26th January 2024

- with **daily** guidance to help us reflect on the **NEWNESS** that God wants to bring us this New Year, and to help us live our daily life with a greater awareness of God's presence. Led by the Verbum Dei Community. For more information, please contact: verbumdei.iow@gmail.com

CAFOD School Volunteers needed.

Do you enjoy working with children and young people? Could you help to inspire and empower children and young people in your local Catholic schools by delivering an assembly or a workshop? Supported by CAFOD with training and all resources provided please consider the role of CAFOD school volunteer. For more information contact Jo Lewry jlewry@cafod.org.uk or phone 07710 094447

ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat - 27th January 10am-1pm **"Chosen to be holy – transformation by the Holy Spirit."**

Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring guest speaker **Charles Whitehead KSG**.

Please register for the Zoom meeting in advance at bit.ly/ADOREJAN2024 More information at www.altonrenewal.com

CAFOD meetings

You are warmly invited to come to a CAFOD meeting to find about the difference that your donations make.

On Saturday 27th January the meeting is at Corpus Christi Church Hall, 60 Sturges Road, Wokingham RG40 2HE from 10:30am to 1:30pm or on **Saturday 3rd February** at St Philip Howard Church Hall, Bishopsfield Road, Fareham PO14 1ND.

A simple lunch will be provided at both meetings so please book your place, so that we have an idea of numbers, by emailing Jo on jlewry@cafod.org.uk or phone 07710 094447.

Mass Timetable	20 th January 2024 – 27 th January 2024		
Date	Mass Times & Intentions		
SATURDAY – January 20 th – St Fabian, Pope, Martyr. 3 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Vigil	9.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Souls of deceased members of the Bristol Family
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Mary & Peter Pawlowski RIP
SUNDAY – January 21 st – THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME.	8.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	John & Ursula Hill RIP
	9.00 AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	Andre Mussert RIP
	9.15 AM	Mass at St Stephen's	People of the Parish
	10.30 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Intentions of Lucy & Michelle Brown
	11.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	People of Ukraine
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul of George McCall & his Family
MONDAY – January 22 nd – St Vincent, Deacon, Martyr.	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Frank Burke RIP
TUESDAY – January 23 rd –	10.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Sanjay Misquith's Birthday
	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Deceased Members of the Blessed Sacrament Guild
WEDNESDAY – January 24 th – St Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor of the Church.	10 00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Holy Souls
THURSDAY – January 25 th – THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL, feast.	10.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul of Jacob Cook
FRIDAY – January 26 th – St Timothy, Bishop, Martyr & St Titus, Bishop.		No Mass at St Gregory's	
	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul of Eleanor Meader
SATURDAY – January 27 th – St Angela Merici, Foundress. 4 th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Vigil	9.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Holy Souls in Purgatory
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Tom O'Donoghue RIP

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)

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 Assistant: Isabelle Guerin: (accounts@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

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

Parish Administration: Alison Young (office@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

Our Parish Operations Manager Vacancy

The Parish of St Peter & The Winchester Martyrs is currently in the process of reorganising its staff team.

We are looking for a highly motivated and dynamic individual to join our parish team as the Operations Manager. The successful candidate will have substantial experience of general operational management in a busy and complex organisation.

Full time: 37.5 hours per week Mon-Fri, but with flexibility to allow at least one Sunday morning per month (approx. 4 hours) and occasional evenings and weekends. Salary: £40-45k

For a full job description and person specification, plus details of how to apply, please contact: recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Closing date for applications: Friday 9th February 2024, 12 Noon. Interviews: Fri 1st March

Parish Operations Manager – Message from Fr Mark

The parish has begun recruiting an "Operations Manager". This is a different and more senior role to the one previously filled by Michaela as Parish Administration Manager. We are looking for another "people person", capable of building and leading teams (paid employees and volunteers), not afraid to be hands-on, whilst supporting me in the day-to-day operational aspects of running the parish. They will be part of the parish leadership team and will play a key role in enabling me to focus on preaching, teaching, sacramental ministry and the pastoral and spiritual aspects of leadership. I cannot overstate how crucial I feel this role is to help me flourish as your parish priest, and you to flourish as my parishioners. Please do bring the post to the attention of those you know who might be interested and pray for a successful appointment.