

PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

4th February 2024

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

Stop and Listen first

Father Mark writes:

In our Gospel this weekend, we hear how “the whole town” of Capernaum come to Jesus with all their needs. There is a queue going out the door of Peter’s house of people just waiting to see Jesus, to be with him, near him, healed by him.

We are still in the first chapter of Mark’s Gospel, the story has barely begun, and already Jesus has this incredibly successful and popular ministry in this town by the shore of Lake Galilee. Which is great but it also brings its own challenges. Because success brings its own demands. And Jesus had been very successful.

Here’s what Jesus did...

In the morning, long before dawn, Jesus got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there.

Mark 1:35

Before the day can overwhelm him, and the crowds return, Jesus gets away from everything and everyone in order to be with his heavenly Father.

We know that prayer was an important rhythm in Jesus’ life. He regularly seeks guidance from his heavenly Father, anchoring his life in that relationship.

Meanwhile,

Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, “Everybody is looking for you.”

Mark 1:36-37

One translation tells us that they were “chasing after Jesus”. Peter is maybe a little excited at how amazingly well Jesus is doing and perhaps can’t understand why he’s not back in Capernaum doing more healing.

Where have you been? What are doing out here? Everyone is looking for you?

The reality is that the world often doesn’t understand or value the time we might carve out for prayer. Peter is the closest to Jesus and even he doesn’t yet understand this.

Jesus told them,

“Let us go elsewhere to the neighbouring country towns so that I may preach there too, because that is why I came.”

Mark 1:38

It certainly would have been a *good* thing for Jesus to go back to the town, but it wouldn’t have been the *best* thing. It would have limited the growth of Jesus’ ministry.

In prayer, Jesus spends time with his Father, listening to his Father. Then, in obedience to his Father, he decides that the priority for his day is to widen the reach of his preaching and teaching, travelling to yet more villages and towns in the region. The voice of the Father tells him to move on because his message and his mission are going to be bigger than that one little town.

Notice what happens next...

And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

Mark 1:39



Jesus preaches and he heals. Jesus reaches more people because he doesn’t get sucked into the demands of the immediate or the urgent. He listens instead to the voice of the Father.

In today’s Gospel we get an insight into a “day in the life of Jesus” and his priorities. He goes out to preach and heal: to share the Good News that this Lord whom they’ve been worshipping is a loving Father who hears their cries and wants to heal their wounds and cure their sicknesses by the power of his love and mercy.

This preaching and healing of Jesus – proclaiming the Gospel in word and deed – is rooted in prayer. Jesus needs to re-charge his batteries after a hard day’s work. But, more than that, he needs to spend time listening to his Father. “What is on your heart for these people, dad?” “What would you like me to do today, abba?”

The world is competing for your attention and affection, your time/talent/treasure every day, in very many ways. Anchoring your day in prayer, listening to the Father, asking your loving God what should be the priorities of your day – all of this is crucial to living out the priorities of your life.

How? How should we anchor our day in prayer?

Just follow the template Jesus gives us in this story. It’s all about **a time, a place and a plan**. To make it happen you need a time, a place, and a plan.

A time – Jesus got up very early to pray, before dawn. Just for the record, I don’t get up before dawn to pray! I’m not a natural early morning person. But I’ve built prayer into the morning routine. I get up and dressed, go to the gym (it hurts less when my brain isn’t fully functioning!), come back for breakfast and shower and then 8-9am is prayer time.

I pray at this time because the rest of the day doesn’t stop – it’s a little like a roller coaster, grabbing prayer as and when I get chance (a rosary here or an Angelus there, or an evening prayer in the car or the train or somewhere else) – until 9pm, which is when I start to unwind ready for Night Prayer and bed.

I encourage you to pick a time of the day you can protect, but also, where possible, a time you enjoy.

It could be with your morning coffee/commute;

It could be in the early evening when your working day is done;

It could be at night before bedtime.

Set a *specific time* and a certain *amount* of time. If you are new to prayer do 5 to 6 minutes a day. Then move to 15 minutes, and so on and so forth...

A place – Jesus went to a deserted place. Now that is not always practical but, as best as you can, find a place in your house or near your house or office or train, that is, in a sense, *deserted*. A place where you can get away from texting and calls, and noise and interruptions too. (In case you didn’t know, those with small children will find this incredibly difficult!) And keep going to that place because, as you return, it will become sacred space.

Then **a plan** – form a plan, a procedure for your prayer time, that is going to make it feel much more productive. You could simply take a bible and practice [Lectio Divina](#). Or you could listen to a guided prayer exercise, through apps like [pray-as-you-go](#). Over Lent we will be giving lots of suggestions during our daily messages for you to try and see what works.

Your heavenly Father wants you to share the Good News too – to bring hope and joy into the lives of those around you and to allow Jesus to bring them comfort and healing. So, you need to spend time listening to Him in prayer.

Changes to Masses in the Coming Week.

10.30am Mass at St Peter's on Sunday 4th February is a Family Mass.

The 12.15pm Mass at St Peter's on Friday 9th February will be a Funeral Mass for Wyn Bromley RIP.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B) – 4th February 2024

Gospel Acclamation:

Jn 8:12

Entrance Antiphon:

Ps 94:6-7

O Come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.

R. Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord,
anyone who follows me will have the light of life.

R. Alleluia!

First reading:

The Book of Job 7:1-4,6-7

Gospel:

Mark 1:29-39

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 146:1-6. R. v.3

Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

Communion Antiphon:

Cf. Ps 106:8-9.

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
his wonders for the children of men
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,
and the hungry he fills with good things.

Second reading:

First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

9:16-19,22-23



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 forthcoming Alpha Course, for the team who facilitate and for all those who are to take part. We pray for those yet to make a decision to join in, that they may be encouraged by the Holy Spirit to accept their invitations so that they may share in the friendship and faith of all those participating.



PLEASE PRAY FOR

the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:
Wyn Bromley RIP
Roy Thomson RIP
Chloe Donnelly RIP
Hania Banyard RIP
Joel Mutanda RIP

Funeral Notices:

Roy Thomson RIP – **Funeral Mass at St Peter's Church, Winchester on Wednesday 7th February at 12.15pm**

Wyn Bromley RIP – **Funeral Mass at St Peter's Church, Winchester on Friday 9th February at 12.15pm.**

Hania Banyard RIP – **Funeral Mass at St Peter's Church, Winchester on Thursday 22nd February at 10am**

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



Lent 2024 – Join us for a rewarding spiritual journey

Have you heard about this exciting opportunity to learn how to listen to God this Lent?

Why not sign up for our Lenten Spiritual Campaign, **The Lectio Course** is a five session video series exploring the ancient practice of Lection Divina.

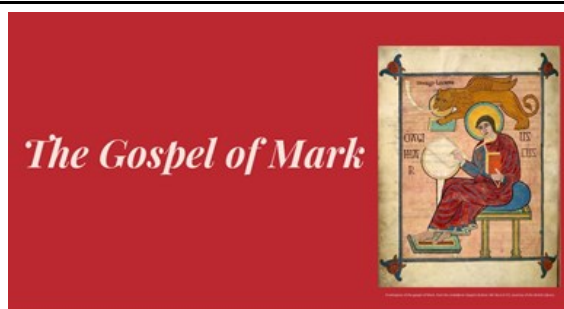
It is a free small group resource from 24-7 Prayer which will equip us and the community we are to grow in prayer, discern God's voice and fall in love with the Bible. To register click [here](https://bit.ly/TheLectioCourse) link: <https://bit.ly/TheLectioCourse> Or scan the QR code



Listening to God's Heart – Daily Messages

Lent is a wonderful opportunity for each and every one of us to grow in our faith and our relationship with the God who loves us. As Mother Theresa says, "God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer." During this season of Lent, in this Year of Prayer, we will try and help each other to listen to the voice of the Lord, speaking into our hearts from the depth of His.

One very simple thing we're inviting you to do is to sign up for a daily email during Lent and Easter (from Ash Wednesday until Pentecost). We're hoping to give you a little food for thought and a little opportunity to practise praying. You can sign up by filling in a [short form here](#) or calling the parish office.



The Gospel of Mark - a new formation series, which you can follow online at your own pace

Deacon Martin invites you to join him on a journey through the Gospel according to Mark.

As you may know, in this liturgical year (which started in Advent), we will be reading Mark's gospel on most Sundays, and also in weekday Masses, during Ordinary Time.

Deacon Martin is re-publishing the videos of the presentations he made during the formation series on Mark's gospel, which ran in the spring and summer of 2021. One video will be published each week, allowing you to follow in your own time, and at your own pace, from the comfort of your own home.

You can access the videos (plus an accompanying PDF document with the presentation material) from [our parish YouTube site](#). [Session 1](#) is already there, with its [PDF document](#), for you to get started.

You can find out more details in the document that is attached to the email that delivers this week's Peterpost - or if you have any questions, please contact Deacon Martin (mmcelroy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).



CWL Soup & Pud Lunch at St Peter's.

The CWL Charity Lunch, in the Pastoral Centre, on Friday raised **£330** For the **Winchester Beacon Homeless Charity**. Thank you to all who supported the charity whilst enjoying the delicious home cooked food.

Bacon Butties at St Peter's on Sunday (4th February)



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, sold by the Family Fridays Team, after the 10.30am Mass.

Donations for both will go to help support the new parish initiative 'Family Fridays'. All welcome. Do come!



St Stephen's Pastoral Group Meeting.

The next St Stephen's Pastoral Group Meeting will be held on **Monday 5th February at 7.30pm** in the Community Room at **St Stephen's**. All are welcome.

Portsmouth Diocesan Don Bosco Boys Camp - Sunday 28 July to Saturday 3 August 2024

We are delighted that camp will be going ahead again this summer for boys of secondary school age at St. Cassian's, Kintbury. There will be plenty of sport, outings, competitions and games to ensure that boys will have a fantastic week. This will continue to take place within the context of the celebration of the Catholic Faith, including daily Mass and morning prayer. The cost of the camp is £230 (part bursaries may be available on application).

We are holding a **Bosco Experience/Reunion** on **Sunday 25 February 2024** from **2 to 4pm** at St. Peter's Church, Jewry Street, Winchester SO23 8RY. This is for boys currently in year 6 up to year 11. A chance for new boys who want to find out more and have a 'taste' of the Bosco Experience and for those who have been on camp to meet with old friends. Fun activities and a chance for parents to find out more and sign up for camp.

Booking is essential. To find out more please email: dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.



PRAYER CAMPAIGN – THE ALPHA COURSE

The new Alpha course will start from 7.30pm Tuesday 20th February 2024 in the Pastoral Centre at St Peter's.

For the next 3 weeks, we invite you to join us in praying daily for the course:

- *for us as a parish*, that God may give us the courage and boldness to invite people we know into this journey of discovering faith.
- *for the team* as they serve and walk alongside people.
- *for the guests*, that God may bless them and speak into their hearts.

There will be a basket near the sanctuary at St Peter's church where you can add the names of all those you would like to invite to partake in Alpha so that we can pray for them each day. Alternatively, text ALPHA PRAYER + name of person to 07887 997386 and we'll add their name to the basket.

To register to join the Alpha course, visit www.catholicwinchester.org.uk/alpha

For more information, email alpha@stpeterswinchester.org.uk



Laudato Si Corner

2023 was affected by much higher temperatures, floods, storms and habitat destruction. Now is the time to take every step we can to reduce the damaging impact we are having on our planet.

Vatican City State has committed to reducing greenhouse gases to 20% below 2011 level by 2023, Portsmouth Diocese, and other dioceses in England, are working to reduce their impact. So what choices can **we** make? Check out the many websites with advice on this: examples of steps they recommend include:

Be energy efficient in your home,
Walk, cycle or use public transport as much as possible,
Recycle/re-use/repair as much as possible.

*Heavenly Father, as our world is disrupted by climate change, inspire us with ways we can make a difference in our homes, church congregations, community, and the world to reduce our damaging impact on our Common Home.
Amen.*



Message from St Peter's School: Australia Day

On 26th January, Year 2 at St Peter's joined many millions of Australians in celebrating Australia day. Our day was jam-packed with cultural learning related to our Geography topic - Australia.

In the morning we began with a costume parade and explained some of the special details about our outfits, some even had items from Australia! We then met Tali - the bearded dragon. Mrs Pestana kindly brought in her pet, Tali, and taught us about Tali's care and habitat. We then moved on to a video link with Gina and her family in Australia. Gina shared with us all the wildlife she sees when she cycles in the You Yang Mountains in Victoria, Australia. Many children had the opportunity to ask the family questions, especially about poisonous spiders and snakes!

After break, we prepared food for tasting. Fortunately, we had previously baked the Anzac biscuits which left only the pavlova, fairy bread and vegemite sandwiches to prepare. After lunch we had our taste test and recorded our findings. We think that fairy bread was by far the most delicious; however, many were surprised at how much they enjoyed their pavlovas. Thank you also to Mrs Drake for coming in to speak to us about her experiences growing up on the Eastern Coast of Australia.

We completed our day by making boomerangs decorated in an Aboriginal Art style and played Aussie party games, not to mention reading several fun Australian stories.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our day special.



We currently have a vacancy for a Deputy Headteacher. 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

Mass Timetable	3rd February 2024 – 10th February 2024		
Date	Mass Times & Intentions		
SATURDAY – February 3rd – St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr. 5 th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Vigil	9.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's to include blessing of throats.	The Soul of Margaret Merriman
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Peter Wyles RIP
SUNDAY – February 4th FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME.	8.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Canon Anthony Zollo
	9.00 AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	People of the Parish
	9.15 AM	Mass at St Stephen's	Hugh Bailey RIP
	10.30 AM	Family Mass at St Peter's	Vocations for the Diaconate & Priesthood
	11.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	People of Ukraine
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Daphne Tucker RIP
MONDAY – February 5th – St Agatha, Virgin, Martyr.	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Holy Souls in Purgatory
TUESDAY – February 6th – St Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs.	10.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Intentions of Roseann Lynch & Anna Salley & Family
	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	David Vinnell RIP
WEDNESDAY – February 7th – .	10.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Luiz Ko RIP
THURSDAY – February 8th – St Jerome Emilani, Founder.	10.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Amanda Murphy's Healing & Wellbeing
FRIDAY – February 9th –	10.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	12.15 PM	Funeral Mass at St Peter's – Winifred Bromley RIP	
SATURDAY – February 10th – St Scholastica, Religious. 6 th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Vigil	9.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's.	The Soul of Mary, Lady Mannoek
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Rosalba Martinez de la Rosa 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)

Room Bookings & Rentals: Sarah Walker (bookings@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.

Please follow the link for current vacancies throughout the Diocese: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs>.