

5th May 2024

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - Year B

Readings and antiphons

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Is 48:20. Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26,34-35,44-48

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 97:1-4. R. Cf. v.2
The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.

Second reading: 1 John 4:7-10

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 14:23

R. Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus said: "If anyone loves me he will keep my word; and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.

R. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 15:9-17

Communion Antiphon: Cf, Jn 14:15-16

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

Funerals and Deaths

Peter McManus RIP - Funeral Mass at St Peter's on Friday 10th May at 1:45pm

Richard Phiri RIP - Funeral Mass at St Peter's on Friday 17th May at 12:15pm

Canon Peter Wilkie RIP - Requiem Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows, Fordingbridge on Friday 17th May at 11:00am

Alan Barlow RIP - Funeral Mass at St Peter's on Friday 24th May at 10:00am

Ray Marsh RIP

Maureen Hams RIP

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



Baptisms

Welcome to: Oliver & Freddie McCrone and Emily & Archie Shepherd, who were baptised at St Peter's last weekend.



Prayer Corner

This Week's Intention:

Let us pray for all those who attended the Acorn 'Discipleship' retreat weekend, that their desire to deepen their faith becomes ever stronger and that their prayerful encounters with God bring them ever closer to Him in hope and joy.



A Message from Fr Mark...

Abba, Hallowed Be Your Name That We May Be Holy

Saint (Mother) Teresa of Calcutta, while speaking at Harvard University said something like this:

Being holy is not something for the few or the privileged, but the responsibility of everyone. You are called to be holy in your life as I am called to be holy in mine.

Becoming holy or being holy is part and parcel of living as a Catholic. Mother Teresa is correct; holiness is the right and responsibility of every baptised Catholic. At the same time, a Catholic must desire to be holy and dedicate time to the practices that nurture holiness. Pope St. John Paul II also points out that we are all called to holiness. In his apostolic letter *Christifideles Laici* (16), the Pope states:

"We come to a full sense of the dignity of the lay faithful if we consider the prime and fundamental vocation that [God] assigns to each of them in Jesus the Christ through the Holy Spirit: the vocation to holiness, that is, the perfection of charity."

In another ecclesial document - *Ecclesia in America* (30) - Pope St. John Paul II addresses the fundamental and universal call to holiness for each and every baptised Christian. The Pope notes:

"To be holy is to be like God and to glorify his name in the works which we accomplish in our lives (c.f. Matthew 5: 16). On the path of holiness, Jesus Christ is the point of reference and the model to be imitated: he is the 'Holy One of God,' and was recognised as such (c.f. Mark 1:24). It is [Jesus] who teaches us that the heart of holiness is love, which leads even to giving our lives for others (c.f. John 15:13). Therefore, to imitate the holiness of God, as it was made manifest in Jesus Christ his Son, 'is nothing other than to extend in history his love, especially towards the poor, the sick, and the needy (c.f. Luke 10:25)'"



In our first reading this Sunday, St. Peter speaks to us:

"The truth I have now come to realise is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him."

God pours his love, his Holy Spirit, upon all who say 'yes' to him and to his offer of salvation through Jesus.

In our second reading, St. John encourages us:

"My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love."

God is the source of the love we experience and desire because God is love.

In our Gospel, Jesus reminds us:

"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love."



God alone is holy because God is love. Let us (re)commit to the path of holiness today, simply letting our Heavenly Father, our Abba, love each and every one of us perfectly through Jesus and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, so that we may remain in his love and bear much fruit, for the life of the world.

Let us pray:

"Our Father, hallowed by your name, so that we may be drawn more deeply into Your plan of loving kindness for the fullness of time, "according to Your purpose which You set forth in Christ," that we might "be holy and blameless before You in love." (c.f. Eph 1:9, 4; Catechism 2807)

Laudato Si Corner

Time to think about chocolate!

Most children (and many adults) will enjoy chocolate treats at Easter. But the sustainability of chocolate is a serious issue. Changing weather and disease led to a bad harvest in West Africa, which produces 70% of the world's beans. In some countries, cocoa production is also linked to deforestation.

As a result of shortages, cocoa prices have risen steeply. Confectionary companies are charging more but this is not reflected in fairer payments to small farmers, who are abandoning their cocoa farms and selling the land due to poor returns. In the meantime, the collective fortunes of the leading chocolate corporation owners surged to \$160.9 billion, more than the combined GDPs of Ghana and Ivory Coast! (Source: Oxfam 22 April 2024) So, a small action that we can take as consumers is to think carefully about the sustainability of the chocolate we eat. More information about ethical brands can be found here:

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/the-10-most-planet-friendly-chocolate-brands>



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Appeals & Campaigns:

School Pastors: A new initiative in Winchester Schools...

Following an approach from the heads of three local Primary schools, the trustees of Winchester Street Pastors resolved to set up, recruit, train and deploy School Pastors. Since January, **School Pastors** have spent time one lunchtime every week in each of these schools, building relationships with pupils and staff.

If you want to know more about what we are doing in Winchester, or are interested in becoming a Street or School Pastor, please contact Mark Hibbert-Hingston on winchester@streetpastors.org.uk or winchester@schoolpastors.org.uk or 07740 288654

Thank you!

SECOND COLLECTION for CAFOD

Sudan - CAFOD are launching an emergency appeal for donations to get aid to the people of Sudan – the link is here [emergency appeal](#). CAFOD are requesting parishes to hold second or retiring collections for Sudan at Masses this coming Sunday, 28th April 2024. For more information please refer to the Bishops' Conference letter here: [Cardinal and Bishop Swarbrick decry "tragedy of immense proportions" across Sudan - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#) (cbcew.org.uk). Please pray for the people of Sudan.

Key Contacts

For a full list of contact details for our Parish, please visit our website: www.catholicwinchester.org.uk or email hello@stpeterswinchester to be directed to the correct person.

Parish Priest: Fr Mark Hogan
Assistant Priest: Fr Benedict Ndikum
Deacons: Tony Darlison & Martin McElroy
Parish Office:
office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Finance:
accounts@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Tel. 01962852804

Newsletter:
newsletters@stpeterswinchester.org.uk (deadline for items for next weekend's newsletter is **Weds evening**)

Holy Water

Following the blessing of the holy water at the Easter Vigil, parishioners are encouraged to bring their bottles and refill them from the vat by the sacristy door at St Peter's.



Announcements:

Bishop Peter Doyle's 80th Birthday (3rd May)- Many of you will know Bishop Peter Doyle well: he was Parish Priest at St Peter's from 1991 to 2005 before being appointed Bishop of Northampton. On retirement he came back to live in the Portsmouth Diocese, occupying the Priest's House at St Gregory's, Alresford. From there he continues to support the parish and others in the Diocese, celebrating Sunday Mass at St Thomas More's as well as some weekday Masses at St Gregory's and supplying for various other Masses and Reconciliation Services. **Many thanks and 80th birthday wishes to Bishop Peter** for all he has done for the parish in the past, and now continues to do for us in retirement. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Join the Jubilee Singers to sing THE LORD'S PRAYER - St Stephen's 9.15am Mass on Sunday 12th May Rehearsals at 10.30am on **5th May**. For more information & access to music, please contact: ststephens@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

May is a month for devotion to OUR LADY - Please think about saying some special prayer to her and asking for her maternal help. One good way of doing this would be to come to Mass (including weekday Mass) about 30 minutes early and pray the Rosary (in St. Peter's church a good place to do this would be in the Lady Chapel). If there are others there too you could pray it aloud together and take turns to lead.

"Our Lady Queen of Heaven and Queen of the World, pray for us"

Rosary Chain (May)- We are delighted to have two statues of Our Lady touring the parish in a chain of prayer this year. Please be aware that you will need to collect the statue from another person's house. You can join the register by emailing: lnahajski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



Family Fridays: INVITATION - Due to the success of our Family Fridays supper club, **our family is growing** and we are looking to welcome others to join us. Like a modern extended family, we would like to **welcome 'grandparents' as well as others** who would like to come and support our group. Please contact: hpope@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Bishop's Conference - After Rwanda: - Bishop Paul McAleenan, Lead Bishop for Migrants and Refugees, has joined with leaders of the other churches to renew their commitment to caring for the most vulnerable, as legislation to enable asylum seekers to be deported to Rwanda was approved by Parliament. To read the full statement, please click on the link below: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/after-rwanda-church-leaders-speak-out-over-hostility-to-refugees/>

Churches Connect special Zoom meeting - to discuss this on Tuesday 7 May, from 12 - 1pm. Join this meeting on-line to hear more about the Illegal Migration Act and Safety of Rwanda Act, and how we, as the UK Church, might respond on a national, local and personal level. To reserve your place, please follow this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/893644644187>.

Thy Kingdom Come - Novena to the Holy Spirit - Pentecost will soon be upon us, when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit given to Mary and the Apostles, and so also to the early Church. After Ascension, which we celebrate this Thursday 9th, those first disciples were told by Jesus not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there "for what the Lord had promised" (Acts 1:4) Please would you consider offering a Novena to the Holy Spirit from Friday 10th May to Saturday 18th May for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us as individuals, upon our parish, our diocese and upon Winchester and the surrounding towns and villages.

Click here: [link to the Novena Prayers](#) which we will use each day

Called and Gifted - What is God calling me to do in my Life?

Learn more about your spiritual gifts and unique mission in God's plan as you are guided by a trained team. A 3-Stage discernment process that helps you understand your own calling - a process through teaching and discernment in which you discover your own charisms (gifts of the Holy Spirit) which will then help you in your onward journey in faith. **Starting Saturday 22nd June 9am - 5.00pm** at St Peter's Pastoral Centre.

There is a small charge of £50 to cover the cost of all three stages (the full cost is £120 but the parish is subsidising this cost). To register, please click on the link below: <https://stpeterswinchester.churchsuite.com/forms/vk5d4leg> or for more info visit: catholicwinchester.org.uk

Parking: Please be considerate to pedestrians walking through to St Peter's Church from St Peter Street - The Wednesday before last someone parked in front of the open gate from St Peter Street, making it impossible for a parishioner who uses a walking aid to get through and attend the 10am Mass.

Please do NOT obstruct the open gate to St Peter Street at any time.

There are Swift nesting boxes on St Peter's Tower - The swifts should be nesting between now and August. Please keep a look out for them and if you see them, let Pat Brockway know via the Parish office; 01962 852804. Thank you.

News from St Peter's School - Please find attached this week's newsletter and link for all the latest news... <https://www.stpetershants.co.uk/topic/news-and-events>

| Church Timetable | 4th May - 11th May | | |
|--|----------------------------|---|--|
| Saturday 4th May - THE ENGLISH MARTYRS (1535-1680), feast. Vigil Mass SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | 9:00AM | Mass at St Peter's | The Dead in Cemeteries & Founders |
| | 9:30AM - 10:30AM | Confessions at St Peter's | |
| | 4:30PM - 5:00PM | Confessions at St Peter's | |
| | 5:30PM | Mass at St Peter's | Klara & Leon Trowski RIP (Anniversary of Death) |
| Sunday 5th May SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | 8:00AM | Mass at St Peter's | Fernanda Ramos (RIP) |
| | 9:00AM | Mass at St Thomas More's | People of the Parish |
| | 9:15AM | Family Mass at St Stephen's | Yvonne Morris (RIP) |
| | 10:30AM | Mass at St Peter's | Intentions of Salvacorro Fernandes |
| | 11:00AM | Mass at St Gregory's | |
| | 5:30PM | Mass at St Peter's | For the Benefactors |
| Monday 6th May Of the Sixth Week of Easter | 8:00AM - 9:00AM | <i>Morning Prayer followed by Adoration</i> | |
| | 10:00AM | Mass at St Peter's | Rachel Ward RIP |
| Tuesday 7th May Of the Sixth Week of Easter | 8:00AM - 9:00AM | <i>Morning Prayer followed by Adoration</i> | |
| | 10:00AM | Mass at St Gregory's | |
| | 12:15PM | Mass at St Peter's | Welfare of Christians in the Holy Land |
| Wednesday 8th May Of the Sixth Week of Easter | 8:00AM - 9:00AM | <i>Morning Prayer followed by Adoration</i> | |
| | 10:00AM | Mass at St Peter's | Intentions of Rosanne Lynch & Anna Salley & Family |
| Thursday 9th May - THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, solemnity | 7:00AM | Mass at St Peter's | |
| | 8:00AM - 9:00AM | <i>Morning Prayer followed by Adoration</i> | |
| | 10:00AM | Mass at St Gregory's | |
| | 12:15PM | Mass at St Peter's | Katherine Misquith's Birthday |
| | 7:00PM | Mass at St Peter's | |
| Friday 10th May - St John of Avila, Priest, Doctor of the Church, optional memorial or Of the Sixth Week of Easter | 8:00AM - 9:00AM | <i>Morning Prayer followed by Adoration</i> | |
| | 10:00AM | <i>Mass at St Gregory's</i> | |
| | 12:15PM | Mass at St Peter's | The Soul of Margaret Mary Robertson |
| Saturday 11th May of the Sixth Week of Easter after the Ascension Vigil Mass SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | 9:00AM | Mass at St Peter's | Neil Intentions |
| | 9:30AM - 10:30AM | Confessions at St Peter's | |
| | 4:30PM - 5:00PM | Confessions at St Peter's | |
| | 5:30PM | Mass at St Peter's | Deceased Relatives Brookes/Whiteman Families |

Thank you!

To Fr Andrew Moore, who celebrated Mass at St Stephen's and at St Gregory's last Sunday, and thank you to Fr Jean Patrice Coulon, who will celebrate Mass at St Thomas More on Sunday 12th May.

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.