



THE PARISH OF ST PETER
& THE WINCHESTER MARTYRS

PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Heart of Hampshire Parish with worshipping communities in Alresford, Stockbridge and Winchester

25th August 2024

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

Readings and Antiphons:

Entrance Antiphon:

Cf. Ps 85:1-3

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me: save the servant who trusts in you, my God.

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

First reading: Joshua 24:1-2,15-17,18

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 33:2-3,16-23.
R. v.9

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Second reading: Ephesians 5:21-32

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 6:63,68

R. Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life; you have the message of eternal life.

R. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 6:60-69

Communion Antiphon:

Ps 103:13-15

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

Welcome to: Francie McCarthy, who was baptized at St Peter's on Friday 16th August.

Funerals and Deaths:

Ryan Savage-Brown RIP - Funeral Service at St Peter's on Thursday 29th August at midday.

Frank Crook RIP - Memorial Mass at St Peter's at 12.15pm on Friday 30th August.

Betty McConville RIP-Funeral Mass at St Peter's on Tuesday 3rd September at 12.15pm.

Mary Burner RIP - Funeral Service at St Peter's on Wednesday 4th September at 1pm.

Stephen McNamara RIP—Funeral Service at Basingstoke Crematorium on Friday 6th September at 2pm and Memorial Mass at St Gregory's at 11am on Sunday 22nd September.

Maureen Capewell RIP

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

This Teaching is Difficult – But Where Else Can We Go if Jesus has the Message of Eternal Life

A Message from Fr Mark

Actress Dolores Hart, was once hailed as the next Grace Kelly. She gave Elvis Presley his first on-screen kiss and worked alongside leading men like Montgomery Clift, Anthony Quinn and Marlon Brando - to name but a few. But in 1962 she left Hollywood behind and became a nun.

In 2016, the former star, now known as Mother Dolores Hart, celebrated 50 years of vowed life at the Abbey of Regina Laudis, an enclosed Benedictine monastery and working farm in Bethlehem, Conn. The now-82-year-old

previously released a memoir titled 'The Ear of the Heart: An Actress' Journey from Hollywood to Holy Vows', where she detailed her surprising journey. Her story was also the subject of an

Oscar-nominated short film on HBO, titled 'God Is the Bigger Elvis', released in 2012. You can watch a short clip here –

<https://youtu.be/Rxqzp1xSN7o>

Actress Dolores Hart accepted the challenge to make a brave choice for God, sacrificing what many would have considered the perfect life, and kept it with commitment.

Last week, we had a tough, challenging message from Jesus. Many of you, I know, found it hard. I find it hard too, and so did Jesus' first disciples. Despite having witnessed many miracles, including the Feeding of the 5,000, we hear them say to Jesus today:

"This teaching is difficult. Who can accept it?"

They were, understandably, offended by Jesus' language – eating his Flesh and drinking his Blood to have Life eternal. It smacked of cannibalism and going against the strict dietary requirements they'd received from God. This was the Master's dramatic way of saying that we must accept Jesus totally, without any conditions or reservations, his words and teachings and his very self. We and Jesus are to become as one in every way. Above all we are to identify with Jesus in the offering of His Flesh and the pouring out of His Blood on the cross, the ultimate expression of God's unfathomable love for us.

However, without giving any further explanation, Jesus simply challenges them to open themselves to the gift of Faith that God is offering them: *"No one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father"* (v. 65).

Jesus tries to help the remaining followers

to make a leap of Faith, because it is only with Faith that they will be able to see and grasp the triple mystery which has been revealed to them, namely, (1) the Incarnation (*I am the Bread that came down from Heaven*, 6:41); (2) the redemption (*the Bread that I give is my Flesh for the life of the world*, 6:51); (3) the Ascension and glorification (*the Son of Man will ascend to where He was before*, 6:62).

Peter's response to Jesus' question, *"Do you also want to leave?"* is simple, *"Master, to whom we shall go? You have the words of eternal life."* Peter might not get it. He might not fully understand. But he knows that Jesus is "the One" and he trusts him completely. His response reflects the Faith-filled, free, whole-hearted decision of the apostles and the early Christian community to follow Jesus in total, accepting obedience and trust.

While giving us Holy Communion, the priest or minister says, *"The Body of Christ"* and we respond with a total, *"Amen"*. This is our *"Yes!"* - not just an act of Faith in the Real Presence, but also the total commitment of each recipient to Jesus and everything he wants to give us and ask of us.

Faithful discipleship is seldom easy. Why is the Gospel offensive and scandalous? Because our ways are not God's ways. The Gospel is offensive because it is costly. When Christ calls us to *"eat My Flesh and to drink My Blood,"* this is an invitation to us to participate in Jesus' death that we may rise with Him. The Christians who first heard this Gospel experienced persecution. They knew martyred Christians, and they knew Christians who had avoided martyrdom by compromising their Faith. The Gospel with no offence would be like a surgeon with no scalpel – having no power to heal.

The total assimilation of Jesus into our lives is very challenging. And it was a challenge that some of Jesus' disciples were not prepared to face. The reason? *"There are among you some who do not believe, who do not trust Me."*

Even when we don't get it or fully understand, we must hear in our own heart and soul Peter's words to Jesus which have resounded through the centuries:

"To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

Congratulations to: Jess Butler and Karl Epps, who were married at St Peter's on Saturday 17th August.



A Prayer Before Mass

Almighty and ever-living God, I approach the sacrament of Your only-begotten Son Our Lord Jesus Christ, I come sick to the doctor of life, unclean to the fountain of mercy, blind to the radiance of eternal light, and poor and needy to the Lord of heaven and earth. Lord, in your great generosity, heal my sickness, wash away my defilement, enlighten my blindness, enrich my poverty, and clothe my nakedness. May I receive the bread of angels, the King of kings and Lord of lords, with humble reverence, with the purity and faith, the repentance and love, and the determined purpose that will help to bring me to salvation. May I receive the sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood, and its reality and power. Kind God, may I receive the Body of Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, born from the womb of the Virgin Mary, and so be received into His mystical body and numbered among His members. Loving Father, as on my earthly pilgrimage I now receive Your beloved Son under the veil of a sacrament, may I one day see him face to face in glory, who lives and reigns with You for ever. Amen.

- *Saint Thomas Aquinas*

Thanksgiving Prayer after Mass

I thank you, holy Lord, almighty Father, eternal God, who deigned to feast me, sinful and unworthy servant, with the precious body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, not for any merit of mine, but only because of your merciful goodness. And I pray that this Holy Communion, far from condemning me to punishment, may bring about my pardon and salvation, encompassing me with the armor of faith and the shield of a good will. By it let my vices be done away, all lustful desires extinguished. May it advance me in charity, patience, humility, obedience, and every other virtue. Let it be strong defense against the wiles of all my enemies, visible and invisible, allaying for me every disturbance of flesh and spirit, binding me firmly to you, the one true God, and bringing my last hour to a happy close. I pray, too, that it may be your pleasure to call my sinful self one day to that banquet, wonderful past all telling, where you, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, feast your saints with the vision of yourself, who are true light, the fulfillment of all desires, the joy that knows no ending, gladness unalloyed, and perfect bliss: through the same Christ our Lord. Amen. - *Saint Thomas Aquinas*

Laudato si. The Season of Creation is a global ecumenical celebration of prayer and action to protect our Common Home, starting each year on 1 September and finishing on the feast of St Francis, 4th October. Portsmouth Caritas is holding a **To Hope and Act Conference in the morning (10am-1pm) of Saturday September 14th in our St Peter's Pastoral Centre.** Join us at 10am for tea and coffee prior to the Conference starting. Our main speaker is John Paul de Quay, an expert in the field from Oxford, and he will be supported by two speakers from Caritas. This will be your opportunity to help identify how our parish can move forward to avoid a climate catastrophe!

Contacts

For a full list of contact details for our Parish, please visit our website:

www.catholicwinchester.org.uk or email:

hello@stpeterswinchester.org.uk to be directed to the correct person.

Parish Priest: Fr Mark Hogan

Assistant Priest: Fr Benedict Ndikum

Deacons: Tony Darlison & Martin McElroy

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(deadline for items **Wednesday please**).

Parish Bank Details If you wish to make a payment/donation, please use the following: Parish Bank Account Name: CDP St Peter & Winchester Martyrs, Ref details (eg offertory, SVP, etc). Sort Code: 30-93-04, Account Number: 00890996 or the Contactless machine at the back of St Peter's or visit our website.

Events

THE LORDS FLOCK RETREAT & SPIRIT EMPOWERMENT SEMINAR (this weekend) **has been CANCELLED** as the recent riots have made the Leader feel unsafe in England.

Catholic Women's League (CWL) - Soup & Pud Lunch - Next charity lunch is planned for 6th Sept, 12noon-1.30pm - Pastoral Centre - supporting Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT). All very welcome. Suggested donation £7.00. **PLEASE NOTE: NO parking at church**, due to a wedding on the same day.

Winchester Catholic History Society next event is on Weds 18th Sept. "Young Elizabeth—Princess, Prisoner & Queen, by Dr Nicola Tallis. Bookings to win.cath.history@gmail.com.

St Gregory's Soup & Pud Lunch - Next charity lunch - 24th September - supporting the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance, which costs £17,750 a day to maintain the service and relies solely on contributions from the community. Please come and support. More details available nearer the time.

Murder Mystery Evening at Twyford Parish Hall on 19th October at 7pm. Proceeds to SVP Christmas Parcels. Tickets £25, available from svp@stpeterswinchester.org.uk.

Centenary Planning Meeting on Wednesday 4th Sept at 7pm at the Pastoral Centre. All invited to come and help us prepare for our Centenary Celebrations in 2026. Please email centenary@stpeterswinchester.org.uk for further details or just come along.

BIG CHURCH FESTIVAL 2025 (22nd - 24th August 2025). Father Mark would love you to join him. Check out the website for more info at: <https://www.bigchurchfestival.com/> if you decide you want to come, there is currently a big summer sale on until **August 31st 2024**. The booking link is: <https://tickets.bigchurchfestival.com/south/join-us/individual>.

Prayer Corner As we reach the end of the summer holidays, let us pray that we are all well rested and restored so that we are ready to refocus on our mission to bring people to Christ in hope and joy.

Mass Timetable	24th August 2024 – 31st August 2024		
Date	Mass Times & Intentions		
SATURDAY – August 24th – ST BARTHOLOMEW, Apostle, feast.	9.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Mary Perry RIP
	9.30 – 10.30 AM	Confession at St Peter's	
	4.30— 5 00 PM	Confession at St Peter's	
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Vigil	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Mr Frank Crook RIP
SUNDAY – August 25th – TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME.	8.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Hilda Wild RIP
	9.00 AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	Peace In The World
	9.15 AM	Mass at St Stephen's	People of the Parish
	10.30 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Intentions of Carmel Burke
	11.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Intentions of Matt & Maeve Kelly
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul of Rev P T Savage
MONDAY – August 26th – Blessed Dominic Barberi , Religious, optional memorial.	No Morning Prayer and Adoration at St Peter's		
	10.00AM	Mass at St Peter's	A Homeless Man who died on the Street
TUESDAY – August 27th – St Monica , memorial.	8.00 AM	Morning Prayer and Adoration at St Peter's	
	No 10.00 AM Mass at St Gregory's		
	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's.	Memorial Mass for Angelo T Bonus Senior RIP.
WEDNESDAY – August 28th – St Augustine of Hippo , Bishop, Doctor of the Church, memorial.	8.00 AM	Morning Prayer and Adoration at St Peter's	
	No 10.00 AM Mass at St Peter's		
THURSDAY – August 29th – The Passion of St John the Baptist , memorial.	8.00 AM	Morning Prayer and Adoration at St Peter's	
	10.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Patrick George McCall & Family RIP
FRIDAY – August 30th – Sa Margaret Clitherow Anne Line & Margaret Ward , Martyrs, optional memorial.	8.00 AM	Morning Prayer and Adoration at St Peter's	
	No 10.00 AM Mass at St Gregory's		
	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's.	Memorial Mass for Frank Crook RIP
SATURDAY – August 31st – St Aidan, Bishop, & All Saints of Lindisfarne , optional memorial. 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Vigil	9.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	A Homeless Man who died on the Street
	9.30 – 10.30 AM	Confession at St Peter's	
	4.30 — 5 00 PM	Confession at St Peter's	
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Holy Souls
<p>Confessions every Saturday 9.30am till 10.30am and 4.30pm-5.00pm at St Peter's Church. 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</p> <p>ALL SERVICES (INCLUDING MORNING PRAYER) FROM ST PETER'S ARE LIVESTREAMED.</p>			