

12th January 2025

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - Year C

Readings and Antiphons

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Mt 3:16-17
 After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

First reading: the Prophet Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 104(103): 1b-2. 3-4. 24-25.27-28.29-30. R.1
 Bless the Lord, O my soul! My God, how great you are!

Second reading: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Gospel Acclamation: Cf. Lk 3:16 R. Alleluia, alleluia!

He who is mightier than I is coming, said John. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Communion Antiphon: Jn 1:32, 34
 Behold, the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

Funerals and Deaths

Dr Pietro Ligato RIP

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



Baptisms

Welcome to **Sebastian Idrovo**, who was baptised at St Peter's on Saturday 28th December 2024, and to **Ottilie Pearce & Frederick Walters**, who were baptised at St Peter's last weekend.



Christmas Thank You

Fr Mark and Fr Benedict would like to offer their **heartfelt thanks for all the many cards, gifts, kind words and messages, and most of all prayers** that they have received over this Christmas season. They are both very humbled and very grateful by your generosity and apologise that they cannot thank you all personally.

Thank you

Bookshop

Thank you so much for your continued support especially over the Advent and Christmas Season. New Missals and Bibles are, and will continue to be available. We are refreshing our display and invite you to have a look.



Prayer Corner

Let us pray that, as we celebrate the Lord's Baptism and welcome all the families with babies who have been baptised over the past year to our special mass, all parents may be moved by their own faith to bring their children closer to Christ in love, hope and joy.



Praying, Hoping, Opening...

Pope Francis writes:

The Gospel of today's Liturgy shows us the scene with which Jesus' public life begins: he, who is the Son of God and the Messiah, goes to the banks of the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist. After about 30 years of hidden life, Jesus does not present himself with a miracle, or by rising to the podium to teach. He queues up with the people who were going to receive baptism from John.

Today's liturgical hymn says that the people went to be baptized with a bare soul and bare feet, humbly. This is a beautiful attitude: with a bare soul and bare feet. And Jesus shares the plight of us sinners, he descends towards us; he descends into the river, and into the wounded history of humanity. He immerses himself in our waters to heal them, and he immerses himself with us, in our midst. He does not rise up above us, but rather comes down towards us with a bare soul, with bare feet, like the people. He does not go on his own, nor with a selected, privileged group. No: he goes with the people. He belongs to those people and he goes with them to be baptized, with those humble people. Let us reflect on an important point: in the moment that Jesus receives Baptism, the text says that he "was praying" (Lk 3:21).



It is good for us to contemplate this: Jesus prays. But why? He, who is the Lord, the Son of God, prays like us? Yes, Jesus — the Gospels repeat this many times — spends a lot of time in prayer: at the beginning of every day, often at night, before making important decisions.... His prayer is a dialogue, a relationship with the Father. Thus, in today's Gospel, we can see the "two moments" in the life of Jesus: on the one hand, he descends towards us into the waters of the Jordan; on the other, he raises his eyes and his heart, praying to the Father.

It is a great lesson for us: we are all immersed in the problems of life and in many complicated situations, called upon to face difficult moments and choices that get us down. But if we do not want to be crushed, we need to raise everything upwards. And this is exactly what prayer does. It is not an escape route; prayer is not a magic ritual or a repetition of memorized refrains. No. To pray is the way to let God act within us,

to understand what he wants to communicate to us even in the most difficult situations, to pray to have the strength to go forward.



Many people feel they cannot go on, and pray: "Lord, give me the strength to continue". We too, very often, have done this. Prayer helps us because it unites us to God, it opens us up to the encounter with him. Yes, prayer is the key that opens our heart to the Lord. It is dialoguing with God, it is listening to his Word, it is worshipping; remaining in silence, entrusting what we are experiencing to him. And sometimes it is also crying out to him like Job, venting with Him. Crying out like Job; He is the father; He understands well. He never gets angry with us. And Jesus prays.

Prayer — to use a beautiful image from today's Gospel — "opens the heaven" (cf. v. 21). Prayer opens the heaven: it gives life oxygen, it gives a breath of fresh air even in the midst of breathlessness and lets us see things from a broader perspective. Above all, it enables us to have the same experience of Jesus by the Jordan: it makes us feel like beloved children of the Father. When we pray, the Father says to us too, as he does to Jesus in the Gospel: "You are my beloved Son" (cf. v. 22).

Being God's children began on the day of our Baptism, which immersed us in Christ and, as members of the people of God, made us become beloved children of the Father. Let us not forget the date of our Baptism! If I were to ask each one of you now: what is the date of your Baptism? Perhaps some of you do not remember. This is a beautiful thing: remembering the date of your baptism because it is our rebirth, the moment in which we became children of God with Jesus! And when you return home — if you do not know — ask your mother, your aunt, or your grandparents: "When was I baptized?"; and remember that date so as to celebrate it, to thank the Lord. And today, at this moment, let us ask ourselves: how is my prayer going?

Do I pray out of habit, do I pray unwillingly, just reciting formulas, or is my prayer an encounter with God? I, a sinner, always with the people of God, never isolated? Do I cultivate intimacy with God, dialogue with him, listen to his Word? Among the many things we do each day, let us not neglect prayer: let us dedicate time to it, let us use short invocations to be repeated often, let us read the Gospel every day. The prayer that opens the heaven.

Pope Francis, Angelus Address, Sunday 9th January 2022



Keys for Accompaniment - Short Taster Sessions Online

Three stand alone online sessions will introduce some key principles of accompaniment. These short tasters will gently introduce you to the disposition you can develop to accompany others. You can come to one session or more: each stand alone:-

- **January 13th 7 - 8.15pm** on Zoom - The Lay Mission to Accompany Others
- **January 27th 7 - 8.15pm** on Zoom - Know Your Own Journey to Accompany Others
- **February 10th 7 - 8.15pm** on Zoom - Good Conversations to Accompany Others.

Please click **HERE** to find out more and book your place.



The Great Story of Jesus Retreat Day - St Peter's Pastoral Centre 25th January - Start 2025 with this retreat led by Sr Margarida Mondral of the Verbum Dei Community and others in the Accompaniment team. **Refresh your appreciation of the core of our faith:** the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the new life we can have in the Holy Spirit. (this may also be helpful for newly received Catholics) Please apply **here** for a place.

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Filipino Fundraising News

In November the Philippines was hit by devastating cyclones and typhoons leaving many people homeless and suffering huge losses. At our Christmas party celebrations on 14th December we raised **£300 which we donated to the school children in Bicol, Philippines**. Thank you to all those who kindly donated and made a huge difference. May God bless you all.

News from St Peter's School

We hope you're all well and had a lovely Christmas. Happy New Year! Please find attached this week's newsletter and link to the latest school news:
<https://www.stpetershants.co.uk/stream/newsletters/full/1/-/>

Covenant With the Poor

If you are interested in finding out more about CWP, please contact Barry Poffley via the Parish Office. **Our next meeting is on 20th January at 6pm** upstairs in the Pastoral Centre. All welcome.

Introducing Grace Notes...

The contemporary music group rebranded as Grace Notes for 2025. If you enjoy singing in the praise and worship style, do join us. Enthusiasm is the only requirement! Keyboard players & instrumentalists are also welcome. We will continue to play at 5.30pm Mass on the first Sunday of each month. **Next Mass is on 2nd February 2025**. For more details contact:
joanna@stpeterswinchester.org.uk.

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

Parish Office:

office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Finance:

accounts@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Tel. 01962852804

Newsletter:

newsletters@stpeterswinchester.org.uk (deadline for items for the next newsletter - **Weds 15th Jan please**)

Parish Bank details

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

Building Works – Preparation for the Centenary in St Peter's

We are in the final stages of appointing the preferred contractor and, subject to some final discussions, it is anticipated that the **Dirty Work in and around St Peter's Church will commence on Monday 20th January 2025** and be completed before Easter. The current assumption is that we will have limited access to St Peter's during the week but anticipate that we will be able to celebrate Sunday Masses in St Peter's as normal. **Services during the week**, we are planning for these to take place in the Milner Hall including Morning Prayer; Adoration and Daily Mass – please note that these will **not** be Live Streamed. **Confessions**, we are currently planning for these to take place in the St Thomas More Room upstairs in the Pastoral Centre. **Your patience and understanding is very much appreciated** whilst we continue to determine what might be possible, and we will ensure that you are updated as soon as we have more details ourselves.

Rite of Acceptance - Sunday 12th January at 10.30am Mass

This Sunday, the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord, at the 10:30am Mass, **we will celebrate the "Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens"**. This is the first official step for adults preparing to be baptised (usually at Easter) and is a liturgical rite. It marks the beginning of the catechumenate proper, as the candidates express and the Church accepts their intention to respond to God's call to follow the way of Christ.

Kingdom Seekers - New Formation - Young People (9-14 yrs)

New formation and service programme for our young people aged 9- 14 years. The information meeting for Kingdom Seekers is on **Sat Jan 18th at 10am - Milner Hall**.

NEW PRAYER GROUP: MOTHERS' PRAYERS (January to Easter)

To help launch the Year of Hope, **we are starting a Mothers Prayers group** in the parish for mothers who wish to pray together for their children and grandchildren, in a relaxed and informal setting, closing each meeting with chats and refreshments. Here is what Isabelle who will be leading the group says, *"I joined a Mothers Prayers when my children were toddlers (they have now finished university) and I made lifelong friends that I still meet regularly. We got to know each other intimately very quickly because people tend to pray about very joyous or very difficult situations and the group was a safe place where one could pray without being judged or offered any unwanted advice. Whatever is said during prayers is confidential and not spoken about even within the group unless the person it relates to brings it up afterwards themselves; this is a fundamental principle of Mothers Prayers. We then close the meeting with chats and refreshments"*.

To attend please contact Isabelle at: office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk (Please note the "mothersprayers" email does not work at present). Starts Tuesday, 28th January 2025 (1pm – 3pm) - Pastoral Centre. Visit www.mothersprayers.org for more information.

Transform your Spiritual Life in 2025...

Have you ever felt lost when trying to build a habit of prayer, understand Scripture, or navigate Church teachings? You're not alone—and the Ascension App is here to guide you. By downloading this free app, you'll immediately gain access to:

- Fr. Mike Schmitz's Bible in a Year and Catechism in a Year podcasts
- The new Rosary in a Year Podcast (with Fr. Mark-Mary Ames, CFR)
- Reflections on the daily readings plus Sunday homilies
- The ability to pray the Rosary alongside your favorite Catholic voices

Plus, you'll have the full text of the Bible and Catechism at your fingertips, ready to explore. Click on the link: **Ascension-App** - and completely free!

Events for 2025

Pies & Puds lunch event - Wed 15th January, 12.45/for 1pm - Pastoral Centre



Join us for the first monthly Pies & Puds lunch of 2025! We'll be serving home-made pies, all the vegetables you can eat, proper puddings with custard, and vegetarian and G/F options. There is no booking or commitment necessary, but do contact moirar@msn.com with any questions or to be added to our mailing list.

Winchester Catholic History Society - next meeting will be on Weds 15th January,

when Charles Harris will be speaking on 'Posters of the Belle Epoque, the Great Age of the Poster'. Hear how the poster became the world's first effective method of mass communication: from Manet to Toulouse-Lautrec. **6.30pm in the Parish Centre, New members most welcome.** Visitors £7.00 at the door.


Spe Non Confundit - Hope Does Not Disappoint - What is the Pope's Hope for the Jubilee Year? Please join Fr Mark as he aims to unpack the Pope's "Papal Bull Indiction", **Spe Non Confundit** – the official decree which outlines the purpose and spirit of the Jubilee Year 2025. Fr Mark will give a brief introduction and then open up to Q&A **on Sunday 26th Jan, 4-5pm in the Pastoral Centre**. Please read the document before the meeting. You can find it [here](#).

CWL Soup & Pud Lunch 'THANK YOU' - CWL would like to thank everyone who supported January's Charity Soup & Pud Lunch, which **raised £254 for Winchester Samaritans**. The next Charity Lunch will be held in the Pastoral Centre on Friday 7th February. Suggested donation £7. All are very Welcome.

Laudato Si Corner

As we start the Jubilee Year, CAFOD have produced this video, looking back over the last 25 years and ask the question: **What do you wish for in 2025?** Take a look: <https://cafod.org.uk/news/international-news/jubilee-2025-what-do-you-wish-for/>



 Amendments/additions to regular timetable

| Mass Timetable | 11th January - 18th January 2025 | | |
|--|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| SATURDAY – January 11th – Liturgy of the Day | 9:00AM | Mass at St Peter's | |
| | 9:30AM - 10:30AM | Confession at St Peter's | |
| | 10:30AM | Baptism Celebration Mass at St Peter's | |
| | 4:30PM - 5:00PM | Confession at St Peter's | |
| | 5:30PM | Mass at St Peter's | Intentions of Mairi Claire Grounsell |
| SUNDAY – January 12th – THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, feast | 8:00AM | Mass at St Peter's | Eugene Murphy's Health |
| | 9:00AM | Mass at St Thomas More's | Private Intention |
| | 9:15AM | FAMILY Mass at St Stephen's | People of the Parish |
| | 10:30AM | Mass at St Peter's | Intentions of Rose Connors |
| | 11:00AM | Mass at St Gregory's | Kate Macmillan & Family |
| | 5:30PM | Mass at St Peter's | Claudine Sobhani RIP |
| MONDAY – January 13th – St Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church, optional memorial | 8:00AM - 9:00AM | Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at St Peter's | |
| | 12:15PM | Mass at St Peter's | The Souls of the Bristol Family |
| TUESDAY – January 14th – Feria | 8:00AM - 9:00AM | Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at St Peter's | |
| | 10:00AM | Mass at St Gregory's | Carmel Burke & Family |
| | 12:15PM | Mass at St Peter's | Fernanda Ramos RIP |
| WEDNESDAY – January 15th – Feria | 8:00AM - 9:00AM | Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at St Peter's | |
| | 10:00AM | Mass at St Peter's | Neil Intentions |
| THURSDAY – January 16th – Feria | 8:00AM - 9:00AM | Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at St Peter's | |
| | 10:00AM | Mass at St Peter's | Intentions of Joseph Gomez |
| FRIDAY – January 17th – St Anthony of Egypt, Abbot, memorial | 8:00AM - 9:00AM | Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at St Peter's | |
| | 10:00AM | Mass at St Gregory's | Dr Pietro Ligato RIP |
| | 12:15PM | Mass at St Peter's | Mary Ryan RIP |
| SATURDAY – January 18th – Our Lady on Saturday | 9:00AM | Mass at St Peter's | The Founders |
| | 9:30AM - 10:30AM | Confession at St Peter's | |
| | 4:30PM- 5:00PM | Confession at St Peter's | |
| | 5:30PM | Mass at St Peter's | Souls in Purgatory |

Confession 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:

YouTube channel

ALL SERVICES (INCLUDING MORNING PRAYER) FROM ST PETER'S ARE LIVESTREAMED.