

26th January 2025

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year C

Readings and Antiphons

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: Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 19(18):8. 9. 10. 15. R. Jn 6:63c
Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-30

Gospel Acclamation: Lk 4:18
R. Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor; to proclaim liberty to the captives. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

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

Funerals and Deaths

Denise Hendrie (nee Tichborne) RIP - Funeral on Thursday 6th February.

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

Baptisms

Welcome to: Rosie Ames who was baptised at St Stephen's Church last Saturday.



The Great Story of Jesus Retreat Day - St Peter's Pastoral Centre 25th Jan

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.

THIS WEEKEND...

Second Collection for Portsmouth Cathedral - St John, our Mother Church.

Sunday of the Word of God Alpha Testimonials after Mass. [\(more information overleaf\)](#)

Winchester Basics Bank - please bring your donations to Mass this weekend - collection bins available at St Peter's & St Stephen's. A list of food items and ways to donate, please click here: [Winchester Basics Bank - Donate](#). FINALLY don't forget the blue tokens at Tesco stores - please support us over the next 6 weeks!

"I HOPE IN YOUR WORD"

Fr Mark writes:

January is a time of new hopes and big dreams for the year ahead. But, this time of year can also be challenging with plenty of the long cold winter still before us. If we're not careful, we will end up slipping into hopelessness and joylessness. Many people do.

Things like rejection, disappointment, disrespect, anger, fear, criticism, fear of criticism can all steal our hope for a brighter tomorrow. And the list doesn't end there...

In this Jubilee Year, Pope Francis offer us hope, trustworthy hope. Pope Benedict XVI reminds us that "a distinguishing mark of Christians [is] the fact that they have a future: it is not that they know the details of what awaits them, but they know in general terms that their life will not end in emptiness. Only when the future is certain as a positive reality does it become possible to live the present as well...The dark door of time, of the future, has been thrown open. The one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life."

The first reading this weekend is a passage from the Book of Nehemiah. It's one of the historical books of the Old Testament, and is written after the Jews had returned from exile in Babylon. Nehemiah and other leaders bring the people together.

In those days:

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. The "Book of the Law" referred to the first five books of the Old Testament or Hebrew Scriptures. Many of the people in that audience were hearing those words for the first time or the first time in a long time. As the crowd listened to the readings they learned about



- the special relationship God wanted to have with the nation of Israel

- the promises God had made to bless them so they could be a light to the nations.

Skipping ahead a few verses, we read: 'This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law.

The people were weeping as they heard the Word of God and understood its meaning. The whole story of Israel's history came crashing in on them; as they heard about the sad mistakes of their ancestors, the selfishness and sin that brought such tragic consequences to the nation. Time and time again, early and often, God had sent prophets to get the people of Israel to change their ways but they ignored God, and turned their back on his commandments, worshipping false Gods instead.

The enemies of the nation had been allowed to destroy the city and the Temple, and to subject the nation to servitude and slavery. They had robbed the people of their joy and stolen their hope for the future. But now, God was restoring their hope and re-filling the cup of joy.

Today has been named by Pope Francis as "Sunday of the Word of God". God's Word is powerful. The Lord is able to speak to his people, to cut right through to their hearts so that they can mourn the errors of their ancestors. Through his Word, God reassures them and us that with him there is always hope for the future.

Even in the face of all the sadness and sin in our world, in our Church, in our families, in our hearts, the joy of the Lord is our strength and the Word of God offers us hope.

Pope Benedict XVI again:

"To come to know God—the true God—means to receive hope. We who have always lived with the Christian concept of God, and have grown accustomed to it, have almost ceased to notice that we possess the hope that ensues from a real encounter with this God...we need the greater and lesser hopes that keep us going day by day. But these are not enough without the great hope, which must surpass everything else. This great hope can only be God, who encompasses the whole of reality and who can bestow upon us what we, by ourselves, cannot attain."

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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](#).



Prayer Corner

Let us pray that our Alpha testimonials this weekend, together with the prayers of our community, will inspire others to join, thereby sharing in friendship and growing in faith.



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Sunday of the Word of God

This Sunday is the **Sixth Sunday of the Word of God.**

Pope Francis has chosen as the theme the words of the Psalmist, **"I hope in your Word"** (Ps. 119:74). It is a cry of hope: man, in a moment of anguish, tribulation, and confusion, cries out to God and puts all his hope in him. It is a deeply human experience, as is usually found in the Psalter. Everyone hopes, we all have hopes, but what is communicated to us in this Jubilee is a "Hope," in the singular. It is not an abstract idea or naive optimism, but a person, alive and present in everyone's life: Christ crucified and risen, the only one who never abandons us. Pauline theology is extremely clear on this point: "Christ Jesus our hope" (1 Tim. 1:1).

We have an **opportunity to reflect more deeply on the importance of God's Word in our own lives**, and to thank and ask God's blessing upon those who proclaim the Word of God for us at Mass.

Fr Mark would also like to invite any who would like to consider becoming a reader at Mass to join the "Readers Workshop" on Saturday 8th Feb, 9am-12 in the St. Peter's Pastoral Centre. Please email readers@stpeterswinchester.org.uk for more details.

Kingdom Seekers - 9-14 yrs - New Formation and Service Programme

A new formation and service programme for our young people aged 9- 14 years who have made their First Holy Communion.

Starting Sat 1st Feb 10:30 – 12, Milner Hall (12 sessions Feb – July).

An exciting chance to **grow in faith, service and leadership with fun and fellowship along the way.** Come along and see (no need to have attended the info meeting).

Contact Rosanne and Jackie: rosanne@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Introducing Grace Notes...

The contemporary music group has been 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 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.

IMPORTANT PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Building Works Update - St Peter's

Work has commenced and we have shared a 'Sneaky Peek' in some photos of what you will see when coming to St. Peter's this weekend. To see more click [HERE](#)

Can I ask for your co-operation in being careful when moving around the Church, and that children are supervised at all times.

Initial works have start with the removal of some of the plasterwork and you will be able to see 'exposed bare bricks' on the South Wall (Organ Side).

Next week, it is anticipated that Scaffolding will be erected.

If there are any queries please contact Gerard in the office in the first instance.



Polite Request to Parents - St Peter's Pastoral Centre

Dear Parent(s) and Guardians,

Your assistance and support is requested and needed in the Pastoral Centre primarily for the safety and protection of the children as they move around the Pastoral Centre.

There have been a few issues raised regarding the safety and behaviour of the children who appear to be allowed to move around the building unsupervised.

Could we please ask for your cooperation ensuring that your children are always supervised within your sight and are encouraged not to be running around inside and playing on the stairs or in the rooms upstairs. Also, in the back room of the Pastoral Centre Hall there are concerns that children are using the Chair Rack as a Climbing Frame and squeezing themselves into places where they really shouldn't. Concern here relates to the risks of falling and or trapping wandering fingers (hands).

I am sorry if this comes across as being too strong or disrespectful, I am one of the first to encourage and support families and children, but their safety and well-being is equally important.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the above, please contact Gerard in the Parish Office in the first instance.

Parish Office Vacancies – Restructuring

We are actively seeking to recruit two new employees to work in the Parish Office, on a part-time basis (25 Hours per week):

- Parish Administrator - to read job spec, please click [here](#)
- Finance Administrator - to read job spec, please click [here](#)

We have been extremely blessed over the last twelve months with support and professionalism from Sarah, Alison and Isabelle who stepped into help cover the roles on a temporary basis. We are now looking to appoint on a permanent basis.

If either of these roles are of interest please contact recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk in the first instance and they will share more details with you.

If you would like to have an informal chat, please contact Gerard in the Parish Office.



The Alpha Course - YOU ARE INVITED. YOU ARE WELCOME...

Our new season of **Alpha starts Tuesday 4th February at 7.30pm** in the Pastoral Centre. The course will run for 11 weeks. Alpha is a space for conversations about **faith, life and God** conducted in an informal and relaxed manner.

A guest shared, *'Being on Alpha really kept me going both spiritually and socially. The highlight for me had to be the Holy Spirit retreat day. Praying together brought us closer as friends and, as we asked the Holy Spirit to come among us, I experienced a great sense of peace and trust that God is at work'.*

Whether you know very little about God, are unsure what you believe, need a spiritual re-boot or simply wish to foster faith-based friendships, Alpha is the place for you!

Each session begins with a hot cooked meal. To register, visit www.catholicwinchester.org.uk/alpha or email alpha@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

News from St Peter's School

Please find attached this week's newsletter and link to the latest school news: <https://www.stpetershants.co.uk/stream/newsletters/full/1-//>

Special request: We are looking for participants to take part in a Hampshire County Council study into food insecurity - cost of living crisis and its impact. **Please find more information in the school newsletter** - thank you.



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NEW Prayer Group: Mothers' Prayers (January - 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.

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

Keys for Accompaniment - Short Taster Sessions



We are offering stand alone online sessions to introduce some key principles of accompaniment. These short tasters will gently introduce you to the disposition you can develop to accompany others. We started on 13th Jan, it's not too late to join us: -

- **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.

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 PM latest 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.

Annual Collection for the Cathedral - St John, Mother Church of the Diocese

The annual Collection for the Cathedral of St John, Mother Church of the Diocese, is scheduled to take place on **Sunday 26th January, and is the first Second Collection of 2025**. Canon James McAuley, Dean of the Cathedral, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia writes:

Since I became Dean of our Cathedral Church of St John the Evangelist in September 2022, the parish has had to pay for the emergency repair of three serious roof leaks, as well as the replacement of two failing flat roofs. The cost of these repairs was met from parish funds. In 2023, the 120-year-old West Window had to be shored up, removed and completely restored to prevent its imminent collapse. So far, generous donors from the parish and from across the diocese have contributed £84,130 of the £90,100 cost of repair.

Our most recent quinquennial architectural survey (autumn 2023) indicated work required over the next few years to the roof, windows, heating, and electrical systems at an estimated cost of £2 million plus VAT.

I fully appreciate the financial pressures being felt by you and by your parishioners but would appeal to you to promote and support the Second Collection for the Cathedral on 26th 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.

Online donations for the Second Collection can be made at the following link: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/st-johns-cathedral-second-collection-2025> or by scanning the QR code below with a Smart Phone

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 come and look.**



Events for 2025

Catholic Women's League (CWL) Soup & Pud Lunch - The next Charity Lunch will be held in the **Pastoral Centre on Friday 7th February from 12:15 - 1.30pm**. In aid of Naomi House and Jackspace - Respite, end of life care and bereavement support for seriously ill children, young adults and their families. Suggested donation £7. All are very Welcome.

Bishop Robert Barron Bible Event – Excel, London on 22nd February -

Fr Mark highly recommends joining Bishop Robert Barron, Professor Tracey Rowland, Professor N.T. Wright and others in London this February for the first-ever Word of Fire conference on the Bible on Sat 22nd Feb at the Excel, London (with an optional evening opening session on Fri 21st). You can get tickets **here** – and if you'd like to travel up with others, please let the parish know so we can put you in touch with each other.



Winchester Street Pastors are Recruiting New SCHOOL PASTORS: for Secondary & Primary Schools across Winchester and district. Volunteers are **required at Lunchtimes - once or twice a week** with relevant online training in either Feb/Mar or Jun/Jul '25. To find out more about being a School Pastor or supporting us in prayer, contact Mark Hibbert-Hingston, by email: winchester@schoolpastors.org.uk. Or tel:07740 288654

Mens' Retreat at Stonyhurst: Men's Spiritual Exercises, 31st March – 5th April '25 - A 5-day version of the Ignatian Exercises offered specifically for men (whether lay or ordained), this retreat will be preached by the Benedictine Monks of St Joseph's Abbey, France. Founded in 1988, this community has retained its charisma of a specific apostolate to men and of engaging them through a shortened version of the Ignatian Exercises. One-to-one direction will be offered alongside the talks. Priests are welcome to attend and concelebrate or celebrate their own Mass. For more information and to book: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/mens-spiritual-exercises/>

Pilgrimage to Lisieux (Friday 23rd - Mon 26th May 2025) - The pilgrimage to Lisieux, France will be led by Fr Raffaele Cossa & Fr Mario Toma. They will visit the place where St Therese lived and the surrounding area. Cost: approx £500 per person depending on numbers. Price includes: Coach travel from St Swithun Wells parish, Ferry crossing - Portsmouth to Caen, 3 Nights half board - at Ermitage, Lisieux & Visit to Alencon - birth place of St Therese. The Pilgrimage is organised with Tangney Tours. Further information & booking form available from: St Swithun Wells Parish Office 023 80273882 or Clare Barkaway at Tangney Tours 01732 886666.

Keep A Look out for the Parish Pilgrimage—details to follow soon.

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS TO ROME, an eight-day trek in Autumn 2025, is a charity fundraising challenge, organised by the charity LIFE. Life supports women in unexpected and crisis pregnancies and those experiencing pregnancy loss. Life are calling all those with "an adventurous spirit and a compassionate heart", to email: emilytraynor@lifecharity.org.uk for more information.



Amendments to location of Mass - due to St Peter's Church Building Works (more details in newsletter)

Mass Timetable	25th January - 1st February 2025		
SATURDAY – January 25th – THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL, feast THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Vigil	9:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul of Jacob Cook
	9:30AM - 10:30AM	Confession in St Thomas More Room, Pastoral Centre (Upstairs)	
	4:30PM - 5:00PM	Confession in St Thomas More Room, Pastoral Centre (Upstairs)	
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Dr Pietro Ligato RIP
SUNDAY – January 26th – THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	Dr Pietro Ligato RIP
	9:00AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	Win Harris RIP
	9:15AM	Mass at St Stephen's	Dr Anna Wilson RIP
	10:30AM	Mass at St Peter's	People of the Parish
	11:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Anne O'Hagan RIP
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul of Eleanor Meader
MONDAY – January 27th – St Angela Merici, Foundress, optional memorial	8:00AM - 9:00AM	Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall	
	12:15PM	Mass at Milner Hall	Tom O'Donoghue RIP
TUESDAY – January 28th – St Thomas Aquinas, Religious, Doctor of the Church, memorial	8:00AM - 9:00AM	Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Thanksgiving for Alessandro P
	12:15PM	Mass at Milner Hall	Souls of the Bristol Family
WEDNESDAY – January 29th – Feria	8:00AM - 9:00AM	Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall	
	10:00AM	Mass at Milner Hall	Dr Pietro Ligato RIP
THURSDAY – January 30th – Feria	8:00AM - 9:00AM	Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall	
	10:00AM	Mass at Milner Hall	The Soul of Patrick George McCall & Family
FRIDAY – January 31st – St John Bosco, Founder, memorial	8:00AM - 9:00AM	Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Dr Wadjihollah Molawi RIP
	12:15PM	Mass at Milner Hall	Joel Mutanda RIP
SATURDAY – February 1st – Our Lady on Saturday THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD - Vigil	9:00AM	Mass at Milner Hall	The Soul of Archbishop John Henry King
	9:30AM - 10:30AM	Confession in St Thomas More Room, Pastoral Centre (Upstairs)	
	4:30PM- 5:00PM	Confession in St Thomas More Room, Pastoral Centre (Upstairs)	
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Anthuan Shan Das RIP (1st Anniversary)

Confession - Due to Building Works (starting 20th Jan), and until further notice, **confession will take place in St Thomas More Room, Pastoral Centre (Upstairs)** every Saturday 9.30am till 10.30am and 4.30pm-5.00pm.

IMPORTANT NOTICE - YouTube channel

Your Patience is requested as we are **unable to Stream Services from St Peter's whilst Building Works are on-going in the Church.** We will reinstate this as soon as we can. Thank you.