

9th February 2025

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year C

Readings and Antiphons

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.

First reading: Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 138(137):1-2a. 2b-3. 4-5. 7c-8. R. 1c
In the presence of the angels I praise you, O Lord.

Second reading: Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel Acclamation: Mt 4:19
R. Alleluia, alleluia!

Follow me, says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of men.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

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.

Funerals and Deaths

Eileen Pharo-Jenkins RIP - Funeral Mass in the Milner Hall on Friday 21st February.



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

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

We are delighted to be able to share this Annual Parish Report with you - click **HERE**. It gives us a beautiful opportunity to look back over the year in the parish from September 2023 – August 2024 (our financial year) and includes:

- Parish Priest's Review;
- The Financial Summary (in numbers)
- A more detailed commentary (in words)
- Some comments looking ahead.

If you have any initial questions please contact the Parish Office via email office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Parish Open Meeting - 13 Feb 7pm
Fr Mark Hogan is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86207910189?pwd=fE1I31UxTr64WmkDCN9DcE5hS82g3E1>
Meeting ID: 862 0791 0189
Passcode: 391565
Find your local number:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/kKvXPd8gq>

Prayer Corner

Let us pray that our Stewardship Sunday celebrations will bring a generous and sustained response to our vision to secure the future of our Parish, so that we may continue to bring people closer to Jesus Christ in hope and joy.

Putting Out Our Nets Into the Deep

Fr Mark writes:

I have always enjoyed playing monopoly, especially at Christmas. But I think this is really because I'm quite competitive and like winning. I've never really had much interest in real money and, for the most part, I see this as a blessing. We never had too much money growing up and the same has continued into my adult life, whilst most of my peers who studied maths with me at university went off to earn their small fortunes. But, as my father said when I told him of my plans to study for the priesthood, "If there's one thing for certain, you'll never starve!" Thanks to your generosity I have more than enough to live on and only very rarely worry about my own money.

Jesus says, "Where your treasure is, your heart is there also" and, although there've been plenty of ways in which I've stumbled and fallen in trying to follow Him, I've always known Him as my first treasure, my first true love, above all things.

How about you and your relationship to money? Is money something that you use to bring blessing or something that uses you? I suspect some of you are struggling to make ends meet, whilst others have more than plenty. In either case, have you found freedom in this regard, with your eyes fixed on something, or someone else?

We don't know Simon Peter's back story. Some of you may have seen the TV series, *The Chosen*. If you haven't, I'd highly recommend it. They have a speculative but interesting take on the events that might have led to Simon Peter responding to Jesus in the way he does in our Gospel this weekend. Simon Peter begins with, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets". Then, seeing the huge catch Jesus has led them to, he says, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." Then he ends up "leaving everything and following Him".

Maybe Simon Peter had got enough in the bank and didn't really enjoy fishing anyway and so it wasn't really too much of a deal when Jesus invited him to go fishing for people instead of for fish. Sounds like a bit of an adventure, doesn't it? Or maybe he had nothing to lose. Nothing at all. Except perhaps his sin and his shame...

In any case, maybe the Bible really means what it says: "they left everything and followed Him". Jesus captured Simon Peter's attention...

After a night of fishing with no success, suddenly there's an astonishing catch of fish. For that miracle to happen, something was required of Peter...



"Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch..."

Jesus was looking to see if Peter would trust Him, would obey Him. In some ways it was only a little thing, but it opened Peter up to receive huge blessing and led to him becoming his disciple.

In what ways is Jesus today asking you to "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch?" In what ways is He asking you to trust Him, to obey Him, even in a small, seemingly daft thing.

I don't know where you are on your journey of faith. Wherever you are, it's ok. I just want to encourage you to keep moving along the ladder, one rung or step at a time.

I've spoken before about the STEPS that those of us who call ourselves disciples need to be making as we follow Jesus:

SERVE – Jesus calls us to serve others;
TRUST – Jesus needs us to trust in him with our whole being, mind, body and soul;
ENGAGE – faith is personal but it's not supposed to be private. We need small communities with faith-based friendships;
PRAYER (and the Sacraments) – to grow as a follower of Jesus we need to talk to Him and listen and experience His care;
SHARING – God wants us to share the Good News, which we need to experience for ourselves.

Today, this Stewardship Sunday, I'd like to focus on that step of Trust, and in particular how it relates to our possessions and money. Of course, all of you are welcome to contribute to the parish finances, but I wish to address this really to those of you who have decided to follow Jesus:



Your need to give to God is greater than God's need to receive – because He wants to set your hearts free. God doesn't want your money, but He'll receive your money if it allows Him access to what He really wants and longs for – your heart.

This weekend or next, depending which Masses you go to, I'll be inviting you to reflect on your financial contribution to the parish. I'll be asking you to make a "pledge" of your commitment to the parish over the next year, which we will bring forward at each mass to receive at the altar as your worship offering to God. My particular focus this year is on encouraging us all, myself included, to consider giving to God as a priority and as a percentage. This means that I'm not just giving God my spare change but am planning my giving (through envelopes or, even better, direct debits); and it also means that all of us can make an equal sacrifice in our offering. We cannot all give the same amount of money, but most of us can start to think about what percentage of my income I'm giving to God and the poor.

This also puts the pressure even more on myself and the parish leadership to ensure that we're spending the money you give wisely and prudently, and, most importantly, in accordance with God's will. This is why we're pleased to share with you our **Annual Parish Report** - click **HERE**, outlining some of the amazing things we've done over the last year with your support.

I'll write more next week but, for now, I just want you to imagine the huge catch that Jesus is preparing for us – as individuals and as a parish – if we're ready to trust Him and put out our nets into the deep...Are you ready?

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Readers' Workshop



Fr Mark would like to invite all Readers to a workshop on **Saturday 8th February, 9am to 12pm in St Peter's Pastoral Centre**. Anyone who would like to consider becoming a reader is also invited to attend.

Please email: readers@stpeterswinchester.org.uk for more details.

NEW PARISH INITIATIVES...

KINGDOM SEEKERS - YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 9-14 YEARS



A new formation and service programme for our young people aged 9- 14 years who have made their First Holy Communion. An exciting chance to grow in faith, service and leadership with fun and fellowship along the way! We had a great first session last week; our next session is Saturday February 8th 10:30 – 12noon in Milner Hall. It's not too late to join! Contact Rosanne and Jackie for more info: rosanne@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

NEW Prayer Group: Mothers' Prayers (January - Easter)

To help launch the **Year of Hope**, we have started 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. At a **Mothers Prayers meeting**, we have a specific set of prayers that we say together, we sing, and we read the daily readings, reflect on them together, then we each pray in turn aloud or silently about our intentions. 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 refreshments". Every Tuesday, 1pm – 3pm in the Pastoral Centre or the Milner Hall. To attend please contact Isabelle at: accounts@stpeterswinchester.org.uk. Visit www.mothersprayers.org for more information.

Bookshop



Thank You very much for your continued support. Copies of the Pope's autobiography 'HOPE', New Missals and Bibles are available, and we still have a few diaries left (if you need one).

We are refreshing our display and invite you to come and look.

IMPORTANT PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stewardship – Giving Commitment 2025

Hopefully, you will have seen from our previous email containing the **Parish Annual Report** and from Fr. Mark's commentary that we are inviting you to consider your Planned Giving and would like to offer a brief reference and example for your consideration below.

Reviewing Your Giving

For Catholics giving to the Church is an act of worship in response to the generosity of God, and a contribution to the mission of spreading his Kingdom. When we give to the Church, we are paying God back from what is already his. *'Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.'* (1 Chron 29:14) What you give to the parish is up to you. Some people follow the Biblical principle of tithing (giving 10% of their income), but understandably not everyone can. As St Paul reminds us **'Each person should give what they have decided in their heart to give, not reluctantly nor under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.'** (2 Cor 9:7)

Monthly Income (example):

	£1,000	£2,000	£3,000	£4,000	£5,000
Donation %					
2.00 %	£20	£40	£60	£80	£100
5.00 %	£50	£100	£150	£200	£250
7.50 %	£75	£150	£225	£300	£375
10.00 %	£100	£200	£300	£400	£500

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.

Continuation of Building Works - St Peter's

Progress is being made around the Church, and and, like last week, the South Aisle (Organ side) and the Lady Chapel will continue to be inaccessible this week (**can we ask for Children to be supervised and to keep clear**).

You will notice a number of what appear to be some bigger cracks (lines) in the walls these are to allow HeliBars to be inserted, these will be used to strengthen and stabilise the brickworks in advance of rendering being applied. It is also anticipated that there will be more scaffolding erected next week. If you have any queries, please contact Gerard in the Parish Office in the first instance.

A few more Sneaky Peek photos [HERE!](#)

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

Our new season of **Alpha started on Tuesday 4th February at 7.30pm** in the Pastoral Centre. We are still accepting registrations...

Join us on our next Alpha course as we explore some of the big questions of faith and life in an informal and relaxed manner. A guest said, 'I was able to grow and deepen my understanding of the Christian faith through the sessions and discussions we held. Being on the Alpha course opened my mind to reading the bible more and listening to God more attentively.'

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/-/>

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Last 'Taster' Session - Keys for Accompaniment



We are offering the last of our stand alone online session to introduce some key principles of accompaniment. This short taster will gently introduce you to the disposition you can develop to accompany others. Don't worry if you missed the earlier sessions. It's not too late to join us: -

- **February 10th** 7 - 8.15pm on Zoom - Good Conversations to Accompany Others.

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

St Peter's Sanctuary - Welcome Hub



St Peter's Sanctuary Welcome Hub takes place every **Wednesday from 10am - 12pm in the Pastoral Centre** and has been welcoming people from overseas for nearly three years.

We would like to extend our hospitality to all in the Parish that would like to come in for a chat and refreshments. There is no need to let us know you are coming, we will be ready to welcome you.

The Warm Hub - runs before the Welcome Hub, we serve light breakfast at 9am. We look forward to seeing you - please spread the word .

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.

Events coming up...

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. You can get tickets **here**



ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat 22nd February 10.00-1.00 on Zoom. "PILGRIMS OF HOPE – THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR GUIDE." Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prophecy, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring guest speaker Gerry Penfold. Please register for the free Zoom meeting in advance at bit.ly/ADOREFEB2025 More information at www.altonrenewal.com

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

LENT RETREAT - Our Hope: 'Anchor of the Soul' - 7th - 9th March - This retreat wants to help us live Lent discovering and deepening in the sources of life and Christian hope. It will be in the Verbum Dei Retreat Centre on the Isle of Wight and organised by the Verbum Dei Community. For more information and to register, please contact: verbumdei.iow@gmail.com and www.uk.verbumdei.org.

Portsmouth Diocesan Don Bosco Boys Camp – 26th July to 2nd August 2025 - We are delighted that camp will once again be held this summer for boys who are currently in Year 6 Primary school to Year 11 Secondary school at St. Cassian's, Kintbury. There will be plenty of sport, outings, competitions and fun and games to ensure that boys will have a fantastic time. 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 Afternoon on Sunday 9 March 2025 from 2 - 4pm at St Peter's. 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. For more information please see our website: <https://www.portsmouthdiocesedonboscocamp.co.uk> or email dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Southern Voices announce their new concert season: HOPE, FAITH, LIFE & LOVE.

The first concert is on **Saturday 29th March at 7.30pm**, in Holy Trinity Church, Winchester, Musical Director, Jamal Sutton, has created an awe inspiring soundscape with a programme centred around two works Full details and tickets from: southernvoices.co.uk or telephone 0333 666 3366 (booking fees apply). Registered charity 1086868

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, to men and of engaging them through a shortened version of the Ignatian Exercises. For more information and to book: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/mens-spiritual-exercises/>

Jumbulance Volunteers – Lourdes Pilgrimage - There is an opportunity to join a Jumbulance leaving Winchester on **8th May returning on 17th May**. If you might be interested in helping as a volunteer, please contact the Parish Office and we will put in you contact with the group arranging the Pilgrimage

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. Further information & booking form available from: St Swithun Wells Parish Office 023 80273882 or Clare Barkaway at Tangney Tours 01732 886666.

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. Life are calling all those with "an adventurous spirit and a compassionate heart". Email milytraynor@lifecharity.org.uk for more information.

Laudato Si Corner

One of CAFOD's campaigns for the **Jubilee Year** relates to debt justice and the need to ensure that developing countries have the finance they need to take action on the climate. In his address to the 2024 COP Climate Summit in Azerbaijan, Pope Francis said: **"A true 'ecological debt' exists, particularly between the global North and South**, connected to commercial imbalances with effects on the environment and the disproportionate use of natural resources by certain countries over long periods of time." For more information see: <https://cafod.org.uk/news/campaigning-news/debt-justice-needed-now-to-tackle-climate-crisis>

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

Mass Timetable	8th February - 15th February 2025		
SATURDAY – February 8th – Our Lady on Saturday, or St Jerome Emiliana, Founder, optional memorial, or St Josephine Bakhita, Religious, optional memorial	9:00AM	Mass at Milner Hall	The Soul of Margaret Merriman
	9:30AM - 10:30AM	Confession in St Thomas More Room, Pastoral Centre (Upstairs)	
	4:30PM - 5:00PM	Confession in St Peter's Church	
FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Vigil	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Souls in Purgatory
SUNDAY – February 9th – FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME.	8:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Gillielmi Meader
	9:00AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	Sanjay Misquith's Birthday
	9:15AM	Family Mass at St Stephen's	People of the Parish
	10:30AM	Mass at St Peter's	Dr Pietro Ligato RIP
	11:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Christopher Chalmers RIP
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul of Richard Spencer & concelebrating local priests
MONDAY – February 10th – St Scholastica, Virgin, memorial	8:00AM - 9:00AM	Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall	
	12:15PM	Mass at Milner Hall	Holy Souls in Purgatory
TUESDAY – February 11th – Our Lady of Lourdes, optional memorial	8:00AM - 9:00AM	Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	12:15PM	Mass at Milner Hall	The Soul of Edward Hill
WEDNESDAY – February 12th – Feria	8:00AM - 9:00AM	Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall	
	10:00AM	Mass at Milner Hall	Dead in Cemeteries
THURSDAY – February 13th – Feria	8:00AM - 9:00AM	Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall	
	10:00AM	Mass at Milner Hall	Sunniva Kelly RIP
FRIDAY – February 14th – ST CYRIL, Religious & ST METHODIUS, Bishop, Patrons of Europe, feast	8:00AM - 9:00AM	Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	12:15PM	Mass at Milner Hall	Soul of Margaret Merriman
SATURDAY – February 15th – Our Lady on Saturday.	9:00AM	Mass at Milner Hall	Dr Pietro Ligato RIP
	9:30AM - 10:30AM	Confession in St Thomas More Room, Pastoral Centre (Upstairs)	
	4:30PM - 5:00PM	Confession in St Peter's Church	
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Benefactors

Confession - Due to 'Building Works' and until further notice, **confession on Saturday mornings will take place in St Thomas More Room, Pastoral Centre (Upstairs)** every Saturday 9.30am till 10.30am. **Confessions on Saturday afternoons (4.30pm-5.00pm) will be in St Peter's Church.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Your Patience is requested as we are **unable to Live Stream Services from St Peter's whilst Building Works are on-going in the Church** (we need to protect the camera and recording equipment). We will reinstate this as soon as we can but you can still watch previously recorded services on our - **YouTube channel**