

**23rd February 2025**

**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year C**

**Readings and Antiphons**

**Entrance Antiphon: Ps 12:6**  
O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

**First reading: 1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,12-13, 22-23**

**Responsorial Psalm: 103(102):1-2. 3-4.8,10.12-13 R. 8a**  
The Lord is compassionate and gracious.

**Second reading: 1 Corinthians 15:45-49**

**Gospel Acclamation: Jn 13:34 R. Alleluia, alleluia!**

A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. **Alleluia!**

**Gospel: Luke 6:27-38**

**Communion Antiphon: Ps 9:2-3**  
I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

**Funerals and Deaths**

**Gillian Symington RIP**



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

**THIS WEEKEND**

**SECOND COLLECTION -**

**RACIAL JUSTICE**

The theme for Racial Justice Sunday is: **"Pilgrims of Hope: Our Journey Together Towards Racial Justice"**. Catholics across England and Wales are invited to reflect on the collective journey towards racial justice in our schools, parishes and wider society.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Donations in the usual way. Thank you for your generosity.

**THE CATENIANS**

The **Winchester Catenians** will be joining us at St Peter's 10.30am Sunday Mass as we remember deceased members of the Catenians.

To find out more about their work or become a member, click [HERE](#).

**Prayer Corner**

Let us pray that our Parish Community fully engages in the Lenten Spiritual Campaign – "Stepping Forward in Love". May we all make time to explore the opportunities on offer as we move towards the joyful celebration of the resurrection of Christ.

**Authentic Christians, Ready to Step Forward in Love**

**Fr Mark writes:**

During the American Revolutionary War, Peter Miller was the pastor of a little Baptist Church in Pennsylvania and a friend of General George Washington. He was respected for his many outstanding services to the newly born republic.

Michael Wildman, the public prosecutor who lived near the church, constantly criticized and abused Pastor Miller and his congregation. When Wildman was caught for spying for the British army, President George Washington sentenced him to be hanged for treason. No sooner was the sentence announced than Rev. Peter Miller set out on foot to appeal to General George Washington for his enemy's life. The president thought that Mr. Wildman was Rev. Miller's friend and stated that he could not save Miller's friend because of the gravity of his guilt. Miller said,

*"Mr. President, Mr. Wildman is not my friend; he is my worst enemy." "What!" exclaimed Washington, "You have walked sixty miles to save the life of your enemy? That puts the matter in a different light. Pardon is granted."*

Pardon in hand, Miller hurried to the place of execution, fifteen miles away. He arrived just as the traitor was being led to the scaffold. Seeing the pastor Miller coming close to the executing officer, the condemned Wildman shouted, *"Here is the old Peter Miller. He came to get his revenge by seeing me hanged."* — Miller calmly stepped forward and gave him the pardon, signed by General Washington.

Rev. Miller lived by the command Jesus gave us as described in today's Gospel passage: *"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you."*

Whilst it's easy to point out the faults and failings of Christians over the centuries, it's also true that history is full of Christians who truly lived a Christ-like life. As Pope Francis puts it:

**"Christians are not primarily people who "talk about" God, but who resonate with the beauty of his love and a new way of experiencing everything. Theirs is a lived love that raises the question and calls for an answer: Why do you live like this? Why are you like this?"** (World Day of Social Communications 2025)



Sometimes, Christian living is easy. We are aware of the blessings and consolation God is giving us, and we

find ourselves surrounded by "Thy will be done, rather than my will be done" good, kind, loving people. Other times, it's really hard, perhaps because we're not really living a Christian life and we're trying to do things our own way, from our own resources; perhaps because we're being called to allow the beauty of Jesus to shine through us and bring light into some of the dark places of our world.

Jesus's words in last week's Gospel were challenging to many of us: "Woe to the rich"; "woe to you who are full now". Jesus is portrayed in Luke's Gospel as one who is concerned about money, for he is always warning of the danger of possessions and the need to use them to bring blessing to those who have none. Luke was proclaiming Christ's Gospel to a more affluent society, such as ours, and places all the more emphasis on the danger of wealth.

This week, we hear Jesus move on to other forms of generosity. We need to pour out forgiveness and mercy and compassion in abundance. All of these are incarnations of the love which we have first received, and which has touched our own hearts. We are not primarily consumers, entering into a contract with God, but those who've experienced his amazing grace and who cannot help reciprocating. *"Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful"*.

The Gospel passage this weekend contains five commands of **Jesus: love, forgive, do good, bless and pray**. They specify the kind of love that the Christian follower, the missionary disciple, is expected to show toward all people, even an enemy. These commands set us up nicely for Lent, which will soon be upon us, and our Spiritual Campaign, "Step Forward in Love".

I invite you to sign up for our:

- **Lenten Small Groups** (click [HERE](#)),
- and for our **daily messages** (click [HERE](#)).
- I invite those who wish to stretch themselves a little to also sign up for a **Lenten fasting challenge** (click [HERE](#)).

I invite you to truly enter into the season: praying, fasting and almsgiving. I invite you to be open to the work the Lord wishes to do in, to and through you – some of it possibly painful – in order to help you grow as a true living, loving Christian, an authentic missionary disciple of Jesus.

This Lent, I invite you to join us as we set out together, journey alongside one another, full of faith, stepping forward in Love, with hope in our hearts.

**Laudato Si Corner**

The Caritas Social Action Network is offering many activities related to the Jubilee Year. Over Tuesdays in March and April they are offering a course on Catholic Social Teaching for parishioners who are not familiar with this or who would like a refresh. For more information go to: [eventbrite.co.uk/e/catholic-social-teaching-an-introduction-tickets](http://eventbrite.co.uk/e/catholic-social-teaching-an-introduction-tickets)

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**NEXT WEEKEND**

**Winchester Cathedral Mass**

ALL WELCOME to join us for our **quarterly Mass at Winchester Cathedral on Sat 1st March at 10am**, and afterwards, coffee, cake and parish 'social' in the Cathedral cafe.

Confession will start at the usual time due to a morning wedding.

**Please note that we will have a photographer present at the Cathedral Mass, if you would prefer not to be photographed, can you please let him know in advance of the service taking place.**

**NEW PARISH INITIATIVES...**

**NEW Prayer Group: Mothers' Prayers**

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. 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](mailto:accounts@stpeterswinchester.org.uk). Visit [www.mothersprayers.org](http://www.mothersprayers.org) for more information.

**2025 - Sixth Form Students**

**Leadership Programme**

The Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst (CHC)'s **Christian Leadership Formation programme is a fantastic opportunity for students in Year 12 / Lower VI**, and is now open to applications for 2025. **Offering media training, tools for personal development, philosophical and theological study**, and a chance to meet like-minded peers and Catholic academics and public figures, the programme offers a certificate validated by St Mary's University, Twickenham. For more information and to apply: <https://www.christianleadershipformation.com>

**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).



**Lenten Spiritual Campaign - 'Stepping Forward in Love'**

For many of us, **Lent is a beautiful time to "re-set", based on the three pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving**. We will again be offering you some wonderful opportunities to journey alongside your fellow parishioners (and guests from elsewhere), as we delve deeper into the mystery of God's love. This is how you can sign up for:



- **Daily Lenten Messages** to gently challenge and inspire you; To sign up click **HERE** or scan QR code: (no need to sign up if you've received Fr Mark's daily messages previously).



- **Small Lenten Group** opportunities, where you can meet with others to grow in faith together; To sign up click **HERE** or scan QR code below:



- **A 5-week challenge** with Fr Mark – Practising Fasting; To sign up click **HERE** or scan QR code below:



**Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which this year is Wednesday 5th March.**

**IMPORTANT PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Continuation of Building Works at St Peter's - What's New**

Firstly, many thanks for your patience and bearing with us as we continue to work on enhancing St Peter's Church.

Whilst the temperature outside might be rising, please remember there is **no heating currently in St Peter's Church, so please make sure that you have warm clothing** on if you feel the cold; it is cold in the Church.

Building Works continue to be progressing with even more scaffolding on the Sanctuary (Altar) Area, which for the time being means that both the Ambo (Pulpit) and Baptismal Font are now out of action. We will have a Lectern in place for the Readers; and with thanks to St Stephen's, we have access to their Baptismal Font, which is also doubling up as you enter in place of the Holy Water Stoops which are also out of reach in the Porch. Access to Church is only via the Centre Aisle doors, and yes we have raised the Scaffolding Bar to avoid the door crashing into it like last weekend.

Re-plastering work is also continuing, and the top layer(s) are now being attached. Hopefully when these start to dry out further we can look at re-painting the higher areas before the Scaffolding is removed before the start of Holy Week.

**As with last week The Winchester Martyrs (Lady Chapel) and the Sacred Heart Chapel remain closed**, and there is even less space on the main sanctuary.

The same request from previous weeks applies – can you please take extra care when moving around the Church, please do not move any barriers, they have been placed there for your safety, and to enable us to continue accessing the Church during the works that are being carried out.

If you have any questions, please contact Gerard via the Parish Office.

Click **HERE** to see the latest 'Sneaky Peek' photos!

**Certificate in Catechesis**

The Dominican Sisters of St Joseph in Lymington are **offering a 2-year Certificate in Catechesis to equip parish catechists, parents, and grandparents to transmit the Catholic faith to others**. This Certificate is approved by the Bishops' Conference, and offers a formation developed from the 2020 Directory for Catechesis, relevant to the pastoral context we face in our parishes.

It is delivered online in weekly sessions with notes, recordings, and presentations made available to the students.

It is comprehensive in its overview of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and in its practical application to all forms of catechesis.

**2 in-person days are offered each year to build up the student's community and fellowship in faith.**

**Apply now** to begin your studies in September 2025. [Download the Brochure.](#)

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**Catholic Womens League  
(CWL) - Thank You!**



THANKYOU from the CWL to all who supported February's Charity Soup & Pud Lunch, which **raised £350 for Naomi House and Jacksplace.**

**The next Charity Lunch will be held in the Pastoral Centre on Friday 7th March,** donations will be for Home Start Winchester. All are Welcome

**EVENTS NEXT WEEK...**

**WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL  
MASS - Saturday 1st March**

ALL WELCOME to join us for our quarterly Mass at **Winchester Cathedral on Saturday 1st March at 10am** and afterwards, coffee, cake and parish 'social' in the Cathedral cafe. (Confession will be at the usual time due to a morning wedding).

**Please note: a photographer will be present at the next Cathedral Mass, if you would prefer not to be photographed, can you please let him know in advance of the service taking place.**

**COVENANT WITH THE POOR -  
(CWP) - SECOND COLLECTION**

CWP appeal on 1st/ 2nd March will be for Firefly International. More details to follow next week.

**Contacts**

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

[www.catholicwinchester.org.uk](http://www.catholicwinchester.org.uk) or email

[hello@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

**Finance:**

[accounts@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:accounts@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

**Tel.** 01962852804

**Newsletter:**

[newsletters@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto: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...**

**Invitation to Commemorate Three Years of Ukrainian Resilience:** Ukraine Beyond the War—Russia launched a full scale invasion of Ukraine on 24th February 2022. Winchester Ukrainian Cultural Association (WUCA) invites you to celebrate the resilience of the Ukrainians at 2 special events on **Monday 24th February: a Concert at 5.30pm at the United Church (SO23 8RZ) and a Vigil at 7.15pm at the Abbey Gardens (SO23 9RE).**

**The Enigma of Sexuality— Sex, gender and sexual orientation:** what is it all about? We will listen to a talk by Fr Alberto Frigerio, Assistant Professor of Ethics of Life at the Higher Institute of Religious Sciences in Milan. He graduated in Medicine and Surgery and obtained a Masters in Integrative Neuroscience at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. **Friday 7th March at 7:30 PM in St Edward's Church, Chandlers Ford.** Cheese, wine and nibbles will be available from 7pm; suggested donation of £1.

**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](mailto:verbumdei.iow@gmail.com) and [www.uk.verbumdei.org](http://www.uk.verbumdei.org).

**Portsmouth Diocesan Don Bosco (Boys Camp) – We are holding a Bosco Experience & Reunion Afternoon - Sunday 9th 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](mailto:dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Don Bosco Boy 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).

**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](http://southernvoices.co.uk) or telephone 0333 666 3366 (booking fees apply). Registered charity 1086868

**Jumbalance Volunteers – Lourdes Pilgrimage** - There is an opportunity to join a Jumbalance 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

**Retreats & Pilgrimages**

**Escorted Jubilee Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 10th March 2025.** £799.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 4 nights' in 4\* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Ballintubber Abbey, Quiet Man Museum. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).

**Mens' Retreat at Stonyhurst: Men's Spiritual Exercises, 31 March – 5 April 2025—** 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 charism 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 (Fri 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; includes: Coach travel from St Swithun Wells parish, Ferry crossing - Portsmouth to Caen, 3 Nights half board - at Ermitage, Lisieux & Visit to Alencon. The Pilgrimage is organised with Tangney Tours. Further information is available from: St Swithun Wells Parish Office 023 80273882 or Clare Barkaway at Tangney Tours 01732 886666.

**Jubilee Pilgrimage to Lourdes** - Aware of the sick within our Diocese and of the sickness that afflicts our world today you are invited to join the pilgrimage to Lourdes this July. In this Jubilee year of hope it will give us the opportunity to hope and pray for the Church, for the world, for peace, for the sick of our Diocese and all visitors and pilgrims to the Sanctuary.

The cost of the pilgrimage this year is £879 per person for a shared room, youth pilgrims can travel at £825. To find out more and to book a place please complete an [application form](#), [email](#), telephone 07780 221686 or write to Canon PJ Smith at St Edmund's House, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth PO1 3QA.

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

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

Mass Timetable	22nd February - 1st March 2025		
<b>SATURDAY – February 22nd – THE CHAIR OF ST PETER, feast</b>	9:00AM	Mass at Milner Hall	The Soul of Edmund Nicholson
	9:30AM - 10:30AM	<b>Confession in St Thomas More Room, Pastoral Centre (Upstairs)</b>	
	4:30PM - 5:00PM	Confession in St Peter's Church	
<b>7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Vigil</b>	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Dr Pietro Ligato RIP
<b>SUNDAY – February 23rd – SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	8:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	Maria Jose Fernandes RIP
	9:00AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	Catherine Cornwall RIP
	9:15AM	Mass at St Stephen's	Hilary Gibson RIP & Liam, her son
	10:30AM	Mass at St Peter's	Deceased Brothers of the Winchester Catenians
	11:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	People of the Parish
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul of Mary Lady Mannock
<b>MONDAY – February 24th – Feria</b>	<del>8:00AM - 9:00AM</del>	<b>Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall</b>	
	12:15PM	<b>Mass at Milner Hall</b>	Denver's Birthday
<b>TUESDAY – February 25th – Feria</b>	<del>8:00AM - 9:00AM</del>	<b>Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall</b>	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Intentions of Rose Connors
	12:15PM	<b>Mass at Milner Hall</b>	Mary Mayhew-Arnold RIP
<b>WEDNESDAY – February 26th – Feria</b>	<del>8:00AM - 9:00AM</del>	<b><u>NO</u> Morning Prayer and Adoration at Milner Hall</b>	
	10:00AM	<b>Mass at Milner Hall</b>	Soul of Margaret Merriman
<b>THURSDAY – February 27th – St Gregory of Narek, Religious, Doctor of the Church, optional memorial</b>	8:00AM - 9:00AM	<b>Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall</b>	
	10:00AM	<b>Mass at Milner Hall</b>	60th Wedding Anniversary - Kieran & Eileen Dunne
<b>FRIDAY – February 28th – Feria</b>	8:00AM - 9:00AM	<b>Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall</b>	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Dr Pietro Ligato RIP
	12:15PM	<b>Mass at Milner Hall</b>	Phelan Family, Living & Dead
<b>SATURDAY – March 1st– ST DAVID, Religious, Bishop, feast</b>	<b>9:00AM</b>	<b>Mass at Milner Hall</b>	
	<b>10:00AM</b>	<b>Mass at Winchester Cathedral</b>	Closer to Christ Benefactors
	9:30AM - 10:30AM	<b>Confession in St Thomas More Room, Pastoral Centre (Upstairs)</b>	
	4:30PM - 5:00PM	Confession in St Peter's Church	
<b>8th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Vigil</b>	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Dr Pietro Ligato RIP

**Confession** - Due to 'Building Works' and until further notice, **confession on Saturday will take place in St Thomas More Room, Pastoral Centre (Upstairs)** every Saturday 9.30am till 10.30am and in **St Peter's Church** from 4.30pm till 5pm.

**There is NO Morning Prayer on Wednesday 26th February**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE - LIVE STREAM**

Sadly, we are **unable to Live Stream Services from St Peter's whilst Building Works are on-going in the Church. (but you can still watch previously recorded services on our [YouTube channel](#)).**

If you would like to live stream Mass at Portsmouth Cathedral, please click the link below:

**[Portsmouth-Catholic-Cathedral- Live-Mass](#)**