

16th February 2025

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year C

Readings and Antiphons

Entrance Antiphon: Ps 30:3-4
 Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

First reading: Jeremiah 17:5-8

Responsorial Psalm: 1:1-2.3.4, 6. R. 40(39):5a
 Blessed the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.

Second reading: Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

Gospel Acclamation: Lk 6:23ab R. Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and leap for joy, says the Lord, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Luke 6:17,20-26

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 77:29-30

They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Funerals and Deaths

Eileen Pharo-Jenkins RIP -
 Funeral Mass in the Milner Hall on Friday 21st February at 1.45pm.



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

THE ALPHA COURSE -

YOU ARE INVITED. YOU ARE WELCOME....



We had a great start to our Alpha season in the parish. So much joy, life, and laughter already! One of those speaking at the weekend Masses spoke of the power of invitation. They said, 'My faith today is a testament to the courage and boldness my sister took to invite me - the rest, the larger part was left to God. The reason I stayed is not the reason I joined. God opened a new way for me...'

The course runs Tuesdays 7.30pm - 9.30pm in the St Peter's Pastoral Centre (no meeting in half-term).

IT IS STILL NOT TOO LATE to join us or invite a friend or family member to come along to Alpha and who knows? The reason they come may not be the reason they stay! To register, visit www.catholicwinchester.org.uk/alpha

Prayer Corner

Let us pray that our Parish Stewardship campaign bears fruit, bringing a generous and regular response, so that we may continue our mission to bring people closer to Jesus Christ in hope and joy.

Trusting Trees Planted in the Stream of Life

Fr Mark writes:

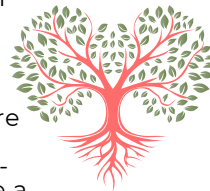
All of us are called to be saints, and all of us, I suspect, have areas in our life where we want to hold on - to things or to control - and where we effectively say 'no' to God. There are very few of us who really trust God completely. Yet, it is total, utter trust in God that we need to flourish and blossom fully as His children, to receive blessings ourselves and to be channels of blessing for others.

The prophet Jeremiah uses a delightful image in our first reading today. Are you like a shrub in the desert or are you like:

a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.'

The limp desert shrub is the person who places his trust in himself and other people and things of the flesh. Whereas the fruitful tree is the person who places their trust in the Lord. If we completely trust in God, Jeremiah is saying, then He will give us everything we need. We are putting our roots in His Holy Spirit, an infinite fountain of perfect Love, who will enable us to thrive and bear fruit, even in the heat and times of drought. The goodness, patience, love, peace, joy, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control which will be growing in our lives will bring blessing to others.

Most of us, I suspect, are neither 100% desert shrub nor 100% tree planted in the water of life. I imagine we're predominantly hybrids. We want to trust in God but cannot do so totally and so we have some areas of our lives rooted in Him and His love; whilst other areas still seek nourishment in less healthy, more arid, soil, in places where the water supply is finite.



What we need, then, is a deeper conversion, a more complete turning to the Lord. To avoid being part-shrub, we need to pursue a faith which is not half-hearted or lukewarm or mediocre. We need to be "Thy will be done, rather than my will be done".

"From the outset, conversion is expressed in a faith which is total and radical and which neither limits nor hinders God's gift. At the same time, it gives rise to a dynamic and lifelong process which demands a continual turning away from "life according to the flesh" to "life according to the Spirit" (cf. Rom 8:3-13). Conversion means accepting, by a personal decision, the saving sovereignty of Christ and becoming his disciple." (Pope St. John Paul II, Redemptoris Missio, 46)

We're called to entrust our lives to a person, who is Love. Then, I will be able to say, with St. Paul, that my life is no longer my own. I belong to Him and am totally and radically his. This impacts every part of our life. If my life is not my own, then my marriage is not my own. My children are not my own. My home is not my own. My bank account is not my own. This conversion brings such freedom.

This weekend, as we complete our Stewardship Sunday, I'd like to underline that step of trust, and in particular how it relates to our possessions and money. I'll be inviting those at the same Masses as me to reflect on your financial contribution to the parish. I'll be asking you to make a "pledge" of your commitment and support to the parish over the next year. We will bring forward this pledge at each mass and receive it at the altar as your worship offering to God.

Specifically, I'm inviting you to make giving to this local parish a **priority** in your budget. The best way to do this is by giving automatically or electronically, such as through a direct debit. We make automatic what is most important to us. This is the way I give to the parish, and I invite you to join me in this type of giving. Please make giving to the parish a priority.

Secondly, I'm asking you to pick a **percentage** of your income to give away. The Scriptures encourage us to give a tithe (i.e. ten percent) in our gifts to the poor and to our place of worship as an act of worship. That can sound overwhelming and out of reach, especially for those of us at the beginning of our discipleship journey. But it's not initially the "ten part" that's the important part, it's the "percentage part". Pick a percentage, start anywhere, and then, over time, see if you can progress in your giving.

THIS WEEKEND...

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY (2nd week)

If you missed last week, 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

16th February 2025

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year C

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! Our next session is Saturday February 22nd 10:30 – 12noon in Milner Hall. Contact Rosanne and Jackie for more info: rosanne@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

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 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.

Winchester Street Pastors

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

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).



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

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

Please note that there is no heating in St. Peter's Church to allow the re-plastering to dry naturally. **If you are coming to St Peter's for Mass – please wrap-up warm.**

As you enter St Peter's it will feel like you are entering a Building Site, the first thing you will notice is the restricted access in the Narthex (Porch) which is full of scaffolding. Access to the Church will be directly via the Centre Aisle Doors only – the doors to the left and right are cordoned off for the time being. As a temporary measure Holy Water will be available as you enter the Church.

You will also notice that there is Scaffolding erected on the Sanctuary behind the Altar Table, and there will be more next week, when we will have Scaffolding in front of the Altar Table; but we will still be able to see what is happening on the Sanctuary.

Re-plastering work has also commenced, around the Church, please do not touch, we really don't want to have to cover up any fingerprints!

Both The Winchester Martyrs (Lady Chapel) and the Sacred Heart Chapel remain closed, and there is limited space on the main sanctuary.

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 queries and or concerns please contact Gerard in the Parish Office.

Click **HERE** to see this week's 'Sneaky Peek' photos!

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. Look out for more details next week on how you can sign up for:

- Daily Messages to gently challenge and inspire you;
- Small Group opportunities, where you can meet with others to grow in faith together;
- A 5-week challenge with Fr Mark – Diving Deeper into Fasting



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

News from St Peter's School

We wish all children, students, parents and staff a restful and enjoyable spring half-term next week.

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

16th February 2025

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year C

**Covenant with the Poor
(CWP) - Thank You!**

We at Karibu Nyumbani want to **thank you all so much for the Water Harvest Project.** It already is proving to be such a blessing to us. We had no water coming into the village for nearly a month. Normally we can manage 2 weeks with our large well under the chapel but this was empty. We now have a reserve tank and it was full. All the children were able to bucket their required amounts for bathing and the Aunties their water for washing clothes. We are so pleased. May the Lord bless you and keep you. Much love and Prayers"

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY...

**WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL
MASS - Saturday 1st March
at 10am**

ALL WELCOME to **join us for our quarterly Mass at Winchester Cathedral** and afterwards, coffee, cake and parish 'social' in the Cathedral cafe.

Please note: Confession will start at the usual time due to a morning wedding - more details in the newsletter next week.

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...

WINCHESTER CATHOLIC HISTORY SOCIETY. The next meeting of the Winchester Catholic History Society will take place on **TUESDAY 18th February at 6.30pm in the Pastoral Centre** when Colin Cook will be speaking on 'Faith in the City - **LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH - a Secret History of St Peter Street.** Hear how religion has played a large part in the City's heritage. New members most welcome, Visitors £7.00 on the evening.

Pies & Puds lunch event - Wed 19th February - It's time for our monthly lunch event, on **Wednesday 19th February at the Pastoral Centre, 12.45 for 1pm.** We'll be serving home-made pies, all the vegetables you can eat, proper puddings with custard, and vegetarian and G/F options. Then someone is coming along from the wonderful local Boaz Project to tell us about their work. No booking or commitment necessary, but do contact moiar@msn.com with any questions or to be added to our mailing list.

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**

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) – 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**

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** 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/>**

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

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.](#)**

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

Mass Timetable	15th February - 22nd February 2025		
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	
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Vigil	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Benefactors
	8:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	Jenny Westwood RIP
	9:00AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	Soul of Margaret Merriman
	9:15AM	Mass at St Stephen's	Dorothy Stackhouse RIP
SUNDAY – February 16th – SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME.	10:30AM	Mass at St Peter's	John Vittorio
	11:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	People of the Parish
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul of Peter Walshe
	8:00AM - 9:00AM	Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall	
		12:15PM	Mass at Milner Hall
TUESDAY – February 18th – Feria	8:00AM - 9:00AM	Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Marion & Michael Lydon RIP
	12:15PM	Mass at Milner Hall	Mary Alfreida O'Donoghue
WEDNESDAY – February 19th – Feria	8:00AM – 9:00AM	<u>NO</u> Morning Prayer and Adoration at Milner Hall	
	10:00AM	Mass at Milner Hall	Dr Pietro Ligato RIP
THURSDAY – February 20th – Feria	8:00AM - 9:00AM	Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall	
	10:00AM	Mass at Milner Hall	Intentions of Joe & Vera Kelly
FRIDAY – February 21st – St Peter Damian, Religious, Bishop & Doctor of the Church optional memorial	8:00AM - 9:00AM	Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Kathleen & Michael Coggins RIP & their family members
	12:15PM	Mass at Milner Hall	Marie Fry RIP
SATURDAY – February 22nd – THE CHAIR OF ST PETER, feast	9:00AM	Mass at Milner Hall	The Soul of Edmund Nicholson
	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	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 19th February

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**