

2nd February 2025

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD - Year C

Readings and Antiphons

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 47:10-11

Your merciful love, O God; we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

First reading: Malachi 3:1-4

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 24(23):7.

8. 9. 10. R. 10bc

The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory!

Second reading: Hebrews 2:14-18

Gospel Acclamation: Lk 2:32
R. Alleluia, alleluia!

A light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Communion Antiphon: Lk 2:30-31

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

Funerals and Deaths

Denise Hendrie (nee Tichborne)

RIP - Funeral on Thursday 6th February.

Eileen Pharo-Jenkins RIP -

Funeral Mass in the Milner Hall on Friday 21st February.

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

Baptisms

Welcome to: Bidy Doran and Jude Brett who were baptised at St Peter's Church last Sunday.

Parish Prayerline

Our team of intercessors are here 24/7 and would like more to pray for! Please email your prayer requests to: prayers@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

THIS WEEKEND...

We welcome St Peter's school children, their families and staff to our **Parish School Mass at 10.30am at St Peter's on Sunday 2nd Feb.** Please support all those giving **Alpha Testimonials** at the end of Mass this weekend.

Prayer Corner

Let us pray that the Lord will encourage those who have yet to commit to signing up for our new Alpha course, so they may experience the power of the Holy Spirit, bringing them closer to Christ in hope and joy.

Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)

Fr Mark writes:

Some of you may have been wondering why our cribs have been kept up in our churches all this time after Christmas Day. Today, February 2nd, the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, forty days after the birth of Jesus. Today is known as a "Christmas feast" since it points back to the Solemnity of Christmas. Many Catholics practice the tradition of keeping out the Nativity scene until this feast.



Simeon was *righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ (Lk 2:25-26).*

He is an old man who enjoys the perennial youthfulness granted by hope. Moved by the Holy Spirit, he goes up to the Temple to pray. When he sees the recent arrivals from Bethlehem and studies the child's face, he realizes that this is not one more among the families who come every day to the Temple. In this child whom he takes in his arms is fulfilled all the prophecies: he is the one hoped for, the firstborn of a new humanity, the consecrated one of the Father.

"Simeon did not grow weary with the passage of time. He was now an old man, yet the flame still burned brightly in his heart. In his long life, there had surely been times when he had been hurt, disappointed, yet he did not lose hope. He trusted in the promise, and did not let himself be consumed by regret for times past or by the sense of despondency that can come as we approach the twilight of our lives. His hope and expectation found expression in the daily patience of a man who, despite everything, remained watchful, until at last 'his eyes saw the salvation' that had been promised (cf. Lk 2:30)." (Pope Francis, Homily, February 2, 2021)

With the help of the Holy Spirit, Simeon addressed the child as the "light" of all the nations (cf. Lk 2:29-35). Today is also known as 'Candlemas' and the liturgy begins with a candlelight procession signifying that Christ is the light who comes to the world to guide people who, without God, will surely fall. The word of God is light and hope to our hearts."

The presence of the Holy Spirit in this episode is palpable. "It is the Spirit who motivates the steps and moves the hearts of those who await him. It is the Spirit who prompted the prophetic words of Simeon and Anna, words of blessing and praise of God, of faith in his Anointed One, of thanksgiving, for at last our eyes could see and our arms embrace 'your salvation' (cf. Lk 2:30)." (Benedict XVI, Homily, February 2, 2013)

Simeon and Anna are two people who are docile to divine inspiration. The Holy Spirit was the motor of their lives, "he was in them," guided them, encouraged them and spoke in their hearts. They are an icon of sanctity because they heard and announced the Word of God, as they searched with determination for the face of Christ, never giving up hope.

"In the temple Jesus comes to meet us and we go to meet him. We contemplate the encounter with the elderly Simeon, who represents Israel's faithful anticipation and the heartfelt jubilation for the fulfilment of the ancient promises. We also admire the encounter with the elderly prophetess Anna who, in seeing the Child, exults in joy and praises God. Simeon and Anna are the anticipation and the prophecy, Jesus is the novelty and the fulfilment: he is presented to us as the perennial surprise of God; concentrated in this Child born for all is the past, made of memory and of promise, and the future, full of hope." (Pope Francis, Homily, February 2, 2016)

Can we hope with Simeon and Anna? Despite our hurts and disappointments can we continue to hope in the promises of the Lord? Can we search for Him with determination, never giving up hope? Can we face the future with Jesus, full of hope? Can we let the Word of God be both light and hope to our hearts?

May each of us individually, and all of us together, be a light in the dark places of the world – not only believing the Good News but living it – beacons of hope in a hurting world.



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.

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



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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.

St Peter's Centenary - 100 Faith Stories.

Hopefully you are aware that St Peter's church will celebrate its centenary in 2026. The Centenary Committee are working on a wide variety of events and activities to mark the Centenary. One of them is to collect **'100 Faith Stories' from parishioners as an online project and in print**. We have already started collecting the stories, but we want more!



A Faith Story is simply a personal testimony about your relationship with God, and how it has been encouraged in the Parish. This could be a personal story including conversion (or return to faith), faith story through community life (fellowship and belonging), or even through service (including vocation). **Each person is unique and has a God story to tell**; we would love to hear your's. If you would like to share your Story, send it to the email below.

If you want to know more about how to do it, then we will be offering guidance over the next weeks or months. If you have any questions, drop us an email. The Faith Stories can be up to 500 words. The email address is 100stories@stpeterswinchester.org.uk and it's open now! Watch this space for more.

Bookshop



Thank You so much for your continued support. Copies of the Pope's autobiography 'HOPE', new Missals and Bibles are and will continue to be available. We also have a few diaries left if needed!

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

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 THIS SUNDAY (on 2nd Feb 2025). For more details contact: joanna@stpeterswinchester.org.uk.

IMPORTANT PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Your continued support is very much appreciated and as you will see upon entering St. Peter's Church the work is continuing with some further restrictions now in place, **including extra care required when moving around the Church.**

This weekend The Martyrs (Lady) Chapel is closed as there will be some scaffolding in this area, can **parents please ensure that they pay close attention and prevent their children from trying to enter this area?**



Personally, we are very impressed by the overall cleanliness of the work, but please let us know if you spot something that we might have missed. Looking ahead to next week, it is anticipated that there will be scaffolding on the Sanctuary (Altar area).

Again, have a look at the Sneaky Peek pictures that will give you an insight as to what you will encounter. Whilst this work is ongoing if you have any questions, please contact Gerard in the first instance.

Please click [HERE](#) to see the latest photos!

KINGDOM SEEKERS - NEW FORMATION AND SERVICE PROGRAMME - YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 9-14 YRS

A new formation and service programme for our young people aged 9- 14 years who have made their First Holy Communion. **Starting on Saturday 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! Contact Rosanne and Jackie for info and the consent form: rosanne@stpeterswinchester.org.uk



Children's Liturgy is desperately seeking volunteers - St Stephen's

Can you help us run the weekly sessions for the children? We aim to run these every **Sunday during term time** (aside from the second Sunday of the month which is family mass) but are currently very short on volunteers. This is an extremely rewarding ministry and the children are very engaged with this so we are keen for it to continue. Even if you could only do one or two sessions a term you would be most welcome. There is no need to be a parent, **we would love to have some of our older parishioners involved or our young people**. DBS checks are needed but can be arranged through the church. You are more than welcome to pop along to a session to see what we get up to. Lots of support and help can be provided if needed. Please contact Emily Yong for more information email: emily.lee150@gmail.com

Centenary Meeting - Thursday 6th Feb at 7pm, Milner Hall

With less than a year until we celebrate St Peter's 100th birthday, the Centenary Committee's next meeting is on Thursday 6th February at 7pm, Milner Hall. We are working on a wide variety of events and activities for the whole parish and **NEED YOUR HELP! PLEASE NOTE:** This is an open meeting for anyone who would like to participate. To find out more, please email: centenary@stpeterswinchester.org OR **JUST TURN UP ON THE NIGHT - ALL WELCOME.**

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/-/>

Last 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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**Keys for Accompaniment -
Last Taster Session**

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.

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

To help launch the **Year of Hope**, we have started a **Mothers' Prayers group** on **Tuesday afternoons (1pm - 3pm) in the Pastoral Centre**. This is a new parish initiative for mothers who wish to pray together for their children and grandchildren, in a relaxed and informal setting

Here is what Isabelle who will be leading the group says: *"When I joined, I met a group of mothers praying weekly for their children, family, and any intentions close to their hearts. We got to know each other very quickly because people tend to pray about very joyous or very difficult situations and the group was a safe place where one could pray without being judged or offered any unwanted advice. At the same time, there was always someone in the group able to offer advice over a cup of tea, if the advice was sought. 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 chats and refreshments"*.

To attend please contact Isabelle at: office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk (Please note the "mothersprayers" email does not work at present).

Visit www.mothersprayers.org for more information.

Events coming up...

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 Jacksplace. 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](#)



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

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

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.

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 charism of a specific apostolate 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/>

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.

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 the newsletter)

Mass Timetable	1st February - 8th February 2025		
SATURDAY – February 1st – Our Lady on Saturday	9:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	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 Peter's Church	
THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD - Vigil	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Anthuan Shan Das RIP (1st Anniversary)
SUNDAY – February 2nd – THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	8:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	Marisa Yu RIP
	9:00AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	People of the Parish
	9:15AM	Mass at St Stephen's	Claire Nicholson RIP
	10:30AM	Parish School Mass at St Peter's	Vocations for the Diaconate and Priesthood
	11:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Intentions of the Neil Family
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Dr Pietro Ligato RIP
MONDAY – February 3rd – St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr, optional memorial, or St Ansgar, Bishop, optional memorial	8:00AM - 9:00AM	Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall	
	12:15PM	Mass at Milner Hall - to include the <u> blessing of throats </u>	The Soul of Mrs Giles
TUESDAY – February 4th – Feria	8:00AM - 9:00AM	Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Intentions of the Neil Family
	12:15PM	Mass at Milner Hall	The Soul of Canon Anthony Zollo
WEDNESDAY – February 5th – St Agatha, Virgin, Martyr, optional memorial	8:00AM - 9:00AM	Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall	
	10:00AM	Mass at Milner Hall	Dr Pietro Ligato RIP
THURSDAY – February 6th – St Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs, memorial	8:00AM - 9:00AM	Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall	
	10:00AM	Mass at Milner Hall	David Vinnell RIP
FRIDAY – February 7th – Feria	8:00AM - 9:00AM	Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Maxim & Elijah Misquith RIP
	12:15PM	Mass at Milner Hall	Naomi House & Jack's Place
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	
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Souls in Purgatory

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 - 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 need to protect the camera and recording equipment). We will reinstate this as soon as we can. Thank you.