

2nd March 2025

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year C

Readings and Antiphons

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 17:19-20
The Lord became my protector. He brought me out to a place of freedom; he saved me because he delighted in me.

First reading: The Book of Sirach 27:4-7

Responsorial Psalm: 92(91):2-3. 13-14. 15-16 R. cf.2a
It is good to give thanks to you, O Lord.

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Gospel Acclamation: Ph 2:15d, 16a R. Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life.
Alleluia

Gospel: Luke 6:39-45

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 12:6
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me, sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.

Funerals and Deaths

Gillian Symington RIP - Funeral at St Thomas More Church, Stockbridge on Tuesday 4th March at 3pm.



Audrey Stephenson RIP

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

Baptisms



Welcome to: Arthur & Ivy Rigby who were baptised at St Peter's Church last Sunday.

THIS WEEKEND SECOND COLLECTION - COVENANT WITH THE POOR (CWP)

This weekend's appeal - **Firefly International** have provided essential education opportunities to war-affected Syrian children since 2016 and Covenant With the Poor has supported them previously. Please click **HERE** for more information.

Thank you for your generosity.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL MASS - 1st March at 10am

Cathedral Mass on **Saturday 1st March is at 10am** (not 11am as printed in the Hampshire Chronicle). Our Parish choir will be leading the music. **All welcome.**

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

What are you doing to Step Forward in Love this Lent?

Fr Mark writes:

Bishop Philip reminds us in his Pastoral Letter, which we will be reading at all Masses and sharing this weekend, that Lent is a time of spiritual renewal. Lent, he says, is an "annual spiritual campaign, a time of change and conversion, a time to do battle against evil in ourselves and in others, and the weapons we deploy are threefold: prayer, self-denial and charity."

We are calling our parish Lenten Spiritual Campaign, "Stepping Forward in Love". During this Jubilee Year, with our focus on hope, we are longing to step forward towards our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, entrusting ourselves more fully into His embrace. We do so in love.



Lent is a season for all people, and we can all access it wherever we are on our journey of faith. One of the powerful elements of Ash Wednesday is that the ashing is available to everyone – Catholic or non-Catholic, saint or sinner, from 1 day old to 100+ years old. My deepest desire this Lent is that all of us use this grace-filled and joyful season as an opportunity to take a step or two forward in love, growing closer to Jesus and closer to one another in the process.

Here I share a few excerpts from Pope Francis and his Lenten Message for 2025 (you can find the full text **HERE**, and it's well worth reading), in the hope that they might inspire us. "This Lent, as we share in the grace of the Jubilee Year, I would like to propose a few reflections on what it means to journey together in hope, and on the summons to conversion that God in his mercy addresses to all of us, as individuals and as a community..."

First of all, to **journey**...A first call to conversion thus comes from the realization that all of us are pilgrims in this life; each of us is invited to stop and ask how our lives reflect this fact. Am I really on a journey, or am I standing still, not moving, either immobilized by fear and hopelessness or reluctant to move out of my comfort zone? Am I seeking ways to leave behind the occasions of sin and situations that degrade my dignity? It would be a good Lenten exercise for us to compare our daily life with that of some migrant or foreigner, to learn how to sympathize with their experiences and in this way discover what God is asking of us so that we can better advance on our journey to the house of the Father.

Laudato Si Corner

Prayer is a practice that makes a real difference. **Prayer is "powerful and effective," as St. James tells us**, and your prayers are needed now to protect our Common Home. 2025 offers us the opportunity for a new hope. **2025 will mark not only the 10th anniversary of Laudato Si'**, but also the Global Jubilee of Hope and significant decision making moments for policy makers. Your prayers can make a difference.

This would be a good "examination of conscience" for all of us wayfarers...

Second, to journey together. The Church is called to walk together, to be synodal. Christians are called to walk at the side of others, and never as lone travellers. The Holy Spirit impels us not to remain self-absorbed, but to leave ourselves behind and keep walking towards God and our brothers and sisters...This Lent, God is asking us to examine whether in our lives, in our families, in the places where we work and spend our time, we are capable of walking together with others, listening to them, resisting the temptation to become self-absorbed and to think only of our own needs. Let us ask ourselves in the presence of the Lord whether...we cooperate with others. Whether we show ourselves welcoming, with concrete gestures, to those both near and far. Whether we make others feel a part of the community or keep them at a distance. This, then, is a second call to conversion: a summons to synodality...

Third, let us journey together in hope, for we have been given a promise. May the hope that does not disappoint (cf. Rom 5:5), the central message of the Jubilee, be the focus of our Lenten journey towards the victory of Easter... Christ, my hope, has risen!

This, then, is the third call to conversion: a call to hope, to trust in God and his great promise of eternal life. Let us ask ourselves: Am I convinced that the Lord forgives my sins? Or do I act as if I can save myself? Do I long for salvation and call upon God's help to attain it? Do I concretely experience the hope that enables me to interpret the events of history and inspires in me a commitment to justice and fraternity, to care for our common home and in such a way that no one feels excluded?

Sisters and brothers, thanks to God's love in Jesus Christ, we are sustained in the hope that does not disappoint (cf. Rom 5:5). Hope is the "sure and steadfast anchor of the soul" (c.f. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1820)" Pope Francis, Message of the Holy Father for Lent 2025.

Online Courses recommended by Fr Mark:

Literature and theology courses: [Literature and Theology 24-25 \(online\) \(04-Mar-2025\)](#) · [ChurchSuite Events](#)

[Guided Prayer Online - Single day \(06-Mar-2025\)](#) · [ChurchSuite Events](#)

Lent retreat in daily life - [Lent Retreat in Daily Life 2025 \(08-Mar-2025\)](#) · [ChurchSuite Events](#)

Prayer Corner

Let us pray that our **Lenten Spiritual Campaign** nurtures a deeper understanding of God's love for us, journeying together towards Easter.



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MASS FOR HEALING - SAT 15th MARCH AT 2PM

Mass with Prayer for Healing and Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, **Milner Hall, on Saturday 15th March at 2pm.** Light refreshments will be served in the Pastoral Centre after the Service. **ALL ARE WELCOME.**

Please spread the word to anyone you know or think might be interested in coming along. It would be even more wonderful if you could come along with them to help support them on the day.

CATECHISTS LENT DAYS OF PRAYER, FORMATION AND NETWORKING

The Vicariate for Evangelisation will be hosting **three online events during Lent for Catechists across the diocese.** These events offer a chance to connect with other catechists, share experiences, and find inspiration to hand on the faith in our parishes. **Each event will begin at 7:30 PM** and last for one hour. Catechists can choose from the three events based on their area of catechesis:

- Thursday 13th March** (Children's Liturgy and First Holy Communion)
- Thursday 20th March** (Marriage Preparation and Baptism)
- Thursday 3rd April** (Confirmation and RCIA)

To sign up for these events, please go to <https://forms.office.com/e/VkCdj1S WZA>.

After signing up, a member of the Formation for Mission Team will reach out shortly with the link to the appropriate meeting. Fr Gaston Afah Forbah, Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation

Certificate in Catechesis

The Dominican Sisters of St Joseph in Lynton 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.](#)

Lent 2025

ASH WEDNESDAY: Please see the Mass Calendar on the last page of the newsletter for the arrangements for Ash Wednesday.

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](#)
- **Small Lenten Group** opportunities, where you can meet with others to grow in faith together; To sign up click [HERE](#)
- **A 5-week challenge** with Fr Mark – Practising Fasting; To sign up click [HERE](#)

Stations of the Cross During Lent

Milner Hall	11:30AM	Fridays during Lent
St Peter's Church <i>(please note that the Stations are currently covered)</i>	4:00PM	Sundays during Lent
St Thomas More's	5:00PM	Fridays during Lent
St Gregory's	5:30PM	Sundays during Lent
St Stephen's	7:00PM	Mondays during Lent

IMPORTANT PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT

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

As we continue with essential works, please remember to wrap up warm if you are planning to come along to St Peter's Church, as the heating is still switched off.

Can we please ask for your continued support and ask that if you have any issues you please direct them to Gerard in the first instance, and he will respond and/or get the answer on your behalf. We did highlight the issues about having no heating in St Peter's and apologised for any inconvenience that this has caused, and we are also aware that some parishioners are visiting the other parish communities whilst the weather is unpleasant, cold, and wet. We sincerely hope that they are being warmly welcomed.

Please note that other members of staff are aware of some elements but are not fully aware of the intricacies of what is occurring and when. It is not fair that they are challenged and put in difficult situations in trying to defend what is happening when they come along to Mass in the Parish.

So, to help address some of the initial concerns – why are we doing it now and not in the Summer, when the weather is warmer (nicer)? The nature of the work that is being carried out has been scheduled and considered in three phases

- Phase 1 - Dirty Work, repairing plaster and cracks around the church building; there may also be some decoration in the harder to reach places if the plaster is dry
- Phase 2 - Possible Lighting and Painting around the Church; possibly work on the Reredos (area at the back of the Sanctuary)
- Phase 3 - Furnishings and finishing touches around the Church and Sanctuary

So why did we start in January and not in the Summer? The Liturgical Seasons play a very important part (Easter; Christmas), additionally the Church Diary also needed to be considered. The nature of the works cannot be rushed and adding additional resources simply would not bring us any real advantages. We were also aware of Weddings that had been booked in advance (2023 and 2024) and we have endeavoured to schedule the works around these dates. We did also look carefully at what might be feasible and the timelines in getting approvals for works to be carried out. We are working towards all the works being completed by the end of November 2025, in advance of the Centenary in 2026. If we had delayed the works until later in 2025, we would not have been ready, if we had started earlier in say Autumn 2024, we would also have similar issues with weather.

We truly understand and appreciate that there is no ideal time in doing this work, and we really need your patience and support in allowing us to get this work completed as quickly as we can, so please if there are any issues or concerns, please direct these to Gerard. Hopefully, we all share the same ambition to see the beauty of St Peter's Church in the Centenary Year.

If you have any questions, please contact Gerard via the Parish Office. Click [HERE](#) to see the latest 'Sneaky Peek' photos!

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Giving Commitment – 2025

We would like to express our grateful **thanks for all of those who took the time to complete and return the Commitment Card**, this is really appreciated regardless of whichever box(es) you chose to tick. For those of you who currently pay by Standing Order, can we ask for your continued support in liaising directly with your bank(s) to revise the amount that you suggested on your card. We are also mindful that some of you may have been travelling or away at the time of the Stewardship Appeal, if this is you and you are interested in supporting the Giving Commitment, please contact the Parish Office and they can arrange for a Commitment Card to be sent to you.

Volunteer Music Support

Fr Mark is pleased to announce that Mary Siddall will be taking on a new role that I am creating of **volunteer Music Support worker for the Parish**. Mary will be providing support to the music team leads, and musicians as a whole, as well as being a contact point for any practical issues. Alongside this role Fr Mark is putting in place a Parish Music Forum of representatives from across our Mass communities which will have its first meeting after Easter.

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

www.catholicwinchester.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...

CWL Charity Soup Lunch - next event will be held in the **Pastoral Centre on Friday 7th March**, donations will be for Home Start Winchester. £7 suggested donation. ALL ARE WELCOME.

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 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. Full details and tickets from: southernvoices.co.uk or telephone 0333 666 3366 (booking fees apply). Registered charity 1086868

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

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.

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. 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. Further information is 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.

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 Lent booklets, Prayer books and Stations of the Cross** will be available from Monday 3rd March.



Amendments to location of Mass - due to St Peter's Church Building Works

Mass Timetable	1st March - 8th March 2025		
SATURDAY – March 1st– ST DAVID, Religious, Bishop, feast 8th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Vigil	10:00AM	Mass at Winchester Cathedral	Closer to Christ Benefactors
	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
SUNDAY – March 2nd – EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME.	8:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul of Richard Spencer & concelebrating local priests
	9:00AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	Parish of the People
	9:15AM	Mass at St Stephen's	Jack Kilroy RIP
	10:30AM	Mass at St Peter's	Dr Pietro Ligato RIP
	11:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Maggie Prendergast
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Intentions of the Way and Corcoran Family
MONDAY – March 3rd – Feria	8:00AM - 9:00AM	Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall	
	12:15PM	Mass at Milner Hall	Neil Intentions
TUESDAY – March 4th – St Casimir, Prince of Poland. Optional memorial Shrove Tuesday	8:00AM - 9:00AM	Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Ann Seeley RIP
	12:15PM	Mass at Milner Hall	The Souls of the Stainer Family
WEDNESDAY – March 5th – ASH WEDNESDAY, Day of Fasting & Abstinence  Beginning of the Season of Lent	7:00AM	Mass at Milner Hall	Soul of Mary Keating
	9:20AM	Liturgy at St Stephen's with St Peter's School	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	12:15PM	Mass at Milner Hall	Lilian de Melo RIP
	7:00PM	Mass at St Stephen's	Dr Pietro Ligato RIP
THURSDAY – March 6th – Thursday after Ash Wednesday	8:00AM - 9:00AM	Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall	
	10:00AM	Mass at Milner Hall	Anthony de Melo RIP
FRIDAY – March 7th – Friday after Ash Wednesday and commemoration of Ss Perpetua & Felicity	8:00AM - 9:00AM	Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	11:30AM	Stations of the Cross at Milner Hall	
	12:15PM	Mass at Milner Hall	Home Start Winchester
SATURDAY – March 8th– Saturday after Ash Wednesday and commemoration of St John of God FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - Vigil	9:00AM	Mass at Milner Hall	Dead and Founders
	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 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.

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 [Cathedral-Live-Mass](#)