

**9th March 2025**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - Year C**

**Readings and Antiphons**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Cf. Ps 90:15-16

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

**First reading:** Deuteronomy 26:4-10

**Responsorial Psalm:** 91(90):1-2. 10-11. 12-13. 14-15. R. cf.15b

Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.

**Second reading:** Romans 10:8-13

**Gospel Acclamation:** Mt 4:4b  
**R. Glory and praise to you, O Christ.**

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

**R. Glory and praise to you, O Christ.**

**Gospel:** Luke 4:1-13

**Communion Antiphon:** Mt 4:4

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

**Funerals and Deaths**

**Audrey Stephenson RIP** - Funeral at Milner Hall (St Peter's) on Monday 17th March at 12.15pm.

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



**Baptisms**

Welcome to: Edmund Wentworth who was baptised at St Stephen's Church last Saturday and to Leo Hoyes who was baptised at St Peter's Church last Sunday.



**LAST WEEKEND'S APPEAL**  
**SECOND COLLECTION - COVENANT WITH THE POOR**

If you missed last weekend's CWP appeal for **Firefly International**, please click **HERE** to find out more.

**NEXT WEEKEND - CAFOD**

The Prime Minister announced that the aid budget will be cut again, meaning that it will be at its lowest level since 1999. At a time when we are seeing other decreases of aid to support the world's most vulnerable communities, our government should be redoubling its efforts to enable people to emerge from poverty. **Please contact your MP urgently and ask them to take action** to ensure that the UK does not turn its back on those most in need. There is one more thing you can do to be a tangible sign of hope as we prepare for Lent:

**Please donate to our Lent Appeal as a way of standing in solidarity with those communities that CAFOD serves.** —Take Action Now—Contact Your MP & Donate [here](#).

**Stepping Forward in Love this Lent – Introduction and Human Dignity**

**Fr Mark writes:**

**Introduction**

This year, our Lenten journey together in hope invites us to "step forward in love". One of the three pillars of Lent is "almsgiving", a "witness to fraternal charity" and a "work of justice pleasing to God".



In this Jubilee Year, we will spend time looking at some of the Church's Social Teaching, mainly using some resources from the Catholic Diocese of Westminster. Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is a set of guidance from Popes, bishops and theologians, who, reflecting on Scripture, tradition, and the reality of the world, offer a set of principles to help us think about how we should interact with others, the choices we make, and how we treat creation.

The message is not new. The roots of the guiding principles can be found in the Old Testament, in the teaching of Jesus, and developed by Church leaders throughout the centuries. We will mainly be using the teaching of Pope Francis as the reference points for much of the material. However, it is important to remember that previous popes, not least St John Paul II, wrote many important documents which have greatly influenced the teaching of our current Pope.

The Latin word Caritas speaks of love, of charity, of justice. We are called to be a Caritas people, people who step forward in love, who live love in action: seeing the reality of the world, seeing what needs to be done so that all people, whoever they are, wherever they may be, can live their lives to the full, to be the person they are called to be. Too often things hold us back: poverty, discrimination, lack of access. Pope St. John XXIII commented on a process from Cardinal Cardijn, founder of the Young Christian Workers (YCW): SEE JUDGE ACT.

*"There are three stages which should normally be followed in the reduction of social principles into practice. First, one reviews the concrete situation; secondly, one forms a judgment on it in the light of these same principles; thirdly, one decides what in the circumstances can and should be done to implement these principles. These are the three stages that are usually expressed in the three terms: look, judge, act.*

It is important for our young people to grasp this method and to practice it. Knowledge acquired in this way does not remain merely abstract, but is seen as something that must be translated into action." (Mater et Magister, 236-237) We will use this process over the coming weeks and months to help us think through what we, individually and communally, will do to be a Caritas people who show love in action. This is the challenge for our parish community: to accept "this renewed call" to open our eyes to the reality of the world, reflect on the inspiration of Catholic social teaching (CST), and then to put it into action.

*"The Church cannot neglect the service of charity any more than she can neglect the Sacraments and the Word" (Pope Benedict XVI, God is Love, 22)*

*"I fear that these words too may give rise to commentary or discussion with no real practical effect. That being said, I trust in the openness and readiness of all Christians, and I ask you to seek, as a community, creative ways of accepting this renewed call."* (Pope Francis, Joy of the Gospel, 201)

**Dignity and Equality of Each Human Person**

This week, we will look at this first principle of Catholic Social Teaching. We believe that we are all made in God's image and likeness (Genesis 1). This lies at the heart of Catholic social teaching: that every single person deserves to be treated with respect because of their inherent dignity as a child of God. Pope Francis talks of "learning to find Jesus in the face of others, in their voices, in their pleas" (Joy of the Gospel, 91). Remember the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, where Jesus is asked when they have helped him. He says that it's whenever they have helped anyone in need, whether hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, or in prison.

*"The world exists for everyone, because all of us were born with the same dignity. Differences of colour, religion, talent, place of birth or residence, and so many others, cannot be used to justify the privileges of some over the rights of all."*

(Pope Francis, On Fraternity and Social Friendship)



† Who are the people in our own community who are neglected?

† How might we put love into action and value their inner dignity?

**Prayer Corner**

Let us pray that all our efforts in preparing adults for sacraments of initiation this Easter may bear fruit in their lasting commitment to the Lord.



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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 and 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 Lylington 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**

**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

**Lectio Divina**

Deacon Tony Darlison extends an **open invitation to all to join him on Thursdays during Lent at 9am in the Milner Hall** (immediately after Morning Prayer and finishing in time for the start of the 10am Mass). We'll be looking at the Lent Readings for the next Sunday. Just turn up. All are Welcome.

**Lent for Families**

This is a beautiful time of year as we 'Step Forward in Love' and journey together as one family. **Each weekend, we will be posting ideas and suggestions for celebrating Lent, Holy Week and Easter.** This information will be available on our website (click [HERE](#)) for how to live Lent more fruitfully as a family. These will include scripture reflections, Saints' feast days, Lenten activities and suggestions for prayer.



**Love in Action - Introduction**

Over the coming weeks we are going to explore the guiding principles of **Catholic social teaching** – ways in which we can look at the reality of life in our community and the global community, and reflect on how we can put love into action, and be a Caritas people. If you are receiving **Fr Mark's Daily Lenten Messages**, (click [HERE](#) to register) they will guide you on the key principles **#LoveinAction**.

**Family Prayer in Lent**

Helen Pope is running a children's rosary group at her house during Lent. She is very happy if other families would like to join her on **Sundays at 4pm for rosary and cake.** Please email: [hpope@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:hpope@stpeterswinchester.org.uk) if you wish to join her, to let her know you will be coming.



**Parish Seder Meal**

Anyone who attended the Seder Meal two years ago will remember what a fantastic evening it was. So we are repeating it on **Friday 11th April from 7pm in the Pastoral Centre.** William and Maggie Carver are leading the traditional Jewish aspects, and we will provide the food. The Seder Meal is a special dinner held in Jewish communities to mark the Passover.

**If you would like to attend you will need to book in advance:** please send your details (including how many people, and any dietary requirements) to [moirar@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:moirar@stpeterswinchester.org.uk). We will be asking for donations to pay for the meal, paid in cash on the night. (If you would like to help with the event in any way please use the same email.) We hope for an effective community-building event, looking at our common heritage – with Licoricia waving to us from across the road!



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**News from St Peter's School**

Spring is coming! Please find a link to this week's School newsletter for all the latest news...  
<https://www.stpetershants.co.uk/str/eam/newsletters/full/1/-/>

**Invitation to the Nurturing Programme** - Children are rewarding, stimulating and fun, but looking after them can be stressful and challenging. Christ Church Winchester warmly invite you to attend the free, tried and tested, **10 Week Nurturing Programme** which helps address those challenges so that parents can have a calmer, happier life. The Programme is for parents of children aged 2-12 years. Free creche places available.

**Summer Term Programmes will be running at:** St Stephen's Church Oliver's Battery Rd North 30th April - 9th July (Wednesdays), 9.05 AM - 11.05 AM excluding half term and Holy Trinity Church Hall Upper Brook Street 1st May - 10th July (Thursdays), 9.30 AM - 11.30 AM excluding half term To find out more or to book a place, please email: [nurturingprogramme@ccwinch.org.uk](mailto:nurturingprogramme@ccwinch.org.uk) or phone: 07942 28461. More info in the newsletter (above).

**Bookshop**

Thank You very much for your continued support. Lent books and booklets and St Patrick's Day cards are available and Easter cards are on order. Please come along and have a browse.



**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.

**IMPORTANT PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Building Works Update - 9th March 2025**

Thank you for your patience...we are getting there! However, we continue to ask for your support and to **come warmly dressed** - it is so much warmer outside than it is in the church!

When you look around you will no doubt be wondering what have 'they' been doing this week? - I can't really see much difference from last week! Well, we've got even more scaffolding in the Church, I'm sure like me you are probably thinking is there anywhere else left that needs scaffolding? This week it is above the link door to the Pastoral Centre allowing the repairs to be carried out above the Window. **If you need to move between the Church and the Pastoral Centre, can you please be extra vigilant** by carefully walking underneath and between the scaffolding.

Most of the work has taken place high above the Sanctuary behind the pillar, which is not visible from the main part of the Church, but this has been a major piece of work which could have resulted in serious injury if it had fallen. It is now safe!

At the same time, have you ever wondered what is behind the little door high up above the Sanctuary? Click **HERE** at the Sneaky Pictures and you can see. Annually, we have the sanctuary lamp pulley mechanism and wire ropes checked and certificated for safety. Periodically, we also have to inspect and certify the actual suspension point, high above the sanctuary floor. Easier said than done because the only means of getting to it is by crawling inside the roof space accessed via the tiny door (window) above the big arch over the sanctuary steps. With the scaffold already in place for the repair works, we greatly reduced the cost of this operation. But as there is a risk of falling through the panelled ceiling, the inspection must be done by operatives trained in the use of ropes and harnesses. The inspection was completed without incident and our sanctuary lamp suspension mechanism has a clean bill of health.

We are working towards the **Scaffold being dismantled from the 31 March 2025**, in time for Holy Week. As in previous weeks, if you have any queries please contact Gerard in the first instance.

**Events this weekend...**

**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: or email [dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Events coming up...**

**Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope' – Sacraments of Initiation in the Bible** - invite you to explore the Biblical roots of the Sacraments of Initiation – **beginning 17th March**. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.lux-edu.com/sacraments-of-initiation> (Bursaries are available).

**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).

**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). 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)** 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.

**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. 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.

**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>



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

Mass Timetable	8th March - 15th March 2025		
<b>SATURDAY – March 8th– Saturday after Ash Wednesday</b> and the Memorial of <b>St John of God.</b>	9:00AM	Mass at Milner Hall	Dead & Founders
	<b>9:30AM - 12NOON</b>	<b>Extended Confession in St Thomas More Room, Pastoral Centre (Upstairs)</b>	
	4:30PM - 5:00PM	Confession in St Peter's Church	
<b>1st SUNDAY OF LENT - Vigil</b>	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Souls in Purgatory
	<b>SUNDAY – March 9th – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT.</b>		
	8:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	Joel Mutanda RIP
	9:00AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	
	9:15AM	<b>Family Mass at St Stephen's</b>	Liz Slinn RIP
	10:30AM	Mass at St Peter's	People of the Parish
	11:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	<b>4:00PM</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross at St Peter's</b>	
	<b>5:30PM</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross at St Gregory's</b>	
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Dr Pietro Ligato RIP
<b>MONDAY – March 10th – Monday of the 1st Week of Lent.</b>	8:00AM - 9:00AM	<b>Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall</b>	
	12:15PM	<b>Mass at Milner Hall</b>	Barry John Lawler RIP
	<b>7:00PM</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross at St Stephen's</b>	
<b>TUESDAY – March 11th – Tuesday of the 1st Week of Lent</b>	8:00AM - 9:00AM	<b>Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall</b>	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Sanjay & Katherina Misquith
	12:15PM	<b>Mass at Milner Hall</b>	Holy Souls in Purgatory
<b>WEDNESDAY – March 12th – Wednesday of the 1st Week of Lent.</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>	<b>Mass at Milner Hall</b>	Soul of Mary Keating
	<b>9:20AM</b>	<b>Liturgy at St Stephen's with St Peter's School</b>	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Dr Pietro Ligato RIP
	12:15PM	<b>Mass at Milner Hall</b>	Lilian de Melo RIP
	<b>7:00PM</b>	<b>Mass at St Stephen's</b>	Dr Pietro Ligato RIP
	<b>THURSDAY – March 13th – Thursday of the 1st Week of Lent.</b>	8:00AM - 9:00AM	<b>Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall</b>
10:00AM		<b>Mass at Milner Hall</b>	Luiz Ko
<b>FRIDAY – March 14th – Friday of the 1st Week of Lent. [Lenten Fast Day]</b>	8:00AM - 9:00AM	<b>Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall</b>	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	<b>11:30AM</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross at Milner Hall</b>	
	12:15PM	<b>Mass at Milner Hall</b>	The Soul of Joannis Wells
	<b>5:00PM</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross at St Thomas More's</b>	
<b>SATURDAY – March 15th– Saturday of the 1st Week of Lent.</b>	<b>9:00AM</b>	<b>Mass at Milner Hall</b>	Souls of Margaret Chibuzo
	<b>9:30AM - 12NOON</b>	<b>Extended Confession in St Thomas More Room, Pastoral Centre (Upstairs)</b>	
	<b>2:00PM</b>	<b>SVP Mass of Healing at Milner Hall</b>	
	4:30PM- 5:00PM	Confession in St Peter's Church	
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Ron Footer RIP
<b>2nd SUNDAY OF LENT - Vigil</b>			

**Confession - Confession on Saturday will take place in St Thomas More Room, Pastoral Centre (Upstairs) every Saturday 9.30am and extended to 12 noon during Lent and in St Peter's Church from 4.30pm till 5pm.**

**Morning Prayer (open to public), every weekday 8.00am at the Milner Hall, followed by Adoration 'till 9.00am.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE - LIVE STREAM - 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](#)).**

You can also live stream Mass at Portsmouth Cathedral, please click [Cathedral-Live-Mass](#)