

30th March 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT (LAETARE) - Year C

Readings and Antiphons

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Is 66:10-11
 Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First reading: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12

Responsorial Psalm: 34(33):2-3. 4-5. 6-7. R. 9a
 Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Second reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.

Gospel Acclamation: Lk 15:18
R. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.

R. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Communion Antiphon: Lk 15:32
 You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.

Funerals and Deaths

Rex Chester RIP

Ethnea West RIP

Violet Freeston RIP

Nicola Mancini RIP

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



Stepping Forward in Love this Lent

Deacon Tony writes:

Today is Laetare Sunday, or Rejoicing Sunday, named after the entrance antiphon of the day: Rejoice Jerusalem.

May I offer three reasons to rejoice? One, heaven exists and is unimaginably wonderful. Two, by God's grace we are invited. Three, God has made this possible by His infinite love, even to dying on the cross, and longs to help us every step of the way by His infinite mercy.

The Catechism says that heaven is "the ultimate fulfilment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness." Truly desiring heaven, and trusting in God's promise, is the virtue of Hope, planted in us at baptism. It is for us to allow God's grace to make it grow, perhaps especially in this Jubilee Year of Hope. So ask yourself: is a burning desire for heaven for myself and others the prime motivator of my life?

This brings me to my second cause for rejoicing – by grace we are all invited to heaven. Here is a story based on true events. A young man suffered from the vice of anger. He would often snap at people, and did not suffer fools gladly. He made excuses: "I can't help it, it's my temperament. It isn't my fault – it's the fault of the people who annoy me. It doesn't matter, it's only a minor fault." Then, one Lent, he decided that he would say "no" and fight his anger. Many times the devil tempted him to resort to his old bad habit, and many times he fell for it. But each time he got up, and took up again his Lenten weapons of prayer, self-denial and charity, and fought on. Gradually, he

changed. He started to regret his outbursts more bitterly. He became willing to apologise when he had hurt someone. He no longer felt demoralised when he fell, and became quick to resort to Confession. Soon, where there was once the vice of anger, blossomed the beautiful virtue of gentleness. The young man became happy and peaceful.

Anger was his predominant fault. What is yours? We are all called to follow this path, to say no to our sins, which we cannot take with us into heaven. Which brings me to the third reason to rejoice. It is not just about us fighting our faults by our own strength – if it were we would surely lose – but if we humbly admit our weakness and trust in God's mercy, he will come and dwell in our heart. Then, if the devil should tempt us, he will find himself fighting Christ Himself.

So rejoice because heaven exists and is unimaginably wonderful. Rejoice because everyone is invited. Rejoice because God has made this possible by loving us with an infinite love, even to dying on the cross. He is waiting for us, and longs to help us every step of the way by His infinite mercy. By virtue of Baptism we have planted in us Faith to believe these things, Hope to desire them, and Charity to put them into action.

May God bless you, and may your Lenten devotion bear much fruit.

THIS WEEKEND'S APPEAL

SECOND COLLECTION this weekend is for the Clergy Assistance Fund.

Please make donations in the usual way - offertory, Contactless machine or click on the link:

[clergy-assistance-fund-second-collection-2025](https://www.stpeterparish.org.uk/parish/parish-activities/parish-appeals/parish-appeals-2025/second-collection-2025)

A BLESSING FOR MOTHERS ON MOTHERING SUNDAY

Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you watch over your Church. Bless these women, that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honour them always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.



CLOCKS CHANGE!

Don't forget the clocks spring forward an hour this weekend - the start of British Summer Time (BST).



MASS TIMES

Sunday Masses: St Peter's: Sat 5.30pm, 8am, 10.30am & 5.30pm on Sundays. St Gregory's: 11am on Sunday. St Stephen's: 9.15am on Sunday. St Thomas More: 9am on Sunday

Weekday Masses: Monday, Tuesday and Friday at 12.15pm at St Peter's Wednesday & Thursday at 10am at St Peter's Tuesday & Friday at 10am at St Gregory's.



Prayer Corner

Let us pray for all those attending the Alpha Holy Spirit Away Day this weekend, that they will have their hearts opened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit.



Journey in Faith Candidates to be received into the Church at Easter

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Candidates: Raphael, Dee, Thomas, Natalie, Lucy, Matt

Catechumens: Kerensa, Emma, Svetlana, Cecilia, Michael, Elizabeth, Eloise

Adult Catholics being confirmed: Jacob, Martina, James, Aquila

Orthodox making a public confession of faith: David

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Life in the Spirit Seminars - from 26th April '25 (9-14 yrs)

Come and explore what it means to live your life in the power of the Holy Spirit. Sessions will include games, praise, teaching, discussion, and prayer.



This is a 5-week course which will run until Pentecost.

Saturdays 10.30am - 12noon Milner Hall at St Peter's Church Age: 9-14 yrs

For more information or to sign up please contact Rosanne: rosanne@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

CAFOD Lent Appeal – Thank You!

Thank you for giving generously to CAFOD's Lent Appeal. In troubling times for our world, your donations this Family Fast Day help people like Lokho in Kenya build a safety net and prepare for whatever comes. In giving to support our sisters and brothers, we are truly pilgrims of hope in the Jubilee year. Find out more at cafod.org.uk/lent

Bookshop

Have you seen our latest stock? Why not come along and have a browse...

Lent books, booklets and Easter cards are available.

Thank You for your continued support



News - St Peter's School

Please find a link to this week's School newsletter for all the latest news...

<https://www.stpetershants.co.uk/stream/newsletters/full/1/-/>

Centenary Meeting - Thurs 3rd April at 7pm

Our next Centenary Committee's meeting is on Thursday 3rd April at 7pm, Pastoral Centre. We are working on a wide variety of events and activities for the whole parish and **NEED YOUR HELP TO VOLUNTEER!**

PLEASE NOTE: This is an open meeting for anyone who would like to participate. To find out more, please email:

centenary@stpeterswinchester.org.uk OR **JUST TURN UP ON THE NIGHT - ALL WELCOME.**

Parish Bank details

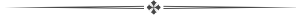
If you wish to make a payment or donation, please use the following details: Parish Bank Account Name:

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.

LENT 2025

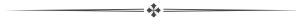
Lectio Divina

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.



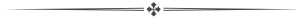
Lent for Families

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.



Family Prayer in Lent

Helen Pope is running a families 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 if you wish to join her, to let her know you will be coming.



PARISH SEDER MEAL - Ideal for families

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. We will be asking for donations to pay for the meal, paid in cash on the night. And a **special message from William & Maggie Carver: they'd love to see children and families there** - it is suitable and enjoyable for anyone over about 7, so don't hesitate to sign up....



Upcoming Events

CWL (Catholic Women's League) Charity Soup & Pud Lunch -The next Charity Lunch will be held in the Pastoral Centre, 12.30 - 2pm, on Friday 4th April. Money raised will be for CWL Charities.

"Love Hopes all things..." (1Cor13:7) - is the title for the Easter Triduum Retreat at the Verbum Dei centre, on the Isle of Wight, 17- 20 April. An opportunity to live the Easter Triduum in prayer, experiencing Christ's love and hope for us in his death and resurrection. For more information, please contact us: verbumdei.iow@gmail.com and www.uk.verbumdei.org.

Winchester Street Pastors Initiative - Street Pastors are volunteers from local churches who help anyone in need in busy town or city centres at night. We are looking for new Street and Prayer Pastors to help us continue our work in helping, caring and listening on the streets of Winchester on Friday and Saturday nights. For more information please contact winchester@streetpastors.org.uk or www.streetpastors.org/locations/winchester

QUIZ NIGHT in aid of Action Medical Research for Children - Everyone is welcome to join us on Saturday 26th April from 7 - 10pm at the Pastoral Centre Hall, St Peter's Church. Doors open at 6.30pm, tickets cost £12 pp. Gather your friends and family for a night of brain-teasing questions and exciting prizes. Let's come together to make a difference and have a blast while doing it! Come alone or bring your team! Book tickets by clicking the link: [quiz-night-in-aid-of-action-medical-research-for-children-tickets](https://www.actionmedicalresearch.org.uk/quiz-night-in-aid-of-action-medical-research-for-children-tickets)

Significant Anniversaries Mass—Are you celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or an anniversary over 60 years? If so Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of celebration on Saturday 21st June at 11am at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke. This will be followed by a buffet lunch. Please send an email to: anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk to request a form to complete and return. Please upload a copy of your wedding photograph when you return the form, or post a copy of the photograph with your completed form, to St Bede's Parish Office, Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX.

Diocesan Formation Days for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion & for Readers. Further formation days will be running on 3rd May and 18th October 2025 at St Bede's Church in Basingstoke. Anyone interested is encouraged to register via: liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

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Personnel Changes – Parish Office

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for all that Alison and Isabelle have done in supporting the Parish, especially in the Parish Office in the time that they have been with us over the last months.

I am now in the position where I can confirm and announce that we have **two new starters joining the team on 1 April 2025**. Please join with me in welcoming Dee Panes (Parish Administrator) and Maria Roberts (Finance Administrator) who will be working 25 Hours per week in the Parish Office. Both Dee and Maria are parishioners.

The intention is that for the month of April, they will shadow Alison and Isabelle, as we transition to them taking over. We will arrange something separately for both Alison and Isabelle in the coming weeks to express our thanks and to show our appreciation for what they have done to help us in the Parish.

Personnel Changes – New Role

I would like to share that we are pleased to announce that Sarah Harfield, has kindly agreed to assist in the overall management and leadership of the Kitchen in the Pastoral Centre in addition to her current roles and responsibilities in Peterhouse.

Sarah will over the coming weeks look at potential changes that need to be made and will be liaising with Sean to facilitate a transfer of responsibilities from Sean. Sarah, in this role will engage and connect with the key users and their respective teams ensuring compliance and standards can and will be maintained moving forward. Going forward Sarah will be the primary contact for any concerns regarding the Kitchen and on her behalf, I would like to ask for your continued support as she incorporates this role within her current working hours. Please join me in congratulating and thanking Sarah for agreeing to take on this role. Thank you, Gerard

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**)

IMPORTANT PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Building Works Update - 28th March 2025

You can and will be able to see some changes this weekend as soon as you enter St Peter's!

The scaffolding in the Narthex (Porch) has gone, and if you look behind you and up towards the West Window in the Church, you will be able to see the newly painted walls (paint colour will remain the same as the original, as approved with Historic Churches). Above the Confessional Box, you can also see that the Blistered Paint has also been worked on, and there is still some more to be done before redecorating. It is also anticipated that some of the scaffolding on the Sanctuary will also have been removed.

We still have some work to be carried out in terms of repairing the walls in the Narthex, but as these are at a lower level, this can be reached without the scaffolding.

We are fast approaching the time when the current works internally will be completed as we lead into Holy Week.

There are still obstacles around the Church, and we would ask that you continue to take care when moving around the Church, as previously noted, if you have any questions please contact Gerard in the Parish Office in the first instance.

Click [HERE](#) for the latest 'Sneaky Peeks' photos!

Beautifying St Peter's – 14th to 16th April 2025 - Your Help Please!

The current phase of the building works (Dirty Works) including the removal of all the scaffolding should all be completed by Friday 11 April, just in time for the celebration of Holy Week.

We are currently planning what needs to be done in advance of the Holy Week services taking place, and it is here that **we really do need your help and support**. As a parish we have wonderful teams of cleaners across all our Churches, but we feel the needs of St Peter's currently are such that we need the existing team of cleaners plus many more to help get the church ready.

Can you please give some thought as to how you might be able to help us? We are currently looking to clean the Church and the Sacristy to the best of our ability on Monday afternoon; then on Tuesday to Wax the floor; and on Wednesday to Buff (Polish) the floor.

On the Monday afternoon (14th April), we are looking for volunteers to help us clean every surface in the Church, as we all know that dust gets everywhere! We hope that with an army of volunteers we can get this done in the afternoon. Failing this, the Church might not be as clean as you might have expected it to be.

On Tuesday (15th April) we are looking for around 6 abled-bodied volunteers to help move the Seats (Benches) around to allow the floor to be waxed, please note that the floor will be slippery, it has been suggested the sturdier you are the better.

On Wednesday (16th April) we will be buffing (polishing) the floor, again if there is anyone who has any experience in using these types of machines we would welcome your assistance.

Please could you consider giving some time to help?

Please contact the Office in the first instance and we will pass on your details.

The White House - (St Peter's)

Dear friends,

As you know, for some years now a small working party has been working on what should be done with the White House.

We do not need the building for our Parish mission and **the building is in need of structural repairs running to hundreds of thousands of pounds**. The working party has consulted with surveyors, estate managers and architects and conducted a significant piece of work assessing multiple options for the building. The working party has also sought input from the diocese and from Parish leadership groups. **The conclusion of all this work is that the Parish should seek to sell the building on the open market**. We have taken legal advice on how this could be done to protect the interests of the Parish when the building is sold and are now in a position to appoint agents to start marketing the property.

We are aware that the building will have important memories for parishioners, including playing a role as home to the Sisters, and as a much-loved nursery, and so this has not been an easy conclusion to reach.

We will be letting the broader parish community know about our plans starting next weekend but, given your previous interest and input to our deliberations, I wanted to let you know in advance. As this is a significant change to our buildings, we are creating an opportunity for Parishioners to learn more about the studies that have been carried out and to ask questions about the proposals. **I will be available in the Parish Centre after 10:30 Mass on Sunday 6th April. We will also be available via a Zoom meeting on Tuesday 8th April at 7pm ([please register here if you would like to attend](#))**. Alternatively, you can email any comments or questions to me.

As ever, I am grateful for your interest and your input. Please do let me know if you have any comments.

With my very best wishes,

Piotr Nahajski - Chair, Finance and Property Advisory Committee

Mass Timetable	29 th March - 5 th April 2025		
SATURDAY – March 29th– Saturday of the 3rd Week of Lent.	9:00AM	Mass at Milner Hall	Patrick G. McCall & Family
	9:30AM - 12noon	Extended Confession in St Thomas More Room, Pastoral Centre (Upstairs)	
	4:30PM - 5:00PM	Confession in St Peter's Church	
4th SUNDAY OF LENT - Vigil	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	For Friends & Family of Michael Mayhew-Arnold
SUNDAY – March 30th – FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)	8:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	Maria Taverna RIP
	9:00AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	
	9:15AM	Mass at St Stephen's	Yvonne Morris RIP
	10:30AM	Mass at St Peter's	Dr Pietro Ligato RIP
	11:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Eddie and Nan Lawlor, may they rest in peace
	4:00PM	Stations of the Cross at St Peter's	
	5:30PM	Stations of the Cross at St Gregory's	
MONDAY – March 31st – Monday of the 4th Week of Lent	8:00AM - 9:00AM	Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall	
	12:15PM	Mass at Milner Hall	Honey's health
	7:00PM	Stations of the Cross at St Stephen's	
TUESDAY – April 1st – Tuesday of the 4th Week of Lent	8:00AM - 9:00AM	Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Neil Intentions
	12:15PM	Mass at Milner Hall	The Soul of Richard Spencer & Concelebrating local priests
WEDNESDAY – April 2nd – Wednesday of the 4th Week of Lent	8:00AM - 9:00AM	Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall	
	10:00AM	Mass at Milner Hall	Simone's health & recovery
THURSDAY – April 3rd – Thursday of the 4th Week of Lent	8:00AM - 9:00AM	Morning Prayer followed by Adoration at Milner Hall	
	10:00AM	Mass at Milner Hall	The Soul of Francois Alexander Cranstoun Cutler
FRIDAY – April 4th – Friday of the 4th Week of Lent	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	For all those taking the next step on their Sacramental Journey this Easter
	5:00PM	Stations of the Cross at St Thomas More's	
SATURDAY – April 5th– Saturday of the 4th Week of Lent	9:00AM	Mass at Milner Hall	The Soul of Rev J Martin
	9:30AM - 12noon	Extended 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	James Murphy's health & recovery

Confession - Saturdays (extended) - 9:30am - 12noon at the Pastoral Centre (St Thomas More Room) 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](#)