# **PETERPOST**

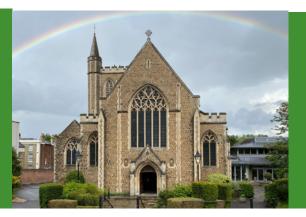
## The Parish of St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Heart of Hampshire parish with worshipping communities in Winchester, Alresford and Stockbridge



WHAT'S INSIDE THIS WEEK:

More Than Material: A Life That Lasts Farewell & Moving On



## **FATHER BENEDICT WRITES: THINGS IN HEAVEN**

In our present fast-paced, materialistic and secularly dominated world where we are used to wanting everything for ourselves (immediately), there has been a lot of emphasis on self-importance, fame and hunger for power. There is frenetic haste and selective consumerism which are seen in the settling for the here and now and seeking fulfilment in material realities alone. Pope Francis writes: "Yet living as we do in an age of superficiality, rushing frenetically from one thing to another without really knowing why, and ending up as insatiable consumers and slaves to the mechanisms of a market unconcerned about the deeper meaning of our lives, all of us need to rediscover the importance of the heart" (Dilexit Nos No. 2). Remember that where your treasure is, there will your heart be (Cf. Matthew 6:21). Today's readings call our attention to the passing nature of things in the world (ephemeral). There is more to life than the here and now.

St Paul tells us in the Second Reading: "Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven... Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth..." (Col. 3:1-2). In our Gospel, Jesus uses the parable of the Rich Fool to teach against avarice thereby encouraging us to be rich in the sight of God. In another passage, Jesus tells us to store up treasures in heaven where they cannot be destroyed or stolen (cf. Matt. 6:19-21). The First Reading gives us concrete reasons why we should not be focused on things of this world but rather to look for things in heaven more. Qoheleth writes: "Vanity of vanities ... Sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it.... What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart...?" Dear friends, material things, positions of authority or fame, worldly achievements and the pleasures of life may satisfy us momentarily but won't guarantee eternal fulfilment for us. Besides, these ephemerals could be considered as building on sand rather than on rock. Man is both body and soul, so the soul cannot be neglected or taken lightly while the focus is on the body. Psalm 49:17 says, "Do not fear when a man grows rich, he does not carry with him anything below." Without neglecting our efforts to support our livelihood, we should work more for eternal riches. The solution is to be in the world and not of the world (cf. John 17:14-15). There is a story of a rich man and a poor widow who appeared before the reception at the judgement seat. The rich man was directed to rest under some untamed trees while the poor woman was sent to a beautiful mansion. When both asked, the man was told he spent all his riches on earth while the poor woman kept sending her material to be stored in heaven from which her mansion has been constructed. Therefore, look for things in heaven.

These are our usual Mass times. For any changes or special celebrations, please check the back page for this week's full schedule.

#### ST PETER'S CHURCH WINCHESTER

Sunday Masses: Saturday Vigil Mass, 5.30pm. Sunday 8.00am, 10.30am and 5.30pm. Weekday Masses: Monday, Tuesday and Friday 12.15pm. Wednesday and Thursday at 10.00am. Confessions: Saturday 9.30am to 10.30am and 4.30pm to 5.00pm. Morning Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration 8.00am Monday to Friday.

ST THOMAS MORE'S CHURCH STOCKBRIDGE

Sunday Mass: 9.00am.

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH WINCHESTER

Sunday Mass: 9.15am.

ST GREGORY'S CHURCH ALRESFORD

Sunday Mass: 11.00am.

#### MORE THAN MATERIAL: A LIFE THAT LASTS

This Sunday's readings invite us to take a hard look at what we're really living for. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the story of a man who stores up wealth and builds bigger barns, believing he's finally secured a comfortable future. But that very night, his life ends — and all his possessions mean nothing. It's a sobering moment that reminds us how temporary material things really are.

This isn't about saying money or success is bad - but about not letting them become the measure of our worth. The First Reading from Ecclesiastes says, "Vanity of vanities! All is vanity!" And in Colossians, we're encouraged to "set our minds on things that are above." Jesus calls us to be "rich in the sight of God" - to live with love, generosity, humility, and faith. These are the things that last. These are the things that matter.

So this week, we're invited to pause and reflect: Am I building a life that only looks full, or one that truly is? What am I storing up — and is it worth keeping?

"Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." - Colossians 3:2

## **AU REVOIR!**

## GETTING READY TO SAY, "FAREWELL FR. BENEDICT"





As a parish family, we prepare to say goodbye to Fr. Benedict Ndikum, who will be moving at the beginning of September to begin his next chapter of ministry in Guernsey. Fr. Benedict has been with us at St Peter's & The Winchester Martyrs since March 2023, and during his time here, he has been a calm and prayerful presence, sharing his faith with warmth, humility, and dedication. Whether presiding at Mass, supporting parish life, or simply being present in the community, his quiet strength and pastoral care have touched many.





We are deeply grateful for all that Fr. Benedict has brought to our parish, and we send him on with our prayers, blessings, and heartfelt thanks.

There will be a special celebratory farewell Mass to mark his departure at the Vigil Mass on **Saturday, 6th September** at **5:30 pm at St Peter's Church, Winchester.** All are warmly invited to join us as we give thanks for Fr. Benedict's ministry and offer him our loving support as he moves on.

Refreshments will be served after Mass, and further details will follow in due course.

As is tradition in our parish, we would like to offer a farewell gift as a sign of our appreciation. If you would like to contribute, donations can be made in one of the following ways: By sending a sealed, **clearly marked envelope (Fr. Benedict)** to the parish office, using the donor machines at the back of church or in the pastoral centre **(note: the machines will have an option for Fr. Benedict)** or by bank transfer online, using the bank details listed in this newsletter.

Thank you for helping us show our gratitude to Fr. Benedict as he continues his priestly ministry.

### THANK YOU AND FAREWELL, DEACON DIEGO

As we come to the end of July, we also prepare to say farewell to Deacon Diego Hoyos, who completed his pastoral placement with us this Wednesday, 30th July.

Although his time at St Peter's & The Winchester Martyrs has been brief, Deacon Diego has quickly become a valued and appreciated presence in our parish community. With warmth, humility, and a clear sense of vocation, he has shared in the life of our parish through prayer, service, and ministry. We are grateful for the time he has spent among us, and we send him on with our heartfelt thanks and continued prayers as he moves on to St Joseph & St Edmund Catholic Church in Southampton to continue his formation for the sacred priesthood.



Please continue to keep Deacon Diego in your prayers as he prepares for ordination and begins this next chapter of his journey in faith.

# **ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Cf.. Ps 69: 2,6

GOD, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

#### FIRST READING

First reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2: 2:21-23

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 90(89):3-4. 5-6. 12-13. 14, 17.R.1 O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation.

### **SECOND READING**

Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11

Gospel Acclamation:

R. Alleluia, alleluia

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

R. Alleluia

#### **GOSPEL**

Luke 12:13-21

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Cf. Ws 16:20

You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

#### THANK YOU AND FAREWELL. ALLEGRA MUTANDA



Parish Staff Re-structuring - Message from Fr Mark: Our 5-year financial projection shows the Parish is moving rapidly toward an unsustainable financial position. In response we need to reduce our running costs at the same time as continuing to seek your continued financial support.



Sadly, given the size of this shortfall, part of the response must also include a reduction in our salary costs. This means that we are unable to replace a number of paid roles which recently became vacant. It also means that the role of Parish Director of Evangelisation and Leadership will be made redundant as of the end of this August.



Allegra has served our parish wonderfully well in this role for well over 5 years. She has brought great faith and many gifts to this ministry and, through her yes, the Lord has blessed a wide and varied selection of people within our parish and beyond. There will be great sadness in losing Allegra from this role and many of you will, I'm sure, want to join me in thanking her for all that she has given so generously of herself since March 2020.

Please keep Allegra and all those affected by these changes, in your prayers. We remain deeply grateful for the generous support of our parishioners - spiritual, personal and financial - as we continue to discern the path ahead together as one parish family.

#### **EVANGELISATION**

Alpha Is Back This September - Everyone Has Questions. Why Not Explore Them? Have you ever wondered if there's more to life? Or do you know someone who might be asking those very same questions?

The Alpha course is returning to our parish at the end of September, and it's one of the most successful outreach programmes in the world - running in over 100 countries and translated into 100+ languages. Why? Because it works. It changes lives.

Alpha is a relaxed, friendly series of sessions that creates space for honest conversation about life, faith, and God. Whether you're a lifelong Catholic, someone who's never set foot in a church, or simply searching — Alpha is for you, or someone you know.

Why try Alpha?

- It's a place where you can ask anything and really mean it. No pressure. No judgement.
- It's not just about answers it's about connection. People often leave Alpha with new friendships, deeper peace, and a renewed sense of purpose.
- For many, Alpha is the first step back to faith... or the first step ever.

If you're curious, seeking, or simply want to support someone else on their journey, Alpha could be the place to start. And if you've already done Alpha - you know the impact. So why not invite someone new? More details and sign-up information coming soon. Start praying about who you might invite.

Thinking About Becoming Catholic - or Just Curious? Our Journey in Faith course will be starting up again at the end of September, and we warmly invite anyone who may be interested to come along. This course is for adults who are exploring the Catholic faith - whether you're thinking about becoming Catholic, returning to the Church after some time away, or simply curious and want to learn more in a friendly, welcoming setting. It's also a great way for parishioners to deepen their own understanding and support others on their journey.

If you've felt a gentle nudge, a sense of curiosity, or even just some big questions about faith, this could be the space for you to explore them. God often begins with a quiet invitation - maybe this is yours.

If you, or someone you know, might be interested, please don't hesitate to get in touch or pass this on to adelaferriere@peterswinchester.org.uk.

#### CATECHESIS

First Holy Communion 2026: Applications are now open for the 2026 First Holy Communion Programme. Children who will be Year 4 (or above) next academic year may apply, however if your child is presently in Year 2 and you feel they may be ready next year, please do get in touch. If you have any queries before completing the form please email rosanne@stpeterswinchester.org.uk. If you would like to apply please **<u>click here</u>** or use the QR code on your right.



### **BAPTISM**

Congratulations to Florence Morris & Jack Lee, who were married at Si Peter's Church on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> 2025. May their life together be blessed with love, faith, and happiness.

## **BAPTISM**

Welcome to Baptism of Rosie Wang who was baptised last week at St Stephen's Church. May God bless her with His love and grace, today and always.

#### PRAYER CORNER

Let us pray that all the work we do in our parish supports the desire that our will becomes aligned to God's will, bringing us closer to Christ in hope and joy.

### 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 3RD AUGUST 2025 | YEAR C **UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS**



#### PARISH NEWS:

Big Church Festival 2025! Join Fr Mark and fellow parishioners at the Big Church Festival from 22nd to 24th August 2025 - a joyful weekend of worship, community, and celebration at the Wiston Estate in West Sussex. Come for the full weekend or just a day - and there'll be Mass on Sunday for our group. Book with our parish group here.

#### Pilgrims progress to Rome 20th September 2025:

Julia Bray is undertaking the Pilgrims' Progress Trek to Rome in Autumn 2025 to raise funds for Life, a charity supporting pregnant women and new mums. From helping initiate a Life volunteer group in Winchester and also a Life Charity Shop in Eastleigh, her journey reflects a deep commitment to Life's mission. Support her cause through her JustGiving page - click here.



Formation Day for Readers: Fr. Anthony Fyk, Director of Liturgical Formation along with the Liturgy Project team invites you to a formation morning for Readers at St Bede's, Basingstoke on Saturday 18th October. All readers experienced and new, are very welcome to attend. This day will include a session on Lectio Divina.

Anyone wishing to attend either day should register via liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

### **Building Update**

Time keeps moving - faster than many of us would like - and we're now approaching the end of Phase 1. The final painting and finishing touches are nearly complete. So, what's next? Behind the scenes, we've been working on three key projects for St Peter's:

- Upgrading the lighting
- Cleaning the Reredos (the decorative screen behind the altar)
- Laying a new carpet

At first glance, these might seem like straightforward jobs - but they're far from simple. Each one needs several levels of approval: from the Parish, the Diocese, and Historic Churches. And before any of that, we need to confirm exactly how much the work will cost.

We owe a big thank you to Sean Reidy for his dedication and patience in helping us get this far.

The Diocese has now approved the scope of the work. The next step is getting approval from Historic Churches, which is a bigger hurdle - but we're staying positive and hopeful that they'll give us the green light soon. If all goes to plan, here's the timeline we're aiming for:

- September: Start cleaning the Reredos
- October/November: Begin the lighting work
- Late November: Install the new carpet

We're still working towards finishing everything by the end of November, and we'll keep you updated along the way. There will be some disruption around St Peter's in the coming months. Services may need to move temporarily to Milner Hall. We'll let you know more as soon as we have a clearer schedule.

We hope you'll agree that St Peter's is looking better than ever, and we're proud of the progress so far. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Gerard in the Parish Office.

#### **OUTREACH:**

Laudato Si: "We are a people of hope who believe in redemption. We must study the signs of the times and take the action that is needed to repair our relationship with God's Creation. The virtue of solidarity and the promotion of the common good, which are so needed at this time, are the responsibility of each and every individual and institution in society." Bishop John Arnold and Bishop Richard Moth

#### **PARISH OFFICE:**

ffice@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Finance:

@stpeterswinchester.org.uk Tel. 01962852804

### **NEWSLETTER:**

Deadline for items for newsletter requests please submit by Wednesday mid-day!

#### **CONTACTS:**

For a full list of contact details for our Parish, please visit our website: www.catholicwinchester.org.uk or Parish Bank Account Name: email

to be directed to the correct person.

#### **PARISH BANK DETAILS:**

If you wish to make a payment or donation, please use the following details: 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.

#### **CENTENARY:**

**St Peter's Centenary 2026 - Be Part of It!** In 2026, St Peter's Church, Winchester, will celebrate its 100th anniversary—a joyful milestone for our parish community. To make this a truly memorable year, we're inviting everyone across all our churches to get involved. We know our parish is rich in skills, passion, and creativity, and we'd love to hear how you might be able to contribute. This is a once-in-a-generation celebration, and we need you to help make it extraordinary!

Interested? Get in touch at centenary@stpeterswinchester.org.uk.

**We Need You!** We're calling on volunteers of all ages and talents, and especially welcoming participation from Alresford, Oliver's Battery, and Stockbridge, whose voices and energy are essential to making this a true parish-wide celebration. Whether you're skilled in PR, marketing, event planning, or simply passionate about parish life—we'd love to hear from you.

\* Students - Make Church History!

Are you studying media, communications, events, or related fields? Apply now for a Centenary Internship—gain hands-on experience, enhance your CV, and contribute to a joyful legacy.

- imail CVs to centenary@stpeterswinchester.org.uk by October 2025
- Let's mark 100 years of faith together from the quiet country charm of Stockbridge to the lively school-centred worship of Oliver's Battery, and the joyful welcome of Alresford. This Centenary is a celebration of us all.

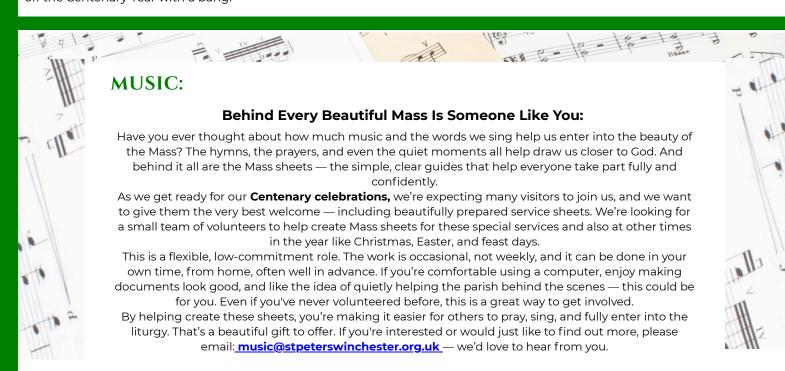
Let's participate, give thanks, and pass the flame of hope into the future.

**Join the 2026 Centennial Pageant:** One of the most exciting events kicking off our Centenary Year is the 2026 Historical Pageant, a dazzling celebration of St Peter's early history through music, dance, drama, and storytelling. It's going to be a visual feast - and we want YOU to be part of it!

We're pulling together ideas, reaching out to groups, and planning an unforgettable experience that will bring our story to life. Expect a few fun surprises along the way - yes, that might include requests for props, costumes, and creative hands-on help.

\* Calling all young parishioners aged 10+

Whether you love to sing, dance, act, or craft, we'd love to have you join the cast or creative crew! St Peter's School is already onboard, but there's plenty of space for more energy and talent. Just send your name and contact details to: <a href="mailto:office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk">office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk</a>. Let's make this Pageant sparkle with community spirit and creative joy. Come help us kick off the Centenary Year with a bang!



#### NEWS FROM ACROSS THE DIOCESE



Celebrate Festival will take place at Worth School, West Sussex, from Saturday 16th to Wednesday 20th August. Taste and see what CELEBRATE Witness to Hope offers your family. Day tickets to the family festival at Worth School, Crawley, this August are now available for families to enjoy. Come and find faith-filled fun, music and great Catholic teaching, including our new papal preacher. Any questions, please email lucysayer@celebratetrust.org.

Amazing speakers, to include Fr Roberto Pasolini, the Papal Preacher! Fr Columba Jordan CFR (Called to More podcasts), Rachel Turner (Parenting for Faith) - Loads of family activities - Worship with One Hope Project - Prayer times and Adoration in the Abbey - Café Tent - Storytelling - Drama with Rise Theatre - Bedtime Bible Stories and much more. A jubilee event for all, come and join us! Click here to book.

**Our Lady Queen of Peace Pilgrimage to Walsingham:** The Our Lady Queen of Peace Pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place on Bank Holiday Monday, 25th August at the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham led by Fr Zvonimir Pavičić OFM parish priest of St James, Medjugorje.

The programme for the day is:

- 1.15pm Gathering, Rosary and Litany
- Talk by Fr Zvonimir, followed by a break and opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- 3.45pm Holy Mass, Adoration and Benediction.
- 5.30pm Depart





**Vacancies for Foundation Governors at St Peter's School** on the governing body have arisen and expressions of interests are being sought from practising committed Catholics for the ministry.

The term of office is for four years from the date of appointment. Foundation Governors are personally appointed by Bishop Philip, Bishop of Portsmouth to diocesan schools to represent his interests and those of the Catholic community as a whole. The governors of a Catholic school work as a team, in close co-operation with the headteacher and all the staff. Foundation governors share the responsibilities of all governors:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Vacancies for Foundation Governors on the governing body have arisen for and expressions of interests are being sought from practising committed Catholics for the ministry. In addition to this, Foundation Governors are appointed specifically to ensure:

- That the religious character of the school is preserved
- That the school is conducted in accordance with its trust deed
- That the religious education curriculum is in accordance with the Bishop's policy for this Diocese

Anyone interested in the mission of Foundation Governor should not be put off by a lack of experience.

Appropriate training is available during the period of service. Please speak with Fr Mark if you are interested in this role. Closing date for applications - **15**<sup>th</sup> **September.** Nomination forms are available - <u>click here.</u> Contact details for St Peter's School are as follows: The School Office or Catholic Academies and Schools Office, St Edmund House, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth, POI 3QA. <u>governors@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</u>.

Tel: 023 9289 3600.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH







# Could you serve the Church as a Trustee of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth? Advert for New Trustees:

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." (1 Peter 4:10).

The Bishop is inviting applications from people who feel called to use their professional expertise in the service of the Catholic Church. This is a unique opportunity to contribute to the mission of Jesus Christ by giving your time and talent to the Stewardship of the Diocese, as a Trustee and member of the Diocesan Finance Council.

We have embarked on a bold and faith-filled ten-year Mission Plan, You Will be my Witnesses, focused on renewal, discipleship, and evangelisation. As a Trustee, you will play a vital role in guiding this transformation, ensuring our resources, safeguarding, and strategic decisions are aligned with our mission and pastoral priorities. We are especially seeking individuals with experience in any of the following areas:

- Financial Investment and Asset Management to help us steward the temporal goods of the Church with wisdom and integrity.
- Public Protection and Safeguarding such as social work, children's services, or probation, to help oversee and strengthen our commitment to creating a safe environment for all.
- Strategic Planning and Organisational Change to support the delivery of our Mission Plan and ensure our structures are fit for purpose.

Who We Are Looking For

You will be a committed Catholic who:

- Is passionate about the Church's mission and wish to serve the Lord with the skills He has given you
- Understands or is willing to learn about the responsibilities of charity trusteeship and is willing to contribute time and insight
- Can think strategically and work collaboratively with the clergy and laity who make up the board of Trustees and our subcommittees.
- Can offer a day each month to attend meetings, read briefings and undertake some training to support you in the role.
- May have skills and experience in chairing committees.

This is an opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to the life of the Church and help shape its future across our parishes, schools, and communities.

To arrange an informal conversation or to request an information pack, please contact: Deacon Tony Darlison Secretary to Trustees, email: <a href="mailto:teacong.uk">tdarlison@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</a>.

**Closing date: Monday 1 September 2025.** Meetings of the Board are in person held on alternate months. Subcommittee meetings that require Trustees may be held online or in person. Expenses for travel may be reimbursed.



We are part of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, Registered Charity Number: 1199568

## $17^{\text{TH}}$ SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - $27^{\text{TH}}$ JULY 2025 | YEAR C

Mass Timetable			
Date	Times	Where	Intentions
Sat 2 August (Our Lady) Sunday VIGIL Week 18 in Ordinary Time	9:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	The Intentions of the Neil Family
	9:30AM to 10:30AM	Confession at St Peter's	
	4:30PM to 5.00PM	Confession at St Peter's	
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	William James Clark RIP
Sun 3 Aug Week 18 in Ordinary Time	8:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	The Souls of David & Julia O'Connell
	9:00AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	Susan Bolger RIP
	9:15AM	Mass at St Stephen's	Yvonne Morris RIP
	10:30AM	Mass at St Peter's	People of the Parish
	11:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Patrick Drohan RIP
<b>Mon 4 Aug</b> (St john Vianney)	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's	
	12:15PM	Mass at St Peter's	Marian Murray RIP
Tues 5 Aug (Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major, Rome)	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	12:15PM	Mass at St Peter's	Dr Pietro Ligato
Wed 6 Aug (The Transfiguration of the Lord)	10:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	Shelagh O'Donoghue RIP
Thur 7 Aug (St Sixtus II, Pope & Companions)	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	Intentions of Anna Salley & Roseann Lynch
<b>Fri 8 Aug</b> (St St Dominic)	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	12:15PM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul of Fabian Woodley
Sat 9 Aug (St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross)	9:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Nandita Connolly
	9:00AM to 10:30AM	Confession at St Peter's	
Sunday VIGIL Week 19 in Ordinary Time	4:30PM to 5:00PM	Confession at St Peter's	
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Enriqueta Gonzalez RIP

To participate in any service online (including Morning Prayer & Adoration) or to see the recorded services, go to our <u>YouTube CHANNEL</u>. ALL SERVICES (INCLUDING MORNING PRAYER) FROM ST PETER'S ARE LIVESTREAMED.