

# 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:

*A Season of Prayer - St Michael the Archangel*

*Bienvenido / Welcome to Fr Pedro*

*Allegra's Farewell - A Journey of Faith and Gratitude*



## FATHER MARK WRITES: OBSTACLES TO EMBRACING THE LOVE OF JESUS

Jesus loves us with an unquenchable love and desires us simply to let Him love us. Let's briefly consider four obstacles that can prevent us from fully embracing His love - not to feel discouraged, but to identify what holds us back from God.

### 1. Lukewarmness in Our Spiritual Life

Often, worldly distractions blur our vision of God's burning love. Blessed Alvaro wrote, "the will of the lukewarm person finds its capacity to see the goodness blurred while it is on the lookout for anything that flatters its own ego." We may think that avoiding mortal sin is enough, but saints remind us that even venial sins, if unchecked, can harm our souls.

Lukewarmness is not a sudden death - it's a slow, creeping disease, death in slow motion. Consider the pain of loving parents who sacrifice everything for their children, only to be met with indifference. How much more must it hurt the heart of our Redeemer, who loves us unconditionally, when we allow spiritual lukewarmness to cloud our vision of His love? It obstructs us from placing our human love into the furnace of His heart, where it can be purified and rekindled.

### 2. Self-Love

Self-love is different from love of self. Jesus teaches us to love our neighbour as ourselves, which implies that loving ourselves is good - if we see ourselves through God's eyes. But self-love means seeing everything through our own lenses. Love of self is about God's view of us; self-love is about our own view of everything.

In The Devotion to the Sacred Heart, Father Croiset writes:

"It is only too true that people who are not influenced in their actions by self love are very rare... If people wish to take the trouble to examine the true motives of most of their actions... they would discover that self love is the most powerful motive, that it puts on a hundred disguises and prevents the fruit of their actions."

*Cont'd...*

*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.

Self-love isn't inherently evil, but it becomes an obstacle when it leads to excessive attachment to our opinions, desires and comfort. If we're honest, we may wish the road to holiness didn't involve trials or sacrifices, but we must ask God to remove this wish so we can love Him and others more fully.

### 3. Pride

Pride affects our relationship with God and others. It's one of the most dangerous vices because it replaces God as the object of our love with ourselves. Pride shifts our focus from God's loving gaze to the opinions of others.

Fr. Croiset warns:

"There is no greater obstacle to perfection than the spirit of pride and vanity by which most people are dominated... Even our victories are weapons which the devil makes use of against us, profiting by them to inspire us with pride."

Pride makes us crave popularity and esteem, often under the guise of honesty and charity. We try to please both God and man, but in doing so, we often fail to please either. This is the irony of pride - it not only keeps us from loving God well but also prevents us from satisfying our own misplaced desire for approval. We are made for Heaven, not for earthly praise. When we exhaust ourselves trying to impress others, we leave little love for our Saviour.

The love of Jesus cannot coexist with pride. He doesn't want us to toil for fruit that doesn't satisfy. Only when we offer our hearts to Jesus will we find the dignity and approval we long for. When united with His meek and humble Heart, we will find rest.

### 4. Unresolved Vices

The final obstacle is unresolved vices. Father Croiset explains:

"The fourth obstacle to the devotion... to the Sacred Heart, are certain unmortified passions... many people make war on all their passions, but somehow there is one predominate one which they spare... A small leak will sink a great ship, a single spark will cause a great fire; a single defect is sufficient to spoil an otherwise beautiful painting... These are great obstacles to the pure love of Jesus Christ and to the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus."

Even those who strive for holiness may spare one vice that aligns with their inclinations. This one unmortified passion can hinder their spiritual progress. We may be surprised by people who have practiced piety for years yet still harbour imperfections they condemn in others but won't correct in themselves.

This obstacle, like the others, comes down to trust. Do we trust Jesus enough to surrender everything - our worries, comfort, and attachments - to Him? Or is there something we're still holding back?

Often, we give Jesus much - but not everything. And what we withhold, however small, can prevent us from reaching the holiness He desires for us and that we truly long for. We need Jesus' help to place all our passions into the furnace of His Heart, where they can be purified for His glory and our good. Only then will our hearts become like His.

#### A Season of Prayer with St Michael the Archangel

One way to ask for help is through the intercession of St. Michael the Archangel. I'm going to be observing a ["St. Michael's Lent"](#) this year, from **Fri 15<sup>th</sup> August** (Assumption of our Blessed Mother, the Virgin Mary) until the **29<sup>th</sup> September** (St. Michael the Archangel). If you'd like to pray alongside me, why not follow the prayers in [this booklet](#) or the instructions given [here](#).

## DONATIONS TO FR. BENEDICT'S FAREWELL GIFT

**Thanking Fr. Benedict:** As we prepare to say goodbye to Fr. Benedict, we will be holding a special farewell Mass at the Vigil Mass on **Saturday 6th September at 5:30 pm in St Peter's Church, Winchester**, followed by refreshments. As is our parish tradition, we would also like to present him with a farewell gift as a sign of our appreciation. If you would like to contribute, donations can be made by sending a sealed envelope marked "Fr Benedict" to the parish office, using the donor machines in church or the pastoral centre (select the "Fr Benedict" option), or by bank transfer using the details in this newsletter.

## ALLEGRA'S FAREWELL – A JOURNEY OF FAITH AND GRATITUDE

In her own words, Allegra describes her years in our parish as a journey filled with God's surprises — moments of joy, challenge, deep faith, and countless blessings. As she prepares to leave her role as Director of Evangelisation and Leadership at the end of this month, she has written a heartfelt message of thanks, sharing the story behind her call to mission, her time here, and the lessons God has taught her along the way. We invite you to take a few moments to read her full letter and join us in giving thanks for her ministry among us. [Click here](#) to read Allegra's farewell message.



### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**Cf. Ps 83: 10-11**

Turn your eyes, O God,  
our shield; and look on  
the face of your  
anointed one; one day  
within your courts is  
better than a  
thousand elsewhere.

### FIRST READING

*First reading: Jeremiah 38:4-  
6, 8-10*

*Responsorial Psalm: Ps*

*40(39):2. 3. 4. 18. R. 14b*

Lord Make haste to help me!

### SECOND READING

*Hebrews 12:1-4*

*Gospel Acclamation:*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia**

My sheep hear my voice, says  
the lord, and I know them,  
and they follow me.

**R. Alleluia**

### GOSPEL

*Luke 12:49-53*

**COMMUNION  
ANTIPHON:**

**Cf. Ps 129:7**

With the Lord there is mercy;  
in him is plentiful  
redemption.

## BIENVENIDO

**Bienvenido / Welcome to Fr Pedro**

This week we will be welcoming Fr Pedro Jose Hernandez O'Hagan to our parish as our new assistant priest (we are blessed that he's able to arrive even before Fr Benedict has moved to Guernsey, so there'll be a short overlap). Here you can read a short biography to give you a flavour of who he is. He arrives Mon 18<sup>th</sup> so please do give him an enormous welcome when you see him.



Fr. Pedro José Hernández O'Hagan was born in Mexico City in 1981. His dad is also from Mexico City and his mum is from London. He grew up in Mexico City and, during his childhood, he would travel once a year to England to visit his mum's side of the family. He worked as an English teacher in Mexico for a few months before entering the seminary in the year 2000. He was ordained a priest in 2010, in the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

As a priest, he first worked in the University Chaplaincy of Madrid, Spain. Then he volunteered for a Mission in Honduras, Central America, where he worked for eight years. In the year 2019 he was sent to Rome to do a three-year course on Biblical Theology. After that he collaborated in a Parish and a Catholic School in the city of Puebla, Mexico. This year he began a pastoral experience in the Diocese of Portsmouth, starting this March in St. Edward's Church, Windsor, and now Bishop Philip appointed him as assistant priest to the parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

"Fan into flame the gift of God,  
which is in you..." - 2 Timothy 1:6

**CATECHESIS**

**Family Catechism Camp – Message from Alexis and Naomi de La Ferrière:** Alexis and Naomi de La Ferrière are organising a Family Catechism Camp in Winchester, open to families from St Peter's Parish with primary school-aged children - younger and older siblings are also welcome. The camp will **begin at 12:00 pm on Saturday 6th September and conclude with a walk to Mass at St Stephen's at 9:15am on Sunday 7th**. The programme will include games, catechism sessions, and prayer times for both children and adults. There is no fee to attend, but participants will be asked to contribute towards the cost of materials and food. Places are limited, so please complete the **sign-up form by 26th August** [click here](#) to reserve your space. If you have any questions, please see contact details on the form.

**First Holy Communion Program 2026:** Applications are still open for the 2026 First Holy Communion Program. Deadline for applications is **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September**, with the final chance to attend the compulsory parents' session being **Tuesday 16th September** - 7:00pm to - 8:00pm. Children who will be in Year 4 (or above) next academic year may apply, however if your child is presently in Year 2 and you are a regular parishioner and feel they may be ready next year, please do get in touch.



Please [click here](#) to complete the registration form, or scan the QR code here to the right of this notice. If you have any queries before completing the form, please email me at: [rosanne@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:rosanne@stpeterswinchester.org.uk).

**FUNERALS**

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

**WEDDINGS**

We offer our warmest congratulations to Brendon Reis and Zoe Martin, who celebrated their wedding on Saturday 9th August. May they be richly blessed as they begin their married life, and may their journey together be filled with love, faith and lasting joy.

**BAPTISM**

Welcome to Diego Palma-Stockwell, Oskar Bojdol and Laurence Vaughan who were all baptised last week at St Peter's Church. May God bless them with His love and grace, today and always.

**PRAYER CORNER**

As we reach the height of the summer holidays, let us pray that we may all make time to rest, relax, reflect and refocus each week on the Sabbath, so that we may become closer to Christ with hope and joy.



"My soul is consumed with longing for your laws at all times."

- Psalm 119:20



## UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

**Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to Sacred Heart Bournemouth - Sat 13th September:** Join our parish for a day of grace, reflection, and spiritual renewal as we journey together in faith during this Jubilee Year- a moment marked by prayer, mercy, and pilgrimage (cf. Jubilee tradition and purpose).

### Journey of the Day:

9:45am - Arrive  
10:00am - Tour of the Oratory Church, with introduction to the Jubilee Holy Year, as Pilgrims of Hope.  
10:30am - Coffee in Café Neri & visit to the Oratory Shop  
11:00am - Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration & Confessions  
12:00pm - Angelus  
12:15pm - Mass  
1:00pm - Rosary  
1.15pm - Lunch in Café Neri. Please pre-book by advising numbers a week in advance.  
2:00pm - Opportunity to view the Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles.  
2:30pm - Talk on S Philip Neri & the Jubilee in Rome / Other spiritual topics / or whatever suits different groups (to be discussed).  
3:00pm - Benediction (or concluding liturgy) with prayers for the Pope's intentions - to gain the Jubilee Year Indulgence (with the other conditions).  
3.20pm Depart

This pilgrimage is your invitation to step into a day of hope, devotion and renewal - rooted deeply in our Catholic tradition of pilgrimage during a Holy Year. Through adoration, prayer, reflection and fellowship, we'll walk the path together as a community of faith. It's a chance to press pause, reconnect and return home spiritually recharged.

We are currently investigating coach travel from St Peter's church. More details and a booking form will be available from next week.

## PARISH NEWS

**Big Church Festival 2025!** Join Fr. Mark and parishioners at Big Church Festival, **22-24 August 2025**, at Wiston Estate, West Sussex. Come for the weekend or a day (Sunday Mass included). [Click here to book your tickets.](#)

**ADoRE Mini-Retreat for Spiritual Renewal:** The next Pilgrims of Hope meeting will be on **Saturday 30th August**, with the theme: "Pilgrims of Hope Forgive One Another". Jubilee is a time of forgiveness, reconciliation, restitution and liberation. We will reflect on how, with Jesus' strength, we can choose to forgive as we have been forgiven – bringing healing, deliverance, new life and renewed energy for our pilgrim journey. The day will include Mass, an inspiring talk from Fr. Paul Leonard, live-streamed Adoration, Prophecy, Praise and Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit – so that we may be beacons of hope in today's world.

ADoRE is a monthly Catholic Charismatic Renewal meeting, encouraging a personal relationship with God through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. Founded in 1975 in Portsmouth Diocese, it is one of the longest-running Charismatic Days of Renewal in Britain. Posters and publicity materials for this month's meeting can be downloaded [Here](#).



**Called and Gifted Diocesan Alumni Day - Saturday September 20th at Pastoral Centre Hall, St Peter's Church, Winchester:** Booking is now open! The C&G team have planned a day of prayer, formation, sharing and worship for everyone who has ever experienced the full Called and Gifted discernment process in the Portsmouth Diocese. We hope the day will help us all to build our lives more fully on the firm foundation that is Jesus Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit. Registration is from 9:30am and we will start with Mass at 10am. Lunch will be provided. The day will close by 4:30pm. To book your place at the day, please email Joan at [calledandgifted@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:calledandgifted@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk). As a cooked lunch is being provided (donations welcome!) please let Joan know if you have any dietary requirements. We look forward to welcoming you!

| Date                                                                                                                                      | Times             | Where                                    | Intentions                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Sat 16 Aug</b><br>(St Stephen of Hungary & Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary)<br><br><b>Sunday VIGIL</b><br>Week 20 in Ordinary Time | 9:00AM            | Mass at St Peter's                       | For The Soul of Marisa Yu RIP           |
|                                                                                                                                           | 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                       | Souls in Purgatory                      |
| <b>Sun 17 Aug</b><br>Week 20 in Ordinary Time                                                                                             | 8:00AM            | Mass at St Peter's                       | Kevin Ryan RIP                          |
|                                                                                                                                           | 9:00AM            | Mass at St Thomas More's                 | For the Wellbeing of the McNulty Family |
|                                                                                                                                           | 9:15AM            | Mass at St Stephen's                     | Martin Rex Gilligan RIP                 |
|                                                                                                                                           | 10:30AM           | Mass at St Peter's                       | Dr. Pietro Ligato RIP                   |
|                                                                                                                                           | 11:00AM           | Mass at St Gregory's                     | People of the Parish                    |
|                                                                                                                                           | 5:30PM            | Mass at St Peter's                       | Intentions of the Way & Corcoran Family |
| <b>Mon 18 Aug</b><br>(Week 20 in Ordinary Time)                                                                                           | 8:00AM            | Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's |                                         |
|                                                                                                                                           | 12:15PM           | Mass at St Peter's                       | Personal Intentions of Gillian Ryan     |
| <b>Tues 19 Aug</b><br>(St John Eudes)                                                                                                     | 8:00AM            | Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's |                                         |
|                                                                                                                                           | 10:00AM           | Mass at St Gregory's                     | For the Holy Souls                      |
|                                                                                                                                           | 12:15PM           | Mass at St Peter's                       | The Soul of Edmund Wheble               |
| <b>Wed 20 Aug</b><br>(St Bernard)                                                                                                         | 8:00AM            | Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's |                                         |
|                                                                                                                                           | 10:00AM           | Mass at St Peter's                       | The Soul of Eileen Gibson               |
| <b>Thur 21 Aug</b><br>(St Pius X)                                                                                                         | 8:00AM            | Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's |                                         |
|                                                                                                                                           | 10:00AM           | Mass at St Peter's                       | Kim Rasmussen RIP                       |
| <b>Fri 22 Aug</b><br>(The Queenship of Mary)                                                                                              | 8.00AM            | Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's |                                         |
|                                                                                                                                           | 10:00AM           | Mass at St Gregory's                     | Intentions of the Cullen Family         |
|                                                                                                                                           | 12:15PM           | Mass at St Peter's                       | Mary Mayhew-Arnold RIP                  |
| <b>Sat 23 Aug</b><br>(St Rose of Lima, Our Lady)<br><br><b>Sunday VIGIL</b><br>Week 21 in Ordinary Time                                   | 9:00AM            | Mass at St Peter's                       | Soul of Simon DaCosta                   |
|                                                                                                                                           | 9:00AM 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                       |                                         |

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

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

#### 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 Office: [office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

Finance: [accounts@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:accounts@stpeterswinchester.org.uk). Tel. 01962852804

#### 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** (e.g. offertory, SVP, etc). You can also use the Contactless machine at the back of St Peter's or visit our website.

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