PETERPOST

The Parish of St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

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



& THE WINCHESTER MARTYRS

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS WFFK:

Great Expectations
Sacramental Programmes
Alpha



FATHER MARK WRITES: GREAT EXPECTATIONS – EMBRACING GOD'S VISION FOR OUR LIVES

This weekend, we begin a new series of reflections on 'expectations. Autumn is a season of expectations: a new school year, family plans after summer, and hopes for our sports teams. Expectations are a strong belief that something will happen in the future. They're not just an autumn thing; they're a life thing. Life is full of expectations.

Some expectations are healthy and energising, like those tied to an expectant mother or a new venture. Our faith calls us to live with expectation, trusting in God's goodness and grace. But expectations can also burden us, leading to disappointment or disillusionment. Some people lower their expectations so much that they stop hoping altogether. I don't believe that's any way to live.

In this series, we'll explore the hidden power of expectations, both those that weigh us down and those that lift us up. I invite you to examine what you expect from God, others, and yourselves, to let go of unrealistic expectations and embrace hope-filled ones.

Today, I suggest four key truths about expectations vital for our well-being. If we don't grasp these truths, our expectations can harm us.

Truth one: Expectations are multifaceted.

We have expectations for every area of life. Every day, we operate under assumptions: your alarm will go off, your coffee will be hot, your car will start. Some expectations are practical necessities: employees doing their job, family helping with chores, students being responsible. Others are held in our hearts: a spouse being attentive, children getting along, friends supporting us, truthfulness in relationships.

Truth two: Expectations are a lens through which we evaluate our lives.

When your job meets your expectations, you feel good about it. When a family member meets your expectations, you feel better about them. Conversely, unmet expectations can leave you feeling annoyed or angry.

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.

Truth three: Expectations are a two-way street.

While you have expectations for me, I have expectations for you. Expectations are placed upon us all the time: how you do your job, how you parent, how you spend holidays. There are unspoken expectations from community or culture: what clothes to wear, what car to drive, where children go to school. Just as we evaluate others by our expectations, they evaluate us by theirs.

Truth four: We are responsible for managing our expectations.

Managing expectations means becoming aware of what we expect from others. How often do we get upset because we're surprised by an expectation we weren't aware of? We must give thought to our expectations, confirm they're realistic, and communicate them. This week, start by becoming more aware of your expectations.

Gospel Reflection

In our Gospel this weekend, we hear a conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus, a Pharisee. Nicodemus probably expected the Messiah to be a great King like David, liberating his people. He came to Jesus by night, curious about Him, expecting to learn more about God. But he didn't expect Jesus' answer about being born again of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus, with a heavenly perspective, expected His crucifixion to be a victory, a healing, a salvation. He referenced Moses lifting the serpent in the desert, symbolising healing for those who looked upon it. Jesus expected to be lifted up on the cross, not as a defeat, but as a triumph of God's saving love. Whoever believes in Him, that is looks upon Him with the eyes of faith, will be saved for eternal life.

Nicodemus was present at Jesus' burial, bringing myrrh and aloes. By then, perhaps he shared the disciples' lost hope, expecting Jesus to redeem Israel. But was he able to recall Jesus' words and see the cross as a throne of glory, a source of healing and eternal life?

Personal Reflection

And what about you? It might seem easier to lower your expectations or have none at all. The 18th century poet Alexander Pope once wrote: "*Blessed is he who expects nothing, for he shall not be disappointed.*" But that's a sad way to live. Low expectations can hurt our hearts.

Can you gaze upon Jesus with faith, even in pain and confusion, and let Him shape your expectations? Can you let God's vision of you be the lens through which you see your life?

Our Heavenly Father has a Great Expectation: for us to become like His Son. Let's embrace this expectation, allowing it to lift us up and guide us in our journey of faith.

Fr. Benedict's Farewell Celebrations with Special Guest - Archbishop Andrew Nkea of Bamenda. One Parish, One Family - Sending Him Off with Love and Gratitude: Whether you cooked, sang, served, decorated, prayed, or simply showed up - you made a difference. THANK YOU for helping us honour Fr. Benedict with such joy and unity. We're now sharing a wonderful selection of photographs on Facebook - click here, that capture the warmth, colour, and spirit of the celebration. Thank you again to everyone who contributed and shared their memories. Let's continue to walk together in faith, friendship, and gratitude.

OUTREACH

Thankyou from the CWL (Catholic Women's League): To all who supported September's Soup & Pud Lunch, which raised £330 for Winchester Youth Counselling. The next Charity Lunch will be on Friday 3rd October.

St Vincent de Paul (SVP) Awareness Month – Week 2: As SVP Awareness Month continues, we're shining a light on one of our most heartfelt annual projects - Christmas Parcels. Each year, our SVP members prepare and deliver over 100 festive food parcels to local families and individuals who may be struggling. These parcels include seasonal treats, basic essentials, and a small gift voucher - bringing comfort and joy at a time that can be especially difficult for many. This is our largest annual financial commitment, and we rely on the generosity of parishioners and fundraising efforts to make it happen. Your support truly makes a difference. To learn more, get involved, or refer someone for support, please email

 $\underline{svp@stpeterswinchester.org.uk} \ \ Donations \ welcome \ via \ bank \ transfer:$

Account: B170404 SVP St Peter - Winchester. Acc No: 46075542 | Sort Code: 60-60-04.

SVP Mass with Prayers for Healing and Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick: Will take place at St Peter's Church on **Saturday October 11th 2025 at 2:00pm.** Please email **SVP@stpeterswinchester.org.uk** if you would like to attend but require transport. An open invitation for all with refreshments in the Pastoral Centre afterwards.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf.. Ga 6:14

We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.

FIRST READING

First reading: Numbers 21:4b-9

Responsorial Psalm: 78(77):1-2. 34-35. 36-37. 38. R. cf. 7b

Never forget the deeds of the Lord!

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel Acclamation:

R. Alleluia, alleluia

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your Cross you have redeemed the world

R. Alleluia

GOSPEL

John 3:13-17

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Cf. Jn 12:32

When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself, says the Lord.

SVP



OUTREACH CONT'D...

CAFOD: You are invited to a CAFOD meeting at St Bedes Church Hall Basingstoke on **Saturday 20th September** from **10:30am to 1:30pm**. Come and hear about the difference your donations are making to communities around the world and CAFOD's work with partners in Southern Ethiopia . A simple lunch will be provided so please book your place by emailing Jo on **jlewry@cafod.org.uk**

Volunteers Needed – Football with New Arrivals: There are people in Winchester and in our Parish who are seeking asylum, please welcome them with love, dignity and compassion. We are looking for parishioners who would be willing to play football with a group of men who have recently moved to Winchester. This simple act of friendship can make a real difference, offering companionship and a chance for them to feel part of the community. If you can help, please contact Lesley at: lsbrowning@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Laudato SI: Winchester Green Week will run from **20th -28th September 2025**, with a launch in the Cathedral grounds on **20 September**. Read about all the planned events by <u>clicking here</u>: Here in the Parish we will celebrate the new Mass for the Care of Creation that has just been authorised by Pope Leo on **Friday 26 September at 12:15pm.** Do come along if you can to pray together for our common home.

NEWS ACROSS THE DIOCESE

Joint Bishops' Statement on Asylum: Bishop Philip Egan (Catholic Bishop of Portsmouth) and Bishop Jonathan Frost (Anglican Bishop of Portsmouth) have issued a joint statement on immigration and asylum in response to recent protests in Southsea. They remind us of Christ's call to welcome the stranger, stand with the vulnerable, and seek long-term, compassionate solutions. To read the full statement <u>click here.</u>

PARISH NEWS

Parish Photography – Upcoming Masses: We're refreshing our parish website and communications, and would love to capture the joy and spirit of our community in action. A photographer will be attending selected Sunday Masses to take photos for use across our digital and print media. If you'd prefer not to be included, no problem at all - just let us know in advance by emailing office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk or speaking to a welcomer before Mass. Pews at the back of church will be designated as a photo-free zone, so feel free to sit there if you'd like to opt out. Photography Schedule:

- Sunday 14th Sept St Stephen's (9.15am) & St Gregory's (11.00am)
- Sunday 28th Sept St Peter's (10.30am), Filipino Mass and Sunday 5th Oct St Thomas More's (9.00am)

Photos will be taken on behalf of St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs, part of the Portsmouth Diocese, in line with diocesan privacy policies. Thank you for helping us celebrate the life of our parish—your presence makes it all the more special.

Pies & Puds Lunch: It's time for our monthly lunch event, on **Wednesday 17th September** at the Pastoral Centre, 12.45 for 1pm. We'll be serving home-made pies, all the vegetables you can eat, proper puddings with custard, and vegetarian and G/F options. After lunch, there'll be a talk about Across, a charity taking those with special needs to Lourdes. There is no booking or commitment necessary, but do contact **moirar@msn.com** with any questions or to be added to our mailing list.

Winchester Catholic History Society: The new Season's programme for the Winchester Catholic History Society starts on Wednesday 17 September when Dr James Ross of the University of Winchester will be speaking on 'Henry VII - A Reassessment'. 6:30pm in the Parish Centre. New members and Visitors, £7.00, most welcome. Enquiries email: win.cath.history@gmail.com

Looking ahead:

- Wednesday 15 October Mgr Philip Whitmore 'I Have Come to Set the World on Fire: The Founding of the VEC in Rome'.
- Friday 28 November Lord (Chris) Patten 'What Ever Happened to The Global Order?'
- Wednesday 10 December Dr Frances Sands 'Architecture in the Age of Elegance'.
- Friday 30 January Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe 'An Evening with Cardinal Radcliffe'. Further information: www.winchestercatholichistorysociety.com

SCHOOLS

Second Collection - Catholic Education Service: This weekend's second collection supports the mission to safeguard and strengthen Catholic education across England and Wales. <u>Click here</u> for more information and explore their Strategic Plan 2025–2028 <u>here</u>.

Thank you for helping ensure our schools remain places where faith and learning grow together.

St Peter's Catholic Primary School: Please click here for the latest newsletter.

CATECHESIS - SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES

Sacrament of Confirmation - Preparation: Bishop Philip has kindly agreed to come and celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for our young people (under 18) here in the parish Sunday, 24th May 2026 at 2:00pm at St Peter's Church. Fr Mark would like to invite all our young people (about to start Year 9 and above) to come to an information session, with their parents, on **Sunday 14th September, from 3:00pm to 5:00pm in St. Peter's Pastoral Centre.** If you're planning on attending this session, please fill in **this form** or scan the QR code here the right of this notice.



First Holy Communion Program 2026: Applications are still open for the 2026 First Holy Communion Programme and there is a final chance to attend the compulsory parents' session on **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 <u>click here</u> 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: <u>rosanne@stpeterswinchester.org.uk</u>

New Season - Journey in Faith: The Journey in Faith course provides an opportunity to discover more about the Christian faith and what we believe and practice in the Catholic Church. In our sessions, we reflect on Scripture, share our questions about faith, explore the Sacramental encounter with our living Lord through the Church, and discuss the relevance of the Church's teachings to our lives.

When & Where: From October 2nd, we meet regularly on Thursday evenings at 7:30PM, at St Peter's Church Parish Centre. Who is it for: For some, the programme is a space to simply learn more about the Church, its teachings, and the Sacraments. For other, it serves as a preparation to be received into the Catholic Church. Catholics and non-Catholics are equally welcome. What to expect: The programme consists of about twenty sessions over the year. Each session includes a reflection on the Gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday Mass and an informative discussion on a specific aspect of the Catholic faith. The atmosphere is informal and welcoming. Contact Alexis adelaferriere@stpeterswinchester.org.uk or the parish office.

FORMATION DAYS

Called and Gifted Diocesan Alumni Day - Saturday 20th September at Pastoral Centre Hall, St Peter's Church, Winchester: Don't miss out on our Reunion Event. Join us for a day of prayer and fellowship.

The C&G team invite everyone who has experienced the Called and Gifted discernment process to a day of prayer, worship, formation, and sharing at St Peter's, Winchester. Our theme is: "A house built on rock is not washed away like a house built on sand." Together, we'll explore how to build our lives more firmly on Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit.

When: Registration from 9:30am | Mass at 10:00am. Where: St Peter's Church, Winchester.

The morning will include prayer, praise and formation on the theme. After a provided lunch, the afternoon will bring a guided meditation, small-group sharing, and a talk on accompaniment in ministry. We'll finish with prayer and worship.

To book, email Joan at <u>calledandgifted@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</u> (lunch included, donations welcome; please mention any dietary needs). Parking at St Peter's is limited. Public car parks, Park & Ride, and the train station (5 mins walk) are nearby. If you receive a prophetic word or image for the day, please email the team at <u>calledandgifted@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</u>.

NB: Although Winchester is a great central location, parking at St Peter's is very limited. However, there is plenty of public parking nearby (click here for a map) with several car parks only a 5 minute walk from St Peter's on Jewry St. In addition, there is a very good Park and Ride service and the train station is also only a 5 minute walk from St Peter's.

COMMUNITY

St Anne's Catholic School, Southampton: Warmly invites Year 4, 5 and 6 families to the following open event on **Wednesday 24th September.** Morning: 9:00am –11:00am – tour the school in action. Evening: 6:00pm–8:00pm – meet staff & pupils, guided tours. A top 10% school nationally for progress and results. All families welcome. For full details and booking information, please <u>click here</u>

Winchester Camerata Classical Concert: Fr. Andrew Moore, is giving a concert of Spanish and Latin American music at St Paul's Church (SO22 5AB) on **Saturday 11th October at 7:00pm**. The concert is in aid of Home Start Winchester a charity which helps families in Winchester in need of support. Cost - £20. <u>Click here</u> to book tickets.

FUNERALS

Frank Parr RIP - Funeral Tuesday, 23rd September at 10:00am St Peter's Church. Lionel Pretty RIP. Please pray for their families and friends at this difficult time. May God grant them eternal rest.

BAPTISM

Welcome to Chukwuemerie Uche-Ojike who was baptised at St Stephen's Church and Abigail Cooper who was baptised at St Peter's Church last week. May God bless her with His love and grace, today and always.

WEDDINGS

In the coming months, the following couples will be celebrating the Sacrament of Marriage at St Peter's: Daniel Buckey & Ophelia King, Tony Reilly & Philomena Crumlish. We look forward to their joyful celebrations

PRAYER CORNER

Let us pray that our Alpha testimonials over the next two weekends, together with the prayers of our community, will inspire new friends to join and so grow in faith.



A Warm Meal, an Open Heart, and Space to Explore Life's Big Questions:

The next Alpha course commences on **Monday 29th September** with an evening meal at 7:15pm. Please pray for the Alpha Team and pray for our guests.

If you have been thinking of inviting a close friend to join our Church but aren't sure how to go about it, Alpha is a really good way to introduce people to our faith in a gentle, welcoming setting, with food and friendship and no strings attached!



Parish Centenary Pilgrimage Plans 2026

As part of the Parish Centenary celebrations, planning is underway to offer 3 parish Pilgrimages, led by Father Mark, during the Centenary Year. We would like as many people as possible to take part.

1. Camino de Santiago-Ingles route.

Walking the English route from Ferrol to Santiago de Compostela – 119KM/75 miles. This will be a 7/8 day trip departing on **Monday 8th June 2026** and returning either Sunday 14th or Monday 15th.

Day 1 Air travel to Santiago De Compostela from London, transfers to Ferroll. Day 2-6 walking the Camino Ingles, distances per day vary between 17- 30Km - (11 - 18 miles). The walking is of moderate intensity but a good level of walking fitness will be required to walk these distances every day for 5 days. Accommodation is B&B and dinner in 2/3 star hotels with bag transfer included.

Day 7 - Free day in Santiago de Compostela. Day 8 travel back to London/Winchester.

Final costs will depend on numbers but anticipated at around £1,100 to include flights, transfers, accommodation in a twin room, breakfast and dinner, bag transfers.

2. Parish pilgrimage to the Catholic National Shrine & Basilica of our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk (<u>Catholic National Shrine & Basilica of Our Lady, Walsingham</u>)

This 2 day trip will depart early on Monday 10th August and return late on the 11th August.

Day 1 We plan to travel by coach early on Monday morning to Holkham Hall & Estate Holkham Hall & Estate | Norfolk, England (arriving mid morning) with the rest of the day to enjoy this fabulous Palladian mansion, gardens and parkland. Late afternoon we will travel on the short distance to Walsingham and our accommodation at Elmham House – the Shrine's Pilgrim Hotel, for Mass and supper and a stroll around Walsingham Village and environs.

Day 2 For those able to we will walk the Holy Mile – the last mile of the Pilgrim Way to the site of the Shrine of Our Lady, (coach transfer also available). During the day there will be the opportunity to take part in the daily schedule of worship which includes Sacrament of Reconciliation, The Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Pilgrim's Mass. We will depart late afternoon for the return journey, stopping en route for a meal before arriving in Winchester circa 9pm.

Cost – depending on numbers for transport from Winchester, accommodation, meals (excluding lunch on day 1 and dinner day 2), entry to Holkham Hall and Gardens circa £200.

3. Pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi October 2026

An 8 day visit taking in various locations in Rome, including Mass in St Peter's, a papal audience, and tour of St Peter's. Focus will be on Christian Rome but with opportunities to explore classical Rome. Likely to spend 3/4 days in Rome and 2 full days in Assisi with visits to other sites en route.

Package will include transport from Winchester to London airports, flights accommodation and meals, entry to various locations throughout, transport and a guide. Full itinerary to be confirmed and dates of travel in October 2026 to be agreed once an idea of numbers of interested people is understood.

Indicative costs at this early stage are awaited but likely to be circa £1,500 per person.

A meeting to provide more information and to answer questions is planned for **28th September at 7:00pm at the Pastoral Centre** for anyone interested in taking part in any of these Pilgrimages. For any enquiries/ expressions of interest please contact <u>pilgrimage@stpeterswinchester.org.uk</u> (link now corrected - apologies for last week).

MASS TIMETABLE THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS - 14TH SEPTEMBER 2025 | YEAR C

Date	Times	Where	Intentions
Sat 13 Sept St John Chrysostom	9:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	
	9:30AM to 10:30AM	Confession at St Peter's	
Sunday VIGIL The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	4:30PM to 5.00PM	Confession at St Peter's	
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Souls in Purgatory
Sun 14th Sept The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	8:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	People of the Parish
	9:00AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	Frank Parr RIP
	9:15AM	Mass at St Stephen's - Family Mass & St Stephen's Players	
	10:30AM	Mass at St Peter's	Anne Muir RIP
	11:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's - Family Mass	Veronica Downey RIP
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Bruce & Kathleen Cowling RIP
Mon 15 Sept	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's	
Our Lady of Sorrows	12.15pm	Mass at St Peter's	For the Holy Souls
Tues 16 Sept Ss Cornelius & Cyprian	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 RIP
	2:00PM	School Mass at St Stephen's	
Wed 17 Sept St Hildegard of Bingen & St Robert Bellarmine	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	Wedding Anniversary Mass Mr & Mrs Hodder
Thur 18 Sept Week 24 of Ordinary Time	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Mass at St Peter's	Founders
Fri 19 Sept St Januarius & St Theodore of Canterbury	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 William Meader
Sat 20 Sept St Andrew Kim Taegon, St Paul Chong Hasang & Companions	10:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul of Mary Keating
	10:30AM to 11:30AM	Confession at St Peter's	
	4:30PM to 5:00PM	Confession at St Peter's	
Sunday VIGIL Week 25 in Ordinary Time	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Eva Misquith (Birthday)

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.

St Peter's - Livestreaming Notice September 2025

Deadline for items for newsletter requests submit by <u>Wednesday mid-day!</u> **CONTACTS:**

For a full list of contact details for our Parish, please visit our website: www.catholicwinchester.org.uk or email office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk to be directed to the correct person.

Parish Office: office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Finance: accounts@stpeterswinchester.org.uk Tel: 01962 852804

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.