

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:

Why We're Wonderfully Weird - Keeping it Simple

Night of Light - Family Celebration

Blessed Winchester Martyrs



FATHER MARK WRITES: WHY WE'RE WONDERFULLY WEIRD – KEEPING IT SIMPLE

We are spending some time looking at who we are as a parish as we move toward the centenary of St. Peter's Church. Last week, we looked at the centrality of the Bible - the Word of God. If you'd like me to send you some useful resources to help you delve more fully into Scripture, please [follow this link and fill in the form.](#)

This week's Gospel (Luke 18:9-14) gives us a crystal-clear answer to a question that challenges many of us: *How can I have a relationship with God that doesn't feel overwhelming and burdensome?*

The story begins...

"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector." (Luke 18:10)

The Pharisee, proud of his own piety, prays to himself:

"God, I thank you that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even this tax-collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get." (Luke 18:11-12)

He lists his good works, then looks down on everyone else. His prayer is a self-righteous litany of self-praise; but he never lifts his heart to God.

In stark contrast, the tax-collector stands at a distance, beats his breast (like we do during the Confiteor in Mass), and says, simply:

"God, be merciful to me a sinner!" (Luke 18:13)

He offers no justification—just a humble plea for mercy. Jesus tells us:

"I tell you, this man went home justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 18:14)

The tax-collector's prayer is **seven simple words**, yet his is the prayer which "gets a hearing." As St John Paul II reminds us, "The tax collector...does not dwell on justifications but on his unworthiness" ([Veritatis Splendour 104](#)).

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.

30TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - SUNDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2025 | YEAR C

The tax collector, just like the paralysed man who was brought to Jesus on a stretcher by his friends, came with authentic humility: "What you see is what you get". For both, this simplicity opened the door to healing and forgiveness.

Simplicity is an aspirational value for our parish

In our parish, we aim to keep things simple (although we know that we don't always achieve this!). We do not mean "simplistic" when we speak of simplicity. Behind every Sunday Mass, every children's ministry, every outreach project, there is much hard work, love, and prayer. What we try to avoid is the temptation to make faith a maze of insider rules, 'secret handshakes', and endless "how-to" lists that keep newcomers at an arm's length.

Jesus repeatedly cut through such complexity:

- "Love God with all your heart, soul, and strength, and love your neighbour as yourself." (the Great Commandment)
- "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (the Great Commission)
- "Forgive one another always." (question on forgiveness)

Our simple mission, vision, and steps

- **Mission:** *Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ in hope and joy.*
- **Vision:** *Jesus will heal and transform lives when we have expectant faith and remove obstacles to encountering Him.*
- **Strategy:** *Create A Place for All to encounter Jesus.*

From these flow **five simple steps** that sum up everything we try to do:

1. **Serve others** – love God by loving our neighbours.
2. **Trust God** with our time, treasure, and talents – let Him use what we have been given.
3. **Engage** in a small group – share and grow together.
4. **Practice prayer** and participate in the sacraments – keep the tax-collector's simple prayer alive in our hearts.
5. **Share the joy** of the Gospel – invite others to experience the same mercy.

A concrete invitation

Here's some 'homework' from me for this week:

1. **Reflect** – Ask yourself: Am I adding unnecessary rules to my prayer life? Is my pride getting in the way of my relationship with God?
2. **Confess** – The Sacrament of Reconciliation is the ordinary way to receive God's mercy (CCC 1424). Even if you can't go this week, plan your next celebration of this beautiful Sacrament.
3. **Pray the simple prayer** – "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."
4. **Choose one of the five steps** – Take a concrete action this week that moves you closer to God

Also, if you feel we as a parish have made faith more complicated for you, please let us know at centenary@stpeterswinchester.org.uk. We want to try and keep the path to God as clear as a flowing river rather than a muddy swamp, for you and all our guests.

Finally, let us remember the words of the tax-collector and the Gospel: **"God, be merciful to me, a sinner."** In that simple plea we find the doorway to a life of joy, hope, and true communion with Jesus Christ.

May the Holy Spirit grant us the humility to keep our faith simple, the courage to live it boldly, and the grace to bring others along the way.

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

Night of Light – Family Celebration - Friday 31st October, 4.00pm–7.30pm: Mark your calendars and bring the whole family for our Night of Light – a joyful evening designed especially for children and their families. Expect fun, laughter, games, and the chance to connect with other families in a safe, welcoming and faith-filled environment. This will be a celebration of light, friendship and community - an opportunity to come together and share in something uplifting and memorable.

If you and your family would like to come, sign up here

<https://stpeterswinchester.churchsuite.com/-/forms/itdpnwjg> (or scan the QR code here). You will receive a confirmation email with what to bring and other essential info about the evening. Please look out for the email, read and sign up to contribute! We look forward to seeing you there!



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

FIRST READING

First reading: Sirach 35:15b-17,20-22b

Responsorial Psalm: Ps

34(33):2-3. 17-18. 19, 23. R. 7a

The lowly one called, and the Lord heard him.

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Gospel Acclamation:

R. Alleluia, alleluia

God was in Christ reconciling the world himself, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

R. Alleluia

GOSPEL

Luke 18:9-14

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Cf. Ps 19:6

We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.

Family Rosary in October: October is the month dedicated to the Holy Rosary. Pope Leo XIV has invited us all once again to pray the rosary for peace: "I invite everyone, each day of the coming month, to pray the Rosary for peace - personally, in the family, and in community"

Why not pray the rosary together as a family? Or join with another family? Never prayed the rosary before? Don't worry! Why not consider praying just one decade.

Here is one way of praying. [Click here](#) to access a link and you will find videos of all the 20 mysteries of the rosary. Each mystery is prayerfully introduced through scripture and imagining the scene, and then we're led through the prayers for that decade. Each video only lasts 6 or 7 minutes and you simply pray along!

A family Rosary will be led every Saturday in St Peter's Church after the 9:00am Mass, **starting at 9:45am**. This is aimed at children and families but all are very welcome!

Extended Eucharistic Adoration – First Fridays: There will be an extended period of adoration, **from 9:00am-12:00noon** starting on **7th November** in St. Peter's Church. This is a beautiful opportunity for anyone and everyone to simply spend some time "gazing at the Lord, whilst He gazes at you". You can come and go as you please during this time and stay for as little or as long as you wish.

We are, however, specifically looking for **2 people to "cover" each hour, so from 9-10am; 10-11am; 11am-12:00noon**. Please let the office know if you are available to cover one of these slots. Email office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Sung Compline – First Fridays at St Peter's: Step into stillness with Latin Sung Compline, the Church's Night Prayer, on **Friday 7th November at 9.00pm in St Peter's Church**. In just 20 minutes, this simple, contemplative liturgy brings a peaceful close to the day. No need to sing - simply come and pray. If you'd like to try Gregorian Chant, join the rehearsal at 8.00pm beforehand.

From now on, Sung Compline will be held on the first Friday of every month — a new rhythm of prayer, beauty and peace at the heart of our parish.

MUSIC

🔥 **Hearts on Fire! Praise & Adoration - Sunday 16 November | 7:00–8:00pm | Milner Hall:** Get ready to lift your heart and your voice! 🙌 Join us for an unforgettable evening of Adoration, prayer, and powerful praise & worship music that will ignite your spirit and bring our parish alive in song. Whether you've never been to Adoration before or you love to sing your heart out - this is your moment to connect, to celebrate, and to let your faith set your heart on fire for Jesus!



Let's fill Milner Hall with joy, energy, and worship — because every voice matters and every heart can burn bright with His love.

"Every knee shall bow...and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." – Philippians 2:10–11

David Hall Organ Recital: To celebrate National Play the Organ Year 2025, David Hall is presenting two events on **Wednesday 5th November at St Mary's Church, Twyford, SO21 1NW**.

From 1 pm to 4:30 pm, David will be in the church to supervise anybody who wants to come and "have a go" on the organ. Anybody of any age and ability is welcome (children must bring a parent/guardian). To book a free organ lesson/try-out please scan the QR code here on your right to book a slot.

At 6:30 pm, David will be giving an organ recital. The concert will be approximately one hour long and will be followed by refreshments. Tickets are £12.50 and are available directly from David or by scanning the QR code here or visit [click here](#) to book tickets.



Sing for St Cecilia – St Stephen's Church, Saturday 22nd November, 10am–12noon: Celebrate the Feast of St Cecilia, the patron saint of music, with a joyful morning of song at St Stephen's. Everyone is warmly welcome to drop in, sing favourite hymns, and share in the happiness that music brings. Stay for the whole session or come for a few songs — the choice is yours. Tea and coffee will be served throughout, giving voices a chance to rest and friends time to chat. To request a hymn you love, email music@stpeterswinchester.org.uk by Friday 7th November, and we'll do our best to include it. Come and lift your voice in celebration and praise.

FUNERALS

Julia Coles RIP - 28th October at 12.15pm. Attilio Lanni RIP - 6th November at 10.00am. Martin Howell RIP - 13th November 11.30am.
Raymond Burke RIP - 14th November at 12.15pm.
Laura Wilson RIP. Nicolas Cordero RIP.

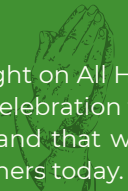
Funerals will take place at St Peter's Church. Please pray for their family and friends at this difficult time. May God grant them eternal rest.

BAPTISMS

Welcome to Esmeralda Delaney and Chika Carter who were baptised last week at St Peter's Church. May God bless them with His love and grace, today and always.

PRAYER CORNER

Let us pray that our Night of Light on All Hallows Eve provides a joyful Christian celebration for the vigil of the Feast of All Saints, and that we may be the Light of the World for others today.





“The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds, and he will not be consoled until it reaches the Lord; he will not desist until the Most High visits him, and does justice for the righteous, and executes judgment.”

Sirach 35:17:

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Lord's Flock 10-Year Anniversary Celebration - Sunday 26th October 2:00 to 5:00pm, Pastoral Centre at St Peter's Church: All welcome to join us for a time of prayer, worship, and fellowship. Please confirm attendance for catering purposes to Liza Franco: office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Patronal Feast - Solemnity of the Blessed Winchester Martyrs: On Thursday, 30th October, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Blessed Winchester Martyrs, one of our parish Patronal Feast Days. Please consider joining Fr Pedro for the **10:00am Mass** or Fr Mark for the **7.00pm Mass** on this day, as we pray for the continued intercession and inspiration of those from our parish who have gone before us and are now in heaven watching over us and cheering us on. After the 7:00pm Mass, there will be some light refreshments in the Pastoral Centre ([please click here to register your interest to attend](#)) and Fr Mark will share a few brief words about his hopes for the Centenary year ahead.

CWL Soup and Pud Lunch: The next lunch will be held in the Pastoral Centre on **Friday 7th November 12.30pm-2.00pm** supporting the Boaz Project, a farm based charity for people with learning disabilities. Delicious homemade soups and lovely puddings for a suggested donation of £7, please come along and join us.

OUTREACH

Laudato Si: Pope Leo: Superhero? At the beginning of this month, Pope Leo made his first major statement on the climate. He stated that there is 'no room for indifference or resignation' and spoke out about those who ridicule the idea of global warming. Arnold Schwarzenegger has called Pope Leo a real world 'action hero' for his leadership on this issue! Let us pray that the whole church can be united in working together for the care of our common home.

PILGRIMAGES

Parish Centenary Pilgrimages 2026 – Get Ready to Journey! Join Father Mark on one of three incredible pilgrimages during our Parish Centenary Year.

Walk the Camino de Santiago - June 2026
The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham August 2026
Explore the wonders of Rome & Assisi October 2026

Each trip is designed to inspire, deepen faith, and create unforgettable memories. [Click here](#) the link to see full details and secure your place: For enquiries, email pilgrimage@stpeterswinchester.org.uk.

Note: If you are interested in any of the above pilgrimages and haven't registered your interest yet, we encourage you to do so now! We are looking to finalise numbers.

NEWS ACROSS THE DIOCESE

A Healthy Reason for a Strong Faith: Beginning Sunday 2nd November at 2:00pm in St Joseph's Hall, Tangier Road, Copnor, Portsmouth. Fr. Serafino Lanzetta invites you to explore a "A Healthy Reason for a Strong Faith: Encounters with the Great Philosophical Themes." This monthly series opens up the beautiful partnership between faith and reason guiding us to reflect on what truly endures beyond the rush of daily life. Join us for an inspiring journey of thought, conversation and discovery.

Every first Sunday of the month. [Click here](#) to find out more.

Neurodiversity and the Catholic Faith: The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, through its Biblical Apostolate, and Birmingham Newman University are conducting research into Neurodiversity and our faith. If you're an adult neurodivergent Catholic or a caregiver of a neurodivergent Catholic, we want to hear from you. Your experiences will help us to become more aware of and responsive to your needs. Please [click here](#) for further details.

SCHOOL

Job vacancy at St Peter's Catholic Primary School: Little Fishes Pre-School Assistant (SEND 1:1 support. Contract/hours: Fixed term to 22nd July 2026, term time only. 12 hours per week – days/timings to be agreed. Salary range: B:3 - C:3 (dependent on qualifications). Start date: ASAP, Closing date: **Friday 31st October (midday)**. Interview date: w/c 3rd November. See the vacancies tab on the school website <http://www.stpetershants.co.uk/vacancies> for the job description/person specification and application procedure.

St Peter's Catholic School: [Click here](#) for the newsletter.

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

Date	Times	Where	Intentions
Sat 25 Oct Our Lady on Saturday Sunday VIGIL Week 30 in Ordinary Time	9:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul of William Meader
	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	People of the Parish
Sun 26 Oct Week 30 in Ordinary Time	8:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	Chris Barham RIP
	9:00AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	Oliver Hinds RIP
	9:15AM	Mass at St Stephen's	Jack Kilroy RIP
	10:30AM	Mass at St Peter's (Choir)	In Loving Memory of Maria Jose Fernandes , Praying the Lord May Grant Her Eternal Rest & Peace
	11:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Repose of the Soul of Kathleen Stewart
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	Dr Pietro Ligato RIP
Mon 27 Oct Week 30 in Ordinary Time	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's	
	12.15pm	Mass at St Peter's	Thanksgiving for Ceser's Birthday
Tues 28 Oct Ss Simon & Jude	8:00AM	Morning Prayer, Adoration at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Noel McNicholas RIP
	12:15PM	Funeral Mass at St Peter's (Julia Coles)	
Wed 29 Oct Week 30 in Ordinary Time	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	All Deceased Winiarska Family RIP
Thur 30 Oct Week 30 in Ordinary Time	8:00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul of Agnes Mary Robinson
	7:00PM	Mass & Talk Solemnity of Blessed Winchester Martyrs at St Peter's	Closer To Christ Benefactors
Fri 31 Oct Week 30 in Ordinary Time	8.00AM	Morning Prayer & Adoration at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	The Soul of Richard Wheble
	12:15PM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul of John McKendry
Sat 1 Nov Our Lady on Saturday Sunday VIGIL Week 31 in Ordinary Time	9:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	Myra Squire 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	People of the Parish

Watch live or catch up later on our [YouTube channel](#) — all services from St Peter's, including Morning Prayer and Adoration, are livestreamed. [St Peter's - Livestreaming Notice September 2025](#)

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 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.

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