

PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

13TH SEPTEMBER 2020

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

‘COME BACK TO ME’ SAYS THE LORD

PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE BISHOP to all Baptised Catholics in the Diocese of Portsmouth
on 13th September 2020, the Twenty-Fourth Sunday of the Year
‘COME BACK TO ME’ SAYS THE LORD

Dear Friends,

I am writing to everyone in our Diocese of Portsmouth, to every baptised Catholic, to all the clergy, religious and lay faithful, and to all members of our parishes, schools and communities. I write too to everyone of good will, to those ‘with ears to hear’, to anyone searching for God, and to all who wish to meet His Son, Jesus Christ and to know more about His Gospel. I say to you all: Come back! Come back to Mass! Come back to church for private prayer! Come back to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament! You are truly welcome - we have missed you!

These last months have been extraordinary. The pandemic has caused great harm, physical, mental, emotional and financial. Sadly, many have fallen sick and some have lost their lives. At the same time, medical staff and key workers have responded with remarkable generosity and courage. Across our Diocese, parishes and schools, clergy and faithful have been highly creative. Priests have done all they can to serve their parishioners: live-streaming Masses, hearing Confessions in gardens, keeping in touch by email, phone and Zoom meetings. Parishioners have generously continued their financial support. Hospital chaplains have selflessly served the dying, ensuring they receive the Last Sacraments, Absolution and the Apostolic Pardon. Schools have sent out food parcels to the housebound. Our diocesan Caritas has adapted their projects to continue supporting the needy, whilst the work of CAFOD has been flourishing. Now that schools and many others are returning to work, let us keep up this good work. Let us keep safe. And let us ask the Lord for an end to the pandemic, the invention of a vaccine and the restoration of ordinary life. In inviting you back to Mass, I am aware that in some places and for some of you - those self-shielding, the sick, the vulnerable – this will not yet be possible. Moreover, we are aware too that the infection-rate is varying, and we might even face a local lockdown. Indeed, for everyone it will require care, prudence and adjustments. It might mean attending Mass on a weekday instead of a Sunday. But as we enter the autumn and our schools return, rather than focusing on what we cannot do, let us focus on what we can, so that the great mission of our Diocese of Portsmouth can go forward: Bringing People Closer to Jesus Christ through His Church.

Most of our churches are now open, with very stringent safety procedures in place. I thank our clergy and parishioners for their massive efforts. If you can, please do volunteer your time, help and support so we can keep up this good work. The pandemic has shown us how fragile modern life is. It has caused us to review our priorities. It has made us face our mortality and the question of God. For weeks, by government mandate, our churches were closed and the public celebration of the Liturgy suspended. I know that many felt hurt by this. As human beings we have not only bodily needs but spiritual needs too. Moreover, it is in our churches that the Lord sanctifies, teaches and guides us, uniting us together, giving us the Sacraments of eternal life, and sending us out on mission and service. Many followed Mass online and spoke of their hunger and thirst for God. Online has its place and we thank God for all the work done to enable this. But online is not the same as ‘inline’ and being there. It’s not the same as actually receiving Jesus in Holy Communion. It’s not the same as participating in the presence of the eucharistic community.

This is why I say: Come back to the Lord to be nourished by His Word and His Sacraments! True, the canonical obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days is still suspended. But what about the Lord Who calls to us in our hearts: “The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice: I know them and they follow me” (John 10: 27)? What about His promise: “Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I in him” (John 6: 56)? What about His invitation: “Come follow me” (Mark 1: 17)? His offer: “I have come that they may have life and have it to the full” (John 10: 10)? Surely, we do not follow Jesus our Lord and Master simply out of habit or duty? No, we follow Him because we love Him. We follow Him because He has called us. We follow Him because He is our Saviour: He has laid down His life for us.

May our diocesan patrons Mary Immaculate, St. Edmund and Bl. Pier Giorgio, pray for you and protect you. May they obtain for you freedom from fear. May they inspire in you a generous response to the Lord’s call.

Thank you for listening – and please be assured of my prayers.

In Corde Iesu,

+Philip

Bishop of Portsmouth

Welcome..... If this is your first time with us, or first time reading the newsletter, then you are particularly welcome. Please get in touch - we'd love to tell you about everything that's going on here, and invite you to join us. Just to start you off, elsewhere in the newsletter you will find our services, our virtual church timetable, and an invitation to Alpha. Look on the website <https://www.catholicwinchester.org.uk/> or email office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk . If you are here for the new University term, say hello! We'd love to link up with you. We have a facebook page for young people which is a great place to start: www.facebook.com/groups/3316441145103881/

Staying connected Fr Mark wants to make sure we keep connected as a Parish, and to this end a team of parishioners will be calling round to people to pass on his good wishes and to try to make sure our contact details are up-to-date. Being able to reach out to each other has been even more vital in the time of the pandemic, so we hope everyone will understand and be happy to take the call. Of course you should always be careful on the phone – no-one from the Parish will be asking you anything sensitive. If you have any questions or issues contact the Parish Office: 01962 852804 or email office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Alpha Online – YOU ARE INVITED. YOU ARE WELCOME...

Join us on our next Alpha course as we explore some of the big questions of faith and life in an informal and relaxed manner. A guest shared, 'I now have a much stronger personal relationship with Jesus and a stronger commitment to prayer. I have allowed the Holy Spirit to lead me in my life and I am finding ways to be an active part of the worshipping community'.

Now is the time. Here is the place. To register on the course, visit www.catholicwinchester.org.uk/alpha

If you would like to invite a friend to join Alpha but are unsure who to invite or why, please watch this short clip <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OI5wAFuky1w> or send them this invitation <http://bit.ly/AlphaOnlineWinchester>



Date	Mass Times & Intentions	Livestream/Public
SATURDAY – September 12th <i>The Most Holy Name of Mary (opt. mem.) or Feria</i>	9.00AM	Public & Livestream
	5.30PM John & Pat Thornhill – Gold Anniversary	Public & Livestream (booking required)
SUNDAY – September 13th <i>TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.00AM	Public & Livestream (booking required)
	10:00AM People of the Parish	Livestream only
	11:00AM St Gregory's	Public (booking required)
	12:00Noon Rev J Martin RIP	Public & Livestream (booking required)
MONDAY – September 14th <i>THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS (FEAST)</i>	5:30PM	Public & Livestream (booking required)
	12:15PM Bruce & Kathleen Howling RIP	Public & Livestream
TUESDAY – September 15th <i>Our Lady of Sorrows (mem)</i>	7:00PM	Livestream only
	10:00AM Deceased and Founders of the Parish RIP	Public & Livestream
WEDNESDAY – September 16th <i>Ss Cornelius & Cyprian (mem)</i>	7:00PM Philippa Tatham RIP	Livestream only
	10:00AM Craig Andrew Fisher RIP	Public & Livestream
THURSDAY – September 17th <i>St Hildegard of Bingen (opt. mem.) or St Robert Bellarmine (opt. mem.) or Feria</i>	7:00PM	Livestream only
	10:00AM Catholic Women's League	Public & Livestream
FRIDAY – September 18th <i>Feria</i>	10:00AM St Gregory's	Public
	12:15PM C. Coch RIP	Public & Livestream
	7:00PM	Livestream only
SATURDAY – September 19th <i>St Januarius (opt. mem.) or Our Lady on Saturday or Feria</i>	9:00AM	Public & Livestream
	5:30PM Intentions of the Neil Family	Public & Livestream (booking required)
SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 20th <i>TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	8.00AM	Public & Livestream (booking required)
	10:00AM	Livestream only
	11:00AM St Gregory's	Public (booking required)
	12 NOON	Public & Livestream (booking required)
	5:30PM	Public & Livestream (booking required)

Note: Additional Mass at 8.00am on Sundays – Fr Marks wants to see how popular this is (booking required)
Morning Prayer & Adoration 8am (every weekday - public & livestream)
Night Prayer 9pm (every day – livestream only)
Reconciliation/ Confession – Saturday morning, 11-12, afternoon 4.30-5pm. No booking necessary.

Please book early for Sunday masses

Fr Mark writes: "It's been so very lovely seeing people's faces back at masses, even though tinged with sadness that for many this is, rightly, not yet possible. Thank you to those of you who have been joining us on the weekdays to give space for others to come on Sundays. I'd like to encourage those of you coming on Sundays (including Saturday evening) please to book in as early as possible - that way we can "manage the numbers" better and even offer an extra mass if there is a demand."

Readings and Antiphons

Sunday 13 September 2020 – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon - Cf. Sir 36: 18

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant,
and of your people Israel.

First reading - Ecclesiasticus 27:33-28:9

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 102(103):1-4,9-12

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

Second reading - Romans 14:7-9

Gospel Acclamation - 1S3:9, Jn6:68

Alleluia, alleluia!
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 18:21-35

Communion Antiphon - Cf. Ps 35: 8

How precious is your mercy, O God!
The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

St. Gregory's, Alresford We have carried out a risk assessment of St. Gregory's Church, and there is now a regular 11am Mass on Sundays. (PLEASE BOOK via our website or by phoning the office). There will be weekday masses when Bishop Peter is available (no booking required) – next one will be Fri 18th Sept. Thank you for your continued patience as we try to keep everyone safe

PRAYER CORNER:

Each week, this section will contain an intercession which I hope every parishioner will pray for, during the coming week. In this way, we will all pray to the Lord for the parish's mission, because "if the Lord does not build... in vain do the builders labour" (Ps 127:1).
Fr. Mark

This Week's Intention – We pray for all our Alpha guests and team, and that people will respond boldly as the Lord prompts them to invite others to participate.

PLEASE PRAY FOR the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:



Brendan Walsh RIP
Ruth Patterson RIP
Daphne Clare Tucker RIP
Henry Ede RIP
Michael Fawcitt RIP

Re-Opening Churches and the Pastoral Centre

We're delighted that masses have resumed at St. Gregory's and we're starting to look at opening up St. Thomas More, Stockbridge and St. Stephen's, as well as the Pastoral Centre. We're developing risk assessments and looking at a timeline for phased re-opening. We will keep you informed as we go forwards.

Children's Liturgy Online

Our weekly Children's Liturgy got off to a great start last week via our online Zoom platform. The sessions take place at 9:30am - 9:50am on Sundays, so you are then free to join in with the 10am livestreamed Mass if you wish.

To make the sessions as secure as possible, you will need to pre-register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZUpd-CgqDsjHdFJaIMzv9TVFB4Iu-9cEITv>



Please note! Everyone needs to register for the new session! You will receive a new email with individual joining link.

You will then receive an email with an individual ID (please don't share this with anyone) and a few safeguarding reminders.

Links for colouring sheets are put up in advance on the Children's/Young People's page on the website:

<https://www.catholicwinchester.org.uk/for-young-people-now/>
We look forward to seeing you there!

Morning Prayer and Adoration (8-9am, Monday to Friday)

Since lockdown, Fr Mark and Fr Stephen have been leading Morning Prayer and Adoration nearly every day, available for you to follow on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbGgrcbDyLY75pmCAopfLlg/live>. It is now possible for you to join us in person. The church is opened just before 8am and each person attending is asked to leave their name and contact details (for track and trace purposes).

Morning Prayer is a beautiful part of the "Liturgy of the Hours", the Church's daily offering of prayer in response to the Lord's command to pray without ceasing. We give thanks to God the Father and intercede for the salvation of the world. The service lasts about 15 minutes. We will offer the prayers before the Blessed Sacrament (the Body of Christ, or Sacred Host, visible to us on the altar, in what is called a 'monstrance'). The Blessed Sacrament will then remain exposed (visible) for a period of personal, silent prayer. On some days the Blessed Sacrament will remain on the altar until just before mass; on others we will end our formal time of prayer with a litany of praise to God and Benediction (when the priest or deacon blesses those present with the Sacred Host in the monstrance). Those attending will be asked to wipe down the area in which they sit and any surfaces with which they may have come into contact.

If you would like to join us, you would be very welcome. We will still be livestreaming the prayers, so you can see what the service looks like from the comfort of your own home before venturing into the church if you feel unsure. If you would like to find out more about Eucharistic Adoration, or would like to commit to an hour each week as part of our parish rota, please contact Tony Darlison via the parish office (office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk or 01962 852804)

SVP –

Just a reminder that it is SVP awareness month, so do look out next week for details of a special Mass and an informational flyer.

If you'd like to find out more about SVP or their work, you can visit their website - <https://www.svp.org.uk/> or contact Marion via the parish office (office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk or 01962852804)

Welcome to Fr Anthony

Fr Anthony is joining us this weekend - look out for him at the various masses in St Peter's. We're all looking forward to getting to know him.



Bishop Philip writes...

This autumn, we bid farewell to **Mgr. Tom McGrath**, another of our best-known and best-loved priests, who is retiring. Mgr. Tom was an especial support and personal help to me in my early days here in Portsmouth as he was one of the Vicars General, a post he held from 2005 until 2013. It was always good to tap into his wisdom, knowledge and long experience.

He will be especially remembered and loved for his work as chaplain to the Royal Hampshire County Hospital. Grateful for his service of the Lord and His Church, we wish him every grace and blessing in the years ahead, with good health and much joy. He is retiring within our Diocese and will continue to assist in various ways, so we look forward to seeing him often in the years ahead.

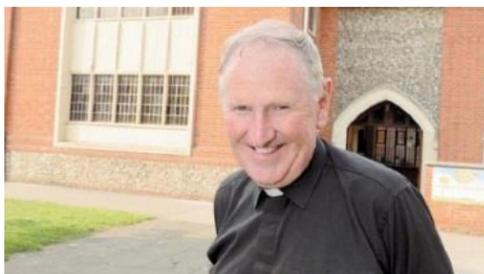
We are now collecting for a **retirement gift for Fr Tom**. Payment can be made either through the donate option on the website or directly into our parish account:

Account Name: PRCDTR St Peter & The Winchester Martyrs

Sort Code: 30 93 04

Account No: 00890996

Whichever way you choose, please make sure you mark or reference the donation '**Fr Tom**'.



Thank you to Sandra Drower (Senior Pastoral Worker)

On behalf of the parish, Fr Mark would like to offer an enormous "thank you" to Sandra Drower, who has decided to step back from her role as our Senior Pastoral Worker after six years in post. Sandra has offered excellent support to our parish pastoral workers, and has been responsible for establishing and supporting much wonderful work in our neighbourhood groups. The hospitality group, the Night of Lights, the "24 hours for the Lord" are just a few examples of the many blessings brought to us through Sandra's expertise, wisdom and dedication. Sandra will be with us in her role until 31st December and we're delighted that she will remain a fully committed member of our parish and very much part of our community life beyond as we move forward.



St. Peter's Tea Room



All welcome to join us for a cup of tea and a chat in our virtual tea room after 10am Livestream Mass - we'd particularly love to meet any students who are arriving in Winchester for the start of the new University year. Find the link to join on the Parish Homepage, or on the YouTube channel alongside the links for the words and music.

Children and Families

We're very conscious of some of the extra strains imposed upon children and families over recent months. We also know that the current masses, where no congregational singing is allowed and with the other differences, can make it more challenging for many of our children to engage and participate. We are actively thinking through what more we can do to support our children and families in worship (beyond our excellent Children's Liturgy of the Word) but any ideas are always welcome via our parish email address – office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk Hopefully we will have some news to share soon.



First Holy Communion 2021

We are now taking registrations for anyone who wishes their child(ren) to prepare to make their First Holy Communion in July 2021. Children should be in Year 4 (or above). For further information and application forms please email Rosanne Walker at fhc@stpeterswinchester.org.uk The deadline for registration is October 20th which is the last Parents' Compulsory Session with Fr Mark.



Journey in Faith

The Journey in Faith is hoping to start on Tuesday evenings in October. If you're not a Catholic, but want to learn more about what the Church believes and does, please call or email Nick Kelly (nick.kelly@sky.com 07960 797963)

Congratulations and Welcome

We were delighted that after a long delay due to the Coronavirus, we were able to receive Gregory Tyler into full communion with the Catholic Church and to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for Claudia Mora Balón.



Discovering more about Mary

A series of four evening sessions, led by Fr Stephen and Tony Darlison

October is the month dedicated to the Rosary, where we enter more deeply into the beautiful mystery of Mary, mother of Jesus the living Word.

We will help you discover more about who she is and about the Rosary, a powerful scriptural prayer that has been part of the Church's spiritual tradition for centuries.

If you would like to join us, please register your interest by e-mailing formation@stpeterswinchester.org.uk



Who is this Woman? Tuesday 29 September 19:45 – 21:00

Explore the ancient teaching of the Church based on Scripture, Early Church Councils and the Early Fathers, about who Mary is, and why she has such an important part to play in our redemption.

Why the Rosary? Tuesday 6 October 19:45 – 21:00

Learn about Mary's prayer, the Rosary, a Gospel prayer commended to us by saints and popes through the ages, and by the Blessed Virgin herself.

How to Pray the Rosary Tuesday 13 October 19:45 – 21:00

Look at ways to meditate on some of the most important passages in the Gospels by praying the Rosary along with Mary; "who treasured these things and pondered them in her heart" (c.f. Luke 2:19).

What the Saints say about Mary Tuesday 20 October 19:45 – 21:00

Find out what some of the great saints had to say about Mary and how she helped them in their pilgrimage towards God in this life, a journey that we are all called to follow in our own way.

Message from St. Peter's School:

Dear Parents, Welcome back everyone!

I hope you and your families had a lovely summer holiday - being able to take time out and to refresh and replenish after what have been interesting times. I enjoyed both the south-west and the north-east of our beautiful country - being so pleased to be able to enjoy the company of friends and family again.

Even though I had a good time away, I had been so looking forward to seeing everyone, especially the children, who looked so smart on their return. It is wonderful having all our school family back again – many of our children and families have been away for almost six months now. They have been telling me all about their holidays with great enthusiasm, while some parents have also been telling me, with great enthusiasm, that they are pleased the children and family routines are back!

We also welcome into the St Peter's school family all our new children and families, especially our Reception children who started this week. The school looks forward to working with you over the next seven years (which will go faster than we all think!)

Just to remind you that our COVID return to school risk assessment is in our 'news' section on the website.

New Behaviour Policy

We start our new school year with our new Behaviour Policy. Although this policy was agreed at the last governors' meeting, it is something we have been working on for some time, following consultation with children, staff, parents and governors. It formalises many of the changes we have already implemented, along with the language we already use. The policy is held on our 'policies' page on the website and has a quote from Proverbs 22:6 on its front cover.

'Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.'

The policy's over-arching principle is that everyone in the school family is responsible for setting high expectations for behaviour. As the children grow we want them to develop emotional literacy and to be able to express their feelings, as well as be able to listen to others. We also want them to develop a sense that with 'rights' comes 'responsibility'.

At St Peter's we aim:

- to see Christ in everyone,
- to build a community where there is mutual respect and all feel valued, safe and secure,
- to develop skills of self-control and self-discipline,
- to create an environment that supports learning.

During the first two weeks of term in R.E. the children will be reviewing our Mission Statement, 'Christ at the Centre', and so will be looking at the *Courtesy Code* and the *Golden Rules* in our behaviour policy, as they draw up individual class charters.

Louise Buxton
(Miss), Headteacher

Virtual Church Programme - Week commencing 13th September 2020

	Sunday 13 th Sept 24 th Sun in Ord. Time	Monday 14 th Sept The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Tuesday 15 th Sept Our Lady of Sorrows	Wed 16 th Sept Saints Cornelius & Cyprian	Thursday 17 th Sept	Friday 18 th Sept	Saturday 19 th Sept	
8am	Public Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO live streamed)	Public Morning Prayer and Adoration (ALSO live streamed)	Public Morning Prayer and Adoration (ALSO live streamed)	Public Morning Prayer and Adoration (ALSO live streamed)	Public Morning Prayer and Adoration (ALSO live streamed)	Public Morning Prayer and Adoration (ALSO live streamed)	9am – Public Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO live streamed)	
9.20 – 9.50am	Children's Liturgy Online (See website to register)							
10am	Sunday Mass Live stream ONLY		Public Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO live streamed)	Public Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO live streamed)	Public Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO live streamed)			
11.15am	St Peter's Tea Room Zoom Virtual room							
12noon	Sunday Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO live streamed)							
12.15pm		Public Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO live streamed)					Public Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO live streamed)	
2.55pm		Divine Mercy Chaplet Zoom Virtual room	Divine Mercy Chaplet Zoom Virtual room	Divine Mercy Chaplet Zoom Virtual room	Divine Mercy Chaplet Zoom Virtual room	Divine Mercy Chaplet Zoom Virtual room		
5.30pm	Sunday Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO live streamed)							Vigil Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO live streamed)
7pm		Evening Mass - Live stream ONLY	Evening Mass - Live stream ONLY	Evening Mass - Live stream ONLY	Evening Mass - Live stream ONLY	Evening Mass - Live stream ONLY		
9pm	Night Prayer - Live Stream ONLY	Night Prayer - Live Stream ONLY	Night Prayer - Live Stream ONLY	Night Prayer - Live Stream ONLY	Night Prayer - Live Stream ONLY	Night Prayer - Live Stream ONLY	Night Prayer - Live Stream ONLY	

ALL public Masses at St Peter's Church are also livestreamed. For further details, visit our [website](https://zoom.us/j/4388694572). The virtual sessions take place on the online platform Zoom. These can be accessed through the following link <https://zoom.us/j/4388694572>. Alternatively, open your Zoom app (if installed), enter or copy/paste the **Meeting ID: 438 869 4572** then click 'Join'. **Password: 287520.**

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO PARTICIPATE IN MASS ONLINE](#)
[Click here if you wish to see recorded services](#)