

PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

1st – 15th JANUARY 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS; EPIPHANY; BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JOY IS THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS



THE ADORATION OF THE KINGS, AND CHRIST ON THE CROSS

PROBABLY BY BENEDETTO BONFIGLI, 1470S

from the National Gallery in London and used with their kind permission

Feast of the Epiphany, January 6th

**THIS EDITION OF PETERPOST WILL COVER TWO WEEKS, TILL 15TH JANUARY
FR MARK IS TAKING A WELL-EARNED REST, SO INSTEAD OF HIS USUAL THOUGHT, WE HAVE THE PIECE
BELOW FROM FR RONALD ROLHEISER OMI**

Welcome..... If this is your 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 other activities. Look at our website <https://www.catholicwinchester.org.uk/> , or our [Facebook page](#) or email office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Please note that our timetable and services are not affected by recent changes in the regulations: the church is open and services continue

THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS – CONNECTING THE DOTS BETWEEN THE CRIB AND THE CROSS

FR RON ROLHEISER OMI

The Gospel stories about the birth of Jesus are not a simple retelling of the events that took place then, at the stable in Bethlehem. In his commentaries on the birth of Jesus, the renowned scripture scholar Raymond Brown highlights that these narratives were written long after Jesus had already been crucified and had risen from the dead and that they are coloured by what his death and resurrection mean. At one level, they are as much stories about Jesus' passion and death as they are about his birth. When the Gospel writers looked back at the birth of Jesus through the prism of the resurrection they saw in his birth already the pattern for both his active ministry and his death and resurrection: God comes into the world and some believe and accept him and others hate and reject him. For some, his person gives meaning, for others it causes confusion and anger. There is an adult message about Christ in Christmas, and the meaning of Christmas is to be understood as much by looking at the cross as by looking at the crib. Hardly the stuff of our Christmas lights, carols and cribs.

And yet, these too have their place. Karl Rahner, not naïve to what Raymond Brown asserts, argues that, even so, Christmas is still about happiness, and the simple joy of children captures the meaning of Christmas more accurately than any adult cynicism. At Christmas, Rahner contends, God gives us a special permission to be happy: "Do not be afraid to be happy, for ever since I [God] wept, joy is the standard of living that is really more suitable than the anxiety and grief of those who think they have no hope. ... I no longer go away from the world, even if you do not see me now. ... I am there. It is Christmas. Light the candles. They have more right to exist than all the darkness. It is Christmas. Christmas that last forever." At Christmas, the crib trumps the cross, even as the cross does not fully disappear.

How do the cross and the crib fit together? Does Calvary cast a permanent shadow on Bethlehem? Should Christmas disturb us more than console us? Is our simple joy at Christmas somehow missing the real point?

No. Joy is the meaning of Christmas. Our carols have it right. At Christmas, God gives us a special permission to be happy, though that must be carefully understood. There is no innate contradiction between

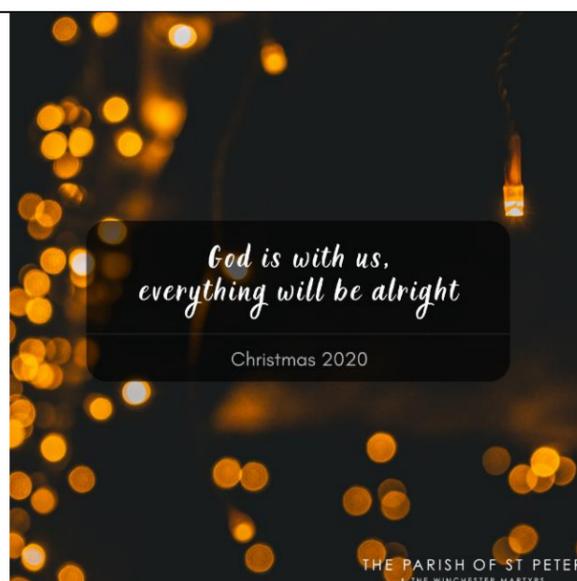
joy and suffering, between being happy and undergoing all the pain that life hands us. Joy is not to be identified with pleasure and with the absence of suffering in our lives. Genuine joy is a constant that remains with us throughout all of our experiences in life, including our pain and suffering. Jesus promised us "a joy that no one can take away from you". Clearly that means something that doesn't disappear because we get sick, have a loved one die, are betrayed by a spouse, lose our job, are rejected by a friend, are subject to physical pain, or are enduring emotional distress. None of us will escape pain and suffering. Joy must be able to co-exist with these. Indeed it is meant to grow deeper through the experiences of pain and suffering. We are meant to be women and men of joy, even as we live in pain. That's a colouring, taken from their understanding of Jesus' death and resurrection, which the Gospel writers insert into their narratives about his birth.

But, of course, that is not what children see when they get caught up in the excitement of Christmas and when they look at the Christ-child in the crib. Their joy is still innocent, healthily protected by their naiveté, still awaiting disillusion, but real nonetheless. The naïve joy of a child is real and the temptation to rewrite and recolour it in light of the disillusionment of later years is wrong. What was real was real. The fond memories we have of anticipating and celebrating Christmas as children are not invalidated when Santa has been deconstructed. Christmas invites us still, as John Shea poetically puts it, "to plunge headlong into the pudding." And despite all the disillusionment within our adult lives, Christmas still offers us, depressed adults, that wonderful invitation.

Even when we no longer believe in all the cribs, lights, carols, cards, colourful wrapping-paper, and gifts of Christmas no longer bring the same thrill, the same invitation still remains: Christmas invites us to be happy, and that demands of us an elemental asceticism, a fasting from adult cynicism, a discipline of joy that can hold the cross and the crib together so as to be able to live in a joy that no one, and no tragedy, can take from us. This will allow us, at Christmas, like children, to plunge headlong into the pudding.

Christmas gives, to both children and adults, permission to be happy.

All the clergy want to express their thanks for all the cards, gifts, Christmas kindnesses and good wishes that have arrived for them – too many to thank individually, but be assured of their gratitude. They are also very grateful for all your support and prayers throughout this strange year.



Also, special thanks to everyone who contributed so much to make our Christmas celebrations so wonderful and safe at all our churches. It was a tribute to teamwork and selflessness, and it was, as Fr Mark hoped

A Christmas to Remember

The Christmas edition of our magazine Crosskeys is out now. If you get the newsletter emailed to you, you should have received it directly (if you don't, why not add yourself to the list – email hello@stpeterswinchester.org.uk) Or you can find it [on the website](#) or this is [a direct link](#).

Newsletter We are planning on making some changes to the newsletter in the New Year - so we'd love to hear from you if you have any comments. Do you think it's too detailed or too long? What do you think of the cover email? Do you read every word, or just skim? Which features do you like, and which would you get rid of? Email editor@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

The Christmas Crib / Nativity Scene remains in St Peter's church and can be visited whenever the church is open.

It's traditional each year to collect **crib offerings** to support those in need. This year, ours will go to the **Knights of the Holy Sepulchre** to assist children and schools in the Holy Land: see more here www.khs.org.uk They are a Roman Catholic order of knighthood under the protection of the Holy See. The Pope is sovereign of the Order. They ask "Please pray at the crib for all our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East at this time."

The Outdoor Trail and Crib is in place in the grounds of St Peter's till 1st January, and can be visited any time – [please bring an angel](#) if you can!

Advent Calendar in Reverse Many of you took up the idea of a reverse Advent Calendar, where you put something in for those in need. We were keen to support our partnerships with local charities such as the Apostleship of the Sea - <https://www.stellamaris.org.uk> - Trinity Winchester - <https://trinitywinchester.org.uk/> - or The Winchester Night Shelter - <https://wcns.org.uk/christmasdonations>. These are the suggested donations for those in need: Woolly hats; soap; shampoo; toothpaste; combs; chocolates; deodorant; socks; jumpers/sweaters; woolly gloves; long underwear (tops/bottoms of various sizes); new socks and underwear, chocolates and sweets, Amazon gift cards, coffee shop gift cards, travel clocks, thermos flasks, headphones, rucksacks, nail care kits, waterproof trousers. You can continue to bring items to St Peter's church at mass times until the Epiphany, 6th Jan. If you have items to share but cannot leave your house, please contact the office – 01962852804 – and we will see if it's possible for them to be collected.

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

John Carter RIP
Joseph Pappachan RIP
Patricia Bendall RIP
Elizabeth Rogers RIP



Congratulations to Fr Anthony who has recently received a distinction in his final year examinations, and earned the Dean's List Award for Outstanding Achievement. Well done, Fr Anthony! (you can read more about him in [Crosskeys](#))

Bishop's survey for all parishioners

Bishop Philip writes: 'I want to understand better what the people and parishioners of our Diocese think and what they consider is important to them as we journey in faith together. So we have created a survey. It covers many areas and will take 10-20 minutes to complete. Here is a link to it: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2XRKQDS>. It can also be found on the diocesan website www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk We will publish the results in the Spring.' If you are not online and would like a paper copy, please let us know.

Useful Contacts

Clergy: Fr Mark Hogan (Parish Priest); Fr Anthony Njingo (Assistant Priest); & Fr Stephen Vooght

Deacon Gerard Dailly and Deacon Martin McElroy

Director of Evangelisation and Leadership: Allegra Mutanda

Finance Manager Annette Parr, Facilities and Resources Manager Sean Reidy

Pastoral team: Sandra Drower, Rosanne Walker, Jo Donaldson

To get in touch with them, and for other general matters, please contact the Parish

Office: 01962 852804 / email: office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk .

- **PeterCares :** petercares@stpeterswinchester.org.uk
- **Prayerline:** prayer@stpeterswinchester.org.uk
- **Newsletter:** editor@stpeterswinchester.org.uk
- **Newsletter list:** hello@stpeterswinchester.org.uk
- **St. Peter's School Office:** 01962 852820
- **St. Thomas More's Stockbridge:** please email Polly at christoesrus@hotmail.co.uk
- **For stewarding and volunteering:** please email Anna annasmylie@outlook.com

THE PARISH OF ST. PETER & THE WINCHESTER MARTYRS IS RECRUITING

We are looking for a

Parish Administration Manager

– a full-time post based in the Pastoral Centre.

Closing date for applications: **Monday 11th January 2021** – midday

Interviews: **Friday 22nd**

January 2021

You can see [the full advert here](#)

You can read [the job description here](#)



Winchester Basics Bank is looking for a Logistics Manager as a fixed term part-time contract of 9 months, that could be extended or made permanent.

Reporting to the Operations Manager, the successful candidate will help the charity provide and develop its warehouse and distribution activities, be responsible for maintaining the stock control system across different sites and manage a team of volunteers.

Candidates should be comfortable working in a Christian environment and have experience in warehousing and/or distribution operations, have good people skills including management of a team, have excellent communication skills, be competent in using IT tools such as MS Office and be able to input and manipulate data in spreadsheets. A full driving licence and fitness for general manual handling being able to lift weight of up to 15kg are required.

This is a paid role at the rate of £10.01 per hour for 14 hours per week. Additional hours may be required. For further information and an application form please email, Mike Whitehead, the Chair of Winchester Basics Bank at chair@winchesterbasicsbank.co.uk. Details about Winchester Basics Bank can be found at our website: www.winchesterbasicsbank.co.uk

Closing date for applications: Monday 25th January 2021

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 'Adoration'

We cannot encounter God and remain unchanged however subtle the encounter.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Adoration) takes place every day in St Peter's Church. Come spend time with the One who knows you best!

Times: **8am – 9am** weekdays, from 4th January
11am – 12pm every day except Sunday, when it is 11 till 11.45 because of mass

To participate online or see the recorded services for Morning Prayer & Adoration and Night Prayer & Adoration, go to our YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbGgrcbDyLY75pmCAopfLIg/live>



PRAYER CORNER:

Each week, this section will contain an intercession that 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 " Let us pray that we begin this New Year with God in our hearts, living each day with hope, joy and love as we use our gifts in the service of the Lord."



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 is stepping back from her role as our Senior Pastoral Worker at the end of this month, after six years in post. Sandra has offered excellent support, supervision and mentoring to our parish pastoral workers and others, and has been responsible for establishing and supporting much wonderful work in our Neighbourhood Groups. The activities of the hospitality group, including the Night of Lights, the "24 hours for the Lord" and Christmas lunches with Trinity, are just a few examples of the many blessings brought to us through Sandra's expertise, wisdom and dedication. Many parishioners will also know her from her unstinting work at the Alpha sessions.

Sandra's professionalism and commitment have shone through her work, complemented by her deep understanding of spirituality. Sandra has also given generously of her time as a volunteer. We're delighted that Sandra will remain a fully committed member of our parish and very much part of our community life beyond as we move forward.



Virtual Church Programme – Sunday 3rd January - Saturday 23rd January

All public liturgies are also live streamed.

	Sundays	Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays	Saturdays
8am – 9am	Public Mass @ St Peter's	Public Morning Prayer & Adoration	9am Public Mass @ St Peter's				
9.20 – 9.50am	Children's Liturgy Online (See website for registration)						
10am	Sunday Mass <i>Live stream only</i>		Public Mass @ St Peter's	Public Mass @ St Peter's	Public Mass @ St Peter's		
11.15am	St Peter's Tea Room <i>Zoom Virtual room</i>						
11am – 12noon		Holy Hour (Adoration) @ St Peter's					
12noon	Public Mass @ St Peter's						
12.15pm		Public Mass @ St Peter's				Public Mass @ St Peter's	
2.55pm		Divine Mercy chaplet <i>Zoom virtual room</i>					
3.30pm							Family Mass @ St Peter's (16 th January)
5.30pm	Public Mass @ St Peter's						Public Mass @ St Peter's
7pm		Public Mass @ St Peter's					
9pm	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream only</i>	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream only</i>	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream only</i>	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream only</i>	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream only</i>	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream only</i>	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream only</i>

THE JANUARY VIRTUAL CHURCH TIMETABLE WILL STAY THE SAME ALL MONTH

To access the Zoom virtual sessions, click <https://zoom.us/j/4388694572> Alternatively, sign into Zoom and enter Meeting ID: 438 869 4572.

Password: 287520 (may also be required with above link).

To participate in mass or any service online, [click here](#)

[Click here to see recorded services](#)

<p>Readings and Antiphons</p> <p>Sunday 3 January 2021 - 2nd Sunday of Christmas</p> <p>Entrance Antiphon - Wis 18: 14-15 When a profound silence covered all things and night was in the middle of its course, your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from heaven's royal throne.</p> <p>First reading - Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2,8-12 · Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 147:12-15,19-20 R/ The Word was made flesh, and lived among us. Second reading - Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18 Gospel Acclamation - cf.1Tim3:16 Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans. Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world. Alleluia! Gospel - John 1:1-18 Communion Antiphon - Cf. Jn 1: 12 To all who would accept him, he gave the power to become children of God.</p>	<p>Sunday 10 January 2021 - The Baptism of the Lord</p> <p>Entrance Antiphon - Cf. Mt 3: 16-17 After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. First reading - Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7 · Responsorial Psalm - Isaiah 12 Second reading - 1 John 5:1-9 · Gospel Acclamation - cf.Jn1:29 Alleluia, alleluia! John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said: This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Alleluia! Gospel - Mark 1:7-11 Communion Antiphon - Jn 1: 32, 34 Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.</p>
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Mass Timetable	January 2 nd – January 9 th			
Date	Mass Times & Intentions			Livestream/Public
SATURDAY – January 2nd SS Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors	9 AM	Mass	Peter Wiles RIP	Livestream, Public
	11-12 NOON	Adoration & confessions		Open to public
	3.30 PM	Family mass at St Peter's		Livestream, Public, booking reqd
	5.30PM	Vigil Mass	All Souls in Purgatory	Livestream, Public, booking reqd
SUNDAY – January 3rd SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	8 AM	Mass		Livestream, Public, booking reqd
	9 AM	Mass at St Thomas More's		Public, booking reqd *
	9.15 AM	Mass at St Stephen's		Public, booking reqd
	10.00AM	Mass	Martyne Steele RIP	Livestream only
	11 AM	Mass at St Gregory's		Public, booking reqd
	11-11.45 AM	Adoration & private prayer		Open to public
	12 Noon	Mass	People of the Parish	Livestream, Public, booking reqd
	5.30PM	Mass		Livestream, Public, booking reqd
MONDAY – January 4th	12.15PM	Mass	Soul of William Meader	Livestream & public
	7.00PM			Livestream & public
TUESDAY – January 5th	10AM	Mass	Soul of Molly O'Brien	Livestream & Public
	10 AM	Mass at ST GREGORY'S		Public
	7.00PM	Mass – Vigil for the Epiphany	Maureen Westwood, intentions	Livestream & public
WEDNESDAY – January 6th The Epiphany of the Lord - solemnity	10AM	Mass at St Gregory's		Public
	10AM 7PM	Mass Mass		Livestream & public Livestream & public
THURSDAY – January 7th St Raymond of Penyafort, Priest	10AM	Mass		Livestream, Public
	7 PM	Mass	Soul of Mary Keating	Livestream, Public
FRIDAY – January 8th	10 AM	Mass at St Gregory's		Public
	12.15PM	Mass	Souls of the Bristol Family	Livestream, Public
	7 PM	Mass		Livestream, Public
SATURDAY – January 9th	9 AM	Mass		Livestream, Public
	11-12NOON	Adoration & Confessions		Open to public
	3.30 PM	Family mass at St Stephen's		Public, booking reqd
	5.30 PM	Vigil Mass		Livestream, Public, booking reqd

Mass Timetable		January 10th – January 17th	
SUNDAY – January 10th The Baptism of the Lord - Feast	8 AM	Mass	Livestream, Public, booking reqd
	9AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	Public, booking reqd *
	9.15 AM	Mass at St Stephen's	Public, booking reqd
	10AM	Mass	Soul of Patrick John McCall & family Livestream only
	11 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Public, booking reqd
	12 NOON	Mass	People of the Parish Livestream, Public, booking reqd
	5.30PM	Mass	Livestream, Public, booking reqd
MONDAY – January 11th	12.15 PM	Mass	Soul of Florence Zollo Livestream , public
	7.00PM	Mass	Livestream , public
TUESDAY – January 12th St Aelred of Rievaulx, Abbot	10AM	Mass	Soul of Richard Spencer Livestream , public
	10AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Public
	7.00PM	Mass	Livestream , public
WEDNESDAY – January 13th St Hilary, Bishop, Doctor	10AM	Mass	Livestream , public
	7PM	Mass	Livestream , public
THURSDAY – January 14th	10AM	Mass	Livestream , public
	7PM	Mass	Livestream , public
FRIDAY – January 15th	10 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Public
	12.15 PM	Mass	Souls of the Bristol Family Livestream, public Livestream, public
	7PM	Mass	
SATURDAY – January 16th <i>Feria or Our Lady on Saturday</i>	9 AM	Mass	Public
	11-12 noon	Adoration and confessions	Public
	3.30PM	Family Mass, St Peter's	Livestream, Public, booking reqd
	5.30PM	Vigil Mass	Livestream, Public, booking reqd
SUNDAY – January 17th 2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	8 AM	Mass	Livestream, Public, booking reqd
	9AM	Mass at St Thomas More's*	Public, booking reqd *
	9.15 AM	Mass at St Stephen's	Public, booking reqd
	10AM	Mass	People of the Parish Livestream only
	11 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Public, booking reqd
	11-11.45 PM	Private Prayer & Adoration	Public & livestream
	12 Noon	Mass	Livestream, Public, booking reqd
	5.30PM	Mass	Livestream, Public, booking reqd

All at St. Peter's, except where stated. *To book mass at St Thomas More's Stockbridge, email Anne anne@annekeenan.co.uk. If you would like a phone number to call her, please ring the office 01962 852804 to ask for it.

All other bookings via website homepage - [The Parish of St Peter & the Winchester Martyrs](#) - or call office 01962 852804

Night prayer (livestream only) every evening from St Peter's, 9pm - **except for 31st Dec, 1st Jan.**

Morning Prayer (open to public) every weekday, Monday to Friday, 8am, followed by Adoration till 9am - **except for 1st Jan.**

St Peter's also open for Adoration and private prayer every day 11 till 12 (11.45 on Sundays)

Confessions are usually available (without booking) on Saturdays, 11 till noon, then 4.30 to 5.

ALL SERVICES (INCLUDING MORNING PRAYER, NIGHT PRAYER & ADORATION) FROM ST PETER'S ARE LIVESTREAMED



A recording of Mass from St Peter's will be broadcast at 6pm on Winchester Radio this coming Sunday, 3rd January.

We know many people really appreciated the chance to hear the broadcast on previous occasions, and we are very grateful to our friends at Winchester Radio for organizing this. If you know of anyone who is missing attending Mass and is not online, it would be a great idea to tell them about it (and we'd love to hear from anyone who listens in).

The broadcast will go out **just after the 6pm news on Sunday**, with a repeat on Tuesday evening (5th) at 8pm. They are at 94.7FM across Winchester and the immediately-surrounding villages, or online via [their website](#), or using the UK Radioplayer app on your smart device.