

PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

9th January 2022

Baptism of the Lord - Year C

The Story of Your Life (Baptism of the Lord)

Fr Mark writes:

We like stories. From the time we are children, we love them. Good stories engage us, entertain us, can teach us and change us and, every once in a while, a story will inspire us. One reason we like good stories is simple...our lives are a story. Your life is a story. You are living a story...so what could possibly be more interesting to you than a story? You have already lived part of that story and those past stories of yours shape your current story. And, one day, this time of your life and how you have chosen to live it will be a story you tell to your children or that others tell about you. Your story matters... but... perhaps not the way you might expect.

Your story isn't important because of you, its important because of God. In fact, I hate to tell you, but you're not even the central character in your story. God is the central figure in your story. Your story is important because of him and the role he plays in it. And you'll never even understand your own story unless and until you understand it in the context of the larger story God is telling. The choice you have is whether to live it only within the narrow confines of your own little story, or to join your little story to God's great big one.

Today is a feast celebrating Baptism...the Baptism of the Lord. We remember the beginning of Jesus's ministry, the beginning of his public story. And right from the beginning his story is placed in the context of God's great big story. The Bible tells us:

while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.' (Luke 3:21-22)

Throughout the Bible, God will remind us, from time to time, that he's there and that he is Creator and sustainer of everything. All that we see, all that we have, all that we're grateful for and all that we take for granted is only here because he chose to create it and then give it to us.

Our faith, simply put, says: there is a God and it is not you. I am only here because God chose to create me. You are only here because God chose to create you. He is the original author of your story.

Think about the issues of your life that are beyond your control, that God simply assigned you and that you had no say in whatsoever.

- ❖ You had no control over when you were born
- ❖ Or where...what environment you were born into, affluence or poverty or somewhere in between
- ❖ You had nothing to say about your physical features
- ❖ You had no control over who your parents are
- ❖ You had no control over your siblings and where you are in the birth order
- ❖ You had no control over your general personality, whether you are naturally introverted or extroverted
- ❖ You had no control over your talents and gifts

All of it was assigned to you by the original author of your story.

Now, I am not saying that everything that happened to you as a child was what God wanted for you, because there are a lot of things that happen that are actually against God's will. I am, however, saying that you are not the original author of your life...and besides everybody else that was involved, especially your parents, God is responsible. You are not the original author of your story and it is critically important that you recognize that and know it, and grow in appreciation and understanding of the real story you're really in.

It's important to invest time in knowing your story, or get to know it better. If you do, I guarantee you will learn more, far more than you ever thought you would and you will be surprised by what you learn. To help you get started get we have some questions on our website to help you begin sorting out the beginning of your story. Where does your story start, what happened to you? As you do, form that exercise into a conversation with God. And honestly share with him your emotions about those memories, because probably you do have emotions, perhaps deep-seated ones. Your emotions might be clearer than your memories, depending on your story.

Think about them and share them with God. Maybe you have lots to be grateful for; perhaps you have lots that makes you sad or even angry. Did you know that God has insights into your story that you don't, and you won't without his help? He can help you understand your story better. And a good way to start tapping into those insights is sharing your feelings with him. Tell him how those memories feel...Be honest with him about how you feel. It's OK, God can take it. He can handle it. For some of you, it would open up a wave of communication with God and transform your relationship with him.

Whatever your feelings, all of us have parts of our story that we wish were written differently. You need to wrestle with the specifics of your story, the particularity of it, the seemingly random or even unfair aspects. As you do, as you explore the beginning of your story, remember, it is not the beginning of the story that's most important. It is important, of course, because it sets the context, it establishes the theme, it matters a whole lot...but it's not the most important part. What is most important is not the beginning, it's not the circumstances you found yourself in that determines everything, it's how you react to those circumstances, it's what you do, and then what you do after that. Understanding the beginning of your story helps you to write a better story in the future moving forward.

As you begin your conversation about your story with God this week, keep in mind what he's already told you about that story. God said:

'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.' (Luke 3.22)



That's you. That's your story, that's where your story begins....you are the beloved son or daughter of God, he is pleased with you...maybe he's not always pleased with everything you do, but he is pleased with you, he made you just the way he wants you to be.

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

The Baptism of the Lord (Year C) – 9th January

Entrance Antiphon:

After the Lord was baptised,
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 40:1-5. 9-11**

Responsorial Psalm: **Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30. R.v.1**
Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are.

Second reading: **Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7**

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I.
He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Communion Antiphon:

Behold the One of whom John said:
I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

Christmas Thanks Frs Mark and Anthony would like to offer enormous thanks to you all for the incredible generosity shown over Christmas through prayers, cards, gestures and gifts. They feel very loved and very blessed.



Announcement of the Date of Easter And Moveable Feasts At some of this weekend's Masses, there will be a formal announcement of the date of Easter and other "moveable feasts" such as Ascension, Pentecost and Corpus Christi, whose dates vary from year to year. It also includes the date of the First Sunday of Advent. While most of us have paper or electronic calendars, or can find such dates using Google, this formal proclamation, early in the Church's year, reminds us that all time is consecrated to the Lord. When chanted, the announcement uses the same tone as is used for the Exsultet at the Easter Vigil, as a reminder of the centrality of the resurrection of the Lord in the liturgical year, and throughout our lives.

Baptism Celebratory Mass – Postponed Due to concerns regarding the current Covid19 situation, the decision has been made to set another date for this special celebration. Families will be notified by the Baptism team once the new date and time is confirmed.

Welcome David Bateman is one of our diocesan seminarians, studying at St. Mary's College, Oscott in the Archdiocese of Birmingham. He will be with us in the parish, staying in Peterhouse, for a placement, until 9th January. He will try to accompany the priest at as many of our Masses as humanly possible (or wise) and will be engaging in various pastoral activities, including visiting some of our sick and housebound parishioners. Please do everything you can to make him feel welcome in our parish.

Youth Group Returns! We are pleased to announce that the youth group will be resuming again in January! We are starting the term off with a film night on **Sunday, 9th January 6:30pm-8:30pm in the Parish Centre**. We will then have our youth group at the same time every Sunday evening after the 5:30pm Mass. The group is for anyone aged 11-19, and all are welcome. If you'd like to come, please email or just come on the 9th! 😊



Who is Jesus? Why did He die? How can I have faith? Why and how do I pray? These are just some of the questions we explore on Alpha. The course creates a space where we can have conversations about faith, life and God which are authentic and unforced.

A recent guest said, 'On Alpha, I found a place where I could be open and transparent, suspending judgement and engaging in profound, meaningful discussions, many of which would leave me still pondering over, long after the session had finished'. One of the joys of Alpha is the faith-based friendships it fosters as we grow in relationship with one another, giving us a sense of belonging and community. Each evening begins with a free cooked meal. Our next Alpha course starts on Monday 31st January 2022 at St Peter's Church, Jewry Street, SO23 8RY. To register, visit www.catholicwinchester.org.uk/alpha For more information, ring us on 01962 852804 or email alpha@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Acorn Groups Acorn Groups (launched in the parish in April last year) are a community of small groups designed as a continuation of the Alpha experience but with a longer-term focus. They are intended to be a place where members can continue their faith-based friendships and spiritual growth. The new season of Acorn Groups starts in January and we would love you to join! We begin on Thursday 20th January and meet once a fortnight. As the number of groups increases, we will have additional meeting times available so please do register and choose a day that suits you.

If you would like to register, please use the link <https://forms.office.com/r/A1p3TR5jKE>

Or for more information, please email acorn@stpeterswinchester.org.uk



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, with new hope and a commitment to use our gifts in the service of the Lord, bringing people closer to Christ in hope and joy.



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

Kate Gunner RIP

Baby Thomas RIP

Pamela Henry RIP



Laudato si Corner



Fr. Mark has agreed that the Parish Laudato si' group can organise a New Year Pledge for Care of our Common Home on **Sunday January 9th**. We will be using the Caritas Pledge form (see link below). We hope to engage all parishioners with the message that we all need to be active in our care of our Common Home. We plan to organise this Pledge at every Mass in our parish over that weekend.

<https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Climate-Pledge-Updated.pdf>

Did you know 100 million pints of milk are tipped down the drain each year in the UK ?

By ensuring you buy food with the longest use by date, you can make small steps to reduce this. By not wasting food we can reduce our carbon footprint.

Do you have any top tips for reducing food waste in the home?

Send them to Keast@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Thank you!



The Epiphany On Thursday 6th January, we celebrated the Feast of “The Epiphany” when traditionally the three Kings found the Holy Family in Bethlehem and presented gold, frankincense and myrrh. In Christian art, the scene is usually a kneeling king offering his gift, whilst Joseph is in the background. This wood carving in the Parish Archive is different. The kings stand at the back and it is Joseph who kneels to make a presentation; now unfortunately broken. The infant Jesus on Mary’s lap holds out an accepting hand. The first gift lies at Mary’s feet and the right-hand king still holds his. This 16th century German or Flemish work is free-standing and was probably commissioned for private devotion, rather than for a church.

Synodal Process Some of you will be aware that Pope Francis is inviting us as a Church to learn to “walk together” (that’s what ‘synod’ means). In our own parish the ESG (Evangelisation Strategy Group) are taking on the responsibility for how we as a parish respond to the request from the Pope.



I’ve asked that they do so in a way which allows all those who wish to have their voice heard to be enabled to do so, that reaches out to the peripheries and even beyond the parish community, and that enables us to respond to the questions. Details to follow soon into this New Year (we had planned earlier but the Pope has given us an extension), so please watch this space...

Winchester Catholic History Society The next meeting will be on Wednesday 12 January AT 2.30 PM in the Parish Centre when Dr Alice Hunt of the University of Southampton will be speaking on ENGLAND IN THE 1650S: FROM REPUBLIC TO RESTORATION. Please note the change of time. If this time is preferable to members we will do this again next year in January/February.

Churches Together in Winchester There will be an ecumenical service of evensong at the Cathedral at 3.30pm on 30th January 2022 when our very own Father Mark will be preaching. Please note that this replaces the previously planned Unity Service on Sunday 23 January at 6 30pm.

Marriage Banns / Notice of Forthcoming Weddings

The following couples plan to marry in our Parish:

Jacob Christopher Vincent Price and Cassiemarkie Fury at St Peter’s Church on 1st March.

Richard Tony Rawlings and Sylwia Ewa Janczak at St Peter’s Church on 23rd April.

David Brady and Catherine Oldham at St Peter’s Church on 21st May.

Samuel Richard John Ronald and Hilary Geraldine Adriana Romana at St Peter’s Church on 22nd May.



Diocesan Formation for Mission Team – Upcoming Events The Diocesan Formation for Mission team will be running the following online courses in January and February 2022, which may be of interest to parishioners and catechist in all parishes:

- For Catechists:** Essential Training for Catechists (**5 Mondays, 10th Jan – 7th Feb, 7.30 to 9.00 pm**) followed by our new course, Further Training for Catechists (**5 Mondays, 21st Feb – 21st March, 7.30 to 9.00 pm**) – in the first course, we will look at the fundamental principles of catechesis to discover **what it is**, and in the second course, we will look at specific questions: **how to speak** to adults, young people and children about God, Jesus, salvation, the human person and the Church. To find out more and register, check our website: <https://www.pffm.org.uk/> or register directly for the Essential Training: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcud-CgpzspGNNmzyxwCIFle2MiqfHahOnK> and for the Further Training: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkcuypzMrGNTFXcThp9NMAfCmfl8GloOh>
Both courses are open to everyone – you don’t have to be a catechist to sign up.
- For those who care of children with Additional / special needs:** we are offering 3 workshops on **Thursdays 13th, 20th and 27th January, 7.00 - 8.30 pm** for the parents, catechists and priests of young Catholics with additional needs: **Being Acceptional**. Workshop 1. At Mass: inclusion in the Liturgy; Workshop 2. In Catechesis: sacramental preparation; Workshop 3. In the Home: the domestic Church for children with additional needs. You can register here for the workshops: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMofuqqqD4oGdX6gk02PYnXzHGgPblvzPBI>

Join us for a series of Zoom workshops for the parents, catechists and priests of young Catholics with additional needs!

Being Acceptional...

...at Mass: inclusion of children with additional needs in the liturgy. Thurs 13th January, 7pm-8.30pm.

...in Catechesis: inclusion of children with additional needs in sacramental preparation. Thurs 20th January, 7pm-8.30pm.

...at Home: creating a domestic church for children with additional needs. Thurs 27th January, 7pm-8.30pm.

We are committed to enabling young Catholics with additional needs to take their full role in the Body of Christ.

All our initiatives are listed on our website: <https://www.pffm.org.uk/>

Mass Timetable	8 th January – 15 th January 2022			
Date	Mass Times & Intentions			Livestream/Public
SATURDAY – January 8th	9.00AM	Mass	All Souls in Purgatory	Livestream, public
	5.30PM	Mass	Cathy Wade RIP	Livestream, public, booking reqd
SUNDAY – January 9th THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, FEAST	8.00 AM	Mass	Fr Mac RIP	Livestream, public, booking reqd
	9.00 AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	People of the Parish	Public, booking reqd *
	9.15 AM	Mass at St Stephen's	Gerald Wade RIP	Public, booking reqd
	10.30AM	Mass	William Blake RIP & the Blake family	Livestream, public, booking reqd
	11.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's		Public, booking reqd
	5.30PM	Mass	Margaret Gardiner RIP	Livestream, public, booking reqd
MONDAY – January 10th	12.15PM	Mass	For the Founders	Livestream & public
TUESDAY – January 11th	10.00AM	Mass	Intentions of the Prayerline Intercessors	Livestream & public
	10.00AM	Mass at St Gregory's		Public
WEDNESDAY – January 12th	10.00AM	Mass	Souls of the Bristol family	Livestream & public
THURSDAY – January 13th St Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	10.00AM	Mass	Souls of the Neil family	Livestream & public
FRIDAY – January 14th	10.00AM	Mass at St Gregory's		Public
	12.15PM	Mass	Fernoenda Ramos RIP	Livestream & public
SATURDAY – January 15th Our Lady on Saturday	9.00AM	Mass	Charlotte Johnson Wahl	Livestream & public
	5.30 PM	Vigil Mass	Intentions of Carmela Kelly	Livestream, public, booking reqd

All at St. Peter's, except where stated.

FOR ALL ONLINE BOOKINGS please use website homepage - The Parish of St Peter & the Winchester Martyrs - or call office 01962 852804. Or you can email office if any issues: office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

*To book mass at St Thomas More's Stockbridge, email: stm@stpeterswinchester.org.uk If you would like a phone number to call, please ring the office 01962 852804 to ask for it.

Confessions every Saturday 11.00am till 12.00noon and 4.30pm-5.00pm at St Peter's Church – booking not required.

Morning Prayer (livestream and open to public) every weekday, Monday to Friday, 8.00am at St Peter' followed by Adoration till 9.00am

Night Prayer (livestream) Sunday – Thursday this week.

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

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

Parish Safeguarding Representative - Any safeguarding concerns or requests for advice can be discussed with Michaela Waterfield in the Parish Office or routed through to the central diocesan safeguarding team via this email address safeguarding@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or telephone number: 02394 216486. Email is probably best as, with current restrictions etc, the office is not always resourced. If there is a concern that someone is at immediate risk of harm, people should be advised to contact 999 for the emergency services. In the meantime, please use the safeguarding@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk address for any queries or contact Ruth Attfield, our diocesan safeguarding coordinator on 02394 216486.

Job Vacancy in the Diocese - Deputy Director of Estates We are looking for a chartered surveyor or equivalent to support the Diocese of Portsmouth as we go through a period of significant change; to oversee the management of all Diocesan Properties, working towards the decarbonisation of our estate and to undertake line management responsibilities for the Estates Team.

The successful candidate will have a proven track record of leading development projects including both refurbishment and new build schemes. They will also have proven team leadership experience, with the capability to lead internal staff members as well as external project teams. They must have excellent communication and leadership skills, along with the ability to operate successfully at a senior level liaising with a variety of stakeholders is essential to succeed in this role.

Experience of working with parishes, schools and residential property is advantageous although not essential. It is expected that candidates will be a Chartered Building Surveyor with 10 years post qualification experience or possess an equivalent professional qualification.

The Diocesan Estates Team is based in Portsmouth, with a hybrid office/home model. It will require occasional evening/weekend working and flexibility will be required. The role involves site visits throughout the Diocese, therefore a clean driving license and access to a vehicle is essential.

Salary: up to £50,000 per annum

For Job Description and details of how to apply please contact: Recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Closing Date for applications: 12 noon on Monday 17th January 2022



Dear Parents

Christmas Fun Day

Our last day of term was full of festive fun. Children and staff wore the best Christmassy gear, completed Christmas crafts and even completed a 50 piece puzzle made by our school council. The highlight though for many was all 400 children and all the staff singing carols outside towards the end of the day.

Thank you Mrs Woolgar and school councillors for organising such a lovely day for us!



If you have pre-school children and like the sound of St Peter's School then why not contact us to find out about the application process? Telephone 01962 852820 or email admin@st-peters.hants.sch.uk.

Best wishes

Louise Buxton (Miss)

Headteacher

Job Vacancy – St Peter's Catholic Primary School

Administrative Assistant

Contract/hours: 9.00am to 1.00pm Monday to Friday, 20 hours per week, term time only, permanent

Salary range: Grade B (pro rata)

Start date: January 2022

Closing date: 10th January 2022 (midday)

Interview date: 17th January 2022

We are looking for a friendly, enthusiastic, committed and self-motivated person to join our busy team. The ability to prioritise your workload and be able to work under pressure are essential qualities. You will need to be cheerful and well-organised with the capacity to communicate effectively with colleagues, teachers, parents and children.

The role includes front office responsibilities such as answering the phone, dealing with visitors and contractors and supporting the pupils' first aid and medical needs (including the administration of approved medicines) alongside general administrative duties. Experience of working in a school office is preferred, however, training will be given. Recent experience of using Microsoft packages is essential. For more details, please visit the school website: <https://www.stpetershants.co.uk/vacancies/>