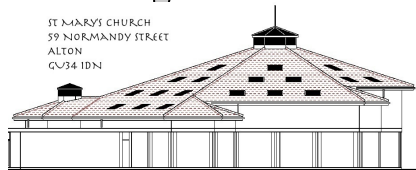
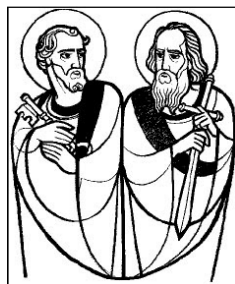


St Mary's Parish Newsletter



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Alton, Hants
GU34 1DN
Tel: 01420 82030



Ss. PETER & PAUL

28th June, 2026

Peter and Paul are the two great heroes of the Apostolic Age - Peter for leading the first Christian communities and binding them in unity, a role that springs from his profession of faith in Caesarea Philippi, and Paul for travelling throughout the Roman Empire as the Apostle to the Gentiles, ensuring that the Gospel

could be heard by all. They both ended up in Rome, the heart of the Empire, where they crowned their lives of witness by shedding their blood for Christ. As the ancient hymn for this feast day ("Decora Lux aeternitatis") says: "Rejoice, O Rome, this day; thy walls they once did sign With princely blood, who now their glory share with thee. What city's vesture glows with crimson deep as thine? What beauty else has earth that may compare with thee?"

In celebrating the death of these apostles and martyrs, we celebrate the triumph of life and death offered fully to God.

You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

A POPE'S REFLECTION - Pope Benedict

Today we are solemnly celebrating the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, special Patrons of the Church of Rome: Peter, the fisherman from Galilee, who was the first to confess the faith: "our leader" who "raised up the Church from the faithful flock of Israel"; Paul, the former persecutor of Christians who "brought your call to the nations and became the teacher of the world". In one of his Homilies to the community of Rome, Pope St Leo the Great said: "These are your Holy Fathers and true Shepherds, who gave you claims to be numbered among the heavenly Kingdom". On the occasion of this feast, I would like to address a warm and special welcome, together with fervent good wishes, to the diocesan Community of Rome which divine

Providence has entrusted to my care as Successor of the Apostle Peter. It is a greeting that I willingly extend to all the inhabitants of our metropolis and to the pilgrims and tourists who in these days are visiting it. Dear brothers and sisters, may the Lord bless and protect you through the intercession of Sts Peter and Paul! As your Pastor, I urge you to stay faithful to the Christian vocation and not to conform to the mindset of this world as the Apostle to the Gentiles wrote precisely to the Christians of Rome but always to let yourselves be transformed and renewed by the Gospel, to follow, what is truly good and pleasing to God. For this reason I pray constantly that Rome may keep alive her Christian vocation not only preserving unaltered her immense spiritual and cultural heritage, but also in order that its inhabitants may express the beauty of the faith received in practical ways of thinking and acting, and thus offer to all those who for various reasons come to this city, an atmosphere full of humanity and Gospel values. Therefore with the words of St Peter I invite you, dear brothers and sisters, disciples of Christ, to be "living stones", set firmly around him who is "that living stone, rejected by men but in God's sight chosen and precious". Today's Solemnity also has a universal character: it expresses the unity and catholicity of the Church.

This is why every year, on this date, the new Metropolitan Archbishops come to Rome to receive the pallium, a symbol of communion with the Successor of Peter. I therefore renew my greeting to my Brothers in the Episcopate for whom I have performed this act this morning in the Basilica and to the faithful who have accompanied them. I likewise greet with warm cordiality the Delegation of the Patriarchate of Constantinople which, as it does every year, has come to Rome for the celebration of Sts Peter and Paul. May the joint veneration of these Martyrs be an ever fuller and more deeply felt pledge of communion among Christians in every part of the world. Let us invoke for this the maternal intercession of Mary, Mother of the one Church of Christ with the recitation of the Angelus.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

w/c Sunday 28th June, 2026

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY

OF ORDINARY TIME

(A2) (Psalter Week 1)

Saturday	Feria	
	5.30pm	Amy & Leonard Gilbert, RIP
Sunday	Ss. Peter & Paul, Apostles	
St. Lucy's	9.00am	Ann Lowther, RIP
St. Mary's	11.00am	Rosamma Augustine, RIP
Monday	Feria	
	9.30am	The People of the Parish
Tuesday	Feria	
	NO MASS	
Wednesday	Feria	
	Rosary at 9am	
	9.30am	Mary & Jack Lucas, RIP
Thursday	Feria	
	9.30am	Eileen McDermott, RIP
Friday	Saint Thomas	
	9.30am	Patricia Quaille Birthday
Saturday	Our Lady on Saturday	
	5.30pm	Edward Catlicote, RIP
Sunday	Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
St. Lucy's	9.00am	The People of the Parish
St. Mary's	11.00am	Johny Antony, RIP

Confessions Saturday 4.45pm, and by request

Ss. Peter & Paul, Apostles

Entrance Antiphon

These are the ones who, living in the flesh, planted the Church with their blood; they drank the chalice of the Lord and became the friends of God.

First Reading Acts 12:1-11

Responsorial Psalm

From all my terrors the Lord set me free.

Second Reading 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia! You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Matthew 16:13-19

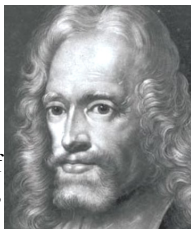
Communion Antiphon:

Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus replied: You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.

This week-end, 27th & 28th June there will be a Special collection for Peter's Pence supporting the Holy Father's charitable endeavours.

Saints of the Week

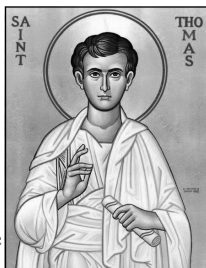
July 2nd, Saint Oliver Plunkett



The name of today's saint is especially familiar to the Irish and the English—and with good reason. The English martyred Oliver Plunkett for defending the faith in his native Ireland during a period of severe persecution. Born in County Meath in 1629, Oliver studied for the priesthood in Rome and was ordained there in 1654. After some years of teaching and service to the poor of Rome he was appointed Archbishop of Armagh in Ireland. Four years later, in 1673, a new wave of anti-Catholic persecution began, forcing the Archbishop to do his pastoral work in secrecy and disguise and to live in hiding. Meanwhile, many of his priests were sent into exile, schools were closed, Church services had to be held in secret, and convents and seminaries were suppressed. As the archbishop, Plunkett was viewed as ultimately responsible for any rebellion or political activity among his parishioners. Oliver was arrested and imprisoned in Dublin Castle in 1679, but his trial was moved to London. After deliberating for 15 minutes, a jury found him guilty of fomenting revolt. He was executed in July 1681. Pope Paul VI canonized him in 1975.

Reflection: Stories like that of Oliver Plunkett seem to fit history. "Things like that don't happen today" is often our thought. But they do. False accusations, prejudice, anti-Catholic sentiments, racism, sexism, etc. are still an active reality in our day. Perhaps a prayer to Saint Oliver Plunkett for peace and justice might be appropriate.

July 3rd, Saint Thomas, Apostle



Poor Saint Thomas! He made one remark and has been branded as "Doubting Thomas" ever since. But if he doubted, he also believed. He made what is certainly the most explicit statement of faith in the New Testament: "My Lord and My God!" and, in so expressing his faith, gave Christians a prayer that will be said till the end of time. He also occasioned a compliment from Jesus to all later Christians: "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed". Saint Thomas should be equally well-known for his courage. Perhaps what he said was impetuous—since he ran, like the rest, at the showdown—but he can scarcely have been insincere when he expressed his willingness to die with Jesus. The occasion was when Jesus proposed to go to Bethany after Lazarus had died. Since Bethany was near Jerusalem, this meant walking into the very midst of his enemies and to almost certain death. Realizing this, Thomas said to the other apostles, "Let us also go to die with him".

Reflection: Saint Thomas shares the lot of Peter the impetuous, James and John, the "sons of thunder," Philip and his foolish request to see the Father—indeed all the apostles in their weakness and lack of understanding. We must not exaggerate these facts, however, for Christ did not pick worthless men. But their human weakness again points up the fact that holiness is a gift of God, not a human creation; it is given to ordinary men and women with weaknesses; it is God who gradually transforms the weaknesses into the image of Christ, the courageous, trusting, and loving one.

FOODBANK:

Collection 4th & 5th July.

The foodbank is particularly asking for:

Uht milk, Long life fruit juice,

Tinned meats, vegetables, rice puding custard, and spaghetti. Pasta sauce, Chocolate spread,

Hot chocolate, Washing up liquid, Cleaning spray,

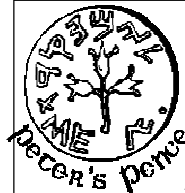
Shampoo & Sanitary towels.

We would be most grateful for your donations. Thank you

The Holy Father's Intentions (June)

For the values of sports

Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.



The Special Collection this week-end is for Peter's Pence

The term Peter's pence, in its Latin form, first appeared in 1031, and the payment may not have had a single origin under the Saxons.

Whether seen as a pious contribution, or merely a levy, it evidently underwent various changes both before and after the Norman conquest. It was applied by the Normans to Ireland as a 'penny per hearth' annual tax in the later part of the twelfth century under the Papal Bull *Laudabiliter*. **Peter-Pence** (*Denarii Sancti Petri*)

Otherwise called in the Saxon *Romefeoh* (the fee due to Rome), it was a tribute or rather an alms given by Ina, King of the West Saxons, in his pilgrimage to Rome in 725. The like was also collected by Offa, King of the Mercians, throughout his dominions, in 794. However, it was said to be not a tribute to the pope, but for the upkeep of the English School or College at Rome. It was called Peter-pence because a penny from every house was collected on 1 August, the feast day of St. Peter ad Vincula. (St Peter in chains). Pope Pius IX, in 1871, formalized the practice of lay members of the Roman Catholic Church – and "other persons of good will" – to provide financial support to the Roman See. While the regular contribution goes to the local parish or diocese, Peter's Pence goes directly to Rome. Pius IX gave it his approval in the encyclical *Saepe Venerabilis* (5 August 1871) The money collected today provides the Holy Father with the funds he needs to carry out his most important charitable works.

The proceeds benefit the most disadvantaged: victims of war, oppression and natural disasters.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, Turin & Assisi

There are still places available on these Diocesan Pilgrimages.

Lourdes - 6th –10th July, Cost £949.

Turin and Assisi, Monday 20th July until Sunday 26th July?

Cost £1695. More details:

<https://www.jcjourneys.com/turin-assisi>

Contact Canon PJ if you are interested in joining: fatherpj@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

ADVANCED WARNING

This is to advise Parishioners that the way the car park functions will be changing in the near future. The Diocese is taking control of all Church properties used for car parks, to standardise contracts and income.

Number Plate recognition will be installed and so anyone entering the car park will be liable for the set fees unless they are provided with an exemption to allow free parking. This setup is currently used by the Alton House Hotel next door. More information will be provided over the next few weeks.

WORDSEARCH

F A M I P F K B T O N
A S H I A I A M U E Y
S I M O N R B S V S I
N T L G J A T A S D M
S T D O W O E N H L L
N O N A E H E E A E V
M A S E C A E S E R A
H J E W I S H A T S A
O T J E L I J A H R I
E E I P H I L I P P I
A A T S I T P A B R E

Baptist
Elijah
Kingdom
Barjonah
Heaven
Philippi
Caesera
Jewish
Simon



Please remember in your prayers

Baby Polly Phillips, Matthew & Duncan Graham, John D., Mary McGinty, Regina Elliot, Maria Proli, Francesca Adams, Mary McGrath, Annie Tomlinson, Rita Rawling, Kate Cradock, Alex Smith, Jonathan & Lindy Wiltshire, Simon Wilder, Mary Sturgess, Theresa Davies, Flavia Stampa Gruss, Kay Hulbert, Pam Barbour