

PETERPOST

Heart of Hampshire parish with worshipping communities in Winchester, Alresford and Stockbridge



WHAT'S INSIDE THIS WEEK:

- *Fr Mark Writes: The Preparation Of The Gifts...*
- *Centenary Vigil Mass Celebrations - THANK YOU*



FR MARK WRITES: THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS: WHAT ARE YOU BRINGING TO THE ALTAR?

The Offertory is not a break in the action but our moment to make a sacrificial offering of ourselves.

In our journey through the Mass over the last few weeks, we have looked at the four places where Jesus is present to us: in the priest, the people, the Word, and the Eucharist. We then warmed up with the Introductory Rites, which help us to say, "I'm sorry, thank you, and let's pray." Last week we reflected on the Liturgy of the Word. Our task is not simply to hear but to listen with the heart. The readings and the homily are our story, and God wants to communicate something to us through them. Our job is to let the Word take root and make that long journey from the human head to the human heart.

Today we turn to the Preparation of the Gifts, which marks the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

At first glance, this can seem like one of the quieter moments of Mass. A hymn may be sung, the collection basket is passed around, bread and wine are brought forward, and the altar is prepared. We can be tempted to see it as a pause between the readings and the Eucharistic Prayer.

But something deeply significant is happening. **We are being prepared to worship God through sacrifice.**

In Scripture, worship is tightly linked with offering and sacrifice, because true worship is not only words, but a gift to God that costs us something. That raises an important question for each of us: what are we offering when we come to Mass?

Along with the bread and wine, we also support the Church and the poor through our charitable gifts, gifts that express our true offering to God and are placed appropriately, away from the Eucharistic table. Many of us support the parish through planned giving or electronic donations, and our financial offerings are important. What are you bringing? What part of your life are you placing before the Lord?

What is your sacrifice?

To help us answer that question, it is worth looking back to the Passover in the Book of Exodus.

The people of Israel had been held in slavery in Egypt for more than four hundred years. God was acting to set them free. Nine plagues had already struck Egypt, each more devastating than the last, yet Pharaoh refused to let the people go. Scripture tells us that his heart was hardened.

Then came the final plague: the death of the firstborn. It is a sobering and terrible moment in the story. Yet God provided a way of salvation for his chosen people.

At the first Passover, the Israelites were instructed to sacrifice a lamb which they would have been keeping in their homes, and potentially growing attached to. Then they were to mark their doorposts with its blood. That sacrifice was not simply a ritual. It was an act of trust, obedience, and surrender. Their freedom was tied to their willingness to offer what God had asked of them.

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.



As we prepare the gifts at Mass, we are invited into that same pattern. God is not asking us to bring lambs or animals to the altar. He asks for something far more personal: our contrite heart and love. The bread and wine, gifts drawn from our work and daily life, are offered to the Father, and Christ takes them up into his sacrifice: our joys and sorrows, our successes and failures, our hopes and disappointments. We place them on the altar so that Christ can take them, transform them, and offer them to the Father. The lamb offered at Mass is the Lamb of God: **Christ present sacramentally** in the Eucharist, and our participation is our **spiritual offering/unity** with his one, unique sacrifice.



So, during the Preparation of the Gifts, please don't switch off. Instead, ask yourself: what am I bringing today? What am I offering to God? What needs to be surrendered? What needs to be placed in his hands?

Because worship is not something we watch. It is something we enter. And every true act of worship begins with an offering.

WHITE HOUSE - NEXT STEPS UPDATE

Fr Mark thanks all who have contributed to the consultation on the White House and has listened to all that he has heard. He has also spoken briefly with Fr. Michael Fava, who will be replacing him as parish priest in November. Fr Mark continues to pray and discern the Lord's will for this building and our parish with regard to its use. The next step in the process is for him to submit a paper to the Diocesan Trustees Meeting which is due to take place in September. It is the Bishop and Trustees who will make the final decision, and Fr Mark hopes to give them all the appropriate information, along with his own recommendation.

A NEW CENTENARY LECTERN FALL FOR ST PETER'S



As part of our Centenary celebrations, we are delighted to introduce our beautiful new Centenary Lectern Fall, bearing the words: *"Thou art Peter and upon this rock 'I will build my Church - 1926-2026."* Created over many months through dedication, collaboration and careful craftsmanship, this striking piece marks a significant milestone in our parish's history. Claudine Keigher expertly coordinated the design team, and our sincere thanks go to Keith Bennett for overseeing the project, together with Belinda Mitchell and Anne Benson for their creativity and meticulous attention to detail.

We are deeply grateful to everyone whose ideas, encouragement and support contributed to this special Centenary gift. The design incorporates the Crossed Keys of St Peter, representing the mission entrusted to our patron saint by Christ. Combined with the Centenary inscription, it celebrates our parish heritage while expressing the faith that has sustained our community throughout the last century.

CENTENARY POEM - HEARTFELT THANK YOU



Many parishioners will already be familiar with the beautiful Centenary poem *A Place for All*, written by Kate Lovatt. Inspired by the spirit, history and mission of St Peter's, Kate's moving words capture the very heart of our Centenary theme and remind us that our church is, and always has been, a place of welcome, faith, hope and belonging.

We are equally grateful to Mary Noble, whose exquisite calligraphy has brought Kate's poem to life. Mary's artistry has transformed these inspiring words into a lasting work of beauty, which has been lovingly framed and will be displayed in the church as part of our Centenary legacy. We will let you know once a suitable location has been chosen for it to be displayed within the church.

Our sincere thanks to both Kate and Mary for so generously sharing their gifts and talents. Together they have created a wonderful tribute to St Peter's, one that celebrates our past, inspires our present, and reflects our enduring mission to be "A Place for All."

If windows spoke, its light would call, St Peter's is a place for all."

*We thank all who played a part in bringing these projects to fruition. It stands as a lasting symbol of gratitude and hope, honouring those who have gone before us, enhancing our worship today, and encouraging future generations as we continue our journey as **A Place for All**. ❤️*

LATIN MASS

Feast of St Ignatius of Loyola - Latin Mass: To mark the Feast of St Ignatius of Loyola, a Latin Mass will be celebrated on **Friday 31 July at 7.00pm at St Peter's Church**. Whether you regularly attend the Latin Mass or are simply curious to experience this beautiful and prayerful tradition of the Church, you are warmly encouraged to join us. Everyone is most welcome.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

FIRST READING

First reading: Kings 3:5-6a, 7-12

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 119(118):57,72. 76-77. 127-128. 129-130. R. 97a

O Lord, how I love your law!

SECOND READING

Romans 8:28-30

Gospel Acclamation:

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.

R. Alleluia

GOSPEL *Matthew 13:44-52*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Ps 102:2

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS



Sung Compline – First Fridays at St Peter's: Step into stillness with Latin Sung Compline, the Church's Night Prayer, on **Friday 7th August at 9.00pm in St Peter's Church**. No need to sing - simply come and pray. If you'd like to try Gregorian Chant, join the rehearsal at 8.00pm beforehand. Sung Compline is held on the first Friday of every month - a new rhythm of prayer, beauty and peace at the heart of our parish.

CWL Soup and Pud Lunch for Charity - Our next lunch for Charity will be on Friday 11th September (Please note change of date) in the Pastoral Centre and look forward to seeing you there!

CWL Visit to Quarr Abbey - Members of the Catholic Women's League recently enjoyed a wonderful day out to Quarr Abbey on the Isle of Wight, travelling in two cars via Portsmouth and Fishbourne. Although the day began rain, by the time we reached the ferry terminal the weather had brightened, and we were treated to a lovely sunny crossing. On arrival, we met members of the Portsmouth CWL, who had thoughtfully prepared a gift bag for everyone. The bags contained a bottle of water, two St Benedict medals, laminated prayer cards and a piece of traditional seaside rock, a generous and much-appreciated welcome. We were delighted that Monsignor Canon Vincent Harvey joined us for the visit. During a guided tour of the Abbey, we learned about its history and monastic life. One particularly interesting and unusual feature was the hanging Pyx, used to reserve the Blessed Sacrament in place of a traditional tabernacle. The day was both enjoyable and spiritually enriching. We concluded our visit by celebrating Mass in the Abbey, before making our way back to the ferry for the journey home. It was a memorable occasion, filled with friendship, prayer and fellowship.



SAVE THE DATE

St Gregory's Feast Day Mass at St Gregory's Church on Thursday 3rd September at 7.00pm: This special Mass is an opportunity to come together in prayer and thanksgiving, honouring St Gregory and reflecting on his witness of faith and service to the Church. Parishioners, families and friends are warmly invited to attend and share in this joyful celebration.

Winchester Heritage Open Days running from 11th to 20th September - returns to Winchester offering a wonderful opportunity to explore the city's rich history and heritage.

Here at St Peter's we are delighted to be taking part with two special days of guided tours:

- Saturday 12 September – St Peter Street & Catholic Life
- Saturday 19 September – The Story Behind the Church Door

These tours will uncover fascinating aspects of our parish history and the traditions of Catholic life in Winchester, giving visitors a deeper appreciation of the story of St Peter's and its place within the city.

A quick look at the Heritage Open Days programme also reveals a wide range of events taking place at churches and historic sites across Winchester. To see the full programme, simply search for Winchester in the Heritage Open Days [What's on?](#) section. All events are free of charge, but advance booking is required. Registration for the St Peter's tours will open on 27 August. - more details and tour timings will follow soon.



Centenary Parish Walk - Saturday 19th September: As part of our Centenary celebrations, Fr Mark is planning a special Parish Walk through our beautiful local countryside, visiting each of the churches across our parish. This promises to be a wonderful opportunity to enjoy fellowship, prayer and the natural beauty of our parish while reflecting on our shared journey of faith.

Refreshments and resting stations will be available at each church along the route, and parishioners are welcome to take part in the full walk or simply join for a section that suits them. Whether you are a keen walker or would just like to enjoy part of the day, we hope many of you will be able to join us for this special Centenary event. More details, including timings and the route, will be shared soon.

Celebration Mass of Marriages at St Peter's: On Saturday 3rd October at 11.00am, we will celebrate a special Mass marking **100 years of weddings** in our beautiful parish church of St Peter's. We warmly invite all couples who were married at St Peter's, whether recently or many years ago — as well as those preparing to be married here — to join us for this joyful celebration. Wherever you are now, in the parish or anywhere in the world, you are very welcome. Please help us spread the word so that everyone who has celebrated marriage at St Peter's feels invited. If you would like to attend please register by clicking: [Celebration Mass of Marriages 3rd October 2026](#).



Veneration of the Relics of St Gerard Majella on Thursday 29th October, from 1.00pm: As part of our Centenary Year celebrations, we are privileged to welcome the relics of St Gerard Majella to St Peter's Church. Beloved as the patron saint of mothers, children, expectant parents, and couples hoping to conceive, St Gerard's relics are touring England and Wales in celebration of the 300th anniversary of his birth (April 1726).

The relics, including an ex scapulis relic (from his clothing) and an ex ossibus relic (from his bones), will be available for veneration from 1.00pm. This is a special opportunity to pray through the intercession of St Gerard and bring your personal intentions before the Lord. All are warmly welcome.

Solemnity of the Blessed Winchester Martyrs on Friday 30th October at 7.00pm: Everyone is warmly invited to the Vigil of the Blessed Winchester Martyrs at St Peter's Church. We are delighted to welcome Austen Ivereigh, renowned Catholic author and commentator, who will speak during this special evening of prayer, reflection, and thanksgiving.

The Vigil will also mark Fr Mark's final Mass as Parish Priest here in Winchester, providing an opportunity for our parish community to gather in gratitude for his dedicated ministry and leadership.

Please join us for this significant and memorable occasion as we honour our local martyrs, celebrate our parish heritage, and give thanks for Fr Mark's faithful service.

Murder Mystery Evening: Mark your calendars for Saturday 31st October 2026 at 7.00pm and join the Geriactors for an evening of mystery, entertainment and good food at Weeke Community Centre. The event is being held in aid of the SVP Christmas Parcels Appeal. Tickets are £20 per person, including a two-course meal, and will be available to purchase in due course. More details will follow, but for now, save the date and get ready for a fun-filled evening!

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



HEARTFELT THANKS FROM FR MARK (AGAIN)

Fr Mark says: "Again, I'm feeling extremely humbled and touched by all the many cards, gifts, prayers and good wishes that I've received in celebrating my 25 years of priesthood. I'm feeling truly, wonderfully blessed.

Heartfelt thanks, again, from me, and blessings to you all (as well as apologies that I won't be able to thank you all personally and individually)."

Blessings to you all, Fr Mark



A big thank you to the lovely Anna and her team at Winchester Radio for interviewing Fr Mark last week. If you missed Episode 190, you can listen back as a podcast on your favourite podcast platform, or catch up via their website: <https://winchester.radio/2026/07/17/episode-190-17-07-2026/> Happy listening!

THANK YOU FOR MAKING OUR CENTENARY YEAR SHINE

What an extraordinary few months it has been.

Following Fr Mark's message of thanks, the Parish Team, together with our clergy, staff and volunteers, would like to thank every parishioner, guest and visitor who has helped make our Centenary celebrations such a success. Throughout this special year, our church has been filled with prayer, laughter, friendship and celebration. We have shared memorable liturgies, inspiring events and moments that will remain part of our parish history for years to come. Most importantly, we have witnessed a community coming together to live out our Centenary theme, "A Place for All." Your generosity, patience and support have been at the heart of everything we have achieved. Thank you for bearing with us during a particularly busy period and for your understanding whenever enquiries have taken a little longer than usual to answer. Together, you have helped create a vibrant, welcoming and faith-filled Centenary year that reflects the very best of St Peter's.

Please note that the parish newsletter will be published fortnightly throughout August as we enter the summer holiday season. We wish you and your loved ones a peaceful and refreshing summer and look forward to sharing the next chapter of our Centenary celebrations with you.



ADOREMUS 2026 – A NATIONAL CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST



Adoremus is a National Eucharistic Congress initiated by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to deepen devotion to the Eucharist and encourage adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The next **Adoremus event is due to take place in London on Saturday 10th October 2026**, with Mass, a Eucharistic Procession and Benediction. The Diocese of Portsmouth is co-ordinating a group to travel there by coach. **Registration is by 3rd August 2026.**



To book a place please register using the form either by scanning the QR code or click the link: [Adoremus 2026 – Fill in form](#) Payment Details: Cost £30 per person. Account Name: CDP SOUJE Sort Code: 30-93-04 Account Number: 00888223 Reference: AD26_SURNAME. Departing St Edmund's Church, The Avenue, Southampton, then Winchester Services, Fleet Services on to London.

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

As part of the Diocese's move towards a fully academised education system, the Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust is seeking practising Catholics to serve as Directors on its Trust Board - [click here](#) for further information.. The Trust is looking for individuals with experience in areas such as finance, HR, legal, local authority services, audit, compliance, and estates management. Directors play a vital role in shaping the vision, values and future of Catholic education across our region. If you have relevant skills and would like to explore this rewarding opportunity to support young people in receiving an exceptional faith-filled education, please contact Catherine Hobbs, Director of Education, at chobbs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for further information.

SCHOOL NEWS - ST PETER'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter: For news and information about our wonderful Catholic Primary School, please [Click here](#)

Parish Priest: Fr Mark Hogan

Assistant Priest: Fr Pedro José Hernández O'Hagan

Deacons: Tony Darlison & Martin McElroy

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 Tel: 01962 852804

Please submit newsletter requests by **Wednesday mid-day!** Email: newsletters@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

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.

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME- SUNDAY 26TH JULY 2026 | YEAR A
ST PETER'S CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS - A PLACE FOR ALL



We are delighted to share a selection of photographs from our Centenary celebrations on Saturday 18 July. Parishioners past and present, together with friends from parishes where Fr Mark has served, gathered for the Vigil Mass and a joyful reunion.
The celebrations continued afterwards with a wonderful party to mark Fr Mark's Silver Jubilee and give thanks for his 25 years of priestly ministry.



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More details on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/catholicwinchester>
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17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME- SUNDAY 26TH JULY 2026 | YEAR A

MASS TIME TABLE:

Date	Times	Where	Intentions
Sat 25 July St James Sunday VIGIL 17 Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul of John Henry King
	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	The Soul of Kay & Eric Kearney RIP
Sun 26 July 17 Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	
	9:00AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	
	9:15AM	Mass at St Stephen's	People of the Parish
	10:30AM	Mass at St Peter's	
	11:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	5:30PM	Mass at St Peter's	
Mon 27 July 17 Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00AM	Morning Prayer, Adoration at St Peter's	
	12:15PM	Mass at St Peter's	
Tues 28 July 17 Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:00AM	Morning Prayer, Adoration at St Peter's Cancelled	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	12:15PM	Mass at St Peter's Cancelled	
Wed 29 July Ss Martha, Mary & Lazarus	8:00AM	Morning Prayer, Adoration at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul of Baron Ventry
Thurs 30 July St Chrysologus	8:00AM	Morning Prayer, Adoration at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	Ewa Slinn RIP
Fri 31 July St Ignatius of Loyola	8:00AM	Morning Prayer, Adoration at St Peter's	
	10:00AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	12:15PM	Mass at St Peter's	Len Yacovetta RIP
	7:00PM	Latin Mass - St Ignatius of Loyola	
Sat 1 Aug St Alphonsus Liguori Sunday VIGIL 18 Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:00AM	Mass at St Peter's	
	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	Celebration of Diamond Wedding David & Sue Platt

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](#)

FUNERALS

We pray for:

Peter Noel Harding RIP - 6th August, 10.00am at St Gregory's Church.

Michael Benson RIP

May God grant them eternal rest.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to Denis Stokes & Rosemarie Loveridge who were married on Friday, 10th July at St Peter's.

May their lives together bring glory to God and much joy to one another.

PRAYER CORNER

Let us thank God for all our recent joys and successes and pray that we return from our holidays rested and restored ready for our mission, bringing people closer to Christ in hope and joy.

