



### TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (C)

18th August, 2019

#### *Bringing Fire to the Earth*

Last week I wrote about the flame of faith, and how the wise and faithful steward kindles and nurtures all God's gifts and fans this flame in their hearts so that they may bring warmth and life, hope and joy to others. The theme continues this week as Jesus tells his disciples, tells us, *"I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already!"*

Fire is a beautiful thing, bringing warmth and light, heat and hope. Fire can, though, also be a very dangerous thing. Most of us were taught at a very early age "never to play with fire". Images on our screens of Notre Dame burning or of bush fires rapidly spreading can show fire at its most destructive. Fire can also purify. Gold, for example, can be refined at very hot temperatures in a crucible.

Fire is used several times in the bible as symbolic of God's presence. One of the most famous examples is when God appeared to Moses in the burning bush. Moses is asked to remove his footwear as he approaches the fire and as God speaks to him.

If we remember that God is Love, then this image can reveal itself more clearly. It is the powerful love of God which brings warmth and consolation to our hearts. The Prayer over the Offerings from this past week's Solemnity of the Assumption gives an example:

*May this oblation, our tribute of homage, rise up to you, O Lord, and, through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, whom you assumed into heaven, may our hearts, aflame with the fire of love, constantly long for you.*

The Love of God will also destroy, most notably sin and death. One of the beautiful prayers from the final commendation of the funeral liturgy speaks in this way: *"One day we shall joyfully greet him/her again when the love of Christ, which conquers all things, destroys even death itself."*

God's love will also purify. We ask God to purify our hearts in this life by the fire of his love, even though that may be a painful process. Our Catholic understanding of purgatory is too of a cleansing fire. Pope Benedict writes in *Spe Salvi* (47) of the encounter with God's Love in Christ:

*"in the pain of this encounter, when the impurity and sickness of our lives become evident to us, there lies salvation. His gaze, the touch of his heart heals us through an undeniably painful transformation 'as through fire'. But it is a blessed pain, in which the holy power of his love sears through us like a flame, enabling us to become totally ourselves and thus totally of God."*

When Jesus speaks of bringing fire to the earth, then, He speaks of the Fire of His Love, most especially through the gift of the Holy Spirit, which came upon those first disciples as "tongues of fire".

Maybe this week we can pray for a renewed outpouring of that Holy Spirit, for a fanning of that fire within us, so that we may be cleansed of our sin and set on fire once more with love and passion for God and His Kingdom:

***Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth our Spirit and we shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth.***

(Fr Mark)

**FR. STEPHEN VOOGHT:** We are delighted to announce that Fr Stephen Vooght will be joining us here in the parish on pastoral placement from the weekend of 7/8th September. The plan is for Fr Stephen to be with us for 1-2 years. Fr Stephen is a priest who has been out of active ministry for some time and will be combining his placement here with studies at the seminary in Womersley. Fr Stephen does not yet have faculties to celebrate the sacraments but hopes to receive them when everything is complete. Please keep Fr Stephen in your prayers and make him feel very welcome when he arrives.

This Sunday is **Father Brian Croughan's** 80th birthday. We wish him good health and many more birthdays to come.

This Sunday we welcome **Father Kevin Jones** to St. Peter's, who will be saying Mass at 8am and 10:30am.

In addition, on Thursday we welcome **Father Luca Speziale** who will be saying the 7pm Mass at St. Peter's.

**Considering a call to Priesthood?** Bishop Philip will be hosting a Vocation Seeker Barbecue with Evening Prayer, for those men, young and older, who may be considering a vocation to the Priesthood, even if tentatively, on Tuesday 27th August at Bishop's House from 7pm. It will be a friendly & relaxed evening. Our Seminarians will be at the gathering too. Our Diocesan Clergy are invited to bring with them anyone in their Parish who may be interested - but don't forget to book! The BBQ is aimed at those aged 16 to 55 (abiding by normal safeguarding procedures if under 18). Anyone hoping to attend, should get in touch as soon as possible to book a place: [vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) You can find out more about Vocations to all states of life and ministry in the Church on our fantastic **Vocations Website**, where you can also sign up for their monthly newsletter. And please remember to keep praying for vocations, especially to the Sacred Priesthood.

Over the last year, I've been communicating my vision of what I hope the parish can become, a place where we are "bringing people closer to Jesus Christ in hope and joy". We cannot achieve this without the Lord's help, and without praying for it. That's why I'd like everyone in the parish to pray regularly for the parish and its mission. To help us do this, in Peterpost, over the coming weeks, we're going to publish a Weekly Prayer Intention for the parish, in "Prayer Corner". We'll start by taking a line per week from the Parish Prayer, and as time progresses, we'll have specific intentions for particular activities, or meetings, or groups.

I know that many of you have your own prayer intentions, and many of you already pray for things happening in the parish. But I hope everyone will be willing to join in this initiative, because having the same intention, across the whole parish, will not only bring our common need before the Lord, but also, I hope, bind us together in unity as we pray in common.

**Fr Mark**

**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).

**This week's intention:** *"...so that we may become your ever-faithful disciples."* We pray that we will respond to the call to be disciples for Jesus, and to remain faithful to Him in joys and in trials.

We acknowledge with thanks, collections for 11th August:

Average weekly Planned Giving	£3,651.59
Gift Aid envelopes (Actual)	£253.30
Non Gift Aided cash/cheques (Actual )	£928.39
<b>Average offering for the week</b>	<b>£4,833.28</b>

**Journey in Faith:** Do you know someone (perhaps yourself) who might want to know more about the Catholic Church? Perhaps they are just waiting to be asked? Please tell them about the Journey in Faith programme. It is for those seeking answers. For those wanting to know what Catholics believe. Perhaps for parents of children coming to St Peter's School who would like to learn more in order to support them. Or for those who have been coming to Mass for years, but have never gone up for communion. The Journey in Faith will try and show you more about what we within the Catholic Church believe and do. We will try and answer any and all questions you might have about our faith, about the Church, about the Journey.

Absolutely no commitment is requested or required – we are happy always, to share our journey with you for however long or short a period you choose.

Our programme starts on 24 September at 8pm in the Parish Centre, and if you're interested, or just want to know more, please speak to Nick Kelly on 07960 797963, email at [nick.kelly@sky.com](mailto:nick.kelly@sky.com) or just turn up!

On **Saturday 21st September** at 11:30am, we will be celebrating a reunion Mass in St. Peter's for all those who have participated in the Journey in Faith programme since it was begun by Deacon Ted Hogan in 1987.

There will also be a celebration in the Pastoral Centre afterwards. If you are interested in attending, please contact the parish office.

**DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY CAFÉ:** Both St Peter's and St Stephen's churches have been issued with certificates from Dementia Friendly Winchester in recognition of amendments to their buildings. It is proposed to open a Dementia-friendly Café in the Milner Hall on Tuesday 24th September at 2pm. If you are living with or caring for someone with dementia, you are both invited to drop in for tea, cake and a chat in a safe and relaxed environment. Please contact [dementia@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:dementia@stpeterswinchester.org.uk) by 31st August, leaving your telephone number and someone will contact you.

#### **THE WHITE HOUSE/CONVENT**

We are in the process of emptying the Convent. We would like to offer 2 opportunities for parishioners to browse the items that are left which include cutlery, crockery, glassware, small items of furniture. There are a couple of larger pieces that we will take sealed bids on. Proceeds will be split between the Convent at Medstead and the parish. The dates and times for viewing are:

- Wed. 21st Aug. between 12 and 2pm
- Thurs. 22nd Aug. between 4 and 6pm

Please call at the Pastoral Centre if you find the White House front door locked.

**Saturday 14th September - The annual 'Ride and Stride'**

As usual, St. Gregory's will participate. For more information, contact Rosemary Chambers

[chambers.rosemary@btinternet.com](mailto:chambers.rosemary@btinternet.com)

#### **TODAY'S MASS - LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

**First Reading:** Jeremiah 38:4-6. 8-10

**Psalm Response:** Lord, come to my aid!

**Second Reading:** Letter of St. Paul to the Hebrews 12:1-4

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Luke 12:49-53

**Communion Antiphon:** With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

#### **LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** St. John Eudes *or* Feria

**Tuesday:** St. Bernard

**Wednesday:** Pope St. Pius X

**Thursday:** The Queenship of Mary

**Friday:** St. Rose of Lima *or* Feria

**Saturday:** ST. BARTHOLOMEW

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** the repose of the soul of **Derek Butler**, whose Funeral Mass is at 12:15pm in St. Peter's on Monday 19th August.

May he rest in peace.

"I have come to set the earth on fire." Do you want to carry the fire of the Lord to his people as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? To explore further, contact Fr. John Cooke [vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or call 01329 318 869

**The Covenant with the Poor group** will be meeting to discuss future projects at 7.30pm in St Stephen's room on Monday 19th August. As ever, all parishioners are very welcome to join us, especially if they have projects they would like the parish to support.

#### **VULNERABLE ADULT AWARENESS TRAINING**

Saturday 14 September 2019

1.30 - 4.00pm

St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Jewry Street, Winchester. SO23 8RY

CHILD PROTECTION AWARENESS

Saturday 21 September 2019

10.00am - 12.30pm

St. Edward the Confessor,

191 Winchester Road, Chandlers Ford. SO53 2DU

To attend either or both of these Training Sessions, contact Hilary via the Parish Office,

or [hilary.kemp761@btinternet.com](mailto:hilary.kemp761@btinternet.com)

#### **ST PETER'S CHURCH CLEANING:**

Volunteers desperately needed to join the church cleaning teams please. This only involves sweeping or vacuuming for just one hour every nine weeks, (Six hours a YEAR !!) Please do try to find time .

Please phone Pam Freeborn

01962864391

Txt 07912178934

Email, [pam.freeborn@btinternet.com](mailto:pam.freeborn@btinternet.com)

# EVENTS

## Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel: A Different View makes its UK premiere in Winchester this summer (until September 29th):

The exhibition will be on show at three venues across the city: City Space and The Gallery in Winchester Discovery Centre and the Great Hall. The exhibition comes to Winchester after touring major European cities including Copenhagen and, most recently, Amsterdam. Officially licensed by the Vatican Museums, the exhibition will allow unprecedented closeness to the magnificent works which adorn the chapel ceiling, normally 22 metres above visitors' heads. Working in partnership with the Vatican Museums, the frescoes have been photographed, reproduced at high resolution and transferred onto special fabric webs to create highly detailed display panels. This technique allows a true-to-life reproduction of the ceiling and gives visitors a unique opportunity for an otherwise impossible close-up view of his brushwork. **Entry fee is £5 online, £6 on the door.**

**St Peter's, Jewry St Winchester** will be showing a short film by Bishop Robert Barron on Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel through the lens of faith during the summer. We hope you enjoy the exhibition and can come to the Parish Centre on Friday afternoons (3pm) to see the short film or on 22nd August and 12th September at 7.30 to see a longer version.

**Entry is free.** All welcome.

Friday 30th August at 6.00pm in St John's Church, Alresford. **'Summer Fun'** - You are invited to come to the performance of 'The Blue Crystal' presented by the young people of Alresford. It will last about an hour: no ticket needed. Do come along to see the culmination of 3 days fun and activities and support all involved in this project. Any further information from Rosie Waring Green 07891 120662



**CARITAS KIDS HOLIDAY CLUBS** this summer: Caritas Portsmouth Diocese will be running two Children's activity weeks this year during August in Basingstoke and Southsea. These children's activity clubs are aimed at families that may not be able to afford a holiday and require some fun time for their children in a safe environment. A program of creative activities, arts & crafts and fun interactive sports are part of the program as well as providing a healthy lunch and snacks. To help make these kids clubs run smoothly, Caritas are looking for caring and compassionate volunteers to be part of the Love in Action Caritas Team.

If you can give your time to support these clubs or require more information, please contact Catherine Knight—Basingstoke club (07787 456955) or Fiona Allen—Southsea club (07981 204886).

**Basingstoke**—27th to 30th August, 10am to 3:30pm St Bede's Primary School, Popley

**Southsea**—26th to 30th August—10:30am to 2:30pm Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Eastney, Southsea

**ALPHA AT ST. PETER'S:** Our Alpha programme starts again in mid-September and will run most weeks until early December. Please email [alpha@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:alpha@stpeterswinchester.org.uk) for more information or to register for a place. There are more Alphas to choose from this time too:

- Monday evenings, starting **16th September**, 7:30pm to 9:30pm St Peter's Pastoral Centre
- Thursday lunchtimes, starting **19th September**, 12 noon to 2pm Milner Hall
- Friday mornings, starting **27th September**, 8:45am to 10:45am St Stephen's Community Room

Alpha is for everyone. Please come and experience it, if you haven't already and don't be shy about asking a friend, family member or colleague to come and experience it with you - it could be the most important thing that you do for someone! Invitations are available for you to use at the back of all churches.



**21 Day Prayer Campaign:** You are encouraged to join in this focused period of prayer which starts on Monday 26th August. The campaign is inspired by Jesus' words in Luke 11:02 *'Say this when you pray: Father, may your name be held holy, your kingdom come.'* You are invited to pray at 11:02am each day for the country and more specifically for three people who you would like to explore faith. *Heavenly Father, I pray for the UK. Lord, let Your Kingdom come and Your will be done across this nation. Holy Spirit, come fill me today, that I might share the love and good news of Jesus to those around me. Amen.* Prayer cards will be available at all Masses on the weekend of 25th August. During this time, be open and expectant to see how God might use you.

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE:** While abortion is being made easier to access, it is more than ever important to provide real alternatives to women in crisis pregnancies. Prayer and witness near abortion centres have proved life-saving for thousands of babies who would otherwise have been aborted, their mothers avoiding life-long agony and regret. Now however silent prayer and witness are being suppressed in British courts of law against this country's greatest asset of free speech and free public assembly... As Pope Francis reminded us once again this May, opposition to abortion is not a religious issue but a human rights issue. Of course, however, repentance and forgiveness are there in the confessional for anyone who is post-abortive.

[catholicerald.co.uk/news/2019/05/25/pope-francis-abortion-is-never-the-answer/](http://catholicerald.co.uk/news/2019/05/25/pope-francis-abortion-is-never-the-answer/)

Join us in an ecumenical witness alongside people of other faiths and those of no religious persuasion, standing in solidarity for the sacredness of life... Your witness, fasting, and prayer is literally a matter of life or death... It is a most humbling spiritual work of mercy... we are not there to judge, just to BE THERE for a woman who has no one else to turn to in her crisis...

There's an opportunity for you to sign up after Mass or you can ring/text 07535937865, email:

[40daysforlifesouthampton@gmail.com](mailto:40daysforlifesouthampton@gmail.com) Website: [40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/southampton](http://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/southampton)

Our launch event will include a showing of the highly acclaimed, sensitive "Unplanned" film which has had huge box-office success this year in the USA. **Launch:** Tuesday, 17th September (8 days before the vigil starts) 7pm Holy Family Church, Redbridge Hill, Millbrook SO16 4PL

### Parish Contacts

Address: St. Peter's Church, Jewry Street,  
Winchester, Hants, SO23 8RY  
Tel: 01962 852804  
Email: office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk  
Web page: <http://www.catholicwinchester.org.uk/>  
Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Hogan  
Assistant Priest: Fr. Tom McGrath  
Priest in Residence: Canon Peter Wilkie  
Deacons: Rev. Gerard Dailly;  
Rev. Martin McElroy  
Sacristan: Laurie Howe  
Baptism & First  
Holy Communion: Rosanne Walker  
Youth: Jo Donaldson  
Senior Pastoral  
Worker: Sandra Drower  
Finance/Admin: Annette Parr  
Facilities: Sean Reidy  
Admin: Adam Biernat & Richard Phiri  
**We look forward to welcoming you to our Parish**

### EUCHARISTIC ADORATION AND MORNING

**PRAYER:** Our weekday adoration before the Blessed Sacrament (**Tuesdays-Thursdays**), as well as our Morning Prayer & Adoration (**Mondays & Thursdays**) will take a temporary pause for the school holidays and will resume again in the 2nd week of September.

### Volunteers needed for Winchester Well-Being Lunch

#### Clubs:

WWB Lunch Clubs, which are held at St Barnabas Church in Weeke on Mondays and in the Baptist Church Hall (Swan Lane) on Tuesdays and Thursdays, are very short of volunteer helpers, especially on Thursdays. If anyone is free from 10am until 1pm, even if it's only once a month, and would be interested going along to help, or to find out more about what's involved, please contact Jo Jackson, Lunch Club Co-ordinator, email: [winchesterwellbeing@gmail.com](mailto:winchesterwellbeing@gmail.com) Tel: 07907503421, or Carol Bailey (WinBap Seniors' Ministry Worker) Tel: 01962 868770.

**LOURDES:** Due to an unexpected vacancy, there is an opportunity for a sick/disabled person to join the Hants & W.Berks Jumbulance Group pilgrimage to Lourdes, Friday 27 September to Saturday 5 October 2019. (The VIP must be able to manage a few walking steps and collapsible wheelchairs only). Mass said daily with our accompanying priest, visits to all traditional areas of the Domaine, plus outings into the Pyrenees. Cost £800, which included full board, return travel, daily outings, entry, and Insurance. There is no charge for 24/7 care. For more info, contact Hilary on 07740049127 or the Group Leader, Chris on 0788 774 8224. A bursary may be available for anyone struggling with the cost - if interested, please speak in confidence with Fr. Mark.

### **Did You Know?**

Josef Pieper (d. 1997), one of the great Catholic philosophers of the 20th Century, a specialist in the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas, speaks about the importance of leisure in our lives.

Leisure is not a break from an activity or a distraction, but a state of the soul. It is a contemplative and spiritual attitude consisting of an inner silence. It is receptivity to the world and an embrace of who we truly are. It leads us to God and the seventh-day rest He offers us after the six-day labour of creation.

An unfortunate tendency of life today is the impulse to idolise work and busyness. So try to find some way to give a counter-witness to this tendency over the days ahead.



### Masses and Liturgies: 17th to 24th August 2019 St. Peter's, Winchester

#### Masses

Sat 17th	6:00pm	Mass - Jack Laishley RIP
Sun 18th	8:00am	Mass - Firmani Family RIP
	10:30am	Mass - The Mission of the Parish
	12:30pm	<b>Baptism - Reuben Porteous</b>
		<b>Ward and Idris Joseph Shami</b>
		<b>NO Evening Prayer and</b>
		<b>Benediction</b>
	5:00pm	Mass - Intentions of the Neil Family
	6:00pm	<b>Funeral Mass - Derek Butler</b>
Mon 19th	12:15pm	Mass - Eileen Gibson
Tues 20th	8:00am	NO MASS
Wed 21st		NO MASS
Thur 22nd	7:00pm	Mass - CWL
Fri 23rd	12:15pm	Mass - Elsie and William Walton RIP
Sat 24th	9:00am	Mass - Tony McQuirk RIP
	1:00pm	<b>Wedding Service - Matthew Swann and Laura Drew</b>

#### Confessions:

Sat 11:30am - 12:30pm 4:30pm - 5:00pm

#### Eucharistic Adoration

Tue: 9:00am - 7:00pm Eucharistic Adoration  
Wed: 1:00pm - 8:00pm is suspended until after  
Thur: 9:00am - 4:00pm the summer break

#### St. Gregory's, Alresford

Sun 18th 11:00am Mass - Evelyn and Ron Fisher RIP

#### St. Stephen's, Oliver's Battery

Sun 18th 9:15am Mass - Derek Butler RIP

#### St. Thomas More's, Stockbridge

Sun 18th 9:00am Mass - People of the Parish

**The bookshop is open after all Masses and during office hours. Please do come and browse.**