

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (C)

15th September, 2019

The Faith of a Fifteen-Year-Old - Week 1 - Relationship

For the next few weeks, I'm going to be talking and writing about "The Faith of a Fifteen-Year-Old". Many of us will have gone to R.E. classes at school or Confirmation Classes but, since then, our faith hasn't really developed. It's got stuck where we were aged fifteen. So, over the next few weeks, without any sense of judgment or guilt, we're going to try and gently move those of us who are a little older than fifteen onto a more useful approach to our faith.

In our Gospel this weekend, we hear one of Jesus's most famous stories, told to an audience of "tax collectors and sinners" and "Pharisees and scribes".

"A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them."

The son demands his part of his inheritance. He's essentially saying to his father, "You're dead to me. I am going to treat you as if you've already died. Give me my inheritance. I want everything that's due to come to me." And the father agrees. The son departs, squanders everything in an entirely foolish way, and then hits a patch of bad luck that leaves him homeless and penniless, at which point, he decides to return to the father. To his credit, he approaches his father in humility. He doesn't expect to return to the family. He just wants a job in order to get some food. But the father actually welcomes him back, and with open arms. He even proceeds to throw a party.

Now, the younger son here represents those sinners in Jesus's audience. And Jesus wants them to know that it's okay, that God hasn't stopped loving them. They don't have to clean up their act before they can come back to their father, who simply wants them home. However, they're not the only intended audience for this story. It's also addressed to those Pharisees, represented by the older brother. We meet him next.

"Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing."

So the older brother is doing what he always did. He was working for his father. He was the dutiful son. And as he comes in from work, he asked, logically enough, "What's going on? Why the party?" And a servant tells him that it's because his brother has returned, and his father is hosting this extravagant celebration.

"He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends."

So the older son refuses to go to the party. He's angry because he's obeyed his father and followed the rules and now he's looking for his pay cheque. It makes sense. But when you peel back the older son's intentions, it's easy to see that they're no different to those of the younger son. This man obeys his father not out of love and respect, but out of what's in it for him, out of his desire to get the father's money and possessions.

The father, who represents God the Father in the story, answers his son not with condemnation but with patience and kindness, even though his son is rude to him. He says,

"My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

The parable isn't just about the prodigal or lost son, it's about both sons, both sons who are lost in different ways. For those of you confirmed as a teenager, you possibly learned a lot of religious rules, rules you didn't necessarily agree with or maybe didn't even understand, but either way, you walked away from it all. Or maybe

you're like that older brother. Maybe you're the good son. Maybe you're the religious rule keeper, and you're going to earn your salvation, you're going to work your way into heaven. God owes it to you.

Neither son really understood the father. Growing up, we learn a lot about right and wrong, about do's and don'ts. And that's as it should be. God is good. His law is good for us. Any parent is the same. Without rules and boundaries, children don't learn to love. If we never get beyond our fifteen-year-old faith, we can reduce Christianity to rules, rules and more rules; rules that we accept or rules that we reject, but rules nonetheless.

God wants more. God wants a lot more. God wants us to be looking to Him, talking to Him, honouring Him with more and more of our choices, more and more of our days, and more and more of our life, living our life in His grace, which isn't a prize for the perfect or a gift for the good. It is unmerited favour, that incredibly He keeps sending our way.

The point isn't rules, the point was never rules. The point is about having a relationship.

Fr. Mark

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND MORNING PRAYER:

Our weekday adoration before the Blessed Sacrament (**Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays**) will be resuming next week. Also, our Morning Prayer & Adoration (**Mondays & Thursdays, 8-9am**) will be restarting this Monday. All are most welcome.

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. Bring and share contributions welcome.



Have you ever considered a vocation as a Deacon?

Oscott Seminary have introduced a preparatory year for men discerning a call to the Permanent Diaconate. This consists of three sessions (Friday-Saturday) and commences on 8th/9th November. The other dates for this academic year are 24th/25th January and 27th/28th March. Its aim is to help candidates better understand the reality of a vocation to Holy Orders and to discern whether this is what God is calling them to. There will be Parish-based pastoral elements, spiritual formation and intellectual input given through teaching, seminars and discussions. Attendance at these days does not commit an individual to beginning the formation programme, but is part of the overall selection process. For further information, please email Fr Peter Hart as soon as possible on pghart@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or, if you would like to talk to someone from the parish who has taken part recently, please get in touch with Tony Darlison via the parish office.

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: "Bless our Parish Community"

We pray that the Lord will bind us together in faith, hope and love, so that our parish will be a home for us all, and a welcome to others.

We acknowledge with thanks, collections for 8th Sep:	
Average weekly Planned Giving	£3,651.59
Gift Aid envelopes (Actual)	£235.20
Non Gift Aided cash/cheques (Actual)	£901.18
Average offering for the week	£4,787.97

This Sunday there is a **second collection** for **Home Mission Sunday**. The Home Mission Office helps our local Churches make the joy of the Gospel a reality. It's part of the Dept of Evangelisation and Catechesis of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales. Please be generous in your support for this wonderful ministry.

Next weekend the **Covenant with the Poor** team will be appealing for a second classroom for the Agta tribe school in the Philippines. Please support generously as ever!


Journey in Faith: Do **you** know someone (perhaps yourself) who might want to know more about the Catholic Church? Please tell them about the Journey in Faith programme. It is for those seeking answers. For those wanting to know what Catholics believe. 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, please speak to Nick Kelly on 07960 797963, email at nick.kelly@sky.com or just

Volunteers for Winchester Churches Christmas Project 2019: Winchester Churches Christmas Project attempts to help those for whom Christmas is a really difficult time. Each case is different but the aim is to provide a boost after a difficult year by settling an electricity bill or buying toys, food or clothing to help a family in need during the festive season. If you would like to volunteer to assist in this ecumenically run programme, please contact Helen McTiffin on 01962 849559 for more information. Numbers are needed by 5th November, please.

Lead Chaplain Wanted for the Winchester City Centre Chaplaincy - The Winchester City Centre Chaplaincy offers workplace support to Winchester businesses, organisations and the Law Courts. **We are recruiting for a new Lead Chaplain to lead this active and successful chaplaincy. This is a part-time paid post, for a lay or ordained person. As well as relevant experience and personal style, you will be an active Christian in good standing within your own church. For more detail, please email chair@winccc.org.uk or call 07834 540106.**

Church Bulletin Newsletter notice from a parish elsewhere:

Bloopers



"This month we would like to thank all our volunteers, especially those who drive the elderly from their homes."

OOPS!

TODAY'S MASS - LITURGY OF THE WORD
Entrance Antiphon: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.
First Reading: Exodus 32:7-11. 13-14
Psalms Response: I will leave this place and go to my father.
Second Reading: First letter of St. Paul to Timothy 1:12-17
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!
Gospel: Luke 15:1-32
Communion Antiphon: How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK
Monday: Ss. Cornelius & Cyprian
Tuesday: St. Hildegard of Bingen *or* St. Robert Bellarmine *or* Feria
Wednesday: Feria
Thursday: St. Januarius *or* St. Theodore of Canterbury *or* Feria
Friday: St. Andrew Kim Taegon, St. Paul Chong Hasang & Companions
Saturday: ST. MATTHEW

PLEASE PRAY FOR the repose of the souls of those who have died recently. May God grant them eternal rest.
Anthony Downing - Funeral at St. John's Church in Andover, Monday 16th September, 12:30pm
Maureen Reilly - Funeral Service at Wessex Vale Crematorium, Tuesday 17th September, 1:45pm
Margaret Guppy - Funeral Mass at St. Peter's, Monday 30th September, 12:15pm.
Mary Glasspool - who died on the 4th September. Funeral service on the 23rd September at South Stoneham Chapel, 12pm

Did You Know? *That it is National Prayer Weekend on the 27-29 September 2019*

Whether you pray as a whole church together across the whole weekend, or you join a small group that chooses to prayer walk around your neighbourhood or you want to individually pray for a friend, please join in with thousands of others around the country for the National Prayer Weekend 2019. We believe that local people praying for their community can change lives. Make God's love known to the people around you. Your prayers. Your neighbours. Your community.

... Because God can do much more than you can even imagine ...

CHILD PROTECTION AWARENESS
 Saturday 21st September (10.00am – 12.30pm) at: St. Edward the Confessor, 191 Winchester Road, Chandlers Ford, SO53 2DU
 Saturday 28th September (10.00am – 12.30pm) at: St. William of York, Upper Redlands Road, Reading. RG1 5JT
 Saturday 19th October (10.00am – 12.30pm) at: St. Thomas More, Exton Road, Iford, Bournemouth. BH6 5QG
VULNERABLE ADULT AWARENESS
 Saturday 28th September (1.30 – 4.00pm) at: St. William of York, Upper Redlands Road, Reading. RG1 5JT
 Saturday 19th October (1.30pm – 4.00pm) at: St. Thomas More, Exton Road, Iford, Bournemouth. BH6 5QG
 To attend either or both of these Training Sessions, contact Hilary via the Parish Office, or hilary.kemp761@btinternet.com

EVENTS

LAST FEW WEEKS TO SEE BISHOP ROBERT BARRON'S EMMY-NOMINATED FILM - Alongside *Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel: A Different View* exhibition at the Winchester Discovery Centre and the Great Hall, our Catholic community is showing a short film by Bishop Robert Barron on Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel through the lens of faith. We hope you enjoy the exhibition and can come to the Parish Centre on Friday afternoons (3pm) until 27th Sep. (Entry free.) Please invite friends.

THE WINCHESTER BASICS BANK QUIZ - SATURDAY 21st SEPTEMBER - Mayor Councillor Eleanor Bell has graciously agreed to be present at the Winchester Basics Bank quiz. Kevin Ashman, local resident and captain of the BBC Egghead team will deliver the questions and announce the answers. The quiz will be at Christ Church in Christchurch Road (SO23 9SR) and will start at 7:30pm (please arrive by 7:15pm to be able to start then). Sumptuous two-course meal and wine will be provided. This is a fundraising event for Winchester Basics Bank. Tickets - £20 per person. Please form your own team of 8 people and register your team with us with any information on dietary requirements by email at chair@winchesterbasicsbank.co.uk. You can pay on the evening.



The Community Café is open every Thursday, 12:30-2:00pm, in the Pastoral Centre. Do come and join us for a healthy, affordable lunch in a relaxed environment. We look forward to seeing you and to meeting new guests. Everyone is very welcome, so do bring along your friends!

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 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 (places available)
 - Thursday lunchtimes, starting **19th September**, 12 noon to 2pm Milner Hall (waiting list in operation)
 - Friday mornings, starting **27th September**, 8:45am to 10:45am St Stephen's Community Room (limited places available)
- 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.



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE meet on Thursday 19th September, 4.30pm for 5.00pm start until 6.30pm, in the Pastoral Centre for a 'domestic and planning' meeting. All ladies welcome.

BIG SOUP & PUD LUNCH on Friday 20th September, 12.00noon - 1.30pm, in the Pastoral Centre organised by the Catholic Women's League, in aid of the **Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance**. £5.00. Please come and support.

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 and the 4th Tuesday of every month thereafter. 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

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERY OF THE BIBLE STUDY COURSE - The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have designated 2020 as '**The God Who Speaks: A Year of the Word**' to celebrate the 10th anniversary of *Verbum Domini* - Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord', and the 1,600th anniversary of St Jerome, who translated the Bible into Latin. The 'year' will be launched on September 30th 2019 on the feast of St Jerome. One way we are celebrating the year is with a Bible study course - '**Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible**' by **Jeff Cavins & Sarah Christmyer**. This eight-part study (30-minute videos followed by a time of discussion) provides a great way to understand the Bible, which essentially is a story about the Father's unfailing love for us - a love that we are called to share with others. You will get a sense of the 'big picture' woven throughout the Scriptures, make sense of the Bible and see how it relates to your everyday life, discover the remarkable connections between the Old and New Testaments and see how the Sacraments, the Church and the entire Catholic Faith is rooted in Scripture...and much more!
The study will run on Thursday evenings from 31 October to 19 December 2019 inclusive; each session will be from 7:30pm to 9:00pm in the Milner Hall and will be facilitated by Deacon Martin McElroy and Imelda Weingart-West.
If you have any questions or to book a place, please email Rosanne Walker: rosanne@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

St Gregorys—Wed, 18 Sept—tea and chat at Nan McNamara's at 2:30pm. Enquires to Nan on 01962 734425. The **cake sale** on Sun, 1 Sept raised £45.90. Thank you once again to all those who support this fund raising activity. The next cake sale will be on **Sun, 6 Oct**. **Christians against Poverty** - next money management course starts on **Wed, 25 Sept** in the Methodist Church, Jacklyns Lane, Alresford. The course offers a free, confidential and practical look at money management. Everyone welcome. Please contact Claire to register on ctia.cap.alresford@gmail.com

This year, our annual mass count will be taking place over the four weekends commencing Sunday, 22nd September 2019. Thank you for your patience whilst this is taking place.

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
Pastoral Care: Sandra Drower
Finance/Admin: Annette Parr
Facilities: Sean Reidy
Admin: Adam Biernat & Richard Phiri

We look forward to welcoming you to our Parish



Save paper !! If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please contact the parish office at office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

ST PETERS 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) or email pam.freeborn@btinternet.com

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2019-2020 PROGRAMME:

A reminder that parents of children enrolled on this programme have one last chance to attend the compulsory parents' session on Tuesday 24th September (7-8:30pm in the Milner Hall at St Peter's Church) if they were unable to attend the session in July/August. Please would parents bring their child's Baptismal Certificate and any outstanding yellow parents' options forms and payments for children's books. Any queries please contact Rosanne Walker at FHC@stpeterswinchester.org.uk



Masses and Liturgies: 14th to 21st September 2019 St. Peter's, Winchester

Masses

Sat 14th	6:00pm	Mass - Bruce and Kathleen Cowling RIP
Sun 15th	8:00am	Mass - Mary Anne McCormack RIP
	10:30am	Mass - Sisters of Mary Morning Star
	12:30pm	Baptisms - Hortense Duggan & Isabella Mellone
	1:30pm	Baptism - Niamh Sheehan-Philips
	5:00pm	Evening Prayer and Benediction - Home Missions and Prayers for Evangelisation
	6:00pm	Mass - Dorothy Tosdevine RIP
Mon 16th	8:00am	Adoration & Morning Prayer
	12:15pm	Mass - For Founders
Tues 17th	8:00am	Mass - For Fr. Peter, that God will give him the 'crown of righteousness'
		NO MASS
Wed 18th		Adoration & Morning Prayer
Thur 19th	8:00am	CWL Mass - Margaret Guppy RIP
	7:00pm	+ Intentions of the Guppy Family
Fri 20th	12:15pm	Mass - Thanksgiving
	2:00pm	Wedding Service - Larbie Jones
Sat 21st	9:00am	Mass - Deceased Members of the Szymanski Family
	11:30am	Journey in Faith Celebration Mass
	3:00pm	Baptism - Darlison Baby

Confessions:

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

Eucharistic Adoration (recommences next week)

Tue: 9:00am - 7:00pm
Wed: 1:00pm - 8:00pm
Thur: 9:00am - 4:00pm

St. Gregory's, Alresford

Sun 15th 11:00am Mass - Joan Pollard RIP

St. Stephen's, Oliver's Battery

Sun 15th 9:15am Mass - Philippa Tatham RIP

St. Thomas More's, Stockbridge

Sun 15th 9:00am Mass - People of the Parish

St. Peter's Catholic Primary School, Oliver's Battery Rd North, Winchester, Hants SO22 4JB

Welcome back to the new academic year.

Last week it was a delight to welcome everyone back to school. To see children and adults getting to know each other in their new classes. Sharing stories of the adventures had during the summer holidays, which ranged from visiting all the parks in Winchester, to meeting up with friends and family, camping adventures and much more.

This week, adults and children in school have spent time reminding themselves of and reinforcing expectations of behaviour and learning. They have considered and discussed our mission statement "Christ at the Centre". What does that mean? They have revisited and discussed our 'Golden rules': everyone has the right to feel safe, everyone has the right to be respected and everyone has the right to learn.

In addition, they have worked to remind themselves and each other of the words and actions to use if someone is doing something that makes them feel unsafe. Staff will be revisiting these expectations with pupils repeatedly throughout the year.

Our Year 6 pupils are already putting these areas of learning into practice. This week they are on their residential trip to Kingswood on the Isle of Wight and Mr Newsam tells me that behaviour is 'exemplary' including a good night's sleep on the first night! Well done Year 6 for being true St Peter's ambassadors.

We are delighted to have three new people and one returning person to work with us: Miss Stanbrook who is teaching Year 4; Miss Tousekova, Teaching Assistant in Year 6 and Starfish group; Mrs Roberts who is supporting a range of pupils across the school and Miss Maeso who is supporting the work of the office. We offer them a warm welcome to St Peter's.

Mrs Megan Hutchins Acting Head Teacher