



TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (C) 8th September, 2019

Carrying Our Cross and Following Jesus

A few years ago, I made my first trip to Africa. By the grace of God, I managed to walk up a hill, quite a tall one, the biggest in Africa in fact, Mount Kilimanjaro: standing at nearly 6,000m (or nearly 20,000 feet). To walk up a mountain involves a reasonably big decision and a reasonable amount of thinking through what will be required. I needed to make sure I had enough vaccinations; that I had enough kit to keep me cool at the bottom and warm at the top. I had to try and keep my weight down and my fitness up. I even (very occasionally!) wore a strange breathing mask which made me look like a baddie in a Batman film - but which allegedly helped me avoid altitude sickness!

There are much bigger choices we make (or, more properly, which we try to discern), such as a commitment to marriage or religious life; a certain career path, buying a house; having a child. Each of these require that we make some sort of calculation as to whether or not we have what it takes. We can never be sure, of course, but we can't make these sorts of decisions lightly, just crossing our fingers and hoping everything will be ok.

Jesus uses two images in today's Gospel to make basically this point. The first speaks of someone who wants to build a tower. You're going to look a bit of a wally, Jesus points out, if you don't sit down and work out whether or not you've enough in the bank account to finish the job before you start. Today, he might make a similar point about building a skyscraper or a motorway or a high speed rail link.

The second image is about kings thinking of engaging in a battle against their neighbouring kingdoms. It isn't really about the moral rights or wrongs of war but about some pragmatic reflection. Have we got enough resources to see us to victory?

But Jesus isn't really talking about towers or motorways or rail links; nor is he talking of wars and battles, or even of mountain treks. What he's interested in is "discipleship". Did you notice the context of the reading: great crowds were journeying with Jesus as he was making his way towards Jerusalem (and therefore, as Jesus knew, in outline, if not in detail, towards the cross).

Lots of people had started to follow this miracle maker but did they know what they were letting themselves in for? Did they know the destination of this train? This wasn't some feel-good jolly day out, a trip to the seaside or a picnic in the park. Jesus needed to add some realism to the buzz and excitement of the crowd. This is no free ticket. To follow the Way of Love requires sacrifices to be made.

Why follow Jesus? Why go on a path which leads to the cross? Why do we need to abandon *everything*? Because, this is the path which leads beyond the cross to freedom, true freedom, to life, to peace. But it comes at a price. For Jesus, it would cost him everything, down to the very last drop of blood - in order to win for us everything: life eternal in the presence of his Father in heaven. What about you? What might it cost you to follow Jesus to heaven? What are you willing to pay?

Pope Benedict XVI asks us: "*Are we not perhaps all afraid in some way? If we let Christ enter fully into our lives, if we open ourselves totally to him, are we not afraid that He might take something away from us? Are we not perhaps afraid to give up*

something significant, something unique, something that makes life so beautiful? Do we not then risk ending up diminished and deprived of our freedom?

No! If we let Christ into our lives, we lose nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful and great. No! Only in this friendship are the doors of life opened wide. Only in this friendship is the great potential of human existence truly revealed. Only in this friendship do we experience beauty and liberation. And so, today, with great strength and great conviction, on the basis of long personal experience of life, I say to you... Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away, and he gives you everything. When we give ourselves to him, we receive a hundredfold in return. Yes, open, open wide the doors to Christ - and you will find true life. Amen."

So, have you sat down and had a really good think and pray? Do you trust Jesus..? Are you curious to find out where he wants to take you? Are you open to what he might be wanting from you? Are you actively wrestling with the challenges Jesus presents you? Do you really want to follow Jesus, wherever he might take you? Are you really ready to abandon everything to take up your cross and join him on the Way? Do you really desire in your heart that nothing should interfere with you being his disciple? Are you willing to let Him help you? These are the questions which Jesus poses for you today.

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 this weekend. 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 weekend children have begun the course to prepare them for their First Holy Communion in 2020. Please keep them, their families and the catechists who are leading the programme in your prayers during the months ahead."

This Sunday there is a second collection for the **Catholic Education Service**. The Catholic Education Service acts on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference to support Catholic education. There are over 2,200 Catholic schools, academies and colleges in England and Wales, educating over 850,000 pupils. Please give generously.

Tichborne Mass - On Sunday 8th September, 6pm, Fr Mark will celebrate Mass in St. Andrew's, Tichborne. You are very welcome to join us for this annual Mass.

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 [our priests] may lead us as true shepherds, preaching your word and administering the sacraments."* We pray that our priests will imitate Christ, the Good Shepherd - and that, as they share God's word and the sacraments with us, we may be brought closer to Jesus.

We acknowledge with thanks, collections for 1st Sep:	
Average weekly Planned Giving	£3,651.59
Gift Aid envelopes (Actual)	£302.30
Non Gift Aided cash/cheques (Actual)	£1,094.37
Average offering for the week	£5,084.26

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 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. Bring and share contributions welcome.

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 leaving your telephone number and someone will contact you.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Christchurch, are seeking to appoint a new Headteacher. Full details are available on the Government, Dorset and Diocesan Websites. For a comprehensive pack and application form email b.hincks@stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk or phone the school on 01202 485976. Application forms can be downloaded from the CES website. Closing date 13 September 2019.

The prolife charity **Life** is looking for enthusiastic church and community fundraisers in the Diocese to help us grow our life-saving work with vulnerable mothers.

We want you to help our volunteer fundraisers, manage local events, and develop relationships with community groups. We offer a competitive salary for a full or part-time position based at home. Contact jobs@lifecharity.org.uk for more details.

TODAY'S MASS - LITURGY OF THE WORD

Entrance Antiphon: You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

First Reading: Wisdom 9:13-18

Psalms Response: O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.

Second Reading: Letter of St. Paul to Philemon 9-10. 12-17

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

Communion Antiphon: Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Monday: St. Peter Claver *or* Feria
Tuesday: Feria
Wednesday: Feria
Thursday: The Most Holy Name of Mary *or* Feria
Friday: St. John Chrysostom
Saturday: THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

CONGRATULATIONS TO Simi Connors and Margaret Ann Barney-Smith who were married in St. Peter's last Tuesday.

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.

Training Calendar (September – October 2019)

CHILD PROTECTION AWARENESS

Saturday 21st September (10.00am – 12.30pm)
 St. Edward the Confessor, 191 Winchester Road, Chandlers Ford, SO53 2DU

Saturday 28th September (10.00am – 12.30pm)
 St. William of York, Upper Redlands Road, Reading. RG1 5JT

Saturday 19th October (10.00am – 12.30pm)
 St. Thomas More, Exton Road, Iford, Bournemouth. BH6 5QG

VULNERABLE ADULT AWARENESS

Saturday 7th September (10.00am – 12.30pm)
 St. Edward's, 44 Alma road, Windsor. SL4 3HJ

Saturday 14th September (1.30pm – 4.00pm)
 St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs, Jewry Street, Winchester. SO23 8RY

Saturday 28th September (1.30 – 4.00pm)
 St. William of York, Upper Redlands Road, Reading. RG1 5JT

Saturday 19th October (1.30pm – 4.00pm)
 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**) to see the short version or on **12th September at 7.30** to see a longer version. (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 and will field her own mayoral team! 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 (choice of meat and vegetarian dishes) and wine will be provided. This is a fundraising event for Winchester Basics Bank. Tickets are £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 or in advance by cheque made payable to Winchester Basics Bank and sent to our office at 21a Penton Place, Milland Road, Winchester SO23 0PZ.

Wednesday September 11th - Lunchtime Pie Club at St. Peter's Pastoral Centre: please come at 12:45 for 1. There'll be the usual two-course hot meal, with a vegetarian/gluten-free option, and pudding with custard. All welcome - whether you are a regular, come occasionally, or are a new participant. Do feel free to bring a friend or invite someone new.

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.

40DAYSFORLIFE - Please sign up for 1hour/wk of 6-wk 40daysforlife vigil at BPAS abortion centre, Royal Southants Hospital, Brintons Terrace SO14 0YG. (If unable to commit each week, whatever you can much appreciated) ring/text 07535937865, email 40daysforlifesouthampton@gmail.com Launch event: Tuesday, 17th September (8 days before the vigil starts) 7pm Holy Family Church, Redbridge Hill, Millbrook SO16 4PL. See updates 40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/southampton

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 unending 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
- 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

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

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 hopefully resume on Monday 16th 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 Tel: 07907503421, or Carol Bailey (WinBap Seniors' Ministry Worker) Tel: 01962 868770.

Masses and Liturgies: 7th to 14th September 2019

St. Peter's, Winchester

Masses

Sat 7th	6:00pm	Mass - Souls in Purgatory
Sun 8th	8:00am	Mass - William Meader RIP
	10:30am	Mass - Rita Hodson-Walker RIP
	12:15pm	Mass in the Extraordinary Form
	5:00pm	NO Evening Prayer and Benediction
	6:00pm	Mass - Intentions of the Way Family
Mon 9th	12:15pm	Mass - Special Intention
Tues 10th	8:00am	Mass - For the Dead & Founders
Wed 11th		NO MASS
Thur 12th	7:00pm	Mass - Rose Margaret Fletcher RIP
Fri 13th	12:15pm	Mass - For our Lady of Fatima - Thanksgiving
Sat 14th	9:00am	Mass - Deacons of the Diocese

Confessions:

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

Eucharistic Adoration

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

St. Gregory's, Alresford

Sun 8th 11:00am Mass - People of the Parish

St. Stephen's, Oliver's Battery

Sun 8th 9:15am Mass - Family Thanksgiving

St. Thomas More's, Stockbridge

Sun 8th 9:00am Mass

Mass in the Extraordinary Form is this Sunday at 12:15pm in St. Peter's. All are welcome.

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

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

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.

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.

Wives of prospective candidates will also be supported during these days and are encouraged to attend. 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 - pghart@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk