

THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (C)

27th October, 2019

Insomnia - Fear of Rejection

Many of us have certain doubts and fears that don't just go away when it's time to go to bed. When the day settles down and there is no TV, no Internet or children to distract you and you are left alone with just your thoughts, they can often drift into doubts and fears. And in the darkness, those doubts and fears grow. Behind these fears and doubts is a lie that we buy. And our aim is to replace that lie with a deeper truth. Today we want to look at just one fear, a big one that many of us have carried around for most of our life. The fear we're talking about today is the fear of rejection. The fear of rejection tells me that I'm not good enough. Here are three ways in which we actually fear rejection:

We fear rejection from other people. Someone else will tell us directly or indirectly 'you're not good enough', 'you're not clever enough', 'you're not talented enough'. Most of us need approval, we long for approval, we yearn for approval. When we don't get it, or we're afraid we're not going to get it, it hurts.

We also fear rejection from God. We're concerned we just don't, or maybe we just can't, measure up to God's standards. Even if you're not a believer or not super religious, you can realise that you're not perfect. Which inevitably brings the lingering thought that God, if there is a God, might reject us if we don't measure up to his perfection.

Thirdly, we fear rejection from ourselves. We all have regrets where we haven't measured up to our own standards, where we haven't lived the life we know ourselves to be capable of living. This fear of rejection, in whatever form, leads to constant comparison. That's all the bad news.

The good news is that there is a clear antidote to this fear found in the Gospel passage today from Luke. Jesus told this parable: *'Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector.'* (Luke 18.10) When Christians hear the word Pharisee, we tend automatically to think of them as the bad guys in the Gospel, always giving Jesus a hard time. For us the word Pharisaic conjures up images of hypocrisy. But the people in Jesus' day would not have heard it that way. The Pharisees were considered the most religious, the most righteous people of all. Many considered them the models for how God wanted all people to live.

On the other hand, tax collectors were universally despised. That was because they collected taxes for the Romans, which most would consider an act of treason. Most of these collectors were also mired in corruption, swindling communities out of vast sums of money. Jesus' listeners would have naturally assumed that the Pharisee would be the hero of the story and the tax collector the villain, especially when they were going to the Temple to pray. Jesus continues with the parable, *'The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get."* (Luke 18.11-12)

To the crowd hearing this story, the Pharisee is objectively a good guy. We should all aspire to be like him in his actions. He doesn't cheat other people. He is honest in his work. He's loyal to his spouse. He fasts twice a week, he tithes. All of this is good stuff. He is doing pretty well by any objective standards.

Then Jesus describes the tax collector's prayer. He says, *'The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."* (Luke 18.13) While the Pharisee rattles on at length, the tax collector prays an entirely simple prayer: *"God, be merciful to me, a sinner!"* He throws himself upon God's mercy, acknowledging that on his own, he is not sufficient, that he deserves to be rejected by God. His actions are not enough to endear him to God. The whole crowd listening to the story would think, Be more like the Pharisee! Jesus, on the other hand, says, effectively, Be more like the tax-collector! Jesus ends the story, *'This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not.'* (Luke 18:14)

In other words, the Tax Collector left the Temple at peace with God whilst the Pharisee's prayer wasn't well-received. Measured by human achievement and performance, the Pharisee wins hands down. The truth is, we are not accepted by God based on our performance or achievements. God accepts you not based on what you have done, but what he has done for you on the cross. The tax collector went home in a right relationship with God because he sought acceptance based on God, rather than himself. The Pharisee, who prays to himself and about himself, went home full of himself, and really acted as if he had no need of God.

The point of the parable, and the response to our fear of rejection, is that we don't have to perform our way into a right relationship with God. We simply need to receive his love and mercy with the humility to admit that we didn't achieve it by our own efforts. When we do perform good works, and we must if we're going to grow in Christ, we are free to do them out of love for God, to become more like him (not out of a need to earn his approval). In the person of Jesus Christ, you are completely loved and accepted by God. The one who reigns forever, the king of the universe, the author of all life, calls you his friend. And, if he accepts you and loves you, then there is no need to fear the rejection of others. And if God has accepted us, then we need to accept ourselves. The antidote to fear isn't courage, its faith.

Fr. Mark Hogan

All who humble themselves will be exalted." Is humble service as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life your path to holiness and eternal glory in Christ? To explore further, contact Fr. John Cooke.

vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869

The Parish Plan for 2019/20 is now available for anyone who wishes to see it. The Parish Plan is based on a 5-year strategy for the parish, which will be adapted for publication at a future date. If you wish to receive a copy of the Parish Plan 2019/20 electronically, please request it by email to:

angela.m.osborne@btinternet.com

Don't forget that there will be a **Mass for the Feast of the Winchester Martyrs** this **Wed 30th October at 7pm**, after which Fr. Mark will make his announcement in the Pastoral Centre about the future direction of the parish. All welcome. His statement can be read in full on our website at www.catholicwinchester.org.uk

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: "Let us pray for our parish meeting this coming Wednesday, and for Fr Mark who will be explaining his vision for the parish."

We acknowledge with thanks, collections for 20th Oct:

Average weekly Planned Giving	£3,754.54
Gift Aid envelopes (Actual)	£276.20
Non Gift Aided cash/cheques (Actual)	£1,205.26
Average offering for the week	£5,236.00

BAMENDA SUNDAY NEXT WEEKEND (2nd / 3rd Nov.)

Every year we have a **special collection** to support the projects driven by our friends in our twinned Diocese of Bamenda, Cameroon. **Please ensure you see a copy of the Bamenda Newsletter** to understand the mutual benefits of our twinned relationship and how much your help is needed in these troubled times.

Sun 3rd Nov Mayor Coming to 10:30am mass. We're delighted that the Mayor of Winchester will be joining us for a Civic Mass on this date.

Sat 23rd Nov Called and Gifted -

An opportunity to begin a discernment process aimed at helping you discover, nurture and use the spiritual gifts (charisms) given to you by the Holy Spirit.

Sun 24th Nov 10:30am St Peter's School coming to Mass

- We are blessed that some of the students and staff from our parish school will be coming to join us for mass on this day and leading some elements of our worship.

Year of the Bible (The God Who Speaks)—this started officially on 30th September, the 1600th anniversary of St Jerome's death but will begin in earnest on the first Sunday of Advent.

Look forward to seeing you then.

Fr Mark



TODAY'S MASS - LITURGY OF THE WORD

Entrance Antiphon: Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 35:12-14, 16-19

Psalm Response: This poor man called; the Lord heard him.

Second Reading: Second letter of St. Paul to Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

Communion Antiphon: We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Ss SIMON & JUDE
Tuesday:	Feria
Wednesday:	Blessed Winchester Martyrs
Thursday:	Feria
Friday:	ALL SAINTS
Saturday:	ALL SOULS

PLEASE PRAY FOR the repose of the souls of those who have died recently. May God grant them eternal rest.

Beatrice Flynn (Funeral Service Tue 29 Oct, 10am, Romsey Crematorium)

Eileen Gumbrell (Funeral Mass Fri 8 Nov, 12:15pm, St. Peter's)

Margaret Roach (Memorial Mass Wed 27 Nov, 3pm, St. Peter's)

Of your charity please pray for the soul of **Reverend Dom Nicholas Broadbridge** OSB, Monk and Priest of Douai Abbey who died on 22nd October, 2019 in his 90th year of age. May he rest in peace.

You may have seen by now that the new website for the Parish is up and running; it is at <https://www.catholicwinchester.org.uk/> -please go and take a look. Feedback is welcome. In the past week, we have had a slight problem with the contact forms on the site: if you tried to get in touch that way, or tried to sign up for the newsletter or to contact Alpha, we would be very grateful if you could email us on hello@stpeterswinchester.org.uk and we promise to get back to you ASAP. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Saturday 2nd November is **All Souls' Day** on which the Catholic Church commemorates the souls of those who have died, but are in need of final purification before entering Heaven. In addition there will be prayers for the dead and blessing of graves on the following dates:

Sunday 10th November at 3pm in St. James's Cemetery.

Sunday 10th November at 3pm in St. John's Churchyard, Alresford and **Sunday 17th November** at 3pm in Magdalen Hill Cemetery

Misa Española
Misa en Español / Mass in Spanish – Vigilia de Todos Los Santos / Vigil for All Saints – Thursday 31st October, 7pm, St. Peter's Church:

Fr Mark will celebrate Mass in Spanish to celebrate the great feast of All Saints. They hymns, readings and mass will all be in Spanish and the mass will be followed by "bring your own tapas" in the Pastoral Centre. Service sheets will be provided so that people can follow/join in. If you would like to volunteer to be involved in some way (helping in the Pastoral Centre; reading during the mass; welcoming, etc.) please contact Fr Mark via the parish office. Please bring a plate of tapas to share and something to drink. All are welcome!

November - praying for the our departed brothers and sisters - Please write on a slip of paper the name of any loved one who has died and place it in the basket provided. We will pray this for them, just before the blessing during Masses, beginning on All Souls Day (2nd Nov):

May the choirs of angels come to greet you.

May they speed you to paradise.

May the Lord enfold you in His mercy.

May you find eternal life.

Please pray for **Anna Smyllie** who will be commissioned by Father Mark as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EMHC) this Sunday, 27th October at the 6pm Mass.

On **Friday 8th November**, there will be a special **Mass of Remembrance** celebrated in St. Peter's at 7:30pm. During this Mass, there will be an opportunity to light a candle in memory of any loved ones who have died and, as we pray for them, their name will be read out during the service.

We hope that, by joining together with others who have lost loved ones, you may know that you are not alone in your grief and that you will receive some comfort from the prayers offered for yourself and for your loved one who passed away. Members of your family and friends are also welcome to join you at this special Mass.

Friday 1st November is the **Solemnity of All Saints** and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses in St. Peter's are at 7:30am, 12:15pm and 7:30pm. Mass in St. Gregory's is at 10:00am.

EVENTS

ALPHA AT ST. PETER'S:

Our Alpha programme guest list is now open for Spring 2020:

- Monday evenings in St Peter's Pastoral Centre, starting 13th January
- Tuesday mornings at St. Gregory's Church Hall, Alresford, starting 14th January
- Thursday lunchtimes in Milner Hall, starting 16th January
- Friday mornings in the St Stephen's Community Room, starting 17th January.

For more information or to reserve a place, please email

alpha@stpeterswinchester.org.uk



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. Everyone is very welcome, so do bring along your friends!

WINCHESTER CATHOLIC HISTORY SOCIETY -

Monday 4th Nov. Would all members please note that the AGM will be at 7pm in the Milner Hall followed at 7.30 pm by Dr Laura Wood speaking on '*Amongst the Nuns? Vowesses in Convent Communities and elsewhere.*'

Visitors very welcome £5 at the door.

Students with ID £2.50.

Cake Sale at St. Gregory's after Mass next Sunday, 3rd November. Please be generous in your support.

The Catholic Women's League would like to thank everyone who came, ate and supported the Big Soup and Pud Lunch last Friday. A wonderful £230.00 was raised for Winchester Youth Counselling in memory of **Margaret Guppy**. If you enjoyed your lunch, please come again! The CWL offer a 'Home-Made Soup & Pud' lunch, on the 3rd Friday of every month, 12.00 - 1.30pm and monies collected are always donated to a chosen Charity.

Winchester Basics Bank Harvest Food Collection.

This is the time of the year when Winchester Basics Bank, serving 1400 people every year with emergency food, asks for food donations from Winchester churches. The particular need is for tinned vegetables, fruit, rice pudding, minced beef, meatballs, spaghetti and ravioli and for rice, squash, fruit juice and custard. **If you are able to help, please bring your food donations to St Peter, St Gregory or St Stephen Church on the weekend of 2nd/3rd November.**

Would you be interested in becoming a CAFOD School Volunteer? Schools Volunteers are a vital part of our work bringing Catholic social teaching to the next generation – but there is a shortage in this area and we need your help. By becoming a CAFOD School Volunteer you will have the opportunity to be part of a global movement building a fairer world, inspiring young people to get involved. It only takes a few hours a week to visit schools, and with that time, you can help make an impact on future generations. If you would like to find out more please contact Jo Lewry on 01252 329385 or email portsmouth@cafod.org.uk

The Journey to Sainthood – St. John Henry Newman - Come and listen to Isaac Withers, one of our parishioners, talk about the lead up to Saint John Henry Newman's recent canonisation. Isaac was the digital content editor for the media campaign of the Oratories of England. Isaac will intertwine some of Newman's key messages for our times with personal anecdotes about the people he was able to meet and interview along the way (including Scott Hahn, Fr Mike Schmitz and Melissa Villalobos - whose testimony to the miracle received through intercession to our new Saint paved the way for his canonisation). Isaac was in Rome for the lead up to the canonisation, in the press box for the Mass itself, and present at the reception, attended by HRH Prince Charles. Please join us in St. Peter's Pastoral Centre on **Fri 1st November** from 8:30-9:30pm (after 7:30pm mass for the Holy Day of All Saints); bring a friend and, if you wish, bring a bottle for this informal and enlightening evening.

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERY OF THE BIBLE STUDY COURSE! - One way we are celebrating the Year of the Word 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:

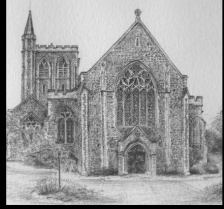
- Get a sense of the 'big picture' woven throughout the Scriptures,
- Make sense of the Bible and see how it relates to your everyday life,
- Discover the remarkable connections between the Old and New Testaments,
- See how the Sacraments, the Church and the entire Catholic Faith is rooted in Scripture...and 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

Vacancy for a Teaching Support Assistant at St. Peter's School Fixed term contract until 22nd July 2020, term time only 9.00am – 3.30pm. The closing date has been extended to Monday 4th November and the Interview date will be 8th November 2019. Application forms can be found on the school website by going to www.stpeteshants.co.uk

Winchester Fusion Choir Charity Concert, at St. Peter's, Fri 6th Dec, 7:30pm. Tickets £7.50 and available in the Parish Centre or via email: fusionchoirconcerttickets@gmail.com The ticket sales will support several local charities, including the SVP.

You are invited to celebrate the **Lord's Flock Catholic Charismatic Community Anniversary** from 3pm, on Sunday 27th October in the Parish Centre. Please contact Liza Franco on 07462 341917 to reserve a place. All are most welcome.



WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

St. Peter's Church, Jewry Street,
Winchester, Hants, SO23 8RY
01962 852804

www.catholicwinchester.org.uk

There's a space for you here if you'd like to come and get to know us and Jesus a little better; a home away from home. Come and see.

Email office@stpeterswinchester.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

Senior Pastoral Worker:	Sandra Drower
sandra@stpeterswinchester.org.uk	
Pastoral Worker (Co-ordinator: Baptism & First Holy Communion):	Rosanne Walker
baptism@stpeterswinchester.org.uk	
fhc@stpeterswinchester.org.uk	
Pastoral Worker (Youth Ministry):	Jo Donaldson
youthstuff@stpeterswinchester.org.uk	
Alpha Co-ordinator:	Liz Eastham
alpha@stpeterswinchester.org.uk	

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION AND MORNING

PRAYER: Our weekday adoration before the Blessed Sacrament will not take place during half-term. Morning Prayer with Adoration, however, will take place as usual at 8am on Mondays and Thursdays.

Parish Director of Evangelisation and Leadership -

Thanks to a grant from the Diocesan Living Our Faith Fund, and the generosity of some of our parishioners, we are in a position to begin advertising for a Parish Director of Evangelisation and Leadership. The successful candidate will have particular responsibility for all aspects of our primary tool for evangelisation, Alpha. He or she will also be responsible for ensuring that staff and key leaders are growing as leaders and supporting our hospitality ministry. More details next week.

Masses and Liturgies: 26th October to 2nd November 2019 St. Peter's, Winchester

Masses

Sat 26th	6:00pm	Mass - Elizabeth & William Smith RIP
Sun 27th	8:00am	Mass - Deceased Members of the Winiarski Family RIP
	10:30am	Mass - Cesar Birthday Thanksgiving
	12:30pm	Baptism - Max Arthur McCrystal
	5:00pm	Evening Prayer and Benediction
	6:00pm	Mass - Intentions of the Way Family
Mon 28th	8:00am	Adoration & Morning Prayer
	12:15pm	Mass - Sunniva Cowling-Kelly RIP
Tues 29th	8:00am	Mass - Mary Whong RIP
Wed 30th	7:00pm	Mass for the Blessed Winchester Martyrs
Thur 31st	8:00am	Adoration & Morning Prayer
	7:00pm	Spanish Mass - Richard Wheble RIP
Fri 1st	7:30am	All Saints' Mass - Tommy Hickey RIP
	12:15pm	All Saints' Mass - Agnes Mary Robinson RIP
	7:30pm	All Saints Mass' - Special Intention for Ben's Family
Sat 2nd	9:00am	All Souls' Mass - Hugh and Mary McTernan RIP

Confessions:

Sat	11:30am - 12:30pm	4:30pm - 5:00pm
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Eucharistic Adoration (SUSPENDED FOR HALF-TERM)

St. Gregory's, Alresford

Sun 27th	11:00am	Mass - People of the Parish
Fri 1st	10:00am	All Saints' Mass

St. Stephen's, Oliver's Battery

Sun 27th	9:15am	Mass - Maria and Heinrich Ilting RIP
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St. Thomas More's, Stockbridge

Sun 27th	9:00am	Mass - Special Intention for Ben's Family
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ST. PETER'S SCHOOL BONFIRE NIGHT - Sat 9 Nov. Gates open 5pm; fireworks 6:30. Fire juggler, BBQ, bar, disco, stalls

Dear Parents

ST PETER'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, WINCHESTER



The past week has been a very busy one in school. Year 1 and 2 visited Milestones Museum as part of their learning about homes in the past. Mrs Woolgar went with some of our School Council pupils to Winchester University where they attended the Plastic Free Winchester conference. They have come back with some great ideas on how we can reduce our use of single use plastics both in school and at home. We will share their plans over the next few months. Mrs Woolgar also went with our new Junior Road Safety Officers, Lucia and Edward to the annual training event. Over the course of this year, they will build on the fantastic work that took place last year in teaching us about road safety and measures to improve the environment by reducing vehicle emissions. The work done last year led to us being given the silver award by Mode shift. Our challenge as a community moving forward is to achieve the gold award.

Last Friday, Rosemary from CAFOD led assembly to share with us how money raised on our Soup Lunch day, would be used to help others. As part of the day, Father Mark led our Harvest Mass. Thank you for all the donations we have received so far for the Basics Bank and Nightshelter.

This Friday was an INSET day. Teachers were in school working on developing the wider curriculum whilst our Teaching Assistants have been working with the Behaviour Support Service to further develop skills and strategies for supporting behaviour positive choices. We hope that everyone has a happy, restful half-term break.

Mrs M Hutchins Acting Headteacher