



TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (C)

6th October, 2019

Faith of a Fifteen-Year-Old Week 4 – Prayer

Today we're going to look at prayer. Many of us were taught prayers when we were growing up, but we weren't necessarily taught how to pray. If your experience is anything like mine, you were taught to say your prayers before you went to bed, maybe before meals. You memorised prayers and you repeated them over and over and over again. And don't get me wrong, as expressions of worship and acknowledgment of the power and presence of God, as ways of shaping what we ask God for, these "learnt prayers" are most worthwhile exercises. But, if you think about it, these prayers are essentially monologues, often offered for something: food, sleep, wish-fulfilment, safeguard against danger, anxiety management, etc.

Saying prayers is one thing, a very good thing, but only part of the complete picture. Entering into prayer could be a whole different thing. Today, we're looking at that. We're looking at entering into prayer as a way of moving on from our fifteen-year-old faith. And to do it, we're looking at today's first reading from a man named Habakkuk, who lived about 650 years before Christ in the city of Jerusalem under the rule of a cruel, corrupt, tyrannical king. And as a result, corruption was rampant in this city. Jerusalem was supposed to be a city, a shining city on the hill, an inspiration to the rest of the world of God's goodness and grace. But at this point, it was far from that. It was filled with violence and corruption and injustice. And this bothered Habakkuk.

It bothered him so much that he prayed to God about it. Here's his prayer:

*"How long, O Lord, am I to cry for help
while you will not listen;
to cry 'Oppression!' in your ear
and you will not save?"*

Have you ever felt like that? Well, Habakkuk did. He'd been asking God for help, asking God to do something about the problems all around him, but he felt like God wasn't listening or didn't care. Habakkuk felt ignored and he told God about it. Now, you might think that's disrespectful, you might think such reactions have no place in prayer, you might be afraid to talk to God like that, but Habakkuk wasn't. In fact, he teaches us that God is big enough to handle our anger. God invites us to move beyond saying prayers to enter into prayer that is a conversation with him.

And one of the best ways to enter into a conversation with God, is just by being honest about our feelings, our frustration or our anger. Prayer doesn't require piety, but it does require honesty. In any relationship, honesty is a basic ingredient. If you're angry toward your spouse, if you're frustrated with your friends, if you're annoyed with one of your children, suppressing it isn't going to help. It's only going to make matters worse. In order for that relationship to grow, you've got to share what's going on.

Maybe you stopped going to church or you stopped praying because you thought God should have acted in a certain situation, that He should have done something and he didn't. He didn't prevent the accident, He didn't remove the problem, He didn't save the marriage and you're angry. You're angry at God because if He is God, He could have done something about it.

Well, if that's your situation, the very best thing for you to do

would be to talk to God about it. That's what Habakkuk did at great length. He continues with his complaint,

*"Why do you set injustice before me,
why do you look on where there is tyranny?
Outrage and violence, this is all I see,
all is contention, and discord flourishes."*

He's saying, "Why me? Why do I have to put up with everything that is going on around me? Why do I have to deal with everything I'm dealing with? Why do the bad guys win and it looks like the good guys always lose?"

Nowhere does our Christian faith argue or promise that there must be a God because everything is perfect. Everything is not perfect and there is a God. And some people lose their faith. They stop going to church exactly on this point. They stumble on this point.

Habakkuk doesn't buy the lie. He didn't use the suffering or injustice in the world around him to come to the conclusion that there is no God or that God doesn't care. He uses it as the opportunity to turn to God in prayer. He allowed his frustration and his anger to drive him deeper into prayer. Imagine that. If some of you used the opportunity for your frustration and anger to drive you deeper into prayer, you'd be world-class prayers!

So, Habakkuk complains to God and he complains to God and eventually, God responds. He gives him the answer that he was asking for, but it's not the answer he wanted.

God tells Habakkuk some pretty unsettling news. He says, "Don't worry about those corrupt politicians in Jerusalem because I'm sending the Babylonians. And the Babylonians are going to take Jerusalem over." This is really bad news. The contemporary equivalent of this would be that you're praying to God, expressing your frustration about politicians in Westminster (hypothetically, of course). God answers your prayer and He says, "Oh, well, don't worry about that because the North Koreans are going to invade and take over the government." It's not exactly comforting news, but that's the news that Habakkuk receives. So, Habakkuk is even more perplexed and speechless.

Now, if God is all powerful and all knowing, then we could expect, we should expect at times that his ways are not our ways. We should expect that his way of doing things will not be our way of doing things. But when that happens, what are we to do? Well, here's what Habakkuk did. He said,

*"I will stand at my guard post and station myself upon the ramparts.
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me and what answer he will give to my complaint."*

Conversation is listening as well as talking. And to do that, we've got to position ourselves to be able to hear because most of the time, most of our life is so filled with noise, we can't hear anything. Habakkuk says, "I'm going to strategically place myself in exactly the right position to hear what God has to say to me if in fact, he has anything else to say to me. I'm going to stand ready to listen."

If you don't have a daily prayer time, you owe it to yourself to carve that out and to guard it. To have a time and a place to pray, even if it's just five or six minutes a day. And as a part of your daily prayer time, you need a quiet time, in which you don't say anything at all.

Or you could try Eucharistic adoration. I don't know if you know about that, but it's a tradition of silent prayer before the exposed Eucharist as a form of worship. We offer Eucharistic adoration several times a week, right here in St. Peter's. And nothing is said. It's just silence and it's very powerful: a daily prayer time with a daily quiet time. That's what Habakkuk did.

He waits on the Lord in silence and his perseverance pays off because God responds,

"...this vision is for its own time only:

eager for its own fulfilment, it does not deceive; (Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

*if it comes slowly, wait,
for come it will, without fail."*

God says to Habakkuk, his vision will be accomplished in his time, in his way, full stop. It's not for Habakkuk to know or see or understand what's happening, but rather to understand that no matter what's happening, God is at work and God will triumph. The vision has an appointed time. It speaks to the end. It will not prove false.

The person of prayer understands this. They wait patiently and sometimes they're able to spot God's action. They understand where God is going and what God is doing. Prayer like Habakkuk's doesn't limit God to our circumstances or our understanding, but trusts that in all our circumstances and way beyond our understanding, God is present. God is present even when he seems absent, God is moving even when we don't know where he's going.

Our Gospel reminds us to be servants and, more than anything else, a good servant is attentive to the master, and that's what prayer is. Being attentive to God in all things rather than trying to get God to do what you want him to do. Aim to see where God is moving and join him. Go where God is blessing. Habakkuk didn't hear what he wanted to hear but he eventually wanted and embraced what he heard.

Don't expect to hear from God what you desire. Instead in prayer, learn to desire what you hear.

(Fr. Mark Hogan)

This Sunday we welcome Father Melaku of the **Comboni Missionaries** who will be saying Mass at St. Stephen's and St. Gregory's.

Father Mark has made an **important announcement** about the future direction of the parish. He will be explaining more about his vision after the evening Mass on the Feast of the Winchester Martyrs on Wed 30th October at 7pm. Please come along to that, but in the meantime you can read his statement in full on the new Parish website at <https://www.catholicwinchester.org.uk/> - and have a look around at the same time! You can also read the newsletter on the website.

WINCHESTER CAMERATA - The Winchester Camerata, conducted by Fr Andrew Moore, will be giving a concert of English music on **Sunday, 20th October at 6.30 p.m.** at Holy Trinity Church, Upper Brook Street, SO23 8DG - note new venue. The programme includes works by Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Benjamin Britten. Tickets 01962 732487 or on the door.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION - All are most welcome to drop in and pray at any time during Adoration. (Times on back page.) However, if you'd like to commit to a regular slot, please contact Tony Darlison via the Parish Office.

New Readers - Have you ever thought about reading at Mass? We are looking for new readers to join our team, whether you are an experienced reader or have never read in Church you are most welcome. There is no requirement to read weekly, most of us read on average 2-3 times per quarter. There are Reader Workshops planned for 11th & 25th January 2020— this would be a great opportunity to come along and see what reading is about. Please email readers@stpeterswinchester.org.uk to find out more.

We acknowledge with thanks, collections for 29th Sep:

Average weekly Planned Giving	£3,754.54
Gift Aid envelopes (Actual)	£402.00
Non Gift Aided cash/cheques (Actual)	£1,000.25
Average offering for the week	£5,156.79

TODAY'S MASS - LITURGY OF THE WORD

Entrance Antiphon: Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

First Reading: Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4

Psalm Response: O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

Second Reading: Second letter of St. Paul to Timothy 1:6-8. 13-14

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

Communion Antiphon: The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him

LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Our Lady of the Rosary
Tuesday:	Feria
Wednesday:	Blessed John Henry Newman or St. Denis & Companions or St. John Leonardi or Feria
Thursday:	St. Paulinus of York or Feria
Friday:	Pope St. John XXIII or Feria
Saturday:	Our Lady on Saturday or Feria

CONGRATULATIONS to Anna Valentino and Ben Secretan who were married in St. Peter's last weekend.

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

Eileen O'Mahoney (Funeral last week)

Eoghan Gardener (Funeral at St. Peter's Mon 7 Oct, 1:30pm)

Stephen Clearly (Funeral at St. Peter's Thur 17 Oct, 12pm)

CAFOD Family Fast day Friday - (6th October 2019—St Peter's & St Thomas More's only; 13th October 2019—St Stephen's & St Gregory's only) No one should be beyond reach of the love and support they need to thrive. This Fast Day, CAFOD invites us to fast, pray and give, so we can extend the hand of friendship to the world's poorest people.

Fabiano's village in rural Uganda has been devastated by drought. Every day, children would trek miles for water, risking their education – and safety. Donations from parishioners across England and Wales helped install a solar powered water pump in the village. Now Fabiano and his friends can collect water quickly and safely. On Family Fast Day, CAFOD invites us to eat a simple meal for lunch or dinner and give the money we save to help children like Fabiano. Please collect a Fast Day envelope from church this week and give generously or you can donate online at www.cafod.org.uk/fastday

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: *"Enable us to be a people of love and patience." We pray that the love of God will shine out in all that we do and say, so that others may see Christ in us.*

EVENTS

REFLECTIONS ON A NEW ENGLISH SAINT - Following the canonisation of **Blessed John Henry Newman** on 13th October, you are invited to a screening of the film about Newman presented by Bishop Robert Barron (from the same Pivotal Players series of films that the recent Michelangelo Sistine Chapel screenings were taken). Everyone is most welcome. Please come to the Milner Hall on Thursday 17th October at 7.30pm (we aim to finish at 9.00pm). There will be a break for reflection/conversation and refreshments during the course of the evening.



WINCHESTER CATHOLIC HISTORY SOCIETY—Monday 7 October - Dr Nicola Tallis will be speaking on Elizabeth's Rival. We are pleased that Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch, the well known historian and presenter has become our first Honorary President. The list of Speakers, topics and dates for this year are shown at the back of the church.



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
- 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

Space in the City - The next half-hour talk in the autumn series of "Space" talks will be given by Debbie Thrower. She will speak at the United Church, Jewry Street, at 12.30pm on Wednesday 9 October on "Growing Older — will silence be friend or foe?" Entry free, but donations welcome.

Volunteers for Winchester Churches Christmas Project 2019: Winchester Churches Christmas Project attempts to help those for whom Christmas is a really difficult time. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Helen McTiffin on 01962 849559. Numbers are needed by 5th November, please.

19th October 2019 – Day for Catechists and Children's Liturgy Leaders – Portsmouth Cathedral, 10am to 4pm -

The Dominican Sisters and the Formation for Mission team invite everyone engaged in passing on the faith to children, young people and adults to Portsmouth Cathedral on Saturday 19th October for a day of thanksgiving, celebration and formation where we will discover ways to share our faith in Jesus Christ as his witnesses within our ministries. The day will be led by Fr Mark Hogan, and Mass will be celebrated in thanksgiving for all diocesan catechists. Lunch will be provided.

Register online: <http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/catechists> or phone the Dominican Sisters to book a place: 01590 681874

Wednesday October 9th 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**, and a talk afterwards. 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.

Called and Gifted Teaching Day - St Peter's Pastoral Centre - Winchester - 23rd November 2019 Each of us has been called by God and gifted by the Holy Spirit. These spiritual gifts complement our natural talents and learnt skills. Discovering what we are called to do and what spiritual gifts we have in order to do this is a process of discernment. The Called and Gifted approach helps individuals to explore gifts and to develop insights as they act on using them for the good of others. This may be timely if you would like to make wise choices about the actions you take in your life in service of others. The Teaching day in November is followed by a One to One Discernment Conversation with a trained team member in January. There is also an opportunity to explore your gifts in more depth in the Spring 2020. Please note, the total cost for the day is £43 per participant. Much of this is subsidised by the diocesan Living Our Faith fund, although there is a participant fee of £25 per person to cover the materials given out to keep. Further subsidies are available for anyone who would be otherwise unable to attend. Please book on-line if possible www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/calledandgifted or take a booking form from the back of the church and return to the Parish Office marked "Called and Gifted Day".

The St Stephen's Pastoral Group will meet at 7.30 on Tuesday October 15th, in the community room. All are welcome to come along.

The Real Christmas Chalet at Winchester Christmas Market

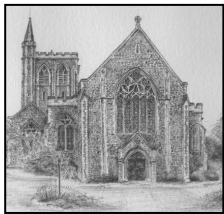
Help visitors to Winchester Cathedral Christmas Market discover the true meaning of Christmas. Churches Together is recruiting chatty volunteers for The Real Christmas Chalet and Nativity. You can be part of a massive team of Christians volunteering at the Chalet for any two hour slot when the market is open from 21st November to 22 December 2019. This year's theme is Jesus's invitation in Matthew 11:28:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Churches Together has created a space in which people can step out of the crowd, rest for a few minutes and reflect on God's gift to us all. We're looking for volunteers who will invite people into the chalet, chat if they want to talk and give them some special booklets and blessings we've prepared. Previous volunteers recall:

"It's an easy time of year to talk about Jesus and it's fun!"
"It feels so good for the church to be 'out there', in a public place."





WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

St. Peter's Church, Jewry Street,
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www.catholicwinchester.org.uk

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
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Pastoral Worker (Co-ordinator: Baptism & First Holy Communion): Rosanne Walker
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Parish Facilities Manager: Sean Reidy
sean@stpeterswinchester.org.uk
Administration Assistants: Adam Biernat and
Richard Phiri
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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.

Mass in the Extraordinary Form will be suspended in October and will resume, as usual, on the 2nd Sunday of the month in November.

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts." Will you let the Holy Spirit guide you beyond your hesitation and follow Christ as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? To explore further, contact Fr. John Cooke.
vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869

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

Dear Parents,

Over the course of the past year the PTA have supported the school in many ways. Their fund raising has purchased new gazebos for the field in hot weather; prayer books for children coming into Year R; crosses for Year 6 leavers; reading books for Years R, 1 and 2; sound equipment for the school production; new storage sheds, Christmas gifts for each class in the school; prayer bags and more. On Monday evening a group of hardy souls braved the weather to attend the PTA AGM. The officers of the committee were elected: Siobhan Wyatt – Chair; Nancy Harman – Vice Chair; Ania Slinn – Secretary; Ian and Jane Urquhart – Treasurer and Vice Treasurer. The committee have planned and proposed an exciting programme of events and activities for this year that will not only raise funds for the benefit of the children in the school but that will also give opportunities to come together as a community.

In this week's gospel assembly, we considered the idea of sharing what we have in order to help others. Our PTA set us a great example in this. Thank you to everyone associated with the PTA who shares their time, knowledge, skills and enthusiasm to support the school. Help will be needed to enable this year's proposed events and activities to go ahead; starting with Bonfire Night. If you are able to help by sharing some time and enthusiasm please do get in touch with a member of the PTA committee.

Mrs M Hutchins, Acting Headteacher

Masses and Liturgies: 5th to 12th October 2019 **St. Peter's, Winchester**

Masses

Sat 5th	6:00pm	Mass - Valerie Bell RIP
Sun 6th	8:00am	Mass - Julia Cave RIP
	10:30am	Mass - Helen Smith RIP
	12:30pm	Baptism - Tilly Walker
	5:00pm	Evening Prayer and
		Benediction - Hospital and
		Nursing Home Staff
Mon 7th	6:00pm	Mass - Intentions of the Way Family
	8:00am	Adoration & Morning Prayer
	12:15pm	Mass - David Morris RIP
	1:30pm	Funeral Service - Eoghan Ethan
		Gardener
Tues 8th	8:00am	Mass - Intentions of the Neil Family
Wed 9th		NO MASS
Thur 10th	8:00am	Adoration & Morning Prayer
	7:00pm	William Meader RIP
Fri 11th	9:00am	Mass - Father Richard Spencer RIP
Sat 12th	9:00am	Mass - Frances McDonald RIP

Confessions:

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

Eucharistic Adoration

Tue: 9:00am-4:00pm

Wed: 1:00--5:00pm

Thur: 9:00am-1:00pm

St. Gregory's, Alresford

Sun 6th 11:00am Mass - Maureen, Michael & Matthew Power RIP

Fri 11th 10:00am Monthly Mass at St. Gregory's

St. Stephen's, Oliver's Battery

Sun 6th 9:15am Mass - Special Intention - Ben's Family

St. Thomas More's, Stockbridge

Sun 6th 9:00am Mass - People of the Parish

Monthly Mass at St. Gregory's 10am on Friday 11th October.

Our annual Mass count will be continuing over the next two weekends. Thank you for your cooperation.