

PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

14TH JUNE 2020

CORPUS CHRISTI SOLEMNITY



Corpus Christi picture created by key workers' children at St Peter's school

BRINGING US CLOSER – CORPUS CHRISTI – INTIMACY WITH JESUS

Fr Mark Writes:

A young Catholic man was asked by his friend, “Do you have a relationship with Jesus?” “Yes,” he replied, “but I want more – I want intimacy with Jesus.”

Most of us have bodies, I think it’s fair to say. And this is good because the only way we as humans can express or experience intimacy is through our bodies. When we care for someone it’s often appropriate for us to want to express that in some physical way – not just to think about them. And this isn’t just the case for romantic love. We might think of the arm round the shoulder of someone crying, or the parent holding their young child close to their heart. That has for me been one of the greatest challenges of this pandemic – families and loved ones not being able to hug each other unless they’re living with them.

I’ve yet to find evidence for this story, but it’s one I’ve heard a few times and some research seems to back the general principle that we need love and physical touch to survive. It goes something like this...*In World War II, lots of babies ended up in orphanages. There they were kept warm, were getting fed and were sheltered and yet, it is said that many were still dying. They couldn’t work out why until it was discovered that if each baby was picked up just once or twice a day then they would survive. That touch, that physical human contact, was essential to their staying alive.*

Now, we know that God is love but it is not until God takes on a body in the incarnation that people can experience any intimacy with God. We can only imagine what it must have been like for Mary and Joseph to hold the baby Jesus, to hold God in their arms...After the Resurrection, Jesus returns to heaven but before he goes, at the Last Supper, Jesus says, “**This is My Body...This is My Blood.**” Jesus gives us his whole self, his whole body and his blood as a gift. And that is because God wants to offer himself intimately to you.

One Catholic man, the day after his wedding, was at Sunday mass with his new bride sat next to him. And he came back from communion and just knelt and wept. And he was still there after the final hymn and he was on his knees, sobbing. And his wife was next to him and eventually she plucked up the courage to ask, “Is everything ok? You’re not like regretting any major life decisions you’ve made recently..?” And he simply replied, “You know, I never understood, until now, ‘**this is my body for you**’. I’ve been coming to mass every week all my life and I never understood. “**This is my body for you.**” That’s what I said to you last night. I thought mass was boring but last night wasn’t boring!”

This time of pandemic has forced upon us a time of extended Eucharistic fast. Under normal circumstances, we are to fast from food or drink for an hour before receiving Holy Communion, as a way of preparing ourselves to welcome so great a guest. The fast

used to be from midnight. This current fast is from receiving the Eucharist itself, the Bread of Angels, and has lasted weeks and months already. My only prayer is that it has given us a deeper hunger for and appreciation of this Sacrament of Love.

Whilst we cannot yet celebrate public mass, we are, thankfully, now able to take some steps forwards as we open up St. Peter’s for private prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from Monday 15th June.

The Church, since the earliest times, has reserved some of the body of Christ, Holy Communion, to be taken to the sick and the housebound, and to the dying. From at least the time of St. Francis of Assisi, there has been a realisation that this sacrament was worthy of adoration outside of mass and from the 11th century, the practice of Eucharistic adoration began to flourish. Adoration is simply a form of devotion to and worship of Jesus Christ, whom we believe to be present under the appearance of the consecrated bread. The ‘host’, as it is called, is placed in something called a ‘monstrance’, so that we can gaze upon Jesus, behold Him and worship Him.

Now, we might say when we come to adoration that it doesn’t look like Jesus, just as when we receive communion at mass we might say, this doesn’t taste like Jesus! But our hearing says, ‘this is Jesus’. St. Thomas Aquinas expresses it beautifully in a verse of his hymn, Adoro te devote, here translated by Gerard Manley Hopkins SJ:

***Seeing, touching, tasting are in thee deceived:
How says trusty hearing? that shall be believed;
What God's Son has told me, take for truth I do;
Truth Himself speaks truly or there's nothing true.***

God made you not just to be close to him but to have intimacy with him; he has chosen you from the beginning of creation. He hides himself so you don’t have to hide.

You know, Jesus doesn’t ask if you’re worthy – he just asks, are you willing to let him love you..?

You don’t have to convince Jesus to love you – he made that decision a long time ago – the question is, will you let him love you?

Now in Christ Jesus, you that used to be so far apart from us have been brought very close, by the blood of Christ. For he is the peace between us. (Eph 2:13)

Jesus is our only Saviour, the One who is bringing us closer to Himself in intimacy through the gift of His body and blood, and by the working of the Holy Spirit. By the Sacrament of God’s Love and the fire of God’s Love filling our hearts, he is also overcoming all divisions and bringing us all closer to each other.

RE-OPENING OF ST PETER'S CHURCH

We are delighted that we are now able to **RE-OPEN ST PETER'S CHURCH** for prayer, in line with the Government’s regulations, from **Monday 15th June**.

From that day, the church will be open for the following hours, with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Monday to Saturday 11:00am - 2:00pm (3 Hours each day) Sunday 12:00 Noon - 4pm (4 Hours)

Obviously we have to pay careful attention to best practice to keep everyone safe, and people must decide for themselves if it is in their best interests to come.



There will be volunteer helpers in the church at all times it is open, who will explain how we can take careful precautions, and move safely round the church, and we know everyone will co-operate with this.

At present, only St Peter’s of our four churches will be open, and unfortunately we cannot offer any toilet facilities, as the Pastoral Centre must remain closed. (The nearest facilities, so far as we know, will be at St Maurice’s Covert ie beside Debenhams.) We also still cannot have any services open to the public. But we are all looking forward to coming back!

Fr Mark says: "***I'm so delighted that we're able to open our doors again to allow entry into this sacred space and to provide a place of encounter and blessing.***"

First Holy Communion Children

The children who have been preparing for their **First Holy Communion** were due to receive the Sacrament for the very first time this Saturday June 13th. Please keep them and their families in your prayers at this time, as they wait patiently to receive Jesus into their hearts in this special way. One way could be to unite our own longing for the Sacrament with theirs at this time. We could also pray that they would be able to use this time of enforced Eucharistic fast to grow even more in love with Jesus and long to receive Him even more.

If you feel called to pray specifically for our First Holy Communion children, please email fhc@stpeterswinchester.org.uk and you will be given the first name of a child to pray for. We have around 50 children on the programme this year and it would be wonderful if each of them had someone from the parish community praying for them at this time. You could put their name up on your home altar or fridge to remind you, or 'bring' them to livestream Mass with you in your heart.

<p>Antiphons & readings for Corpus Christi-Solemnity Sunday</p> <p>Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 80: 17 He fed them with the finest wheat and satisfied them with honey from the rock</p> <p>First reading Deuteronomy 8:2-3,14-16</p> <p>Responsorial Psalm Psalm 147:12-15,19-20 O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!</p> <p>Second reading 1 Corinthians 10:16-17</p> <p>Gospel Acclamation Jn6:51 Alleluia, alleluia! I am the living bread which has come down from heaven, says the Lord. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever. Alleluia!</p> <p>Gospel John 6:51-58</p> <p>Communion Antiphon Jn 6: 57 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.</p>	<p>Masses and Liturgies: Please follow mass on youtube here</p> <p>St. Peter's, Winchester</p> <p>Masses <i>Saturday 13th June 7.00pm:</i> William Meader RIP <i>Sunday 14th June 10.00am:</i> The Wright Sisters RIP <i>Sunday 14th June 7.00pm:</i> People of the Parish <i>Monday 15th June 7.00pm:</i> For the Dead in St James Cemetery <i>Tuesday 16th June 7.00pm:</i> Intentions of the Neil Family <i>Wednesday 17th June 7.00pm:</i> Elizabeth Cook <i>Thursday 18th June 7.00pm:</i> Catholic Women's League <i>Friday 19th June 7.00pm:</i> Benefactors of the Sacred Heart <i>Saturday 20th June 8.00am:</i> Benefactors <i>Morning Prayer:</i> Daily at 8am <i>Night prayer:</i> Daily at 9pm</p>	<p>Liturgical Calendar for the Week</p> <p>Sun 14th Corpus Christi Mon 15th Feria Tues 16th Feria Weds 17th Feria Thurs 18th Feria Fri 19th The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Sat 20th am The Immaculate Heart of Mary Sun 21st 12th Sunday of Ordinary Time</p>
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Letter from St Peter's Catholic Primary School

Dear Parents

Prayer for Pentecost

Breath of God,
Spirit who appeared like a driving wind,
Blow away our prejudice
And teach us to value all people.

Spirit of God,
Who appeared like tongues of flame,
Burn in us as a passion for justice
And a commitment to change.

Spirit of life,
Who caused the disciples to speak in
tongues,
Speak through us,
And fill us with the courage to proclaim
your love.

Spirit of truth,
Who fills us with wonder and awe,
Inspire us to work for a better world
And a future where injustice is swept away.

Amen

Phased Return to School

Following the return last week of our youngest children, we welcomed our Year 6 back on Monday. It was lovely to see them all again.

We have been so impressed at how well the children have settled back into school. There is a real sense of peace and calm, with the children working well with one another and with the staff who head their 'family'.

All our families are named after places staff thought they were going to this summer on holiday - so we range from 'Canada' (Mrs Woolgar) to Bognor Regis (Mr Newsam), to Spain (Mrs Tuft), New York (Miss Donnelly) and Exeter (Mrs Underwood).

Please be aware we are using every member of staff who is available to work in school so if we have any staff sickness or absence we will need to review what we are able to offer. We are unable to move staff between the 'families' due to government guidelines. We also have to prioritise key worker children and if their numbers continue to expand, Hampshire County Council have advised that we will have to reconsider our Year 6.

Meanwhile we are so sorry to be given the news that our other children, in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will not be returning to school this term. We really miss them.

Best wishes
Louise Buxton
Headteacher

<p>PLEASE PRAY FOR the repose of the souls of those who have died recently.</p> <p>Marion Swinden RIP</p> <p>Stephen Thompson RIP</p>	<p>Prayer for the Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs</p> <p>Heavenly Father, we come before you as we are. We praise and thank you for this precious gift of life. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon each of us here so that we may become your ever-faithful disciples, witnessing joyfully to the world in which we live. Fill our priests with your wisdom, compassion and love so that they may lead us as true shepherds, preaching your word and administering the sacraments. Bless our Parish Community, our ministry leaders and the communities in which we serve. Enable us to be a people of love and patience, Living in real communion with you, our Creator, and one another. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen</p>
<p>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 "<i>if the Lord does not build... in vain do the builders labour</i>" (Ps 127:1). Fr. Mark</p> <p>This Week's Intention - Let us pray for those who are planning for the re-opening of our churches, that the Holy Spirit will give them wisdom.</p>	<p>Staying in touch</p> <p>If you take part in the Sunday 10am Mass, Fr Mark would love to give you a shoutout—if you've heard the list of names, why not add yours to it? All welcome. Drop us a note via Facebook or email and we'll take care of it.</p> <p>And also, every evening Fr Mark & Fr Stephen light candles just before the evening mass for anyone who asks. They take a photo of the candles, to be shared on our facebook page, along with the names of the people we're praying for. The candle will remain lit during each mass. If you'd like a candle lit for a loved one, please send a message to prayers@stpeterswinchester.org.uk or send a message to our Facebook page (St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs)</p> 
<p>Prayer of Spiritual Communion <i>My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.</i></p>	<p>Prayerline Do you feel called to pray for others? If so would you like to join our intercessors group? At a time when we are still separated from each other, and some of us will remain apart in the weeks to come, we are trying to develop ways of being a community that supports each other in prayer. Regular prayer requests are passed to the prayer intercessors via the email below (with personal details removed) and the intercessors then pray for these intentions. We welcome new members to our team of intercessors. If you would like us to pray for you or for someone you know, please let us know on prayers@stpeterswinchester.org.uk . It is simple, anonymous and informal and we will start praying straight away</p>
<p>Acts of the Apostles - Scripture Group Reflection (Fridays 19:45-21:15; next "meeting" on Friday 19th June) Join Deacon Martin again on our Virtual Church on Zoom, as we reflect on the Acts of the Apostles together.</p> <p>This week (Friday 19th June) we'll be looking at chapters 18 and 19; please read these chapters in advance of this Friday's session - and bring your Bible with you on Friday!</p> <p>In each of our weekly sessions, we look at 1-2 chapters of Acts, and share what this book of the Bible means for us today. The format is informal, and discussion-based.</p> <p>Don't worry if you missed last week's session. All the sessions stand alone, so feel free to join us at any time.</p> <p>(Instructions to join the Virtual Prayer room are on the Parish website https://www.catholicwinchester.org.uk/virtual_church/)</p> <p>If you are planning to come, and haven't joined us before, it would help to email Deacon Martin on mmcelroy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk, so we can plan a space for you in our discussion groups.</p>	<p>Some parishioners have been sharing with us their experiences of lockdown.</p> <p>Here, Sandra explains how much Night Prayer has meant to her in this time.</p> <p>As 'lockdown' eases and the possibility of visiting St Peter Church in person becomes real I have a growing awareness of the unexpected opportunities presented by imposed restrictions. For most of us, restrictions demanded a changed relationship with time and space. For myself my 'space' seemed to shrink while my 'time' seemed to expand. Our virtual church transcended space and embraced many from outside the parish community. It also encouraged the 'sanctification of time' – something monastic communities do on behalf of everyone everyday. The availability of morning, evening and night prayer gave me a glimpse of what 'marking' some of the Hours might look like in our present secular context. I am not good at remaining alert to the presence of God during the course of the day – at all times and in all spaces. I tend to apportion Him some time - not all time. While aware that clergy and religious are committed to praying the Office, I have found their doing so visibly and routinely in my parish church, just down the road from me, has made me think much more deeply about my relationship with this special tradition. Night Prayer has become an especially beautiful moment and is now a 'built-in' routine. It gently completes the day and presents an extraordinary opportunity to thank God for His generosity of the past 24 hours. I am wondering how we might continue to nurture traditions with which we have re-engaged as 'lockdown' eases and we develop a new 'normal'?</p>
<p>These weeks of lockdown are difficult for all of us, and we are particularly mindful of those whose jobs and lives are put on hold because of the pandemic. We want to be here for you during these difficult times.</p> <p>Even so, we are entirely dependent upon your generous charity. So that we can continue to provide the Liturgy of the Lord and continue with our mission, we kindly ask all of you who are able to do so, to please continue with your generous giving to the parish which would otherwise lose vital income.</p> <p>To support our work, please donate to the Parish via our website (click here) or directly to the parish bank account via bank transfer to: Account Name: PRCDTR St Peter & The Winchester Martyrs Account No: 00890996 Sort Code: 30-93- 04 Please reference 'Offerings' when making payment.</p> <p>Thank you for your continued kindness.</p>	<p>Children's Liturgy online is now going strong via the Zoom platform. We look forward to seeing you all again at 9.30 am this Sunday. The session lasts roughly 15 - 20 minutes so you are then free to join us for the 10am live streamed Mass if you wish. Come and join us to pray, sing, listen and discuss the Gospel. To make the sessions as secure as possible, you will need to pre-register using this link.</p> <p>You will then receive an email with a unique ID (please don't share this with anyone) and a few safeguarding reminders. A colouring sheet & useful links and resources are on the Young People's page on the parish website: https://</p>

"Alone Together"

Both CWL and a post-Alpha group have found it useful to refer to a website provided by the monks at Douai Abbey helping us to live through the current social exclusion that we are experiencing. You may find this useful to you, especially if you are suffering from isolation. <https://www.alonetogether.org.uk/>



The **Covenant with the Poor** team are appealing for support for 'Firefly International - education aid to Syrian refugee children'. Please support generously as ever, by donating by bank transfer to the parish bank account with the reference CWP. The appeal leaflet can be seen on the parish website at the top of the [virtual church page](#)

Catholics admitted to Hospitals

It is important when a Catholic is admitted to hospital, that the family ensure the Catholic Chaplaincy is contacted so that appropriate support can be given. As access to the hospital may be restricted, it is suggested that the patient has a note to give to hospital staff on admission notifying staff that they are Catholic and would appreciate the Catholic chaplaincy service. This could be followed up by a telephone call from the family to the ward making the request.

SAFETY ONLINE— There are reports of fake emails going around, which claim to be from a priest, asking people to buy something, Please be super-careful: this email is spam. Please do not respond or do anything if you receive this email. Always check that emails are real. Make sure you verify email addresses. Any official correspondence will be from the diocesan address (name)[@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:portsmouthdiocese.org.uk), or [@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:stpeterswinchester.org.uk). If you are unsure, ask us by emailing hello@stpeterswinchester.org.uk - it's never a bad idea to doublecheck. And if it looks suspicious—it probably is.

LOCKDOWN NEWS

FROM OUR PARISH MEETING More than 50 parishioners gathered for a virtual zoom meeting on Sunday 24th May, to pray together and share our experiences and needs in lockdown. It was a positive, love-filled meeting, and Fr Mark is already thinking about the next one.

These are some of the key topics discussed:

- Reaching out to those who are not online, making sure no-one is left behind now and in the future. Ideas and plans welcome.
- The success of the livestreaming and the positive responses to the services and to the virtual church activities: livestreaming a huge help to the housebound who did have access.
- Things parishioners would like more of: 2-way Praise and Worship, opportunities for Prayer, small groups for discussion and Discipleship, more Catechesis, retreats.
- The success of PeterCares (see below) and how we want to make sure it continues and expands once lockdown is over.
- There were thanks to Fr Mark and Fr Stephen for all they do.

So – whether you attended this one or not, watch out for the next date, and keep us in touch with your thoughts and ideas (hello@stpeterswinchester.org.uk) on the above or any other topics of importance to you and the Parish.

PETERCARES is a simple befriending initiative which offers a range of support by linking volunteer parishioner telephone callers with fellow parishioners. While ensuring we stay in touch with one another, it also enables us to strengthen our relationships in the parish. The support provided includes a friendly chat, continued connection with the parish, information about our virtual church, practical help where requested and a conduit for prayer requests. You can contact PeterCares via website, Facebook, email or phone. www.catholicwinchester.org.uk, 01962 852804, PeterCares@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

NEWS FROM THE CONVENT—Parishioners have been enquiring about the nuns at Medstead so we are delighted to have this report from Sister Mary Frances: 'The sisters at Medstead are all well. They are blessed to have lots of outdoor space in which to enjoy the beautiful weather, and to have the shopping delivered. They are not going out unless absolutely necessary. They are also enjoying watching Masses from all over the world - although more by chance than by design! ' All the clergy are still doing well also. And our staff are mostly still on furlough but all are well.

NEWSLETTER Please add yourself to our email list, so you receive the newsletter by email each weekend —we are trying to extend this. Just drop a line to hello@stpeterswinchester.org.uk Perhaps if you know someone who would like to receive it you can suggest it to them—we know there are a lot more potential readers out there than are on our current list! Even if you look at the newsletter online, the email that accompanies the mailout is an extra communication method that we will be using more and more. 'Premium Content', as techy start up businesses say. Give it a try.

Our **FACEBOOK PAGE** is one of the best ways of contacting us right now— FB says we have an excellent response rate. And we also feature beautiful pictures, music clips, ideas and messages from around the Parish and around the world, prayers and Bible verses. It's also a great way to get your candle lit by Fr Mark, and your shoutout at Sunday Mass.

Words for **the HYMNS AND RESPONSES** for weekend Masses are appearing separately now. If you get the newsletter emailed to you, they will be sent to you in a later email. Otherwise there will be links to them on our website or on the YouTube channel where Mass is broadcast. (Or ask for the email as above)

A REMINDER If someone is not online: they could hear the Mass if a friend phoned them, then watched Mass on YouTube with the phone line open. Worth bearing in mind—it is easy and low-tech.

Virtual church! There are many opportunities for online prayer, Rosary, readings and chat as well as the livestreamed Masses, and Morning and Evening Prayer. See timetable below: more details on our Facebook page [and website](#)

Virtual Church Programme - Week commencing 14th June

	Sunday 14 th June The Most Holy Body and Blood of the Lord	Monday 15 th June	Tuesday 16 th June	Wednesday 17 th June	Thursday 18 th June St Barnabas, Apostle	Friday 19 th June Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	Saturday 20 th June Immaculate Heart of Mary
8am	Morning Prayer <i>Live stream</i>	Morning Prayer and Adoration <i>Live stream</i>	Morning Prayer and Adoration <i>Live stream</i>	Morning Prayer and Adoration <i>Live stream</i>	Morning Prayer and Adoration <i>Live stream</i>	Morning Prayer and Adoration <i>Live stream</i>	Mass with Morning Prayer <i>Live stream</i>
9.20 – 9.50am	Children's Liturgy Online (See website for registration)						
10am							
11.15am	St Peter's Tea Room <i>Zoom Virtual room</i>						
2.55pm							
4pm				Peter's Tea Room <i>Zoom Virtual room</i>			
6pm							
7pm	Sunday Mass - <i>Live stream</i>	Evening Mass - <i>Live stream</i>	Evening Mass - <i>Live stream</i>	Evening Mass - <i>Live stream</i>	Evening Mass - <i>Live stream</i>	Evening Mass - <i>Live stream</i>	Vigil Mass - <i>Live stream</i>
7.45pm						Acts of the Apostles - Scripture Group Reflection <i>Zoom Virtual room</i>	
8pm						Alpha Online To register - see website	
8.45pm	Alpha Online To register - see website						
9pm	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream</i>	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream</i>	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream</i>	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream</i>	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream</i>	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream</i>	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream</i>

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO PARTICIPATE IN MASS ONLINE](#)

[Click here if you wish to see recorded services](#)

PLEASE NOTE

The virtual sessions take place on the online platform Zoom. These can be accessed through the following link <https://zoom.us/j/4388694572> Alternatively, open your Zoom app (if installed), enter or copy/paste the Meeting ID: 438 869 4572 then click 'Join'.

N.B. Both the link and meeting ID may require you to enter the **password: 381440**.

Courses or initiatives that require registration cannot be accessed via the above links – see details on how to access these on our [website](#).

ABOUT...

Children's Liturgy Online Sundays, 9.30am – 9.50am

Will take place via the Zoom platform every Sunday morning for 15 - 20 minutes. To make the sessions as secure as possible, pre-register using the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4388694572>

Further details on our website. Links for colouring sheets, useful links and resources will be put up on the Young People's page on the parish website:

<https://www.catholicwinchester.org.uk/for-young-people-now/>

Acts of the Apostles - Scripture Group Reflection Fridays from 7.45pm (Duration: 1 hour and 15 minutes)

Join Deacon Martin on our Virtual Church on Zoom, as we reflect on the Acts of the Apostles together. During Eastertide, all of the first readings at Sunday Masses and at weekday Masses are from Acts of the Apostles. In each of our weekly sessions, we will look at 2-3 chapters of Acts, and share what this book of the Bible means for us today. The format is informal, and discussion-based.

Chat and Comments are now open on the livestream at the Sunday 10am Mass. If you are watching on the YouTube channel, say hello or tell us what is inspiring you today, or make any Mass-related comments—the button is easy to find. (You need to be signed in to YouTube to post.) And **The Tearoom** will be open after Mass—quickly make your cup of coffee or tea & come and join in with Zoom for socializing, 11.15is till 12 noon. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4388694572> Password, if you are asked, 381440