

# PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

2<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST 2020

18<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## WHO MAKES GOD'S LOVE VISIBLE?

*Fr Mark writes ...*

### *Who makes God's Love visible? (The answer's Jesus Christ, the Lord)*

**You are loved by God.**

Full stop.

It is not that "God loves you if you do certain things or avoid doing certain other things." God's love is completely unconditional. There is nothing that you can do or refrain from doing that will change God's love for you, either making God love you more or less. Let's face it, you're not that powerful.

It is not that "God loves you if you pay him a certain price". You do not "owe God" for the love he has for you. God's love is completely free. You cannot buy God's love. Let's face it, you're not that rich.

It is not that "God loves you only if you behave a certain way". God's love is completely undeserved. You cannot earn or merit God's love by doing God favours. Let's face it, you are not that good.

It is not that "God only loves you a little bit". God's love for you is boundless and infinite in its depth. You cannot limit God's love for you. Let's face it, you are not that strong.

It is not that "God only loves you for a while". God's love is completely faithful and steadfast. You cannot make God give up on you or trick God into abandoning you. Let's face it, you are not that clever.

You are loved by God, with a love that is unconditional, freely given, undeserved, boundless, infinite in its depth and completely faithful.

That is the message at the heart of God's self-communication. The whole of the Bible, St. Augustine notes, speaks only of God's love. Jesus reveals in flesh God's love for you and me. The love of God answers all the why's of our faith: why did God create the universe? Why did God become flesh? Why did Jesus die on the cross? Why did God raise Jesus to new life? Why did the Spirit come upon the Apostles at Pentecost? Because of God's love.

**God's love has been poured into your heart.**

The message of God's love is at the heart of our faith and yet how slow we are to hear it and to believe it. It is not simply some 'fact' we need to learn or merely some intellectual truth we need to grasp. Rather it is a message which we need to experience. It is a truth which we must hear again and again, day by day, until it penetrates our hearts and our minds and takes root deep within us.

That is why God does not just *tell* us about this immense love he has for us but actually *pours* that love into our hearts. The wall that our human nature places

between ourselves and God's love has been overcome by the incarnation; the wall that our human sinfulness constructs between us and God's love has been knocked down by the death and Resurrection of Jesus. Full communion between us and God is now possible so that God, who is Love, can live in us and we in God.

**Nothing can separate us from the Love of God.**

St. Paul was able to speak about God's love because he had experienced it. From the encounter with the Risen Jesus on the road to Damascus, he knew he was loved by God and that the Love of God, the Holy Spirit, had been poured into his heart. In our second reading today, he reflects on that love as a power in the events of his own life:

*"Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us."*

It is almost as if, in this 'purple passage', St. Paul was mentally going through a list of some of those challenges which had come his way since his conversion. For each one, he asks himself, "Was that strong enough to separate me from the love of Christ?" The answer each time comes as a resounding, "No!" Despite seeming at first insurmountable, none of them is powerful enough to stand up to the thought of God's love for him.

Are we able to do the same? Can I look back over some of the most difficult times of my life and find that any of them were strong enough to stop Christ loving me? Have any of the painful trials of lockdown stopped me experiencing the love that Christ has for me and that he has poured into my heart? Is there anything surfacing now in my life which is preventing me from accepting myself as a beloved son of daughter of God?

If the answer is 'yes', or if I've never known Christ's love in a real, tangible way, perhaps I can simply expose these struggles to the thought that God loves me perfectly and pray for that love to be poured (once more) into my heart.

If the answer is 'no', let us rejoice with St. Paul, confident that there's nothing big enough or small enough in this universe which can separate me from the steadfast love of God which endures forever:

*"For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Welcome to our simplified version of Peterpost which will run throughout August.

Date/	Mass Times & Intentions	Livestream/Public
<b>SATURDAY - August 1<sup>st</sup></b> St Alphonsus Ligouri (mem)	9:00AM	Public
	5.30PM	People of the Parish Public (booking required)
	7PM	Livestreamed
<b>SUNDAY – August 2<sup>nd</sup></b> EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10AM	David and Julia O'Connell RIP Livestreamed
	12:00Noon	Holy Souls Public (booking required)
	5:30PM	Brookes & Whiteman Families RIP Public (booking required)
	7PM -	Livestreamed
<b>MONDAY – August 3<sup>rd</sup></b> St Ethelwold or Feria	12:15PM	Intentions of Neil Family Public
	7PM	Livestream
<b>TUESDAY – August 4<sup>th</sup></b> St John Vianney (mem)	10:00AM	Public
	7PM	Livestream
<b>WEDNESDAY – August 5<sup>th</sup></b> Feria	10:00AM	Jose Francisco Palomino RIP Public
	7PM	Livestream
<b>THURSDAY – August 6<sup>th</sup></b> THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD (feast)	10:00AM	Albert & Catherine Knight RIP Public
	7PM	Livestream
<b>FRIDAY – August 7<sup>th</sup></b> St Cajetan (opt mem) or Feria	12:15PM	Benefactors Public
	7PM	Livestream
<b>SATURDAY – August 8<sup>th</sup></b> St Dominic (mem)	9:00AM	Public
	5:30PM	Fabian Woodley RIP Public (booking required)
	7PM	Livestream
<b>SUNDAY – August 9<sup>th</sup></b> NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10:00AM	Jose Riera-Estela RIP Livestream
	12:00 NOON	Public (Booking required)
	5:30PM	Brookes & Whiteman Families RIP Public (Booking required)
	7PM	

Morning Prayer 8am (every day except Saturday), Evening Prayer 9pm, every day. Both livestreamed.

Reconciliation/ Confession – Saturday morning, 11-12, afternoon 4.30-5pm. No booking necessary

### Antiphons & readings

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2020**  
**18<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time**

**Entrance Antiphon** - Ps 69: 2, 6  
O God, come to my assistance;  
O Lord, make haste to help me!  
You are my rescuer, my help;  
O Lord, do not delay

**First reading** - **Isaiah** 55:1-3

**Responsorial Psalm** – Psalm 144(145):8-9,15-18  
You open wide your hand, O Lord; you grant our desires

**Second reading** - Romans 8:35,37-39

**Gospel Acclamation** – cf.Lk 19:38,2-14  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Blessings on the King who comes,  
in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven  
and glory in the highest heavens!  
Alleluia!

**Gospel Matthew** 14:13-21

**Communion Antiphon** – Wis 16: 20  
You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven,  
endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:



Gill Heneghan RIP  
Ewa Slinn RIP,

#### **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).

**Fr. Mark**

**This Week's Intention** – Let us pray for Fr Tom, who is retiring, and Fr Anthony, who is joining us, that this transition in their ministries will be fruitful for them and for our parish.

#### **THANK YOU**

We would like to say **THANK YOU** to John Docherty who has been a valued member of our parish for many years and has contributed so much. We wish him well with his move to Scotland. John will be at the midday mass at St Peter's on Sunday 2 August, if any friends wanted to say farewell before his move.

# Virtual Church Programme: Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2020

	Sundays	Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays	Saturdays	
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>	9am – Mass @ St Peter's Church (NOT livestreamed)	
10am	Sunday Mass <i>Live stream</i>		Public Mass @ St Peter's Church (NOT livestreamed)	Public Mass @ St Peter's Church (NOT livestreamed)	Public Mass @ St Peter's Church (NOT livestreamed)			
11.15am	St Peter's Tea Room <i>Zoom Virtual room</i>							
12noon	Sunday Mass @ St Peter's Church (NOT livestreamed)							
12.15pm		Public Mass @ St Peter's Church (NOT livestreamed)					Public Mass @ St Peter's Church (NOT livestreamed)	
2.55pm		Divine Mercy Chaplet <i>Zoom Virtual room</i>						
5.30pm	Sunday Mass @ St Peter's Church (NOT livestreamed)							Vigil Mass @ St Peter's Church (NOT livestreamed)
6pm			Rosary <i>Zoom Virtual room</i>		Rosary <i>Zoom Virtual room</i>			
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>	
9pm	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream</i>							

**ALL public Masses at St Peter's Church ARE NOT livestreamed, and times may vary. Please check the weekly newsletter or [website](#) for changes to schedule.**

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'. **Password:** 287520.

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