

PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

6TH SEPTEMBER 2020

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TO WHOM IS IT OK TO BE IN DEBT?

Fr Mark writes ...

To whom is it ok to be in debt? (The Answer's Love Incarnate, Jesus Christ the Lord).

This weekend we're looking again at a passage from Romans. St. Paul begins this portion of his letter to the early Christian community in Rome by giving some good, solid practical advice: avoid getting into debt. Don't owe anyone anything.

For those of us with mortgages or student loans, for example, this might seem like an impossible instruction for our day. Many of us would struggle to survive in our current economic situation without borrowing money from somewhere or someone. There are people who understand economic systems much better than I do (it wouldn't be hard!) and could explain the benefits and costs of engaging with such systems but I think Paul's basic principle remains: avoid becoming a slave to money or to other people. Christ has set you free and you are to remain free. He has offered his life so that you may not be in debt to any person.

For those of you for whom unmanageable debt is an issue, the organisation "Christians Against Poverty" has a good reputation for offering support and practical advice. They offer award-winning debt counselling and community groups. Martin Lewis, the "Money Saving Expert", says, "CAP are unsurpassed when it comes to the debt help they give people across the country. There's nothing better to start you on the path to having more money in your pocket."

You can contact CAP by going to their website – capuk.org – or calling 08003280006

After just four words (three in the original Greek), Paul's mind seems to wander back to the one whom he loves, Jesus, and this causes him to flag up an exception to his rule: avoid getting into debt **except** the debt of mutual love.

We can perhaps imagine Paul's internal dialogue...

"How much has Jesus loved me?"
"Infinitely."

"How could I ever repay him?"
"I can't. I will always be indebted to his love."

"Isn't that a problem?"
"No, because the love of Jesus doesn't harm or injure or imprison. Rather it sets free. This love - pure, freely given, unconditional, faithful, fruitful - cannot enslave me and so this must be an exception. It must be ok to be in debt to true, authentic love. It must also be ok to love genuinely without expecting anything in return. We are all debtors as far as God and love are concerned – just think of the love God has lavished on us!"

If this, or something like it, is Paul's internal thought process after those first few words then we can make sense of his next few lines.

If you love your fellow human beings then you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself.

Paul then tells us why it is ok for mutual love to be an exception to his rule of debt avoidance:

Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

I don't quite agree with Paul here. Or at least I don't quite agree with his translator. Love can hurt and does hurt. Loving others can hurt us (Jesus ended up tortured and crucified out of love for us) and being loved by others can sting as it is poured onto our wounds or it can inflict pain as it purifies us from that which is corrupt within us. Nonetheless, loving others can never harm us. We can never be imprisoned by authentic love. Rather it heals us and sets us free from slavery to fear and sin.

The challenge, of course, is discerning whether love offered is truly genuine or not. Here are some good questions to ask, provided by St. Paul in another of his letters, to the Christian community in Corinth:

Is this love always patient and kind?
Is it never jealous nor boastful nor conceited?
Is it never rude?
Does it not ever seek its own advantage, nor take offence nor store up grievances?
Does it not rejoice at wrongdoing but rather finds its joy in the truth?
Is it always ready to make allowances, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes?

Jesus is always patient and kind. Jesus is never jealous nor boastful nor conceited. Jesus is never rude. Jesus does not ever seek his own advantage, nor take offence nor store up grievances. Jesus does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rather finds its joy in the truth. Jesus is always ready to make allowances, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes. Jesus is Love Incarnate.

Accept that love which comes from God. Allow yourselves to be in debt to Him – and pour love out upon others. Don't be afraid to let down that drawbridge to your heart in order to let the love of God come in, to let Jesus genuinely love you. And don't be afraid to pour out your heart with authentic love for Jesus, present in the Eucharist and present in our neighbour, especially the poor, the weak and the vulnerable. Love is the one thing which can do no wrong.

Staying connected Fr Mark wants to make sure we keep connected as a Parish, and to this end a team of parishioners will be calling round to people to pass on his good wishes and to try to make sure our contact details are up-to-date. Being able to reach out to each other has been even more vital in the time of the pandemic, so we hope everyone will understand and be happy to take the call. Of course you should always be careful on the phone – no-one from the Parish will be asking you anything sensitive. If you have any questions or issues contact the Parish Office: 01962 852804 or email office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Alpha Online – YOU ARE INVITED. YOU ARE WELCOME...

Life brings its own challenges, but recent times have thrown even more challenges our way. Is there more to life than this? Why am here? If there is really a God, why is this all happening? Now more than ever, a course like Alpha might be just what you or someone you know need. Alpha is a series of sessions that creates a space for conversations about faith, life and God to take place in an interactive and relaxed manner. Meeting online enables you to join from the very comfort and safety of your home wherever you are.

To register on the course, visit www.catholicwinchester.org.uk/alpha

If you would like to invite a friend to join Alpha but are unsure who to invite or why, please watch this short clip <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OI5wAFuky1w> or send them this invitation <http://bit.ly/AlphaOnlineWinchester>

The course will run online Mondays from 8pm - 9.15pm. **Starts Monday 21st September 2020.**



Date/	Mass Times & Intentions	Livestream/Public
SATURDAY – September 5th Our Lady on Saturday or Feria	10:00AM Shelagh and Patrick O’Donoghue	<i>In Winchester Cathedral, Public (booking required)</i>
	5.30PM Mary Perry RIP	<i>Public (booking required) & livestream</i>
SUNDAY – September 6th 23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10AM Parish prayers offered for Josie McCabe	<i>Livestream only</i>
	11AM at St Gregory’s	<i>Public (booking required)</i>
	12:00Noon Thomas, Mary and Dreda Rudd RIP	<i>Public (booking required) & livestream</i>
	5:30PM People of the Parish	<i>Public (booking required) & livestream</i>
MONDAY – September 7th Feria	12:15PM Deceased Members of Szymanski Family	<i>Public & livestream</i>
	7PM Paddy Barron RIP	<i>Livestream only</i>
TUESDAY – September 8th The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (FEAST)	10:00AM Intentions of Neil Family	<i>Public & livestream</i>
	7PM Paul & Pauline Vooght – Wedding Anniversary	<i>Livestream only</i>
WEDNESDAY – September 9th St Peter Claver (opt.mem.) or Feria	10:00AM Dr Michael Delany	<i>Public & livestream</i>
	7PM Luke & Veronica Vooght	<i>Livestream only</i>
THURSDAY – September 10th Feria	10:00AM	<i>Public & livestream</i>
	7 PM Rose Margaret Fletcher RIP	<i>Livestream only</i>
FRIDAY – September 11th Feria	12.15 PM Holy Souls	<i>Public & livestream</i>
	7PM	<i>Livestream only</i>
SATURDAY – September 12th The Most Holy Name of Mary (opt.mem) or Feria	9AM	<i>Public & livestream</i>
	5:30PM John & Pat Thornhill – Golden Wedding Anniversary	<i>Public (booking required) & livestream</i>
SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 13th 24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10 AM	<i>Livestream only</i>
	11AM at St Gregory’s	<i>Public (booking required)</i>
	12 noon	<i>Public (booking required)& livestream</i>
	5:30pm People of the Parish	<i>Public (booking required) & livestream</i>

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.

******PLEASE NOTE: On Saturday 5th September there will be no confession, and note change of Mass that morning: 10am, Cathedral, booking required. You can watch the Cathedral Mass online here <https://youtu.be/pj5mVXz4ZCQ> .**

Please book early for Sunday masses

Fr Mark writes: "It's been so very lovely seeing people's faces back at masses, even though tinged with sadness that for many this is, rightly, not yet possible. Thank you to those of you who have been joining us on the weekdays to give space for others to come on Sundays. I'd like to encourage those of you coming on Sundays (including Saturday evening) please to book in as early as possible - that way we can "manage the numbers" better and even offer an extra mass if there is a demand."

St. Gregory's, Alresford We have carried out a risk assessment of St. Gregory's Church, and there is now a regular 11am Mass on Sundays. (**PLEASE BOOK via our website** or by phoning the office). There will be weekday masses when Bishop Peter is available (no booking required) – next one likely to be Fri 18th Sept. Thank you for your continued patience as we try to keep everyone safe.

Readings and Antiphons

Sunday 6 September 2020 - **23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Entrance Antiphon - Ps 118: 137, 124

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

First reading - Ezekiel 33:7-9

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 94(95):1-2,6-9

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'

Second reading - Romans 13:8-10

Gospel Acclamation - Jn17:17

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your word is truth, O Lord:
consecrate us in the truth.
Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 18:15-20

Communion Antiphon - Cf. Ps 41: 2-3

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.

Re-Opening Churches and the Pastoral Centre

We're delighted that masses have resumed at St. Gregory's and we're starting to look at opening up St. Thomas More, Stockbridge and St. Stephen's, as well as the Pastoral Centre. We're developing risk assessments and looking at a timeline for phased re-opening. We will keep you informed as we go forwards.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY ONLINE

We will be restarting the weekly Children's Liturgy online via the Zoom platform. The sessions will take place at 9:30am - 9:50am on Sundays as usual, resuming on Sunday September 6th (so you are then free to join in with the 10am live streamed Mass if you wish).



To make the sessions as secure as possible, you will need to pre-register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZUpd-CgqDsjHdFJalMzv9TVFB4lu-9cEITv>

Please note! Everyone needs to register for the new session! You will receive a new email with individual joining link.

You will then receive an email with an individual ID (please don't share this with anyone) and a few safeguarding reminders.

Links for colouring sheets will be put up in advance on the Children's/Young People's page on the website:

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

We look forward to seeing some of you there!



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 – As we start a new term, let us pray for all of those who lead, enable, and participate in the works of prayer, evangelisation, and charity undertaken by our parish, that we may bring ever more people to hope and joy in Jesus Christ.

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



Daphne Clare Tucker RIP
Henry Ede RIP
Michael Fawcitt RIP

Morning Prayer and Adoration (8-9am, Monday to Friday)

Since lockdown, Fr Mark and Fr Stephen have been leading Morning Prayer and Adoration nearly every day, available for you to follow on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbGgrcbDyLY75pmCAopfLlg/live>.

As of Monday 7th September, it will also be possible for you to join us in person. The church will be opened just before 8am and each person attending will be asked to leave their name and contact details (for track and trace purposes).

Morning Prayer is a beautiful part of the "Liturgy of the Hours", the Church's daily offering of prayer in response to the Lord's command to pray without ceasing. We give thanks to God the Father and intercede for the salvation of the world. The service lasts about 15 minutes. We will offer the prayers before the Blessed Sacrament (the Body of Christ, or Sacred Host, visible to us on the altar, in what is called a 'monstrance'). The Blessed Sacrament will then remain exposed (visible) for a period of personal, silent prayer. On some days the Blessed Sacrament will remain on the altar until just before mass; on others we will end our formal time of prayer with a litany of praise to God and Benediction (when the priest or deacon blesses those present with the Sacred Host in the monstrance). Those attending will be asked to wipe down the area in which they sit and any surfaces with which they may have come into contact.

If you would like to join us, you would be very welcome. We will still be livestreaming the prayers, so you can see what the service looks like from the comfort of your own home before venturing into the church if you feel unsure. If you would like to find out more about Eucharistic Adoration, or would like to commit to an hour each week as part of our parish rota, please contact Tony Darlison via the parish office (office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk or 01962 852804)

Welcome to Fr Anthony

This Friday Fr Anthony will arrive in the parish hours after submitting the dissertation for his Masters Degree at Southampton University. You will get a chance to see him in person or digitally at the St. Peter's masses over next weekend before he takes a well-earned post-studies break for 10 days. Fr Tom will officially retire once Fr Anthony returns from his holiday, though I'm sure he will still be around and involved in parish life, albeit in a different way.



SVP – Thank you and Welcome

Enormous thanks are due to Madeline Rakowicz, who has stepped down this week after four years as Chair of the parish SVP (Society of St. Vincent de Paul). Under Madeline's excellent leadership, the SVP has continued to do much wonderful work supporting and walking alongside some of our most vulnerable neighbours. Most of activity work is carried out "behind the scenes" and so often goes unnoticed except by those who benefit from the time, care and Christ-like love offered by Madeline and the other fabulous members. We welcome Marion Sharpe, who has generously offered to take over this crucial role in our parish. Thank you so much to Madeline and to Marion. If you'd like to find out more about SVP or their work, you can visit their website - <https://www.svp.org.uk/> or contact Marion via the parish office (office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk or 01962852804)



Congratulations and Welcome

We're delighted that after a long delay due to the Coronavirus, we are able this Tuesday 8th September, the Feast of the Nativity of Mary, to receive Gregory Tyler into full communion with the Catholic Church and to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for Claudia Mora Balón.



Save the Date - early notification that there will be a family Ecumenical Service on Sunday 29 November at St John's Church, Itchen Abbas from 4 to 5 pm. Put it in your diary now, more details nearer the time.

Children and Families

We're very conscious of some of the extra strains imposed upon children and families over recent months. We also know that the current masses, where no congregational singing is allowed and with the other differences, can make it more challenging for many of our children to engage and participate. We are actively thinking through what more we can do to support our children and families in worship (beyond our excellent Children's Liturgy of the Word) but any ideas are always welcome via our parish email address – office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk . Hopefully we will have some news to share soon.



Message from St. Peter's School: It is with much joy and celebration that St. Peter's School has fully re-opened on Thursday 3rd September, and it was wonderful having all our children and families back. We are following all safety measures and the children settled in very quickly. Thank you for holding the school in your prayers.

L Buxton, Headteacher

Leave Covid-19 behind and live the life you were made for?



As we begin to come together once again albeit socially distanced it is time to take stock of who we are, and our relationship with God.

Recently we heard in our Sunday Gospel how Peter's faith faltered, and he sunk below the water that he had been walking on with Jesus. The gospel was reminding us that as disciples of Jesus all things are possible with faith.

This is certainly a good time to think about our faith, our personal relationship with God and to take steps to build it up. One way that you could seek to gain a deeper understanding of the love God has for you is to join an online 30-day coaching program called I AM that is led by Chris Stefanick. Chris is an internationally acclaimed speaker who invites people into a dynamic, life changing encounter with God through Jesus in His Catholic Church.

You can find out more about I AM by visiting <https://coaching.reallifecatholic.com/a/25768/3fRt36iv> should you decide to join there is a charge of \$37 which at current exchange rates is £28:20.



Survey for the Over 60's -

The National Office for Vocation of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales works with various Catholic organisations to develop support networks and resources to promote vocation at all stages of life. Vocation is about responding to God's dream for us at whatever stage of life we are in, and with the encouragement of Pope Francis, we are eager to help older people understand better their vocation as older persons. The Bishops Conference of England & Wales hopes to work towards a pastoral environment which better cares for and encourages older persons in their Christian journey. If you would like to take part then please note that the survey closes on **the 30th of September 2020**.

The Gift of Many Years: Catholics over 60 years of age <https://forms.gle/T5dV2oMWvBpHjLGCA>

Virtual Church Programme: Sunday 6th September 2020

	Sunday 6 th Sept 23 rd Sun in Ord. Time	Monday 7 th Sept	Tuesday 8 th Sept The Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Wed 9 th Sept	Thursday 10 th Sept	Friday 11 th Sept	Saturday 12 th Sept	
8am	Morning Prayer <i>Live stream ONLY</i>	Public Morning Prayer and Adoration <i>(ALSO live streamed)</i>	Public Morning Prayer and Adoration <i>(ALSO live streamed)</i>	Public Morning Prayer and Adoration <i>(ALSO live streamed)</i>	Public Morning Prayer and Adoration <i>(ALSO live streamed)</i>	Public Morning Prayer and Adoration <i>(ALSO live streamed)</i>	9am – Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO live streamed)	
9.20 – 9.50am	Children's Liturgy Online (See website to register)							
10am	Sunday Mass <i>Live stream ONLY</i>		Public Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO live streamed)	Public Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO live streamed)	Public Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO live streamed)			
11.15am	St Peter's Tea Room <i>Zoom Virtual room</i>							
12noon	Sunday Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO live streamed)							
12.15pm		Public Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO live streamed)					Public Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO live streamed)	
2.55pm		Divine Mercy Chaplet <i>Zoom Virtual room</i>	Divine Mercy Chaplet <i>Zoom Virtual room</i>	Divine Mercy Chaplet <i>Zoom Virtual room</i>	Divine Mercy Chaplet <i>Zoom Virtual room</i>	Divine Mercy Chaplet <i>Zoom Virtual room</i>		
5.30pm	Sunday Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO live streamed)							Vigil Mass @ St Peter's Church (ALSO live streamed)
6pm			Rosary <i>Zoom Virtual room</i>		Rosary <i>Zoom Virtual room</i>			
7pm		Evening Mass - <i>Live stream ONLY</i>	Evening Mass - <i>Live stream ONLY</i>	Evening Mass - <i>Live stream ONLY</i>	Evening Mass - <i>Live stream ONLY</i>	Evening Mass - <i>Live stream ONLY</i>		
9pm	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream ONLY</i>	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream ONLY</i>	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream ONLY</i>	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream ONLY</i>	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream ONLY</i>	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream ONLY</i>	Night Prayer - <i>Live Stream ONLY</i>	

ALL public Masses at St Peter's Church are 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.

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO PARTICIPATE IN MASS ONLINE](#)
[Click here if you wish to see recorded services](#)

**Please note that our children's liturgy is back, starting on Sunday 6th September via zoom, please see notice in bulletin.
Also a reminder that our virtual tearoom is open after 10am Mass**