

Hampshire Downs Catholic Parish

Alresford ♦ Stockbridge ♦ Winchester



FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (A) 9th January, 2011

The best archaeologists tell us that the site of Jesus' baptism at the Jordan is actually in the Kingdom of Jordan and is where the event actually happened. I have visited it several times and this year I hope to lead a pilgrimage for young people. One of the places I intend to visit with them is the baptism site. The power of the place is in the fact that archaeological remains reveal that Christians have gathered in this place since the actual baptism of Jesus. One of those Christians may have been the Roman Emperor Constantine who built a basilica there in the 4th century.

The power of the place is also in the fact that God the Father's voice was heard speaking a Word that revealed Jesus as his "beloved Son." The Word that the Father speaks is in fact his Son Jesus because Jesus is the communication and revelation of God to us and that Word comes in a variety of forms. We glimpse the Word in love, relationship, prayer, liturgy, truth, beauty and the Sacred Scriptures. In fact the whole of life is about the revelation of God's Word.

I mention this because 2011 is the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible and therefore this year has been named the 'Year of the Bible.'

I want to urge us to make a decision to become more familiar with the sacred scriptures this year. It could be by reflecting on the Sunday readings, either alone or as a member of a group, using the 'Lectio Divina' method; it could be by studying Matthew's Gospel, which is the one given for this year; or it could be by taking one of the Bibles at the back of the church which is divided into a daily reading schedule as part of the 'Read the Bible in a year Scheme'. Anyone wanting to take a Bible should leave a donation of £10. Another possible new year resolution would be to read Pope Benedict's excellent exhortation 'Verbum Domini.'

(Both the Bible in a year schedule and the Pope's document are available via links on the home page of our parish website.)

(PJT)

Sacramental Preparation



First Holy Communion 2011

For children in the parish who are eight or older between 1st September 2010 and 31st August 2011 (Year 3 in school) and would like to enrol in the programme.

It begins with an **introductory session for parents this Thursday 13th January, 8.00 - 9.00pm** in St. Peter's School, followed by the **first children's session on Saturday 22nd January, 10.30am- 12.00noon**, also in St. Peter's School.

Forms are available at the back of all churches. Please take one and return it to the Parish Office.

Confirmation 2011 - See the Young People section for details. The next meeting for candidates is on **Thursday 20th January**.

Please pray for all those preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation during the coming year, and for their families.

TODAY

Flowers at St Stephen's are in memory of Margaret and Leslie Jarvis RIP

Flowers in St. Peters are in memory of Michael Ede RIP.

Fr. Francis McAlinden's new gravestone will be blessed by Canon Paul at 3.00pm today (Sunday 9th January) in Magdalen Hill Cemetery. All are welcome to come along. Fr. Frank's second anniversary is tomorrow (10th January).

Prayers for Sudan. Please see the Outreach and Mission box on page 2 for details.

THIS WEEK

Monday 10th January - Winchester Catholic History Group: 'Englefield, Plowden and Wollascott: Responses to the Reformation,' a talk by Tony Hadland, author and editor of Oxfordshire Family Historial. 7.45 for 8.00pm in the Milner Hall. All welcome. Non-members £3.

Tuesday 11th January - Eucharistic Adoration resumes.

Tuesday 11th January - Hampshire Downs Liturgy Group, 7.30pm, Parish Office (Old Georgian) meeting room.

Wednesday 12th January - Space in the City talk, 12.30pm in the United Church, Winchester. (See Adult Formation box on page 3 for details.)

Wednesday 12th January - SPOG (Older Youth Group), 7.00pm, Parish Office meeting room.

Thursday 13th January - Year 7 & 8 Youth Group, 7.00pm, St Stephen's Community Room.

Thursday 13th January - First Communion Parents' Meeting, 8.00pm, St Peter's School.

Saturday 15th January 2011 - Lay Liturgical Leadership training day (for the whole parish), at St Gregory's, Alresford, 10.00am - 4.00pm. Contact Catherine Christmas.

NEXT WEEKEND

Sunday 16th January is Peace Sunday, a day of prayer for peace

Sunday 16th January - Mass in the Extraordinary Form, 12.15pm, St. Peter's Church.

Sunday 16th January - Christian Unity Service, St John's, Alresford

Baptisms, Weddings and Deaths

Welcome to Ella O'Brien who was baptised in St. Peter's last weekend.

Please pray for Ilse Lion who has died. Her funeral will be at St Peter's on Friday 14th January at 10.00am. RIP.

Please pray for Leslie Shaw who has died. His funeral Mass will be at St. Peter's on Wednesday 19th January at 12 noon. RIP.

Please pray for Charlotte Fennell who has died. Her funeral Mass will be at St. Peter's on Friday 21st January at 12.00 noon. RIP.

Please pray for Anne Bell who has died. Her funeral will be at St. Peter's on Friday 21st January at 1.30pm. RIP.



TODAY'S MASS - LITURGY OF THE WORD

1st Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4.6-7

Psalm Response: The Lord will bless his people with peace

2nd Reading: Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded: "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him." Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17



LOOKING AHEAD

Monday 17th January - Ascent Group, 2.15pm, St Peter's Convent.

18th - 25 January 2011 - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. See Winchester details opposite. **NB: The Unity Service** will be held in **St Peter's on Sunday 23rd January at 6.30pm.**

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Alresford starts with a joint service in Alresford Methodist church on Sunday 16th January. Each evening during the week we will hold a short service of evening prayer at St. Gregory's. The week will end with the ever popular unity lunch at St Gregory's Parish Pastoral Centre on Sunday 23rd January. Tickets £7 each (two-course meal with wine, and children come free) available from Piers Armstrong (01962 734542 or piers.armstrong@btopenworld.com).

Tuesday 18th January - Scripture Reflection Group, 7.30pm-9.15pm, St Stephen's.

Wednesday 19th January - Stewardship Group, 7.30pm, St Stephen's Community Room.

Thursday 20th January - Confirmation Session, 7.00pm, St Peter's School. (See Young People section for details.)

Friday 21st January - Christian Unity Service, 7.30pm in Wesley Methodist Church, Weeke. Bishop Crispian will be preaching. All are welcome to come along.

Saturday 22nd January - First Communion Children's Session, 10.30am, St Peter's School.

Saturday 22nd January - St Thomas More Prayer Group, 3.00pm, St Barnabas, Weeke.

Sunday 23rd January - Christian Unity Service, 6.30pm, St Peter's Church. (NB: Evening Mass will be at 8.00pm.)

Wednesday 26th January - St. Stephen's Pastoral Group meets at 7.30pm in St. Stephen's Community Room.

Thursday 27th January - Parish Annual Meeting, starting with 7.00pm Mass in St Stephen's, followed by the meeting in St. Peter's School.hall until 9.30pm. Refreshments will be provided. This is an important opportunity to discuss parish matters, meet fellow parishioners and learn about what is happening across the different worshipping communities. If you require transport from Alresford please contact the parish office. **(Please note: There will be no 7.00pm Mass in St Peter's Church on that evening.)**

Thursday 27th January - Year 7 & 8 Youth Group, 7.00pm, St Stephen's Community Room.

Monday 31st January - Street Pastors Information Meeting, 7.00 for 7.30pm, Winchester. (See box right for more information.)

Praise Mass for Hampshire Downs Parish

Sunday 6th February. We are delighted to welcome the Catholic Rock band Crossbeam to lead a Praise Mass in the early evening at St. Stephen's Church. Prior to the Mass, Crossbeam will lead a music workshop which aims to introduce this style of worship to all who feel that they might be interested in learning more about praise music, or getting involved in forming our own parish Praise Band. You don't need to be expert – just enthusiastic! A worship band is just that; worship; it is not a performance, but a way of celebrating and sharing the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. For more details about the Mass or to register for the music workshop, please contact Paul and Clare Robinson on 01962 885858 or email hampshiredownspraise@ymail.com Further details to follow.

Alton Day of Renewal

Saturday 22nd January at St Lucy's Convent, Medstead. 11.00am Rosary; 11.30am - Mass or liturgy, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; 1.00pm - shared lunch. 2.00pm - prayer and praise, followed by a talk given by Deacon John Edwards: 'God, the Father Almighty.' Contact John Foley (0118 933 3420) or Sister Paddy (01256 321276).



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

18th – 25th January 2011

'All Things In Common'

In 2011 Christians in Jerusalem invite the world-wide Church to pray with them for the unity of the Church and justice and peace in the Holy Land and through the world.

- Tues 18th 12 30–1.00pm **Lunchtime Prayers**
The United Church, Jewry St
- Wed 19th 12 30–1.00pm **Space in the City talk: 'A Rough Guide to Heaven' Dr Paula Gooder**
The United Church, Jewry St
- Wed 19th 6 00–9.00pm **Prayer Vigil**
St Swithun upon Kingsgate
- Thur 20th 12 30–1.00pm **Lunchtime Prayers**
St Peter, Jewry St
- Fri 21st 12 30–1.00pm **Lunchtime Prayers**
Cathedral, Lady Chapel
- Fri 21st 7 30pm **Christian Unity Service**
Wesley Methodist Church, Weeke
Preacher: Bishop Crispian Hollis

Sunday 23rd January

Shared Ministry (pulpit exchange) at various times and venues during the morning

6 30pm - Christian Unity Service St Peter's Church

*Speaker: Revd Dr Howard Mellor,
Discernment & Selection Officer Methodist Connexional
Theme: All things in Common - The Bible*

OUTREACH AND MISSION

Street Pastors in Winchester

Street Pastors are Christians willing to care, listen and help young people in the places they are, in terms of their thinking and where they hang out. They work late in the evening and early morning in town and city centres around the pubs and clubs. The Christian Churches in Winchester are starting up such a scheme for launching later this year. If you are interested in being involved please come to a recruitment evening at St. John's Rooms in the Broadway at 7.00 for 7.30pm on Monday 31st January. More information at www.streetpastors.co.uk (follow the link from our parish website) and from Steve Taylor sctaylor@win.eclipse.co.uk

Hot Meals for Winchester Nightshelter - Many thanks to all those parishioners who have so kindly volunteered to provide a hot meal on behalf of our parish of Hampshire Downs to the Winchester Churches Nightshelter in Jewry Street during January, February & early March. If you would be interested in helping on a future occasion, please contact Pat Harris (01962 620979 or patlunn.harris@ntlworld.com).

Prayers for Sudan

Civil war has raged in Sudan for 40 of the last 55 years and 1.5 million lives have been lost. The 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement ended the war between South and North Sudan but Southern Sudan is still one of the poorest areas in the world with less than half the population having access to clean water. **Today, 9th January 2011,** Southern Sudanese will vote whether or not to become a separate nation. Bishop Eduardo Hilboro of the Sudanese Church has written to ask us to stand alongside them, to call upon the UK government, guardians of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, to keep its promises, and for our prayers for peace – before, during and after the referendum.



Young People

Youth Theatre Group has resumed. Contact: Julia Bray on 01962 853813 or Deb Falconer on 01962 843638.

Receive the Gift - Confirmation 2011



Next meeting for Confirmation Candidates will be on **Thursday, 20th January** at 7.00pm in St. Peter's School. Many thanks to all those who turned up last week. Details of all meetings can be found on the Facebook page. Details below. If you are between 13 and 17 and have not yet been Confirmed, please contact the Confirmation Team via the Parish Office on 01962 852804. For more details, contact Don West on 01962 865153 or don.west@ntlworld.com. Also, see the parish website. If you are 18 or over, you may find the Journey in Faith (Contact: Nick Kelly: 01962 890118) a more appropriate way to prepare for Confirmation.

Please pray for our Confirmation candidates and their families.

Year 7-8 Youth Group. The last two sessions are Thursdays 13th and 27th January in St Stephen's Community Room. Contact the Parish Office for details and pick up a card at the back of church.

SPOG's (Older Youth Group) meeting this Wednesday 12th January, 2011, 7.00 - 9.00pm in the Parish Office meeting room. It is aimed at young people who have been Confirmed, offering them an opportunity to explore their faith. Run for young people by young people, SPOG combines spiritual development with social time, music and plenty of pizza! We are keen to gain new members from the whole parish, so if you're interested please contact Lucrezia on lucrezia.slinn@hotmail.co.uk.

Youth Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, October 2011. Following on from our successful 2009 trip, Canon Paul is leading another Youth Pilgrimage during the October half term, visiting Jerusalem and sites around the Sea of Galilee. It is aimed at young people from Years 9 and upwards. **Dates:** Friday 21st to Friday 28th October 2011. **Cost: £900.** We will be organising some sponsorship and fundraising activities during the spring and summer terms and will be offering some assisted places, so if you want to come and cost is a problem please see Fr Paul and we will sort that out. We are using a budget airline so need firm commitments and a deposit by the end of January. For further details please contact Sue Broadbent (01962 827764 or suewade@btconnect.com)

Hampshire Downs Youth - Facebook Page for young Catholics in Alresford, Stockbridge and Winchester. Follow the link from the home page of our parish website and join up for more information on events and news.

Weekend trip for those aged 14-18yrs at St Cassian's Kintbury. This will be an amazing event, not to be missed. **Friday 6th - Sunday 8th May 2011.** Please find a grey postcard, at the back of all churches, for more information. Contact Peter McGeady as soon as possible to book a place.

Peter McGeady (Youth Leader) - Contact details: Follow the link from the home page of our parish website to the **Young Catholics South** group page. YC South contact detail cards are in all our churches.

Thanks from the Gualano Family

Mario, Jo Bella & Luca Gualano would like to pass on their heartfelt thanks for the support that has been shown by the church and school communities from St Peter's & St Stephens during their recent family bereavements and forthcoming move to Shanghai.

Cycle of Prayer

This week we pray for: Those to be baptised this year, their god-parents, families and catechists. Engaged couples. 'Marriage Encounter' & parish groups supporting the Sacrament of Matrimony. Army Chaplains and Personnel. Royal Navy and Royal Air Force Chaplains and Personnel. Catenian Association.

Adult Formation

Space in the City talks – Wednesdays 12th Jan - 2nd Feb, 12.30-1.00pm, United Church, Jewry Street, Winchester.

The New Year series, entitled "Pie in the Sky" - four talks exploring the end-of-life themes in the Bible - will be given by Dr Paula Gooder, Canon Theologian at Birmingham Cathedral. The first talk is "Dying Well: Death and the Old Testament". Each talk will be followed by questions, chaired by Debbie Thrower. Admission free. Sandwiches available after the talks.

For details of the series, see www.spaceinthecity.org.uk

Training and Formation for Lay Liturgical Leaders (for the whole parish) - this Saturday 15th January 2011, St. Gregory's, Alresford. Please contact Catherine Christmas for details.

Scripture Reflection Group meets next on **Tuesday 18th January, 7.30-9.15pm, St Stephen's.** A simple, shared meal, followed by prayer, reflection, sharing and theological input. Please bring simple food to share. All are welcome.

See our parish website for details of other opportunities.

PARISH CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

The demolition is now complete. There is no parking in that area. The new building work will start in March. **Peterhouse, Milner Hall and the Convent are now accessed by the parish from St Peter Street.** Please contact the parish office if you have questions about the interim arrangements during the demolition and build phases.

Car Parking - In order to provide spaces for people attending Mass or visiting the church on weekdays, please refrain from parking in the church grounds for other purposes. Please also give priority to people who are not able to walk from the nearby car parks to Mass. We are trying to deter long-term and day parking and are using the barriers and bollards to reserve parking for church purposes.

Public toilets are available outside the Discovery Centre (on the side facing the Theatre Royal).

GENERAL

Thank You! Home Start would like to thank everyone who contributed to the collection at the Celebration of Carols. Nearly £200 was raised and will be put to very good use.

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Welcomers at St. Gregory's - If you have not already received a copy of the rota for the first half of 2011, please pick one up in the church porch or email Paul Kennedy on pbk25@btinternet.com

St Gregory's 100 Club December £50.00 prize was won by Sheila and Jim King.

St Peter's School Minibus Service – drivers wanted to add to our rota for the school minibus service, mornings or afternoons. No previous minibus driving experience is required. The job is paid hourly and training is provided. Can you help, or do you know anyone who may be able to do so? For more details, please contact Toni Hoff in the school office on 01962 852820.

ST. PETER'S BOOKSHOP

Now open in the Old Georgian (entrance on Jewry Street).



Books, cards and religious items.

Opening times on posters in our churches.

All volunteers, please remember you are still needed! Look out for the bookshop when it travels to St. Gregory's, St. Thomas More's and St. Stephen's. Please come and visit our new premises!

MASSES AND LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

8th to 15th January, 2011

St. Peter's, Winchester

Masses:

Sat 8	6.00 pm	Mass - John Hill RIP
Sun 9	8.00 am	Mass - People of the Parish
	10.30 am	Mass - Teresa McCourt
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer and Benediction
	7.00 pm	Mass
Mon 10	12.15 pm	Mass - Canon Patrick Curtin RIP
Tue 11	8.00 am	Mass - Florence Zollo RIP
Wed 12	12.15 pm	Mass - Fr. Francis McAlinden RIP
Thur 13	7.00 pm	Mass - All Young People (CWL intention)
Fri 14	10.00 am	Funeral Liturgy for Ilse Lion RIP
	12.15 pm	Mass - Isabella Docherty RIP
Sat 15	9.00 am	Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Sat 11.30 am - 12.30 pm and 4.30 pm - 5.00 pm

Eucharistic Adoration:

Tue	9.00 am - 8.00 pm
Wed	1.00 pm - 8.00 pm
Thur	9.00 am - 5.00 pm



St. Gregory's, Alresford

Sun	11.00 am	Mass
Mon	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Tue	10.30 am	Mass - Neil family RIP
Wed	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Thur	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Fri	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Sat	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion



St. Stephen's, Oliver's Battery

Sun 9.15 am Mass - Ian Brien RIP



St. Thomas More's, Stockbridge

Sun 9.00 am Mass

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

9th to 16th January, 2011

(Psalter Week 1)

Sunday 9	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (A)
Monday 10	Feria
Tuesday 11	Feria
Wednesday 12	St. Aelred or Feria
Thursday 13	St. Hilary or Feria
Friday 14	Feria
Saturday 15	Our Lady on Saturday or Feria
Sunday 16	Second Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 49:3.5-6. First letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 1:1-3. John 1:29-34

Psalm Response: Here I am Lord! I come to do your will.



PARISH OFFICE

The Old Georgian, 29 Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8RY

☎ 01962 852804

E-mail: office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Website: www.hampshiredowns.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Brian Roberts ♦ **Secretary:** Eileen Good

CLERGY & PARISH TEAM

Canon Paul Townsend	(Parish Priest)
Fr. John Catlin	(Associate Pastor)
Canon Alan Griffiths	
Fr. Vincent Convery	(Prison & Hospital Chaplain)
Fr. Brian Croughan	(Retired Priest)
Deacon Gerard Dailly	☎ 01962 736389
Deacon Nick Reynolds	☎ 07854 709301
Catherine Christmas	(Music, Liturgy & Communications)

Sisters of St Lucy, St. Peter's Convent ☎ 01962 854040

St. Peter's Catholic Primary School:

Oliver's Battery Road North, Winchester, SO22 4JB

Headteacher: Mrs Cath Howells ☎ 01962 852820

Portsmouth Diocesan Trust - Registered Charity 246871

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Pastoral Council - Angela Muxworthy (Chair)
(07876444124)

Finance & Property Committee - Marcus Whitfield (Chair)
(01962 882057) mw@tucasi.com

Planned Giving/Gift Aid Enquiries - Trish Mitchell
(01962 849425) austinnippy@aol.com

Safeguarding - Wini Meikle (01962 714509)

Baptisms - Jon & Dawn Egerton-Kemp c/o (01962 852804)
dawnk@btconnect.com

Confirmation - Don West (01962 865153)
don.west@ntlworld.com

Weddings - Parish Office (01962 852804)

Communion to Sick & Housebound - Imelda Weingart-West
(01962 865153 or Imelda.weingart@ntlworld.com)

We acknowledge with thanks:

Last week's collection

(Alresford, Stockbridge and Winchester): **£3,802.98**



Living Our Faith: Total raised so far: **£1,367,902** from **409** pledges and gifts. We are working on the final £32,000 to reach our target. If you have not yet supported the campaign, please consider helping us to reach the final amount so that we can proceed with the building of the new parish pastoral centre.

GENERAL NOTICES

Please send newsletter items to the Parish Office by 5.00 pm **Wednesday**. Please keep items as concise as possible and note that they may be edited.

Communion for Sick and Housebound - If you are housebound, even for a short time, and would like to receive Communion at home, please contact our parish co-ordinator, **Imelda Weingart-West** (01962 865153, or Imelda.weingart@ntlworld.com)

A **Minibus** service is available for people living in the Winchester area to bring you to 10.30am Sunday Mass at St Peter's and take you home. Please contact the Parish Office.