

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary time - 16 July 2023

Thought for the Week

Jesus's audience would have recognised the pastoral imagery of the Sower and the seed in his parable even if they did not immediately grasp its meaning. This week's readings are full of powerful agricultural images – of the farmer and the grain which he scatters and the rain that waters it. Various, the seed falls onto the edge of paths, on patches of rock, among thorns or rich soil. Some yield a great harvest, while others are swiftly eaten up, or germinate rapidly but wither quickly, and others are choked by weeds. In the psalm we hear how the rains from heaven drench the furrows of the fields and the Almighty lovingly, even tenderly, levels the ground, and softens it with showers to yield a rich harvest. The psalmist speaks of meadows covered with flocks and valleys decked with wheat 'shouting for joy', while the prophet Isaiah tells how God's word – like the rain which waters the earth to help produce rich harvests – does not return to him empty.

Jesus speaks of us as the seed and explains that, depending on how we hear 'the word of the kingdom', each one of us is able to yield a great harvest of faith, for ourselves and each other; alternatively, depending on circumstances, that faith can wither, be choked or be overwhelmed. It is sometimes easy to read this as a one-time event, the farmer scattering the seed just once and that we only have a single chance; but perhaps we forget that the Sower spread seed twice in a year, for harvests of barley and wheat, the rains softened the earth before sowing and watered the crops through winter and spring. Think of how many harvests we will see in our lives, how many times the seed will be scattered when we will hear the word, and how many chances we still have to yield a rich harvest.

Stephen Patterson

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place each Friday from 10:00 - 16:00. All welcome.

The Rosary

The Rosary is prayed after the 12:00 Mass each Friday, please join us.

Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at St Edward's:
Saturdays: 11:00 - 11:30 and 17:30 - 18:00
Tuesdays: 18:00 - 18:30

Mass Times & Intentions 15 - 23 July

Sat 15	18:00	Wolfgang Cazin - RIP
Sun 16	09:30	Bill Johnston - RIP - St Mark's
	11:00	Giuseppe Battocchi - RIP
Mon 17	10:00	Eucharistic Service
Tue 18	18.30	Peter Quinn - RIP
Wed 19	10:00	Peter Kelly - RIP
Thur 20	10:00	People of the Parish - St Mark's
Fri 21	12:00	Maud Mascarenhas - RIP
Sat 22	18:00	Patrick Forkin - RIP
Sun 23	09:30	People of the Parish- St Mark's
	11:00	Rosanna Pediconi - RIP

Parish Diary 15 – 23 July

Sat 15	12:00	Baptism - Henry de Gisbert Lopez, Joaquim & Luciana Mercadal - Freeman
Sun 16	11:00	Baptism - Laura Sannoo
	12:00	Tea & Coffee - P/C
Tue 18	11:00	Windsor Christian Action - P/C
	19:15	Alpha - Team Meeting - P/C
Thurs 20	18:30	Mass Readings Explained - St Brigid's Room
Sun 23	12:00	Baptisms - Sophia Snashall, Isla and Celine Swirski
	12:00	Catenian President's Sunday Lunch - P/C (No Tea & Coffee)

Morning & Evening Prayer

Tue 18	18:00	Evening Prayer - Lady Chapel, St Edward's
Wed 19	09:30	Morning Prayer - Lady Chapel, St Edward's

Offertory

S/O - DD £ 1,848.08 Envelopes £243.50 Loose £569.98
Apostleship of the Sea £446.23

Deacon Tom Hiney

Tom, who is training to be a priest for our diocese of Portsmouth has been studying in the Beda College in Rome. He has recently been ordained a deacon and will be coming to our parish on Saturday 22 July for five weeks as part of his formation to be ordained a priest in 2024.

Parish Summer Party - Thank You

A big **THANK YOU** to all those who helped with the Parish Summer Party. Thanks goes to the committee for organising things, from the stalls, entertainment, food and events and also thanks to the many people who helped make it a success in so many different ways. It was a wonderful afternoon and enjoyed by everyone.

Catholic Windsor - website www.catholicwindsor.org

Parish Office

Patricia Brown: Parish Secretary

office@catholicwindsor.org

Richard Flisher: Finance Manager

finance@catholicwindsor.org

Sharon Cole-Blows: Youth Ministry Worker/Coordinator

YouthCoordinator@catholicwindsor.org

Pat Burke: Safeguarding Representative

safeguarding@catholicwindsor.org

Pastoral Team

Canon David Hopgood: Parish Priest

canondavid@catholicwindsor.org

Rev George Young: Deacon

georgeyoung@hotmail.com

Sr Teresina Fingleton CSB: Parish Sister

Presbytery: 44 Alma Road, Windsor Berkshire, SL4 3HJ

Phone: 01753 865163

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth – Charity No. 1199568

Mass at St Marks

We celebrated Mass on Thursday morning Mass at St Mark's at 10:00, these will continue for a trial period. If this is to work, we will need a team to open and set up for Mass each week. Thank you to those who helped this week.

Your Church Donation with Gift Aid

With the Summer holidays fast approaching and everyone having busy lives I am concerned that some of you may not have seen the parish emails, or newsletter notice regarding Gift Aid.

Due to the change in the Diocesan charity number, we will not be able to meet HMRC requirements on Gift Aid, worth an extra 25p for every £1 you donate, **unless a new form is completed soon.** If you are a taxpayer and give to the church through your bank as a standing order or through the envelopes we need a form completed in order for us to claim the extra Government donation worth approximately £30,000 per annum to the Parish community.

There are forms on display at the back of each church as well as on our website. Alternatively please do get in touch via the Parish Office or email finance@catholicwindsor.org. Many thanks. Rich Flisher Finance Manager. finance@catholicwindsor.org

New Pastoral Area

On the 4 July, 10 representatives from Ascot and Windsor met for the Pastoral Area Council meeting with Canon David as Chair. At the meeting we discussed the purpose of the council and agreed it is here to:

- Provide a structure for the Pastoral Area to meet,
- Develop a roadmap for the new Pastoral Area to come together
- Create a focus and momentum for bringing people together
- Expand the number of people who influence, direct and build the new Pastoral area


It was a very productive meeting and we have developed five 'working groups' that will reach out into our parishes to look at Evangelisation, Finance, Communication, Growing Together and Youth. Over time, sub-groups will be developed to expand the reach of the Pastoral Area.

Over the coming weeks there will be an update to share how the Pastoral Area Council is working, and how we can all grow closer to Christ in prayer and mission.

St Francis of Assisi - Ascot

If you would like to start receiving Ascot's Parish Newsletter, please subscribe using this link:

<https://dashboard.mailerlite.com/forms/328304/80177558794011978/share> It is usually sent on Thu or Fri, every week.



WORLD YOUTH DAY
LISBON, PORTUGAL
AUGUST 1-6, 2023

To donate to World Youth Day:
<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/st-edwards-windsor-world-youth-day-lisbon-2023-challenge>

First Holy Communion Programme – 2023-2024

The team are now accepting registrations for the 2023-24 First Holy Communion programme. Further details plus application forms can be found on the Parish website. Kindly send completed application forms and **a copy** of your child's baptismal certificate to fhc@catholicwindsor.org.

To enrol, please fill in an application form that can be found on our website. The introduction and the unfolding of the programme will be on **Thursday 21 September at 18:30 in the Parish Centre.**

At this meeting of parents, you will receive a 'Record Card' that needs to be stamped when you attend Mass. Further dates will be given at this meeting.

Are you thinking about become Catholic?

Are you, or someone you know, thinking about joining the Catholic Church, do you want to know more, or start your journey? If you would like to know more please speak to Fr David or Stephen Patterson (sjp0563@gmail.com/07814127335).

Vacancies - Portsmouth

Safeguarding & DBS Administrator – Closing date 21 July 2023

IT Technician - Closing date 31 July 2023.

For Job Description and details of how to apply please contact: recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Annual GK Chesterton Pilgrimage

The 13th Annual GK Chesterton Pilgrimage will take place on Saturday 29 July. Bishop David Oakley of Northampton will preach at the Mass at 14.30 at The Bridgettine Convent, Fulmer Common Road, Iver, SLO 0NR. Please send any prayer requests to; CatholicGKCSociety@yahoo.co.uk or text them to 07795205114. Details of the many different ways in which you can be involved on the day, as well as printable GKC prayer cards can be found on their website,

Good news, Alpha is returning in September!

This year, we are going to offer the course both **online** and **in-person**. Many people find it difficult to secure childcare, or prefer to meet others whilst in the comfort of their own home, so by offering an online version, we hope you will give it a try. If meeting in-person is your preference, that is still a great option too.

Start dates are as follows:

Monday, **18 September, Alpha Online**, 19:30 - 21:00

Tuesday, **19 September, Alpha In-Person** at St Edwards Parish Centre, 19:00 - 21:00

Alpha is a 10-week course that explores life's big questions, in an open, non-judgmental and safe place. We'll be discussing questions like: Is there more to life than this? Does God exist? Why did Jesus have to die? and, why is there so much suffering in the world?

Millions of people have already tried Alpha in over 100 countries and languages around the world - **so why not you?** Perhaps you have a friend or family member who has fallen away from the faith during the pandemic, doesn't feel as connected to the church as they once did, or maybe has never truly answered life's big questions for themselves - please invite them, we'd love to host them too!

To RSVP, please follow this link:

<https://forms.gle/miZUsLvKeFs2LMRf7>

If you have questions about joining, inviting others, or joining our team of volunteers, please email Ryan Greig at:

alphawindsor316@gmail.com

Deceased

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Rodger Austin**, who died recently. His Funeral Mass will be at St Edward's on Monday 31 July at 10:30.