



PARISH NEWS FOR THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, ANDOVER

St John the Baptist, Andover and St John Fisher, Whitchurch

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Office Hours: Mon: 8.30am - 3.30pm; Tues & Thurs: 8.30am - 12 noon; Fri. 8.30am - 2.30pm.

NB: The Office is CLOSED on Wednesdays / Canon Chris' Day off: Wednesday.

16th and 17th May – Seventh Sunday of Easter

Entrance Antiphon: O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face; hide not your face from me, alleluia.

Psalm Response: I believe I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia.* I will not leave you as orphans, says the Lord. I am going away and I will come to you, and your hearts will rejoice. *Alleluia*

Communion Antiphon: Father, I pray that they may be one as we are also one, alleluia.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The Ascension stories highlight two things we disciples of Jesus still tend to do, and they outline for us our Mission today. "They worshiped, but they doubted." We worship him, but we doubt. Sure, we do. We hold something back, don't we? Even in our most devout moments, we don't always fully give ourselves to the faith that our life is in his hands and that we have nothing to fear because he is always with us.

In fact, we tend to live our day-to-day lives, not like people who fully believe in the resurrection and the hope and joy that it gives, but like people who can easily get upset by the smallest of things. We can each take a little test right now. Let's make two quick lists in our head:

- 1) List the ways I show signs of living the hope and joy of the resurrection;
- 2) Now list the ways I show I am upset, disturbed, impatient, frustrated, angry at the people, situations, and circumstances around me.

See what I mean? It takes great grace to be freed by the Good News, "I am with you always."

The second thing we tend to do is to catch ourselves "standing there looking at the sky." Jesus will return in glory, but we aren't supposed to stand flat-footed, waiting for the return. We have a mission. Too often, we get caught realising that our faith in Jesus, the gift of grace given to us, is not just about keeping us from sin. It is not only about our relationship with Jesus - saying our prayers and avoiding evil. We are called to take his place in this world and to share the Good News with others - to make a real difference in bringing others to the Lord.

Another simple, quick examination of my conscience can help. This involves a quick "self-grading."

- 1) What grade would I give my fundamental relationship with the Lord in my everyday life? A? B? C? D?
- 2) Now, grade what do I give my efforts at self-sacrificing love for the people closest to me, for those people with whom I struggle, and for the poor of the earth? A? B? C? D?

The point of these moments of self-awareness is not to make us feel guilty, ashamed, or discouraged. They help us, in the same way the disciples were helped, to head up the road back to Jerusalem and await the coming of the Holy Spirit. "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." The Greek word Luke uses here is *dunamis*, which is translated "power." We get our words "dynamic" and "dynamite" from this word. The Spirit gives us something that can give a new dynamism to our lives, a new ability to do more than we could imagine, to be Jesus' witnesses.

A.A. S.J.

Sunday 17th May marks the 60th World Day of Social Communications.

This year's theme is *Preserving Human Voices and Faces*.

The second collection on this day supports the work of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, particularly its websites, publications and social media channels. The Bishops' Conference works hard to foster positive relationships with media outlets to communicate the Good News of the Gospel.

For more information, and to read Pope Leo's message for World Communications Day 2026, please visit: www.cbcew.org.uk/wcd/



CHURCH CLEANING – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Can you help? We are in need of more volunteers to help clean our Church. Volunteers work in small groups at mutually convenient pre-arranged times. At present each group cleans once every five weeks for an hour or so. Do give your name and details to the Parish Office, speak to Margaret Scicluna or sign the sheet at the back of the Church.

PARISH COLLECTIONS:

2nd / 3rd May: Loose plate: £611.33; Gift Aid Envelopes: £335.30

Standing Orders: (weekly average) £933; Direct Debits: (weekly average) £315.00

MASS INTENTIONS FROM 16th May – 30th May

Sat. 16th Andover Mass 10.00am followed by Exposition and Confessions *Teresa Afonson RIP - Anniversary*

Congratulations to Arthur John Trinder who is to be baptised at Farleigh this weekend.

Sat. 16th Andover Mass 6.00pm *William Moore RIP - Anniversary*

Sunday 17th May – SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Whitchurch Mass 8.30am *Mary and Joe Holland RIP*

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *For the People of the Parish*

This weekend there is a
Second Collection for the
Catholic Communications
Network.

Mon. 18th Andover Mass 10.00am *Frederick Butcher RIP - Anniversary*

***Tue. 19th May to Friday 22nd May - No Masses or Services.**

***There will be no 10.00am Mass on Saturday 23rd May**

*Join us for the Rosary every
Monday in the hall after Mass.*

This Saturday we welcome Fr Simon Everson who will be celebrating our Mass for us.

Sat. 23rd Andover Mass 6.00pm *For the People of the Parish*

This Sunday we welcome Fr. John Lee who will be celebrating Sunday Masses for us.

Sunday 24th May – PENTECOST SUNDAY

Whitchurch Mass 8.30am – *Harry and Julie Curley RIP*

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *Susie Keough – Birthday Blessings*

***Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May - No Masses or Services.**

Tuesday 26th May Requiem Mass for Ben Dunne RIP at 2.00pm

***There will be no 10.00am Mass on Saturday 30th May**

Please pray for: Esmé Coveney, Rita Lane, Margaret Williams, Patrick Arnold, Fiona Hilleard, Tony Fabian, Helen O'Connell, Douglas Manning, Diane Mahoney, Rita Casey, Rose Bull, Carol Keenan, Eileen Wharton, Oran Keenan, Margarita Hardiman, Robert Colledge, Eileen Price, Concepta Cuddihy, Frank Hinds, Clan Furtado, Lisa Rammage, Susanne Church, Sandy Saunders.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ben Dunne.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

St John the Baptist Primary School are seeking an 'Owls After School Club' Assistant.

We are looking for an after-school club assistant who can supervise groups of children, lead games and creative activities.

We offer you a great team to work with and super lovely children to supervise.

Hours of work are 3.30pm to 5.45pm Monday to Friday term time only

All necessary training will be provided to include Food hygiene, First Aid and Safeguarding training.

If you have primary age children attending St John Baptist, they will be very welcome to join the club too (free of charge)

If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact the School Office on 01264 361806

ARE YOU CELEBRATING A 25TH, 30TH, 40TH, 50TH, 60TH OR ANNIVERSARY OVER 60 YEARS?

If so, Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of celebration. This will take place at St Bede's church in Basingstoke on Saturday 20th June at 11.00am. This will be followed by a buffet lunch. It is a wonderful occasion to celebrate and witness to Marriage. Please contact Teresa in the office if you would like to attend and they will send you a form for you to complete and return to Kirsten McGuire (kmcguire@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) in the Bishop's Office. Thank you.

Sunday 12th July – Our Parish 'INTERNATIONAL DAY'

We are looking for more communities to participate in our upcoming International Day celebrations.

For further information, please contact James Saviour on 07828 207335

Can you help? Do you have a regular free time every Monday morning? (Approx 9.00am to 10.30am)

We are looking for reliable people to count the weekend collection every Monday morning. We are hoping to get enough volunteers so that people would only be asked to help on a monthly basis. Training will be given and you will not be asked to bank any monies. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office.

In order that you continue to receive the newsletter and the Parish Journal by e-mail, you will need to register with our new database system called Church Suite. You can do this through the parish website/QR codes.

Please complete a registration link for each adult and child in your family.

From now on Newsletters and Journals will only be sent out through Church Suite, so please make sure that you register!