



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: Monday: 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.

11th and 12th April – Second Sunday of Easter

Entrance Antiphon: Receive the joy of your glory, giving thanks to God, who has called you into the heavenly Kingdom, Allelujah.

OR Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, Allelujah.

Psalm Response: Give praise to the Lord, for he is good, his mercy endures forever.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia.* You believed, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. *Alleluia*

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

During a holiday trip my brother-in-law, who is an incredible swimmer, invited me to go snorkeling. I doubted that I could do it, so I said 'no thank you' several times. Knowing how much I love nature, he patiently and kindly continued to explain the equipment and the process. He answered my questions. His descriptions of his snorkeling experiences began to disrupt my doubt. I finally ventured out when he promised that he would guide me and stay with me. The first time I dipped my head into the sea and the brilliance of the oceanic life burst in front of me, I wept. Doubt vanished. I will never forget it.

In today's gospel, Thomas has something to teach us. Doubt is a quality built into every human person. Doubt is a gift. Doubt is a pause. Doubt whispers to us . . . *wait a minute*. It is a gateway to newness and life and invites us to take time so that we can arrive at greater certainty.

I don't know about you, but if someone told me that a person had come back to life after death and burial, my 'doubt meter' would hit the sky. Thomas the apostle was no exception. He doubted the stories he was being told by the other disciples claiming that they had been with Jesus. They were excited to tell him that Jesus had returned but it was impossible for Thomas to believe. Jesus returned? Jesus alive? Jesus emerged from the tomb? He doubted and questioned it. I would venture a guess that most of us would do the same. Thomas replied to his friends: 'Prove it.' And Jesus did, when he allowed Thomas to physically encounter him. Doubt was swept away.

Many spiritual leaders have written about doubt. One of my favorites is: *'The fact is that all the great spiritual models of the ages before us found themselves, at one point or another, plunged into doubt, into darkness, into the certainty of uncertainty: Augustine, John of the Cross, Teresa of Avila, Meister Eckhart, John the Baptist, Thomas, Peter, one after another of them all wondered, and wavered, and believed beyond belief.'*

Like Thomas and the saints, we often doubt ourselves when someone suggests that we can achieve something we never thought possible. When we are presented with a new opportunity or invitation we hesitate. We doubt. Something inside asks, *Can I do this? Am I enough?*

Just as my brother-in-law guided me, Jesus took Thomas's hand and guided it into his wounds. Jesus said to him: *'Put your finger here and see my hands and put out your hand and put it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.'* Doubt vanished and I will always believe that Thomas wept.

S.N.

Thank you for your donations for the Holy Places Collection on Good Friday, the collection came to **£795.05**.

BAPTISM COURSE EVENING The next pre-Baptism evening course will be on **Wednesday 6th May** from 7.00pm to approximately 9.00pm in the Parish Hall. Completion of the session is required before booking a baptism. To register for the course, please email / telephone the Parish Office. Both parents are requested to attend - but not children - and you must be registered with the Parish.



As a parish community, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all who helped make our Holy Week and Easter celebrations so prayerful and beautiful. To our musicians, readers, altar servers, sacristans, cleaners, Ministers, flower arrangers, and all who worked quietly behind the scenes - your generosity and dedication are deeply appreciated.

Thank you too, for your very generous Easter Offerings. Canon Chris.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS from 11th April – 21st April

Sat. 11th Andover Mass 10.00am followed by Exposition and Confessions *Mary Thornton Breslin RIP*

Sat. 11th Syro-Malabar Mass at 2.30pm

Sat. 11th Andover Mass 6.00pm *Betty Flood – Birthday Blessings*

Sunday 12th April – Second Sunday of Easter

Whitchurch Mass 8.30am *For the People of the Parish*

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *Barbara Walczak – Birthday Blessings*

Sunday 12th April – Andover: Goan Mass at 3.00pm

**** Please note from Monday 13th April to 17th April there are no Masses or Services in Andover or Whitchurch. ****

Sat. 18th Andover Mass 10.00am followed by Exposition and Confessions *Mrs Geremina Joana Fernandes RIP*

Sat. 18th Andover Mass 6.00pm *Christine Sargeant RIP*

Sunday 19th April – Third Sunday of Easter

Whitchurch Mass 8.30am *For the People of the Parish*

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *Madalena Davies RIP - Anniversary*

Mon. 20th Andover Mass 10.00am *Blasio Rodrigues RIP*

Tues. 21st No Mass or Service.

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 and Ben Dunne.

Spring Cleaning? ** ROTATIONS’ CHARITY SHOP **

Rotations Charity Shop in Whitchurch will be running from 27th April to 23rd May to boost church funds.

If you have never visited the shop in London Street before, why not make a trip during this time - it is a treasure trove of great bargains, and the stock is constantly being replenished! Why not have a spring ‘clear out’?

All donations can be brought to the office during office hours from Monday 13th April (please don’t leave things in the hall or outside the office) or taken to St John Fisher, Whitchurch at Thursday or Sunday Mass. Please only donate items you would be happy to purchase – no electrical items, children’s car seats or bike helmets please

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.

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

Being thoughtful . . .

We are all one Parish family and as such we should all work together to look after our church and its buildings.

Please be considerate and return your hymn books and kneelers after use and make sure that you leave no rubbish or litter behind you when you leave the church.

The church is cleaned by volunteers, so perhaps we could all be a little more thoughtful!



Please be mindful that when you use the hall facilities you should leave them as you would wish your own home facilities to be left by your visitors!

NB There is a baby changing unit in the disabled access toilet along with a nappy bin – please do not use the kitchen bin.

Please note: The Parish Office will be closed from 12 noon on Thursday 23rd April to 8.30am on Tuesday 5th May. Only phone the Parish Office in an emergency; all emails will be checked and if non-urgent, will be replied to on 5th May.