



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

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

Parish Priest: Reverend Canon Christopher Rutledge KHS

Office: Alexandra Rd, Andover, SP10 3AD Tel: 01264 352829

Office email: office@catholic-andover.org.uk **Website:** www.catholic-andover.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Jackie Kelly: safeguarding@catholic-andover.org.uk

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.

23rd and 24th May – Pentecost Sunday

Entrance Antiphon: The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the spirit of God dwelling within us, alleluia.

Psalm Response: Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia.* Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. *Alleluia*

Communion Antiphon: On the last day of the festival, Jesus stood and cried out: if anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink, alleluia.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love.

In a world in much need of love and reconciliation, the Holy Spirit arrives like a strong gust of wind to liberate us from our dark places of isolation, loneliness, disappointment, and woundedness. The Holy Spirit arrives and fills our spaces with hope and the knowledge that we have not been left alone. The reconciling presence of the Holy Spirit bridges our differences. The Holy Spirit breaks through our boundaries and walls so we may hear each other and know each other just as we are.

Holy Spirit, give us courage.

I find myself identifying with the disciples in the Gospel, hiding behind closed doors, afraid to face the world or encounter anyone after experiencing something difficult or painful. I hide behind closed doors, hoping that everything that caused pain or frightened me will be gone with time. However, what happens instead is a slow and silent death of oneself caused by relentless fear. Life is stalled. "Where is my courage?" I ask myself. Where is Jesus? This is where prayer comes in; through prayer, Jesus breathes new life into me and then gifts me with the Holy Spirit. Accompanied by the Holy Spirit, I find that I can open the locked doors. I might not be completely confident or courageous when those doors open, but I know that with the persistent love and all-encompassing peace of the Holy Spirit, I am not alone, and neither are you. Have you felt the presence of the Holy Spirit accompanying you in your life? When have you accompanied someone needing courage and assurance?

Come, Holy Spirit, fill us with peace.

"Peace be with you," Jesus says. It is rare to feel peace for more than a few minutes these days. All we need to do is turn on the television, get on social media, or encounter someone who tends to 'push our buttons', and there goes our peace of mind. However, our experience of the day is much different when we are accompanied by the Holy Spirit. When we invite the Holy Spirit into every experience, we can do God's works with confidence and courage. We can begin our day creating the space we need to allow the Holy Spirit to liberate us and empower us.

*My friends, let us invite the Holy Spirit who breaks down the walls of a stubborn heart, heals the broken, melts the frozen, and guides our steps. We are in much need of the reconciling presence of the Spirit, which draws us into communion with each other, yes, other members of the body of Christ. **Come, Holy Spirit, rest on us, dwell in us, stay with us.***

V.A

The **Parish Caritas Representative** is a new volunteer role to support the Church to reach out to those in need in the wider community. You will connect the parish/pastoral area with Caritas Portsmouth to enable the sharing information, campaigns, initiatives and support. You will also be the point of contact within a parish that will enable the Church to respond to urgent or newly emerging needs in these unpredictable times. No experience is needed for the role, just a passion to put faith into action and to make a difference. If you have any questions or want to apply, please contact Jenny at caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



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: 16th /17th May : Loose plate: £687.80; Gift Aid Envelopes: £314.50

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

The Second Collection for World Communications Day came to £605.20 – thank you very much for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS FROM 23rd May – 5th June

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

Andover - Healing Prayers from 6.30pm - 7.00pm

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

Sat. 30th Andover Mass 6.00pm *Amelia Ratnayake Kingsley – Birthday Blessings*

Sunday 31st May – THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

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

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *Nikesh Silva – Birthday Blessings*

Monday 1st Andover Mass 10.00am (St Justin Martyr Memorial) *Mrs C Hubbard RP - Anniversary*

Tuesday 2nd No Mass or Service

Andover - Healing Prayers from 6.30pm - 7.00pm

Wed. 3rd No Mass or Service

Thur. 4th Whitchurch Mass 10.00am *Adriana Wright – Birthday Blessings*

Fri. 5th Andover Mass 10.00am followed by Exposition (St Boniface, Bishop and Martyr, Memorial) *George Garner RIP*
11.00am Burial of Ashes of John Lynam RIP

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.

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

Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School is 50 this year. To end our Jubilee Year we are holding an Alumni Celebration on Saturday 11 July 2026 - details below. We would love former students, colleagues and supporters of the school to join us for our final celebration of this Jubilee Year. If you would like to come, please complete the short form [Alumni Celebration - Saturday 11 July 2026 - 7-10 pm – Fill out form](#) Or scan the QR Code in the notice in the porch.

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!