



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.

28th February and 1st March – Second Sunday in Lent

Entrance Antiphon: Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me. **Psalm Response:** May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.

From a bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my beloved son, listen to him'.

Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

In today's first reading, Abram is called to continue his family's journey toward the promised land. The second reading is a call from Paul to Timothy to take over his work with all that this entails. The Gospel is the story of the transfiguration. In each case I see individuals to whom the torch is being passed.

The reading from Genesis is God's call for Abram to accept the role of leader of his family and take them forward on a journey that had stalled as his father aged. He is asked to leave a reasonably comfortable life and move in the direction prescribed by God.

In the Epistle, Paul challenges Timothy to accept his calling as a leader. Paul is ageing and in prison. Some of Paul's followers have begun to wonder if he is really on the right track; why would God put prison in that path? Timothy is asked to take up Paul's mantle and persevere in his mission.

If I imagine myself in the place of one of the apostles as he experiences the transfiguration, I can see myself in the same state of fear and confusion that Peter, James and John must have felt. I can picture myself wondering what had just occurred. I am left with a personal feeling that the transfiguration was much more of an event for the apostles than it was for Jesus. They see Jesus as taking their religious and cultural history one step further and with his final comment in today's Gospel, Jesus' role as the fulfillment of salvation history becomes known. These three disciples have been given a profound religious experience. They have been charged to share this experience when the time comes.

When I used to ask my grandchildren "Would you like to go with Grandpa?" they would generally respond with an unquestioning and enthusiastic "Yes". Now I need to say *where* I am going and *what* we would be doing before a get response! We learn to start choosing our own path at a very early age. In today's readings I see a set of examples where God has called individuals to move forward along a path that they would not likely have chosen on their own. Recently I find myself encouraged to consider my directions in terms reflecting if this is a path that God has put aside for me or if this is a path that I have put aside for God. This is the basis for my prayer today.

Dear Lord, Help me to see when my ways are not your ways. Grant me perseverance when the way becomes challenging.

Aid me in not letting the fear of failure stand in the way of the potential for success. M.C.

Note for all those who use Gift Aid Envelopes: Your 2026/2027 Gift Aid envelopes are available to collect from the Church porch. If your set of envelopes is missing, incorrectly spelt or if you would like a set of envelopes, then please contact the Parish Office

To ensure you remain registered as a parishioner and to continue to receive communications from the parish, including the newsletter, please make sure you have filled out a new Registration Form. There is a separate adult and child registration form. You can use the link on the website to register.

Please be assured that your data is protected and never shared - so it is useful to have all your details on the database - including postal addresses - even if you have been a parishioner for many years!

As a 'last resort' do contact the Parish Office and I will endeavour to help you! Thank you in advance for your help and co-operation and to all those who have taken the time to register. Teresa

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FROM 28th FEBRUARY TO 13th MARCH

Sat . 28th Andover Mass 10.00am followed by Exposition and Confessions until 11.00am
For the Intentions of the Johnson-Fernandes Family

Sat. 28th Andover 6.00pm Mass *Brian McAuley RIP – Birthday Memoriam*

Sunday 1st March – Second Sunday in Lent

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

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *Daisy Rodrigues RIP*

N.B. No refreshments after Mass.

Mon. 2nd Mass In St John the Baptist School at 9.30am *Blanche David RIP - Anniversary*

Tue. 3rd Andover Mass 10.00am *June Saunders RIP - Anniversary*

Requiem Mass 11.30am for Paweł Tworek RIP

Andover - Healing Prayers from 6.30pm - 7.00pm

Wed. 4th *No Mass or Service*

Thur. 5th Whitchurch Mass 10.00am

Fri. 6th Andover Mass 10.00am *Henry and Tina Rachwalski RIP - Anniversary*

Fri. 6th Andover - Lenten Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm

Sat. 7th Andover Mass 10.00am followed by Exposition and Confessions until 11.00am

Pat Priestly – Birthday Blessings

Sat. 7th Andover 2.30pm – Syro Malabar Mass

Sat. 7th Andover 6.00pm Mass *Victoria Ferrugia RIP - Anniversary*

Sunday 8th March – Third Sunday in Lent

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

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *Vinnie Rodrigues – For Good Health*

Mon. 9th Andover Mass 10.00am *Elizabeth Hancock – for Peace*

Tue. 10th Andover Mass 10.00am *Sile Monnelly RIP*

Funeral Service 12 noon at Salisbury Crematorium for Ian Green RIP

Andover - Healing Prayers from 6.30pm - 7.00pm

Wed. 11th *No Mass or Service*

Thur. 12th Whitchurch Mass 10.00am *John Lynam RIP*

Fri. 13th Andover Mass 10.00am *Derek and Pamela Iles RIP - Anniversary*

Fri. 13th Stations of the Cross at *6.00pm led by St John the Baptist School

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, Baby Percy and Avis Willson.



Please pray for the repose of the souls of Ian Green, Michael Bishop, Paweł Tworek and John Lynam. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

DIOCESAN PRAYER INTENTIONS: 1st – 7th March

Sun: Community of St David, East Cowes. **Mon:** Parishes, Communities and Schools in the Havant Pastoral Area.

Tue: Communities and Schools in the Jersey Pastoral Area/Parish. **Wed:** Parish of St John Bosco, Woodley.

Thur: Diocesan Ananias & Intercession (Pre-Discipleship) Team. **Fri:** Catholic Women’s Association, National Board of Catholic Women, Catholic Women’s Network. **Sat:** Catholic Archivists.

PARISH COLLECTIONS - 14TH/15TH FEBRUARY LOOSE PLATE: **£725.00** GIFT AID ENVELOPES: **£255.00**

STANDING ORDERS: (**WEEKLY AVERAGE**) **£933** DIRECT DEBITS: (**WEEKLY AVERAGE**) **£315.00**

Please note: The Parish Office will be closed from 2.30pm on Friday 27th February to 8.30am on Monday 9th March. Only phone the Parish Office in an emergency; all emails will be checked and if non-urgent, will be replied to on 9th March.