



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: 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.

18th and 19th April – Third Sunday of Easter

Entrance Antiphon: Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, Alleluia.

Psalm Response: O Lord, you will show me the path of life.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia.* Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us; Make our hearts burn within us when you speak to us. *Alleluia*

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The Road to Emmaus. We know this story. Or at least, we think we do.

So often, when the Emmaus story is proclaimed, we don't really listen. We go instead to the version we already carry in our memory - the ending we expect, the meaning we have already settled. And in doing so, we may miss what is being spoken now.

Along the road, the disciples speak of all that has happened. They tell their story. They have already heard from others - *the women told us...* and still, they could not believe it. The truth was not absent. It had already been spoken, already shared, already alive among them. But they could not yet receive it. How often is it the same for us?

We do not listen because we think we already know. We do not listen because we assume we bring the truth. We do not listen because we struggle to trust the voices speaking to us. And still, Jesus draws near. Not to replace what is there, but to open it, to reveal it, to let it be seen. Only later do they recognize what had been happening all along: *'Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?'*

Perhaps the question for us is not whether God is speaking. But where – already - has something stirred, something warmed, something quietly begun? And, more importantly, have we been listening? Rev. JC S.J.

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.



'ENGLAND'S GREEN AND PLEASANT LAND'

Have you ever wondered why St George, a former Roman army officer who was born in Anatolia - modern day Turkey - is the Patron Saint of England?

You are welcome to come to a talk by Reverend Simon Everson, Headmaster of Farleigh School, on Friday 24th April at 7.00pm in the Village Centre, St Mary Bourne.

Tickets £10 on the door, cash or contactless.

All Proceeds to be donated to St Peter's Church



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 or speak to Margaret Scicluna. *[There are new cleaning rota lists up in the Church porch.]*

*UNITY CHRISTIAN THEATRE *

We are meeting every Sunday from 19th April in the Church Hall from 3.00pm to 5.00pm to sing 'Jonahman Jazz'.

All are Welcome! Contact Sharon on 07933785368 for more info.

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

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!

PARISH COLLECTIONS – 11TH / 12TH APRIL Loose plate: £1,036.10; Gift Aid Envelopes: £373.00

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

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS from 18th April – 26th April

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.*

Wed. 22nd *No Mass or Service.*

Thurs. 23rd Whitchurch Mass 10.00am *Isabella Ramos RIP*

Fri. 24th Andover Mass 10.00am *Austin and Simona – Wedding Anniversary Blessings*

Sat. 25th Andover Mass 10.00am followed by Exposition and Confessions *Mary Smyth RIP - Anniversary*

Congratulations to Benicio Manrique who is to be baptised this weekend.

Sat. 25th Andover Mass 6.00pm *For the People of the Parish*

Sunday 26th April – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Whitchurch Mass 8.30am *Wendy and Alf Rawlings RIP - Anniversary*

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *George Rodrigues RIP*

***No after Mass refreshments in the hall today.**

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/when I am in (please don't leave things in the hall or outside the office) or taken to St John Fisher, Whitchurch on 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

The **Life in the Spirit Seminars** are mainly used in the context of renewal, primarily for people who already identify as Catholic to bring those church members to a fuller experience of life in the Spirit. However, the Life in the Spirit Seminars have a primarily evangelistic character. They are designed to take the basic message of Christianity and to proclaim it anew so that those who hear it can make a renewed commitment to the Lord in a way which will allow them to receive a fuller experience of the work of the Spirit in their lives. The Second Vatican Council called for the spiritual renewal of the spiritual life of the Catholic people. It is hoped that the Life in the Spirit Seminars can be an instrument for that and for the answering of the prayer which Pope John asked us to pray for the Council: **"Renew in our day, O Lord, your wonders as in a new**

Pentecost." This has been echoed by various popes down the ages, especially in more recent times by Pope Francis, **"I would ask you to share Baptism in the Holy Spirit with everyone in the Church...."** This particular programme has 7 sessions, which will be on **Thursday evenings at 7.30pm from 23rd April**. The themes covered are God's Love, Salvation, New life, Receiving God's Gift, Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Growth and Transformation. **All these sessions are available online; however, it is recommended that people try to attend the Holy Spirit Day on Saturday 23rd May at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit session. This is a very special time, being Pentecost weekend, to receive such prayer in person.**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/0ntyh8dxTF6b72BXv1LByg>

