



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.

9th and 10th May – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Entrance Antiphon: Proclaim A joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

Psalm Response: Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia.* If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him. *Alleluia*

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Then they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. – Acts 8

Blessed be God who refused me not my prayer or his kindness! – Psalm 66

Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit. – 1 Peter 3

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him. But you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. – John 14

It is quite consoling to hear these words of Jesus to his disciples the night before he died. They must have been very afraid. They must have wondered what would happen to him and what would happen to them. He assures them that he will send them the Holy Spirit. The Greek word, "Paraclete," has many connotations: the Gatherer, the Comforter, the Protector, the Advocate, the one always at one's side. He also assures them that Jesus himself will remain in them. They are not going to be left orphans.

That same assurance is Good News for us today, as we prepare to celebrate the Ascension and Pentecost. Each of us could take a few minutes to pause and get in touch with our fears, perhaps even to list them on a piece of paper. What's troubling me now? What is making me anxious? Then we could each take a few minutes to listen to Jesus comforting us with the promise of the Spirit and the promise of his presence within us. We can let ourselves feel relief, joy, peace, perhaps even tears. Finally, we can express our deep gratitude. This can be so comforting no matter what disturbs us.

"Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love." A.A. S.J

Thank you for your offerings for the **Diocesan Clergy Training Fund**, a total of **£1,248.55** will be sent to the Diocese.



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.]*

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/



PARISH COLLECTIONS: 25th /26th April: Loose plate: £687.40; Gift Aid Envelopes: £287.00

2nd / 3rd May: Loose plate: £686.40; Gift Aid Envelopes: £302.65

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

April outgoings: Diocesan Levy £4,837.00; Other: £2,799.62, this does not include utilities, consumables or maintenance.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS FROM 9th May – 22nd May

Sat. 9th Andover Mass 10.00am followed by Exposition and Confessions Canon Barry RIP

Congratulations to Albert Marriott who is to be baptised at Farleigh this weekend.

Sat. 9th Andover Mass 6.00pm Emma Kuchnia – Birthday Blessings and Strength

Sunday 10th May – SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Whitchurch Mass 8.30am For the People of the Parish

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am Derek Plunkett RIP - Anniversary

Mon. 11th Andover Mass 10.00am Feliciana McGregor RIP

Tue. 12th Andover Mass 10.00am [Ss Nereus & Achilleus, Martyrs, optional memorial] Annette Maud RIP

Andover - Healing Prayers from 6.30pm - 7.00pm

Wed. 13th Whitchurch Mass 7.00pm – Vigil Mass for The Ascension of the Lord. Anne Singleton RIP

Thursday 14th May – THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD – A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Andover Mass 9.30am Ben Dunne RIP

Andover Mass 7.00pm Canon William Foran RIP

Fri. 15th Andover Mass 10.00am followed by Exposition Canon John Longinotto RIP

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

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**

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.

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!

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. **What skills and experience we are looking for?** Good communication and interpersonal skills and be able to interact with children and parents; a calm manner and be pragmatic; experience of working with children (incl. voluntary work) and deal effectively with any first aid needs; the ability to deal with all matters in a confidential and professional manner; the ability to be flexible and able to use own initiative, multi-task and problem solve; an awareness of health and safety in schools and a clear knowledge and experience in all issues arising relating to the safeguarding of children.

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

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