



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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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.

8th and 9th August – NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Entrance Antiphon: Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones forever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

Psalm Response: Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia.* I long for you, O Lord, my soul longs for his word. *Alleluia*

Communion Antiphon: O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat. *OR*

The bread that I will give, says the Lord, is my flesh for the life of the world.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

One of the results of growing older and striving to live by faith is that my views of God have changed. As a child, God was like my father in the flesh – quiet, aloof, seemingly uninterested in my day-to-day life, and quite able and willing to punish me when I needed correction. I was a practical deist; God wound up the world like an eight-day clock and, as it ran, he went off to other more interesting things, leaving the world to itself. I certainly believed in God and he was not totally about punishment to me. He just did not seem to care about me much and the feeling was mutual. Stereotypes and confused views of God die hard and it has taken me a lifetime to overcome this childish faith.

Living daily in the sacred writings certainly challenges our warped or one-dimensional views of the nature of God. In the Old Testament reading we see one stereotype shattered. Elijah had faced off with the false prophets and God had shown that he alone is God by sending down fire and consuming the sacrifice in front of the people. Now Elijah is waiting for God to appear to him again. He is told that he should "Go out and stand on the mount before the Lord;" "and behold the Lord passed by." God is powerful and he will again demonstrate that power. There is a heavy wind that is crushing rocks. God, surely you are in there? No. Then there was an earthquake. Not there either. Then there was a fire. The Lord was not in the fire. God was in a tiny whispering sound. Elijah saw God as the God of power and might. Of course, he was right about that. However, God is more than that. Do not look for God only in demonstrations of power. He is also in the weak, the small and the stillness.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI has said that God is not a taker but a giver. This would come as a surprise to many people who think that God wants to take all their fun away. The psalmist agrees with the pope. The Lord lets us see his kindness. The Lord grants us salvation. The Lord brings justice and peace. He causes truth to spring up. The Lord gives his benefits. Our land yields its increase. God gives, gives, and then gives. As the saying goes, he gives until it hurts. The apostle Paul describes Jesus as the father's indescribable gift. In another place he asks, 'What do you have that you have not received?'

Everything we have comes from God and he does not give grudgingly. He loves a cheerful giver because he is one. In the second reading the same apostle says that he is willing to give his future eternal happiness if it could lead to the conversion of his kindred according to the flesh. This is the spirit of Jesus who gave himself for others.

In the Gospel reading Jesus tells a fearful group of disciples, "Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid." How many times have you seen a movie or read a book where the assumption is that, when God shows up, everyone is either afraid or should be? Jesus, however, does not want us to be afraid. Trusting him and being unafraid does not diminish him or his power. In the same story Jesus is walking on water. He is Lord of heaven and earth. But he doesn't need this affirmed by a bunch of scared-out-of-their-sandals, disciples. We can be a people of reverence and awe *and* not be afraid of God.

My childhood views have changed, but what views of God do I have today that need to go away?

G.B.

BAPTISM COURSE EVENING

The next pre-Baptism evening course will be on **Wednesday 16th September** 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 - not children -and must be registered with the Parish.

RCIA – JOURNEY IN FAITH Have you thought about joining the Catholic Church and would like to find out more?

Do you know someone who is interested in the joining the Catholic Church?

Did you miss out on Confirmation in the past but would like to become a full member of the Church?

We are starting a new course on **Wednesday 16th September**. The sessions would run weekly, every Wednesday from **7.00pm to 9.00pm** in the Parish Hall. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office on 01264 352829

MASS INTENTIONS FROM 8th August – 21st August.

No 10.00am Mass on Saturday 8th August

Congratulations to Cesar Onel-Marambio who is to be baptised this weekend.

This weekend we welcome Father Bruce Barnes who is to celebrate our Masses this weekend.

Sat. 8th August Andover Mass 6.00pm *For the People of the Parish*

Sunday 9th August - NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Whitchurch Mass 8.30am *Donald Watkins RIP*

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *Felix Okafor RIP*

Monday 10th August – Friday 14th August – No Masses or Services. Mon. 10th 11.00am - Burial of Ashes of Ben Dunne RIP

No 10.00am Mass on Saturday 15th August.

Congratulations to James David Michael Jordan who is to be baptised this weekend.

This Saturday we welcome Fr Simon Everson who will be celebrating the Saturday Evening Mass for us.

Sat. 15th August Andover Mass 6.00pm *Holy Souls in reparation and thanksgiving.*

Sunday 16th August – THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

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

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *Holy Souls in reparation and thanksgiving.*

Mon. 17th Andover Mass 10.00am *For All Souls.*

Tue. 18th Andover Mass 10.00am *Johan Fernandes - Birthday Blessings*

Andover - Healing Prayers from 6.30pm - 7.00pm

Wed. 19th No Mass or Service

Thur. 20th Whitchurch Mass 10.00am *St Bernard, Abbot, Doctor of the Church, memorial. Edward Henry Foran RIP*

Funeral Service for Teresa Kearley RIP – Charlton Park Crematorium at 4.30pm

Fri. 21st Andover Mass 10.00am *St Pius X, Pope, memorial Janine Marie Thérèse and Austen Robert Armstrong RIP –*

(No Exposition today)

Anniversary

Please pray for: Esmé Coveney, Rita Lane, Margaret Williams, Patrick Arnold, Fiona Hilleard, Tony Fabian, Helen O'Connell, Douglas Manning, Diane Mahoney, Rita Casey, Carol Keenan, Eileen Wharton, Oran Keenan, Margarita Hardiman, Robert Colledge, Eileen Price, Concepta Cuddihy, Frank Hinds, Clan Furtado, Lisa Rammage, Susanne Church, Sandy Saunders, Margaret Blair, Pat Middleton and Angelo and Angela Alvarez.
Please pray for the repose of the soul of Teresa Kearley, RIP.

ANDOVER CATENIANS PARISH BBQ – SUNDAY 23rd AUGUST

The Annual Parish BBQ on **Sunday 23rd August** at St John the Baptist Church. Drinks available after the 10.30am Mass, with food being served from 12:15pm. Tickets are available from the Catenians after the Saturday evening Mass and the Sunday 10:30am Mass at St John the Baptist, from now until the day of the event. Your ticket includes: a burger and a sausage (each served in a bun); side salads and a dessert. Adults: £6.00 Children (7 and under): Free (a ticket is still required for catering purposes) Discounted family tickets are also available. Both cash and card payments are accepted. There will also be a Charity Raffle. *If you are able, we would be very grateful if you could donate a raffle prize to help support this year's charitable cause. We look forward to seeing you there for an enjoyable afternoon of good food, fellowship, and fun!*

Come to an **Afternoon Tea** on **Tuesday 25th August @ 2.30pm** in the barn of **Postgrove Farm House, Upper Enham, SP11 6HY**, cost £10pp. **ALL** proceeds will go to support the work of the **Countess of Brecknock Hospice**.

Directions- from Andover take the road to Enham, turn right just past the bus stop into Anton Road then turn immediately left, also Anton Rd, and follow the twisting road until you see the property on the right, look out for the balloons ☺. To book contact Fran Rae on 01264 358773 or email fran-4@live.co.uk. *Organised on behalf of the Andover Flower Club.*

IT'S TEA O'CLOCK!

Come to tea at St John Fisher Church, Bell Street, Whitchurch on Saturday 12th September from 2.00pm – 4.00pm.

Join us for afternoon tea and a chance to catch up – all are welcome! Bring a plate to share – drinks provided.

Raffle raising Funds for the Andover Foodbank. For more information contact the Parish Office or Jim White on 07881 912373

912373 COLLECTIONS: 25th / 26th: Loose plate: £679.45; Gift Aid Envelopes: £301.50

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