



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

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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.

25th and 26th April – Fourth Sunday of Easter – ‘Good Shepherd Sunday’

Entrance Antiphon: The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

Psalm Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord.

I know my sheep and my own know me. Alleluia

This weekend we warmly welcome Seminarian Francis Ezeani who is in his fifth year studying at Allen Hall in London.

Today there is a **Second Collection** for the **Diocesan Clergy Training Fund**. The Clergy Training Fund supports our seminarians, including the 10 men currently in formation for the priesthood, for the duration of their six or seven-year journey to ordination. Each seminarian brings to his training his own life experience and then participates in a comprehensive programme of formation pastorally, intellectually, humanly and spiritually. These are the men who will baptise and catechise the coming generations, and care for us on our pilgrim way: our generosity today is a legacy to the Church of tomorrow. To sustain a seminarian costs around £30,000 each year. Please support our seminarians on their journey by making a donation to this Fund. Thank you.



2nd and 3rd May – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Entrance Antiphon: O Sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; In the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

Psalm Response: may your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord. No one comes to the Father except through me. Alleluia

Fifth Sunday of Easter - May 3, 2026 – for Vocations

"Whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I do." Jesus calls us to remain in Him, allowing His love to flow through our lives. In sacramental marriage, couples are like branches rooted in Christ, growing together and bearing fruit for His kingdom through love, support, and service to one another. Pray for guidance in nurturing your vocation and encourage others to recognize God's call.

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.



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.]*

Spring Cleaning? **** ROTATIONS' CHARITY SHOP **** Rotations Charity Shop in Whitchurch will be running from **24th April to 7th 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!

Wedding plans?

Couples wishing to marry in the Catholic Church here or elsewhere should notify our parish office at least one year before the proposed marriage date. This is to give sufficient time for the pre-nuptial enquiries.

Couples are required to attend a marriage preparation course.

*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.

PARISH COLLECTIONS – 11TH / 12TH APRIL

Loose plate: £738.00 ; Gift Aid Envelopes: £299.85

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

MASS INTENTIONS FROM 25th APRIL – 10th MAY

Sat. 25th Andover Mass [Feast of St Mark the Evangelist], 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 – ‘Good Shepherd Sunday’

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.**

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| <p>Second Collection this weekend for the Diocesan Clergy Training Fund. We can claim Gift Aid on this collection, so <i>please</i> use your Gift Aid envelopes or a white envelope from the porch.</p> |
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Mon. 27th Andover Mass *9.00am *Elizabeth Hancock – for Peace.*

Tue. 28th Andover Mass 10.00am *Oliver Delaney RIP*

Andover - Healing Prayers from 6.30pm - 7.00pm

Wed. 29th No Mass or Service

Thur. 30th Whitchurch Mass 10.00am *[St Pius V, Pope, Optional Memorial]*

Fri. 1st May Andover Mass 10.00am *[St Joseph the Worker Optional Memorial] followed by Exposition*

Pat and Tony Scott RIP – In Memoriam

Sat. 2nd Andover Mass 10.00am *[St Athanasius, Memorial] followed by Exposition and Confessions*

Special Intention

Sat. 2nd Syro-Malabar Mass at 2.30pm

Congratulations to Henry Naylor who is to be baptised at Farleigh this weekend.

Sat. 2nd Andover Mass 6.00pm *George Mahy RIP*

Sunday 3rd – Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *Sarah Toland RIP*

Mon. 4th Andover Mass 10.00am *[The English Martyrs]*

Tue. 5th Andover Mass 10.00am *Special Intention*

Mass will be followed by Tea, Coffee, Cake and Chat in the Parish Hall - All Welcome!

Andover - Healing Prayers from 6.30pm - 7.00pm

Wed. 6th No Mass or Service

Thur. 7th Whitchurch Mass 10.00am *Charles Delcros RIP*

Fri. 8th Andover Mass 10.00am followed by Exposition *Private Intention*

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*

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.

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!