



**PARISH NEWS FOR THE
CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, ANDOVER
NORTH WEST HAMPSHIRE PASTORAL AREA**

St John the Baptist, Andover and St John Fisher, Whitchurch

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Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 9.00am - 3.00pm. NB: CLOSED on Wed.

10th and 11th February - The Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ . . .

St. Paul's words in our Second Reading take on a very practical meaning for Christians. Saint Paul exhorts the Corinthians: "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ". Reflect on how these words apply to Christian fatherhood in both the Sacrament of Marriage and the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

Start with the vocation of priesthood. If you've ever gotten into a debate with non-Catholics about Jesus' command, "Call no man on earth your father, for you have but one Father in heaven" [Mt 23:9], there are many Scripture verses from St. Paul that you might have quoted in reply.

For example, earlier in the same letter that today's Second Reading comes from, Saint Paul explains how the Corinthians have one father. He squarely preaches to them, "You might have thousands of guardians in Christ, but not more than one father . . . it was I who begot you in Christ Jesus" [1 Cor 4:15]. It's hard to imagine - if you were to interpret Holy Scripture in a literalistic sense - any words that more directly contradict Jesus' command to "call no man on earth your father" than what St. Paul says about himself: "You might have thousands of guardians in Christ, but not more than one father . . . it was I who begot you in Christ Jesus".

Yet St. Paul's words at the end of today's Second Reading only seem to raise further questions. He commands those listening to him: "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." Why doesn't St. Paul just say instead, "Be imitators of Christ, as I imitate Christ"? But these words of St. Paul don't contradict Jesus' command to call no man on earth one's father. They deepen the revelation of Jesus. Christian fathers, whether in the home or in the sanctuary, are called to say by their examples and their words: "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."

Christian fathers can lead their children into the life of Christ more or less effectively. You might describe the difference between less effective and more effective Christian fatherhood by calling one "mere imitation", and the other "living imitation". We know that the English word "imitation" is itself ambiguous. We sometimes use the word "imitation" negatively, to imply that something is phoney, a counterfeit or a 'knock-off' (for example, "imitation leather"). On the other hand, we believe the proverb that "imitation is the sincerest form of flattery". This ambiguity sheds light on the difference between two ways that fathers can imitate Christ, and lead their children to do the same.

On the one hand is "mere imitation". "Mere imitation" is not necessarily bad, but it is limited, and it's much less than what Jesus asks for from Christian fathers. An example of "mere imitation" would be an imitation of a great historical figure. For example, you see a book titled 'The Leadership Secrets of George Washington'. This title implies that perhaps you too could be a great leader if you were to copy Washington's actions. We might also take this tack with Jesus, but Jesus wants human fathers not merely to copy Him from the outside looking in.

On the other hand is a "living imitation". This is what St. Paul is exhorting the Corinthians to. This is what Jesus prays to God the Father for at the Last Supper: "I do not pray for these only, but also for those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

The "living imitation" that Christian fathers offer their children begins with those fathers abiding in Christ. Jesus speaks about this at length at the Last Supper [see John 14-17]. This is an imitation of Christ from the inside, looking out with love upon one's children. God Himself calls fathers - and of course, mothers also - to live as examples for their children to imitate. They first do so by teaching their children how to abide in God's Presence, and how to allow Christ to abide within them.

CDoW

DIOCESAN PRAYER INTENTIONS: 11TH FEBRUARY - 17TH FEBRUARY

These are arranged so that in the course of a year we pray for each parish of our Diocese and the Catholic organisations within it. **Sunday:** *All who are sick.* **Monday:** *Community of Our Lady of Lourdes, Eastney.*

Tuesday: *Sisters of Maria Stella Matutina in the Diocese.* **Wednesday:** *The grace to keep a good Lent.*

Thursday: *Those who do not believe in God.* **Friday:** *Servite Secular Institute.*

Saturday: *All participating in the Rite of Election of Catechumens and Welcome of Candidates, their sponsors, families, catechists and parish communities.*

CAFOD LENTEN SOUP LUNCHES ARE BACK! (NOTE CHANGE OF DATES FROM LAST WEEK'S NEWSLETTER!)

CAFOD Lenten Soup Lunches will be back by popular demand - this time on the **Fridays of Lent** following the 12 noon Mass, **on: Friday 16th February; (Though not on 23rd February). Friday 2nd March; Friday 9th March; Friday 16th March and Friday 23rd March**
Come along after Mass and join us for homemade soup (always a choice of two!) and bread - all are welcome!
Teresa and Jenny

ARE YOU THINKING OF BECOMING A TEACHER, OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS?

Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School are hosting an information morning in partnership with Basingstoke SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training) on Saturday 10th March from 10.00am to 12.00 noon. Why not pop a long for have a chat and discuss the exciting teacher training opportunities available including 'being paid to train'. They are looking for people who have (or will have) a degree, may have valuable experience in another career, have a passion for teaching and want to inspire young people to fulfil their potential.
Visit: www.BasingstokeAllianceScitt.com to register your interest, alternatively contact the recruitment team at: admin@BasingstokeAllianceScitt.com or telephone 01256 275002

ANDOVER STREET PASTORS

You may be aware that Andover Street Pastors are currently looking for more volunteers to join us as we continue our work in **Helping, Caring and Listening** on the streets of Andover on Friday and Saturday nights. We are all Christian volunteers providing care, support and practical help to people and helping to maintain a happy and safe environment for the benefit of the community and the night time economy. Our main role is to be the hands and feet of Jesus but we are regularly greatly encouraged when we are able to have faith conversations, share the 'hope that is within us' and pray on the streets with the people we meet. We provide training for volunteers twice yearly and the next round of training begins on **23rd Feb. The full list of dates are as follows: 23rd/24th/25th Feb ; 9th/10th/11th March and 23rd/24th/25th March.** For anyone who is keen to join us, please contact Barry Wadhams as soon as possible. Additionally for those who want to know a bit more first, we are able to take out observers with us on patrol. May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and encouragement for the seven years we have been running. We look forward to serving the Church and town for many more to come.

Blessings , Barry Wadhams - Coordinator Tel: 07527296513
andover@streetpastors.org.uk; www.andover.streetpastors.org.uk Facebook: *Andover Street Pastors*

LENTEN HEALING MASS



We need spiritual strength and forgiveness – we all need healing of one sort or another. A Healing Mass, with the offer of being anointed and receiving the blessing of the sick, adds a special form of reconciliation with the Lord. We have the opportunity to further our Lenten preparations by attending a Healing Mass at **2.30pm on Saturday 17th March** when we can pray for ourselves and for others whom we know to be in need of healing. There may be people you know who would like to attend this special Mass but have no means of transport, so if you, as a friend, can help them then please do so.

The Mass might also be a good opportunity to invite someone who has not been to Mass for some time.

There will be an opportunity to chat and enjoy a tea in the hall after the Mass.

If you can help by baking some 'goodies' there will be a 'sign up' list up in the porch in the next week or so, of things that are needed, or, if you intend to make a donation of cakes/sandwiches on the day etc. please make a note on the list so we don't end up with too much of one type of food. Thank you!

HOUSEKEEPING NOTICES

Please do not eat in the carpeted area of the hall and in the meeting room, or take food and drink into the toilets. (And yes, people have been taking food and drink into the toilets!) Each week biscuits are trodden into the carpeted area of the side room and its really difficult to get greasy cake and biscuit crumbs out of a looped nylon carpet. Also, please note that the heating thermostat should be kept at 19 degrees - the radiators at the far end of the hall will be cooler than the ones in the corridor in the entrance as the boiler simply does not have the power to heat to maximum all the radiators. If you turn the thermostat up, the hallway radiators are boiling and it has no effect on the far end of the hall. (The boiler is in the boiler room next to the house, it has to heat the foodbank radiators, the foodbank office radiators, the radiators in the back room, toilets, hallway and meeting room before the main hall, it is only an ordinary boiler!) If you DO feel the need to turn up the thermostat PLEASE turn it back to 19 degrees before you leave. If you are the last to leave the hall / lock the hall, please check the thermostat; the toilets (twice now a hot tap has been left running all night - once with the plug in!) and that all the lights are switched off. Thank you. For health and safety reasons, please would you also make sure that you keep your children away from the rear of the hall, thank you.

CAFOD'S FAMILY FAST DAY this Lent (February 23rd)

Please collect a CAFOD envelope this weekend, and return it next weekend!

FAMILY FAST DAY

Family Fast Day – a day to give up a meal and give generously to help some of the poorest people in the world. And this Lent, that giving can make double the impact, as every £1 you give will be matched with another £1.

By fasting, we can focus on what really matters – our relationship with God and love for our brothers and sisters. But not all our brothers and sisters can choose whether or not they go without food.

CAFOD tells us about a mother, Marian, and her two sons who live in Zimbabwe. The older son, Tawanda, lived his childhood without enough to eat. Marian used to leave him in the morning to find work. She would return hours later to find him sitting in the same place. "I didn't have enough food to give him," she said. "He hadn't played, or even walked. It was very painful to see him like that."

When Tawanda was a teenager, Marian had another son, Svondo. He was brought up on fresh vegetables, beans and peanut butter. Now seven years old, Svondo is growing healthy and strong. He plays with his friends. He's happy.

These two brothers both had dreams. But one was prevented from reaching his God-given potential. The difference between these two boys is *you*. Your donations helped to give Marian some seeds. And she did the rest. She worked hard month after month to grow a vegetable garden and she didn't stop until it flourished. So unlike Tawanda, Svondo didn't go hungry.

But no child should have to go hungry.

Since you began reading this, eight children around the world have died from malnutrition. The lack of good food made them vulnerable to everyday infections.

On Family Fast Day, as we pray and fast, we bring to mind all God's children. We remind ourselves that as God's family, we are all connected – when one child goes hungry, we all go hungry. . .

Through CAFOD's Family Fast Day, you can show children like Tawanda and Svondo that they are not forgotten. They are part of our family. And we care.

You can donate using one of CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal envelopes, and please do fill in the form to Gift Aid your donation. Your gift can help end hunger and poverty across the world. This Lent, your donation will make double the difference. For every pound you donate to CAFOD, the UK Government will also donate a pound - at no extra cost to you, twice the number of lives can be transformed. Twice the number of children can have the opportunity to grow up healthy and strong. The government will double your donations throughout Lent, up to a total value of £5 million, so now is a crucial time to give.



Svondo - enjoying his peanut butter.

LENT FAST DAY PRAYER

Everlasting God, we give you thanks,
for you nourish and strengthen us with your
merciful love.

Give us this day our daily bread.

We pray for those who hunger in scorched lands,
with no food for their children.

Together, we cry out for justice.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Help us to share generously as one global family,
and to hold onto hope for a world transformed.

Bread of life, we pray your people may find life
and joy in all its fullness.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

BRAHMS GERMAN REQUIEM on Saturday 24th March 2018 at The Anvil, Basingstoke
with the **New London Sinfonia** and **Basingstoke Choral Society**

The Requiem was Brahms' 'magnum opus' composed when he was only 33 and thought to have been prompted by the deaths of both his mother and good friend Robert Schumann. Unlike the traditional requiem, Brahms wanted his Requiem to focus on comforting the living that were left behind. Brahms referred to it as a human requiem, rejecting the usual Latin text for his native German, using the Lutheran translation of the Bible. It is an emotional work whose lack of angry judgement in favour of heartfelt mourning and consolation makes it also an anthem for our time. We look forward to welcoming you to our concert at the Anvil which also includes Beethoven's 7th Symphony. **Tickets from the Anvil on 01256 844244 or on www.anvilarts.org.uk**

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FROM 10TH FEBRUARY - 23RD FEBRUARY

Reconciliations each Saturday in Andover from 5.15pm - 5.45pm, and in Whitchurch before Sunday Mass.

Congratulations to Serena Mawo who is to be baptised this weekend.

Sat. 10th **Andover Mass 6.00pm** *Eucharist and Felicity Scicluna RIP - Anniversary*

Sunday 11th February - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Whitchurch Mass 9.00am *For the People of the Parish*

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *Babs Hughes RIP - Anniversary*

Andover Polish Mass 6.00pm. Confessions (Polish) from 5.00pm

Mon. 12th **Andover Mass 10.00am** *In thanksgiving for the safe arrival of Baby Georgina Elizabeth*

Tue. 13th **Andover Mass 10.00am** *Frances Galbraith RIP*

Andover Prayers for Healing 7.00pm - 7.30pm

Wednesday 14th February - ASH WEDNESDAY



Andover Mass 9.30am *Nicholas Woodward RIP*

Andover Mass 7.00pm *Mary Meredith RIP*

Thur. 15th ***Stations of the Cross before Whitchurch Mass at 9.30am***

Whitchurch Mass 10.00am *For the People of the Parish*

Fri. 16th **Andover Mass 12 noon** *Charlotte Golling RIP*

Mass followed by CAFOD Lenten Soup Lunch in the Parish Hall.

Andover Stations of the Cross at 7.15pm

Congratulations to Pollyanna Audrey White who is to be baptised this weekend.

Sat. 17th **Andover Mass 6.00pm** *Mary Malady RIP*

Sunday 18th February - First Sunday in Lent

Whitchurch Mass 9.00am *Dom Francis Dobson OSB - RIP*

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *Edmund and Mary Smith RIP*

Mon. 19th **Andover Mass 10.00am** *Nicholas Woodward RIP*

Tue. 20th **12 noon - Requiem Mass for Nicholas Woodward RIP**

Andover Prayers for Healing 7.00pm - 7.30pm

Wed. 21st **Andover SOW 10.00am** -

Thur. 22nd ***Stations of the Cross before Whitchurch Mass at 9.30am***

Whitchurch Mass 10.00am *For the People of the Parish*

Fri. 23rd **Andover Mass 10.00am** *Henry and Tina Rachwalski RIP - Anniversary*

Andover - Stations of the Cross at 7.15pm

Eva Boshier, Patrick Pacini, Daphne Channing, Audrey Stephenson, Jo Parker, Nan Mundy, Esmé Coveney, Maureen Bennett, Bill Hayes, Doreen Burke, Rita Lane, Valerie Muir, Kath Neuen, Mary and Alan Daws, Jess Dukes, Fr Gerry Mackrell SMM, Betty Twist, Mary and Albert Bullough, Cynthia Manning, Margaret Williams, Patrick Arnold, Patricia Hillier, Pat Moore, Ann Scicluna, Tom Wilkins, Diane Banks, Christopher Walter, Allan Wickens, Di Mussert, Lisa Ramage, Dick Germain, June Saunders, Christine Budden, Carol Casson, Sam Hearn and Nikki Pink.
Please pray for the repose of the souls of , Rosa O'Reilly. and Nicholas Woodward.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.