



## 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.**

### 13th and 14th April - PALM SUNDAY

#### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Palm Sunday, with its palms, processions and readings, is one of the special days that can evoke strong emotional connections in our spiritual history, for those who have been in the church most of their lives. For those who are newer to Catholicism and Christianity, I suspect it still makes an impact because of its uniqueness.

I remember as a child how unusual the palms seemed. They were like nothing else I experienced in church or anywhere in my life - in those days they were long strips of greenery, kind of chartreuse in colour, that we willingly accepted and then carefully protected on the way home, where they would be tacked behind a crucifix or religious picture in a prominent place in our home for the next 12 months.

The Gospel recounting of Jesus' triumphant entry into the village, amid hosannas and palm-waving, doesn't allow us to reflect long on the admiration and approval the people had for him. In sync with Jesus' retort that "even the stones will cry out," it would be nice to bask in the moment for a bit; it would be pleasant to dare to think about how satisfying and rewarding that afternoon must have been—and how well-deserved.

But, almost immediately, we are taken beyond that scene into the rest of what Holy Week is about - the seriousness of the Last Supper, the trials, betrayals, torture and death. Granted, while some of the palm-wavers were probably not true disciples, at least some of those who were so excited must have legitimately been moved by Jesus and his power and his love. Tradition has it that some of the same people were likely in the crowd a few days later yelling "Crucify him!" to Pontius Pilate. We often feel holier than thou and wonder how they could have possibly been so fickle, so easily swayed, so rootless in their spiritual depth. But we also know how we turn our backs to the good and the righteous when we don't have all the facts, and even sometimes when we do.

The lesson for me in the days leading up to and including Palm Sunday will be to linger a little longer amid the palm-wavers. To feel their excitement, their enthusiasm for Jesus and his message. To reflect on his miraculous works and his soul-deep love. And to pray that the reality of the joy that comes from worshipping him will sustain me through the dark times until Easter's rising, and each time I see the palms tucked beneath the cross in my living room. C. McM

#### DIOCESAN PRAYER INTENTIONS: 14TH APRIL - 27TH APRIL

*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:** For a deeper love of the Passion of Christ. **Monday:** All readers. **Tuesday:** All priests of the Diocese.*

***Wednesday:** All deacons of the Diocese. **Thursday:** Extraordinary Ministers of Communion. **Friday:** Peace in the Holy Land.*

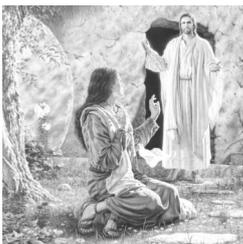
***Saturday:** All those who mourn. **Sunday:** For an ever deeper confidence in the power of Christ and his Resurrection.*

***Monday:** The newly baptised. **Tuesday:** Hosanna House & Children's Pilgrimage Trust. **Wednesday:** Diocesan Department for Educational Chaplaincies. **Thursday:** Community of St Mark, Dedworth. **Friday:** Parishes, Communities & Schools in the Isle of Wight Pastoral Area. **Saturday:** Daughters of Wisdom (La Sagesse) in the Diocese.*

### 20th and 21st April - EASTER SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION

To every member of our Parish family and to all our welcome visitors . . .

**HAPPY EASTER!** *May the joy and peace of the Risen Lord be yours, this Easter day and always.*



Our journey through Lent is over, we have removed our purple cloths, we have decorated our churches and altars with flowers and we can now sing our Gloria and Alleluia with joy and celebration. The Lord is risen! The Easter gospel names three people: Mary Magdalene, Peter and the 'disciple whom Jesus loved.' By not being named, this disciple is in fact all of us, each of us are the 'disciple whom Jesus loves.' Mary, faithful to the end goes to the tomb and although it is dark, sees the stone has been removed. She quickly runs and tells the others what she has seen and experienced; an empty tomb, burial cloths, and a head covering in another place. Having told the others, they too go to the tomb. They also see, but they see more than just see. They see and believe. They see and believe with their hearts. The mystery of the resurrection is able to be seen because God gives us the eyes of faith.

Today with Christians all over the world, let us follow Mary's example, let us too stand at the empty tomb and believe and then have the courage to proclaim the Good News of the Resurrection. **This Easter, may what we believe in our hearts and profess with our lips, be seen in the work of our hands and the quality of our daily lives. Alleluia!** CMcM



## EASTER TRIDUUM

The Easter Triduum is the proper name for the three days that precede Easter Sunday. Starting with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on the evening of Holy Thursday, continuing through the Good Friday service, and concluding with the start of the Easter Vigil on the evening of Holy Saturday, the Easter Triduum marks the most significant events of Holy Week.

***"Christ redeemed us all and gave perfect glory to God principally through his paschal Mystery: dying he destroyed our death and rising he restored our life. Therefore the Easter Triduum of the passion and resurrection of Christ is the culmination of the entire liturgical year."***

The Season of Lent has always been an important time in the life of the Christian. The special things that we participate in during Lent . . . personal sacrifice, communal prayer, fasting and abstinence, almsgiving . . . all remind us that this is no ordinary time for the Church. But Lent is not an isolated season. It doesn't exist just to give us something to do toward the end of winter and early spring. It is a time of focus, a time of preparation and a time of remembrance. It points to that which is central to the life of the Christian, and culminates in the celebration of **Easter Triduum**. These "Three Days" are at the heart of the Paschal Mystery; they remind us of death and rebirth and are the most important days of celebration in the Catholic Church. We walk in joyful celebration along the road from betrayal and suffering, to death and resurrection with Jesus Christ who walked that way first - for us. Lent exists so that we can prepare ourselves for the Easter Triduum. In the afternoon of Holy Thursday, Lent quietly comes to an end, almost unnoticed. The Triduum liturgies are rich with experiences that we have at no other time during the Church year: such as the washing of feet and the veneration of the cross. During these three days, we focus on one event - the Passover of the Lord, our Easter. We gather in one place, as the people of God, to remember the saving act of Jesus, the miracle of his resurrection and to celebrate our faith and identity as his disciples; because Christ was faithful to the end and was raised from the dead, death is no longer the end of life for us. It is the beginning of a new life in Him.

**Please make every effort to attend these three Liturgies - or rather, one Liturgy spread over three days.**

**If you would like to participate in the Washing of Feet at the Mass of Our Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, then please sign the list in the Church Porch. Both men and women are invited to take part.**

**Gift aid envelopes for the coming year are available at the back of the church. Please take yours.**

**If you think you should have a box and there is not one there or if you no longer need the envelopes, please let me know. Frank Saunders 01264 365764 or email: sandfaker@gmail.com. Thank you.**

**PARISH BAPTISM COURSE.** The next Parish Baptism Course will be on Tuesday 21st May at 7.00pm, either in the Parish Hall or the Parish House. Please complete a registration form and return it to the Parish Office before Monday 20th May.

***On Good Friday, a collection is taken up in every Catholic church to support the people and places of the Holy Land.***

Christians of the Holy Land rely heavily on the help that comes to them during this special moment of the year. The Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land have the unique responsibility of caring for the Holy Places as well as caring for the Christians living in the Holy Land. It is important that we care for the Christians living in the Holy Land in order to maintain a Christian presence in a land that is filled with a majority Jewish and Islamic population. Pope Francis asks all parishes to support Christians in the Holy Land and through the Good Friday Collection, you join with Catholics around the world to stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace in a troubled land. In these challenging times in the Middle East, your support means that our church will conduct parish ministry, provide Catholic education, feed the hungry, build housing for Christians, maintain shrines and operate refugee centres in the Holy Land. Christians, along with all of the clergy and religious who serve in the Holy Land, will deeply appreciate your prayers and financial help! The political, religious and military challenges in the Holy Land are more complex than ever. The wars, unrest and instability have been especially hard on Christians. Please support Christians in the Holy Land through the Good Friday Collection, 'Gift Aiding' your donations wherever possible by using printed envelopes.

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL.** Find out about our parish school, the exciting learning that takes place and upcoming liturgy and Mass dates by visiting the school website and reading our newsletter - [www.sjbschool.co.uk](http://www.sjbschool.co.uk) .

## BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

As your local Catholic Secondary school, we have lots of news we would like to share with you. Many of you will have happy memories of time spent as a pupil or parent at Bishop Challoner and we would like to keep you up to date with how well we are doing. You can access our website at [www.bcs.hants.sch.uk](http://www.bcs.hants.sch.uk) or you can go straight to our fortnightly newsletters at [www.bcs.hants.sch.uk/newsletters/](http://www.bcs.hants.sch.uk/newsletters/). We keep all our local parishes and faith communities in our prayers and I would ask that you pray for our continuing success and for our young people to, as Bishop Richard Challoner put it, 'do ordinary things extraordinarily well.' John Wright, Headteacher.

## ANDOER FOODBANK

As always, we would like to thank everyone who has made a donation to the foodbank. It really is greatly appreciated. This week we are in need of the following items:-

**FOOD ITEMS: Long Life Milk; Long Life Fruit Juice; Tinned Meat; Tinned Fish; Tinned Rice Pudding and Tinned Vegetables – carrots, peas, sweetcorn etc.**

**NON FOOD ITEMS: Pillows; Double duvets; Small saucepans; Frying pans; Kitchen/All-purpose cleaner and Deodorant**  
**\*COFFEE MORNING AND PLANT SALE \***

Our next coffee morning will be held on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May** starting at 10.30am in the Parish Hall.

We will also be holding our annual **PLANT SALE** at the same time. If you have any spare plants please bring them with you! We are really looking forward to seeing you and hope you will find some lovely new plants for your garden as well as enjoying a cup of coffee, a piece of cake and a chat!

### SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Are you celebrating a 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 11.00am**. It is a wonderful occasion to celebrate and witness to Marriage. If you would like to come, please visit the Cathedral website <http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/anniversaries/> and complete the on-line form, or send an email to [anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) (Please note this address is not monitored daily and you may have to wait for a reply, so please be patient.)

If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the Parish office, who will have the form you need to complete.

To help celebrate the occasion please could you provide a **COPY** of your Wedding photograph, you can upload it when you complete the form online. Alternatively scan and send via email to above email address. Again if you have no access to the internet you can post a **COPY** along with completed form by post to the following address: St Bede's Parish Office, Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX Please mark envelope 'Significant Wedding Mass'

**Any problem with any of this, please come to the Parish Office and I will help you complete the form, scan the photo to send etc. etc. Teresa.**



### "ŚWIĘCONKA"

Holy Saturday is a day when many Polish Catholics go to church for the traditional blessing of Easter food.

They bring baskets containing samples of the Easter food, "Święconka", decorated in various ways.

After the blessing, the food is usually set aside until Easter morning when the head of the house shares the blessed egg, symbol of life, with family and friends. Having exchanged wishes, all continue to enjoy a hearty meal. The blessing of the Easter food is an old and lovely tradition, not common for all Catholics, only for Eastern European Catholics. The content of the Easter basket varies from family to family, and here are the most important contents and their meanings: **Pisanki**: Coloured boiled eggs symbolize life and rebirth, and especially Christ's Resurrection from the Tomb. **A peeled boiled egg**: The same meaning as above, the egg is shared with the family on Easter Dinner.

**Kielbasa**: A spicy sausage of pork products indicates God's favour and generosity. In the old days, all types of pork were forbidden until the coming of Christ when it became acceptable. **Salt**: "You are the salt of the earth."

**Baranek Wielkanocny**: A sugar lamb, representing Christ Resurrected. It's a typical Polish Easter symbol.

**Pepper and Horseradish**: Symbolize the bitter herbs of the Passover and the Exodus.

**Bread**: Symbolizes Christ, "the Bread of Life". **Vinegar**: Symbolizes the gall given to Christ at the crucifixion.

**Wine**: Symbolizes the blood of sacrifice spilt by Christ at the crucifixion.

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME TO ONE OF THE BLESSING OF FOOD SERVICES AT 12.30PM AND 1.00PM**  
**ON HOLY SATURDAY IN ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, ANDOVER.**

### ADORE (Alton Day Of REnewal) – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 11.00am - 4.00pm

You are warmly welcome to a mini-retreat day (or morning/afternoon) of spiritual refreshment and renewal, focussing on the Power of Prayer. At Alton School, Anstey Lane, Alton GU34 2NG. 11.00am *Rosary*; 11.30am *Mass*; 12.15pm *Adoration* of the Blessed Sacrament; 1.00pm Shared lunch (please bring finger food to share); 2.00pm *Praise & Worship*; 2.30pm *Talk "Praying for the Power of the Holy Spirit."* – Geoff and Gina Poulter; 3.30pm *Prayer for healing*. We end about 4.00pm. There is no need to register in advance, and no charge (though a collection will be taken to cover costs). For more information and directions, see poster or website: [www.altonrenewal.com](http://www.altonrenewal.com) Or telephone Alastair Emblem on 01252 714809. Next month's meeting 18<sup>th</sup> May: "Prayer for Healing and Deliverance"

### Feast of The Divine Mercy at St Peter's Church Winchester on Sunday 28th April at 3.00pm.

Mass at 3.00pm in honour of the feast. Followed by Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Veneration of the Image. Refreshments afterwards in the Pastoral Centre. **All are welcome.**

**There are letters for all the First Holy Communion Catechists in the porch - please collect them!**

**MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FROM 13TH APRIL - 28TH APRIL**

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

*Congratulations to Adrianna Mucha who is to be baptised this weekend.*

**Sat. 13th** Andover Mass 6.00pm *Heulwyn Jenkins RIP - Anniversary*

**Sunday 14th April - Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**



Whitchurch Mass \*8.45am *Reverend Dom Dominic Milroy OSB RIP*

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *In Thanksgiving - Barry and Ruiz Families*

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

**Mon. 15th** Andover Mass 10.00am *Tony French RIP*

**Tue. 16th** No Mass or Services -

**Wed. 17th** No Masses or Services -

**18th April - Holy Thursday** Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 8.00pm followed by Vigil until 11.00pm

*For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish*



**19th April - Good Friday** Stations of the Cross at 10.00am



The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ Andover 3.00pm *(Collection for Holy Places)*

**20th April - Holy Saturday**



ŚWIĘCONKA - Blessing of Food in St John the Baptist at 12.30pm and at 1.00pm

Holy Saturday Vigil Mass Andover 8.00pm *For the People of the Parish*

**21st April - EASTER SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION**



Whitchurch Mass 8.45am *Alf Rawlings RIP Anniversary*

Farleigh School Mass -

Andover Mass 10.30am *Special Intention*

**Mon. 22nd** Andover Mass 10.00am *Reverend Dom Cyprian Smith OSB RIP*

**Tue. 23rd** Andover 10.15am Requiem Mass for Peter Hathaway RIP

**Wed. 24th** No Masses or Services -

**Thur. 25th** Whitchurch Mass 10.00am *For the People of the Parish*

**Fri. 26th** Andover Mass 10.00am *Mary and Gordon Smyth RIP - Anniversary*

*Congratulations to Edith Warr and Baby Fabrigaras who are to be baptised this weekend.*

**Sat. 27th** Andover Mass 6.00pm *For the Barry and Ruiz Families—remembering Florencio and Conchita Ruiz and Margaret Barry RIP.*

**Sunday 28th April - Second Sunday of Easter**

Whitchurch Mass 9.00am *Holy Souls*

Farleigh School No Mass -

Andover Mass 10.30am *Juliet Pereira RIP*

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

**After Mass Refreshments  
begin again on Sunday 28th April.  
There will be a cake sale after  
Mass in the Parish Hall to raise  
funds for CAFOD.**

**Please pray for:** Patrick Pacini, Daphne Channing, Audrey Francis, Audrey Stephenson, Jo Parker, Nan Mundy, Esmé Coveney, Doreen Burke, Rita Lane, Valerie Muir, Mary and Alan Daws, Tom Wilkins, Fr Gerry Mackrell SMM, Mary Bullough, Margaret Williams, Patrick Arnold, Ann Scicluna, Christopher Walter, Allan Wickens, Di Mussert, Lisa Ramage, Sam Hearn, Christine Budden, Derek Moss, Diane Banks, Barbara Long, Myra Thompson, John Mills, Jean Murphy, Sheila Muir, Jo Hibberd, Therese Ayres, Lewis Theo, Sheila Roberts, Cecile Godfrey, Moira Barton, Mary Hathaway, Manuela Wahnon and Peter Calderley.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Peter Hathaway and Rollin Thomas.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.