



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: 8.30am - 3.30pm; Tues. & Thurs.: 8.30am - 12 noon; Fri. 8.30am - 2.30pm. NB: **CLOSED on Wed.**

14th / 15th May - Fifth Sunday of Easter

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

An invitation from the Bishops of England and Wales: Sunday Mass Obligation Reinstated.

'This is the bread come down from heaven' (John 6:58)

A beautiful hallmark of the Catholic faith is the profound desire to participate in the Holy Mass and share in the Eucharist. We do so with deep gratitude and joy. The Eucharist gives the Church her identity – “The Eucharist makes the Church, and the Church makes the Eucharist.” It enables us to worship Almighty God, to support each other on our journey of faith, and to be a visible sign of faith in the world. This hallmark is supported and strengthened by the precept that our fundamental Christian duty is to worship God by participating in the celebration of Mass. Attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is the greatest of all privileges, sometimes referred to as “the Sunday Obligation.”

Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, until the present time, we have shared with you our judgment that the situation of the last two years has meant that the Sunday Obligation has been impeded and has needed to be fulfilled in other ways. We thank God that this situation has now changed. The pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. Most people have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by the previous Covid measures. **We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply.**

We understand there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation.

Our Catholic people and parishes have benefitted during these difficult times from the online streaming of Mass and other services. “Virtual viewing” of Mass online does not fulfil the Sunday Obligation. It may, however, be a source of continual spiritual comfort to those who cannot attend Mass in person, for example those who are elderly and sick, for whom the obligation does not apply. In this context, we recognise gratefully the ministry of those who administer Holy Communion to the elderly, sick and housebound.

We are grateful to our clergy, religious and lay faithful who have served our parishes, schools and communities with dedication and distinction throughout this pandemic. Now we look forward with renewed faith and confidence. In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Lord’s Supper, the Lord Jesus entrusted to us the precious gift of Himself. With humility, we glory in being a Eucharistic people for whom attendance at Mass is essential.

Looking forward to the forthcoming **Feast of Pentecost (Sunday 5th June)**, we now invite all Catholics who have **not yet done so to return to attending Mass in person.**

As the Church needs the witness of the presence of each person, so too each believer needs to journey in faith and worship with their fellow disciples. Nourished by our encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus, fed with His Word and His Body and Blood in Holy Communion, and supported by the presence of each other, we receive strength week by week, to serve the Lord and glorify Him with our lives.

*Approved by the Plenary Assembly of the Bishops’ Conference
Friday 6th May 2022*

The Solemnity of the ASCENSION OF THE LORD is celebrated next Thursday May 26th (Holy Day of Obligation)

Mass will be on Wednesday 25th - evening Vigil Mass at Whitchurch at 7.00m
and Masses on Thursday 26th in Andover at 9.30am and 7.00pm.

Marriage Care is returning to face to face marriage preparation and will be holding a ‘Preparing Together’ Marriage Preparation course on Saturday June 18th at Corpus Christi church, Wokingham. If you have any couples preparing for marriage who would like to attend this course, they will need to book online at www.marriagecare.org.uk

There will be refreshments after the 10.00am Mass on the **first Tuesday** of every month.
There will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament before the 10.00am Mass on the first Friday** of every month.

OUT AND ABOUT . . . Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

St Mary's Church
SP10 1DP



Vintage Tea Dance

to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Thursday 2nd June

2pm - 4:30pm

(doors open at 1:50pm)

You are invited to join the Mayor of Test Valley at St Mary's Church for an afternoon of dancing as Jayne Deer sings music from the 1930's, 40's, 50's & 60's!

Refreshments will be served by the Friends of St Mary's.
All are welcome at this free event!



Sign up: bit.ly/vintagedance
Or call: 07719 994 538

ST
MARY'S
ANDOVER

Test Valley
Borough Council



The wonderful gardens at BERE MILL, WHITCHURCH are opening again for 2022 through the National Garden's Scheme (NGS).

There are over five acres to explore where formal planting meets the wild with beautiful herbaceous borders, bog garden and Mediterranean gravel gardens with cistus, lavenders and tree peonies.

THURSDAY 2ND JUNE and Monday 29th August

Pre-booking is available at the NGS website – Search for Bere Mill on the NGS website ngs.org.uk or pay on the day.

Tickets cost £7.50 for adults and children are free (dogs also welcome!)

All proceeds go to charity.

Thanks to the generosity of garden owners, volunteers and visitors, NGS have donated over £60 million to nursing and health charities and made an annual donation of £2.88 million in 2020 to beneficiaries including Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK and The Queen's Nursing Institute.

See the NGS website (ngs.org.uk) for more details.



ANDOVER STREET FESTIVAL

As Her Majesty The Queen celebrates her Platinum Jubilee,

Andover is coming together to pay tribute with a vibrant street festival combining food, music, arts and culture from residents, created in collaboration with local organisations.

The Andover Street Festival will be showcasing what it means to be a resident of Andover today.

Bringing together the people who live here, the colourful and diverse cultures, heritage and traditions that make up our town in 2022.

Join us on Friday 3rd June in the Town Centre.

The Andover Street Festival will be led by a consortium of organisations including Test Valley Arts Foundation, Chapel Arts Studios and Andover BID.

Whitchurch Art Fair

Thursday 2nd - Sunday 5th June 2022

10am - 4pm : free entry

Gill Nethercott Centre Whitchurch, RG28 7HP

Discover and buy the work of local artists, makers and creatives



LOTTERY FUNDED



Supported using public funding by

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

JUBILEE FIFTIES FETE AT THE SILK MILL - FRIDAY 3RD JUNE

Take a step back into the 1950s at the Mill!

We're delighted to be hosting a traditional 1950's festive fete to mark HRM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, with live music, fete games and jumble sales, duck races, a baking contest judged by the WI (information on entry to be announced soon), and a tree planting to mark the end of the event.

Historic reenactors and interpreters, Pedlars and Petticoats will be bringing it all to life throughout the afternoon, providing you with royal etiquette lessons and a chance to dress up.

With music throughout the day provided by vintage singer, Luka Watabe, and local ukulele band, Loose Chippings, we're hoping to get you bopping and jiving!

Free entry to this fun community event. - 12 noon to 4.00pm

WINCHESTER BEACON (Winchester Churches Nightshelter)

Residents Get Cooking Often our residents have spent so long focusing on day-to-day survival that they have forgotten what it is that they enjoy doing. Hobbies and interests are put on hold whilst they try to cope with the obstacles they are facing. Now residents are onsite all day we have the opportunity to engage them in more activities which can build self-esteem and confidence. Funding from Cala Homes, allowed us to employ a part-time Activities Co-ordinator to help make this happen. Our Taste Buds Kitchen cookery classes with our Catering Co-ordinator, Hilary, have been a huge hit. Current and former residents have come together and cooked up sausage rolls, corned beef hash, pancakes, soup and more. Residents have also had the opportunity to access the new leisure centre for free and take part in community cycle rides for wellbeing. We are always keen to hear from anyone willing to host a one-off or regular activity or open their service to our residents. It could be at The Winchester Beacon or off site. Please get in touch if you would like to get involved, admin@winchesterbeacon.org.uk.

Volunteering Opportunities= We are on the lookout for people to come and join our friendly team of volunteers. Volunteering at The Winchester Beacon is an opportunity to make a positive difference to lives of people experiencing homelessness in Hampshire. By giving your time, skills and enthusiasm you can be a hands-on help in ending homelessness. We have a range of day-time and evening roles available. Volunteers are not expected to help weekly or even monthly, instead they book in online for a shift when they are available.

www.winchesterbeacon.org.uk

The **Formation for Mission Team** are offering **Online Workshops for readers with 1:1 practice**

Workshop 1 offers a general and brief introduction to the Liturgy of the Church and a more specific overview of the Liturgy of the Word at Mass, as well as an overview of the practical skills required for reading in church. Workshop 2 offers a general introduction to the Bible and a group study of a specific reading, using the 4 senses of Scripture, to equip parish readers so as to prepare and understand the depth of the texts they read. A diocesan certificate is awarded on completion of the two workshops and of a reading practice with a diocesan listener. The workshops will take place on Saturdays 18th and 25th June, from 10.00am to 1.00pm. **Find out more details and to register, go to: www.pffm.org.uk**

ANDOVER FOODBANK

Thank you all for your continued support. These are the items we are most in need of at the moment:

Long-Life Milk and Tinned Fish. We also have very high demand for food that doesn't require cooking (but can include things that need hot water) for those living in insecure accommodation including: **Cereal bars; Mug shots / Pot Noodles Cheese biscuits (eg Ritz, Cheddars, things that can be eaten on their own); Cup a soup; Small Tinned Ham/ Chicken / Peanut butter / Marmite / Meat Paste and Jars of Spread. Also: Deodorant and Toilet rolls.**

SUMMER HOLIDAY BAGS

The summer holidays are fast approaching and while many are dreaming of sunny beaches and sandcastles we know that many children in our community will be facing food insecurity, isolation and loneliness. In the absence of free school meals and parents struggling with reduced income or childcare costs, the summer can be a difficult time. We are planning to help some families by providing some additional supplies that help children take part in normal summer activities including going on a picnic, having a BBQ or friends round for a sleepover. Bags of food will be packed and delivered in time to get to schools for delivery before the end of term and to do this, we need your help.

We are collecting the following items:

Tinned Hotdogs; Tomato Ketchup; Ice Pops for the Freezer (eg Mr Freeze); Chocolate Spread /Jam; Chocolate Biscuits; Pringles; Pancake Mix; Hot Chocolate; Jelly Mix; Popcorn; Cake Mix; Snack Packs (Raisins etc) and Squash.

The deadline for these items to be delivered is the end of June. Thank you!

Alternatively, if you would like to donate to help cover any food shortfall costs you can donate online at:
andover.foodbank.org.uk

As part of our celebrations for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, WHITCHURCH CONSERVATION GROUP is excited to announce that it will be hosting a FREE live music event – 'Music in the Meadow' – on Sunday 5th June (11.00am – 4.00pm) at the MILLENNIUM MEADOW in Whitchurch.

Held with kind permission from the Whitchurch Millennium Green Trust, this free open-air concert from 11.00am to 4.00pm will feature a 'Proms in the Park' style performance on stage from the Nova Foresta Classical Players Orchestra who will play a selection of popular music culminating in a rousing climax with the playing of traditional favourites including Jerusalem, Land of Hope and Glory and Rule Britannia. Whitchurch Folk Club and the Whitchurch Singing for Fun Choir will also be performing. There will be children's activities throughout the day from Basingstoke-based Anvil Arts, The Musication Station and Proteus Theatre / Scratchbuilt Shed of Stories.

Tickets for the event are free, but attendees are encouraged to register for the event in advance to help with planning. A free Jubilee hand-flag per family/group is offered!

<https://www.tickettailor.com/.../whitchurchconserv.../684439>

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FROM 14TH MAY - 27TH MAY
Confessions by appointment - please contact the Parish Office.

Congratulations to Cassie Grace Warr who is to be baptised this weekend,

Sat. 14th **Andover Mass 6.00pm** *Margaret Blake RIP*

Sunday 15th - Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

Farleigh School 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *Freddie Flood RIP*

Mon. 16th **Andover Mass 10.00am** *Socorro and Family - Blessings*

Tue. 17th **Andover Mass 10.00am** *Private Intention - Birthday Blessings*

Wed. 18th *No Mass or Service* -

Thur. 19th **Whitchurch Mass 10.00am** *For the People of the Parish*

Fri. 20th **Andover Mass 10.00am** *Rev Christopher Delaney OSB RIP*

Congratulations to Veronica Czopowski who is to be baptised this weekend,

Sat. 21st **Andover Mass 6.00pm** *Freddie Flood RIP*

Sunday 22nd May - Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

Farleigh School 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *Susie Keough - Birthday Blessings*

Mon. 23rd **Andover Mass 10.00am**

Tue. 24th **Andover Mass 10.00am** *Ann Ivinson RIP - In Memoriam*

Wed. 25th **Whitchurch - Vigil Mass for the Ascension of the Lord at 7.00pm**

Thur. 26th - The Ascension of the Lord - Holy Day of Obligation

Andover Mass *9.30am

Andover Mass 7.00pm

Fri. 27th **Andover Mass 10.00am**

Please pray for: Patrick Paccini, Esmé Coveney, Doreen Burke, Rita Lane, Tom Wilkins, Margaret Williams, Patrick Arnold, Sheila Muir, Therese Ayres, Sheila Roberts, Rachel McGarvie, Mary Hathaway, Rosemary Gallagher, Eileen Dickie, Christopher Brown, Lisa Rammage, Mervyn Owen, Michelle Taylor, Kay McGlynn, Mary Bradley, Wendy Rawlings, Hazel Kay, Alyette Rident, Christopher Browne and Grace Finegan.

DIOCESAN PRAYER INTENTIONS: 15TH MAY - 21ST MAY

Sunday: *Daughters of Mary, Mother of Mercy in the Diocese.* **Monday:** *Diocesan Dept for Educational Chaplaincies.*

Tuesday: *Parish of Our Lady of Mercy and St Joseph, Lymington.*

Wednesday: *Community of St John the Evangelist, Lee-on-Solent.*

Thursday: **[Anniversary of the formation of the Diocese 19.5.1882];**
the Dioceses of the Province; Canons of the Cathedral Chapter; Parish of St John's Cathedral.

Friday: *Parish of St Saviour, Totland Bay.* **Saturday:** *Parish of St Mary, Ryde.*

SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS Are you celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th wedding anniversary, or wedding 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 2nd July 2022 at 11.00am**. It is a wonderful occasion to celebrate and witness to Marriage. If you would like to come, please visit the Diocesan website <http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/anniversaries/> and complete the online form. 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 the above email address. (If you have no access to the internet you can post a **COPY** along with the completed form by post to the following address: St Bede's Parish Office, Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX. Please mark the envelope Significant Wedding Mass).

NB If you do not have access to the internet, please contact Teresa and she can provide you with the form/ fill in the online form with you / scan and send the