



**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

Office: Alexandra Rd, Andover, SP10 3AD Tel: 01264 352829

Father Austin email: agurr@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Office email: office@catholic-andover.org.uk

or stjtb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk **Website:** www.catholic-andover.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Jackie Kelly: safeguarding@catholic-andover.org.uk

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

6th and 7th August - Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

There is certainly a lot to consider from today's readings. I like Paul's message about faith in the second reading and how it ties into the Gospel of Luke. Faith is an obvious theme in so many biblical stories that it might seem to sometimes come across as white noise. At least it does occasionally for me. But, what stuck out for me in Paul's writing is that he seems to be asking us to compare our occasional lack of faith with that of Abraham's experience. And, if I stop and think about it for a minute my occasional lack of faith pales in comparison to Abraham's faith journey.

We have the benefit of reading the bible, going to church services, listening to faith speakers, and confiding in spiritual leaders. By comparison, Abraham didn't have any of those things. Can you imagine being on the very front edge of God's spoken messaging to the world? For me, this messaging has been part of my entire life from the time I was a young boy growing up in a faith-filled house with wonderful parents who took me to church and enrolled me in Catholic schools to today by having the luxury of working at a Catholic institution and surrounded by likeminded people. But Abraham did not have those luxuries. He was paving the way without others to lean on – talk about faith! No wonder Paul refers to Abraham and others as "well attested" in their faith.

The transition, then, into Luke's Gospel seems perfect. Jesus starts by talking with his disciples about "not being afraid any longer." In other words, have faith in what I am about to tell you. There was so much that grabbed my attention in the Gospel reading today. But what mostly sticks with me is the notion of having intentionality. Jesus begins the gospel story by telling his disciples that God wants to give them the kingdom – a life better than could possibly be imagined and one that doesn't ever go away. But, there is a catch. I imagine Jesus saying, "Living fully in the Kingdom of God will require some work on your end. It is here for you right now in this very life you are presently living, but you must make a movement towards it in order to experience it. There must be purposeful intention on your part."

The language that Luke emphasizes such as preparation, keeping watch, and being a faithful and prudent steward seems to be pointing to a way of life rather than a time bound achievement we are used to in today's world. It would be impossible to stay awake 24 hours a day, 7 days a week preparing and keeping watch. Rather, modifying the way we live, think, work, relate, and feel in a way that intentionally moves towards God at a fundamental level puts us in a 24/7 position. It seems to me like it's an intentional movement towards, rather than an achievement focus "I've made it" attitude that is necessary to experience the Kingdom of God. This seems apparent when Peter asks Jesus (almost with a certain kind of arrogance) if his parable applies just to them or to everyone. And Jesus' masterful answer lets the disciples know that this applies to everyone. Almost as if to say, "just because you are in the inner circle, doesn't mean you are different." This is intentional work for everyone.

After reading Luke's Gospel a few times it seems to be telling me that the "Kingdom of God is at hand" right here and now – today! But, in order for me to realize the Kingdom I need to do my part because God is already meeting me here. I just need to have faith that God is not just "out there" but also "in here" and I need to have a 24/7 way of life that makes an intentional movement towards God.

T. Lenz

Bishop Philip Egan invites you for an **ETHNIC Filipino Mass** in honour of **San Lorenzo Ruiz** (The first Filipino-Chinese Saint) on **Saturday 10th of September 2022** at St. John's Cathedral, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth PO1 3HQ.

Begins at 1.30pm with a Procession followed by Mass. Wear your Ethnic costumes!

Contact: Filipino Deacon KIM CABATANA @ fb Dcn Kim Cee, email Cabatanak@gmail.com or Fr. Claro Conde @ fb Claro Conde, or email: filipinochaplaincy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

CHURCH CLEANING

We are looking for volunteers to add to our list of Church Cleaners and to form another cleaning group. If you are available during the week and would be able to give an hour of your time to help clean the Church (all materials provided), then please contact Margaret Scicluna or the Parish Office. Thank you!

CLOSER TO CHRIST CAMPAIGN ANNOUNCEMENT LETTER
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, ANDOVER



Dear Parishioners of St. John the Baptist,

I am sure you will agree when I say this last year has continued to be challenging. Yet although many aspects of our lives have been impacted, our Catholic faith has remained the one constant. I am encouraged by those returning to Mass, the large numbers who have joined livestream liturgies, parishioners supporting neighbours, friends and loved ones. I also wish to thank wholeheartedly those clergy who have worked so tirelessly to sustain and support the communities under their care. It is this steadfast commitment that has progressed the Church across the Diocese of Portsmouth since the late 19th century.

As a faith community, we have been through some challenging times in the past yet by God's grace, we have always shown resilience, compassion and generosity. Fifteen years ago, the Living Our Faith campaign had a tremendous and wide-reaching effect, and I am grateful for all it enabled. I am confident now with the intercession of St. John the Baptist and our patron, St. Edmund of Abingdon, that we have the strength to continue our great mission of 'Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church'.

Further to much prayer, consideration and consultation with clergy and laity, we have embarked on a new fundraising initiative entitled the ***Closer to Christ*** Campaign. This will build upon the mission of our church, enabling us to continue our journey to become ever more outward facing and evangelistic, while meeting the immediate financial priorities of parishes, who are the backbone of our Church.

Central to the success of our mission, is the continued support of our clergy at all stages of ministry, those individuals who give their lives to serve our parish communities. ***Closer to Christ*** will fund our seminarians and priests in active ministry and rejuvenate our parishes, ensuring they have the necessary resources to provide a place for prayer, worship and community interaction, meeting a broad range of faith needs and giving them a platform to thrive. We must also care for our priests in their retirement, recognising the important work they have achieved in delivering our mission and the contribution they continue to make in so many ways following a life of service and dedication to local parish life.

The ***Closer to Christ*** Campaign is a 'call to action' which invites parishioners to become more fully and sacrificially involved in the life of the Church – to collectively build God's Kingdom and live the Gospel, especially in providing for others. Simultaneously, the ***Closer to Christ*** Campaign reflects a commitment to enhanced communications and stewardship of donors' generosity. Over the next two years, every parish will participate in this endeavour. Last year we began the Campaign in four pilot parishes and I am delighted that St John the Baptist, Andover will be part of the next group of parishes leading the way.

In the coming months, Fr. Austin will be sharing with you in more detail the objectives of this initiative – through individual conversations, telephone/video calls and announcements at Mass. I appreciate your willingness to learn more, ask questions, consider the role you could play and importantly pray for our success.

Towards the end of his Letter to the Philippians, St. Paul says: "There is no need to worry, but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving" (Phil 4: 6). I look forward to us all accomplishing together the Lord's work, moving from maintenance to mission.

In Corde Iesu

+Philip

Bishop of Portsmouth

The **ANDOVER FOODBANK** would like to thank everyone who has donated to us recently. Things are still incredibly busy at the foodbank and we are so grateful to everyone who is supporting us with their donations.

This week we are in need of the following food and non-food items: **Tinned Fruit; Tinned Soup; Pasta Sauce; Packets of Rice; Frying pans and Tin openers.**

The **ANDOVER FOODBANK** is going to start a weekly coffee session for clients, for those that need to wait for their food parcels to be made up or for people who may need somewhere to sit and chat through their issues so we can signpost them for further support. We also know that some of our clients are very lonely, isolated by the issues they are dealing with and we would like them to have an opportunity to sit and chat, without having to pretend circumstances are all ok. We are looking for some volunteers who might be able to help us with this (thank you to those who have already been in touch). We don't need you to have any specialist training or background, but you would need to be good listener and be prepared to chat! If you would like to find out more, please email Jenny at: jenny.lelean@andoverfoodbank.org.uk or



RETROUVAILLE: A PROGRAMME FOR COUPLES STRUGGLING IN THEIR MARRIAGES

Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work.

For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 13th - 16th October 2022 or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 24th - 26th February 2023; call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

YOUNG CATHOLIC ADULTS (YCA) WEEKEND - 7TH - 9TH OCTOBER 2022

Theme: "The Communion of Saints' prayer and the veneration of Holy Relics"

During the weekend of the 7th- 9th October 2022, Young Catholic Adults will be running a retreat at Douai Abbey, there will be two talks – Rachael Mackenzie from "Rachael's Vineyard" will be telling her conversion story (Sat) and Fr. Glaysher will be talking about the Communion of Saints' prayer and the veneration of Holy Relics (Sun). YCA will be running the weekend with the Schola Gregoriana of Cambridge who will be holding Gregorian Chant workshops. There will also be a Marian Procession, Rosaries, Sung Masses, Confession, talks (and socials).

It's possible to stay the whole weekend (full board) or to come for the day (bring a packed lunch).

Please note to guarantee your place Douai Abbey have requested that everyone books in 3 weeks before the start of the weekend (16th September 2022).

For More information: <http://youngcatholicadults-latestnews.blogspot.co.uk/> or <http://www.youngcatholicadults.co.uk>. To book go to : <https://bookwhen.com/youngcatholicadults-douai2022>

Information Notice . . .

Please let the Parish Office know if you move house/change your phone number/change your email address. Let us know if you are going into hospital or if you have a relative who is either in hospital or in a care home. Even if it is in Basingstoke, Winchester or Southampton, we can arrange for Holy Communion/a visit etc.

Please help us to help you! Thank you.

WHITCHURCH 'ROTATIONS' CHARITY SHOP

From **11th - 25th August**, St John Fisher Church in Whitchurch will be taking over the '**Rotations' Charity Shop** in London Street, Whitchurch. This is a fantastic shop, full of good quality bargains, which allows different charities to run the shop to raise fund for their own causes. This 'takeover' will be in place of the St John Fisher Summer Fête.

We would love to receive good to sell in the shop and there will be a box at the back of the Church in Whitchurch or you can drop off your donations in the Parish Office.

We welcome: Books, CDs, LPs, Bric-a-Brac, Good Quality Clothing, Toys, Jewellery, Tools and, nearer the week in August, plants. Please do not donate *anything* electrical or anything that you would not be prepared to buy yourself!



There will also be a raffle, with tickets on sale after Mass each Sunday in Whitchurch.



MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FROM 6TH TO 19TH AUGUST
Confessions by appointment - please contact the Parish Office.

Congratulations to Fabian Boczkowski who is to be baptised this weekend.

Saturday 6th August - The Transfiguration of the Lord.

Andover Mass 6.00pm *Bernadette Coveney RIP*

Sunday 7th August - Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Whitchurch Mass 9.00am *Tony Downing RIP*

Farleigh School 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *In thanksgiving for Flora, Kari-May and Steve Barrie.*

Mon. 8th **Andover Mass 10.00am** *Private Intention*

Tue. 9th **Andover Mass 10.00am** *Alan Cotter RIP*

Andover 7.00pm *Prayers for Healing*

Wed. 10th *No Mass or Service* -

Thur. 11th **Whitchurch Mass 10.00am** *Br. Nicholas Marsh OSB RIP*

Fri. 12th **Andover Mass 10.00am** *Bernadette Coveney RIP*

Sat. 13th **Andover Mass 6.00pm** *Private Intention*

Sunday 14th August -

Whitchurch Mass 9.00am *Anthony Warner RIP*

Farleigh School 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *In thanksgiving for the People of the Parish*

Mon. 15th **Andover Mass 10.00am** *Raymond Fox RIP - Anniversary*

Tue. 16th **Andover Mass 10.00am** *Janine Marie Thérèse and Austen Robert Armstrong RIP - Anniversary*

Andover 7.00pm *Prayers for Healing*

Wed. 17th *No Mass or Service* -

Thur. 18th **Whitchurch - Requiem Mass 10.00am for Eileen Church RIP**

Fri. 19th **Andover Mass 10.00am** *Bernadette Coveney RIP*

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, Wendy Rawlings, Hazel Kay, Alyette Rident, Christopher Brown, Grace Finegan, Allan Wickens, Helen O'Connell, Bernard Ivinson and Andrew Howell. Please pray for the repose of the souls of Alan Cotter, Eileen Church and Muriel Arkwright. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

DIOCESAN PRAYER INTENTIONS: 7TH AUGUST - 13TH AUGUST

Sunday: *Lay Dominicans and Dominican Secular Institute.* **Monday:** *Dominican Sisters [of Malta, of Saint Joseph and of the Presentation] in the Diocese.* **Tuesday:** *Dialogue with other faiths, and especially the work of the Council of Christians and Jews.* **Wednesday:** *Parishes, Communities and Schools in the North West Hampshire Pastoral Area.*

Thursday: *Caritas Christi, secular institute for single laywomen.*

Friday: *Mill Hill Missionaries in the Diocese.* **Saturday:** *Parish of Holy Cross, Eastleigh.*



The Catenians

*Strengthening family life
through friendship and faith*

CATENIAN BURSARY FUND

Are you 16 -24? Catholic? Passionate about helping others?
Planning a future voluntary project? Needing financial help?

Each year the Catenian Bursary Fund makes awards to young Catholics aged between 16 and 24 who volunteer to work on development projects and as helpers on HCPT and Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimages.

For full details including eligibility criteria visit our website: www.catenianbursary.com



To keep up to date with the news of the Diocese and the Bishop please follow us on: Facebook: @PortsmouthRC
LinkedIn: Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Twitter: @PortsmouthRC The Diocese website: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.
If you have news that you would like to share with the Diocese, please contact communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk