



## PARISH NEWS FOR THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, ANDOVER

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:**

**The Office is CLOSED on Wednesdays / Father Austin's Day off: Wednesday.**

### 5th and 6th April - The Fifth Sunday in Lent

#### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The readings for the Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year C, share a profound theme of renewal and redemption. From Isaiah's prophecy of God making a way in the wilderness to Paul's exhortation to forget the past and press on toward Christ, and finally, to the Gospel account of Jesus' merciful response to the woman caught in adultery, we see a recurring message: God's transformative power calls us to move forward, embracing grace over condemnation.

This theme of renewal and redemption through grace reaches its pinnacle in John 8:1-11, where Jesus encounters a woman accused of adultery. The religious leaders attempt to use this situation as a trap, expecting Jesus to either contradict Mosaic Law or undermine his message of mercy. However, his response shifts the focus from punishment to self-examination: *"Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone."* One by one, the accusers leave, recognizing their own shortcomings. Instead of condemnation, Jesus offers the woman a new beginning: *"Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on, do not sin anymore."*

This passage is a powerful reflection on the nature of God's mercy. Jesus does not deny the seriousness of sin but prioritizes redemption over retribution. His words invite us to reflect on our own tendency to judge others while overlooking our faults. More importantly, they remind us that no one is beyond the reach of God's grace. Just as the woman was given a new chance, we too are called to rise from our past and walk forward in transformation.

In this Lenten season, these readings encourage us to embrace God's invitation to renewal. Whether by letting go of past burdens, striving forward in faith, or showing mercy to others, we are reminded that God is always making a way for us, offering rivers in the wasteland of our lives.

**Self-Reflective Questions:** What past burdens or regrets do I need to release in order to fully embrace God's new work in my life? How can I practice mercy and grace towards others, just as Jesus demonstrated to the woman in the Gospel?

#### DIOCESAN PRAYER INTENTIONS: 6th April - 12th April

**Sunday:** Union of Catholic Mothers. **Monday:** De la Salle Brothers in the Diocese. **Tuesday:** Diocesan Chancellery.

**Wednesday:** : All Pastoral Area Pastoral Councils. **Thursday:** The Neocatechumenal Way in the Diocese.

**Friday:** Sisters of St Lucy (Filippini) in the Diocese. **Saturday:** Managers of church repositories.

#### ANDOVER CHAMBER CHOIR

This year's spring concert from Andover Chamber Choir charts the dramatic events leading up to Easter in words and music. Entitled **'The Journey to Easter'** the concert takes place on **Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm** in **St Michael & All Angels Church, West Andover. Tickets are £15 on the door or £12 in advance from The Lights, Newbury Building Society or choir members.** Under-16s are admitted free. Proceeds will go to the **Andover Young Carers.**

#### ANDOVER CHORAL SOCIETY 'CHORAL CLASSICS FOR SPRING' Conducted by Craig Lawton.

Hummel Mss No.1 and works by Mozart, Brahms, Bruckner and Elgar on **Saturday 3rd May at 7.30pm** in

**St Mary's Church, Andover. Tickets are £15** from Choir Members, The Lights or online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk).

On **Good Friday**, a collection is taken up in every Catholic church to support the people and places of the Holy Land - **'Holy Places'**. 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. Pope Francis asks all parishes to support Christians in the Holy Land through the Good Friday Collection. [Unfortunately we cannot claim Gift Aided on this collection].

#### Don't forget, we are collecting items for the **'ROTATIONS' CHARITY SHOP** in Whitchurch.

**Open from Friday 18th April to Wednesday 7th May.** We would be very grateful for donations for the Rotations Shop, anything that is of good quality that you would be happy to buy yourself! *We can't accept electrical goods, cycle helmets or child car seats.* **All donations can be brought to the office during office hours (please don't leave things in the hall or outside the office) or at St John Fisher, Whitchurch at Thursday or Sunday Mass.**

**MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FROM 5TH APRIL - 20TH APRIL**

*Confessions will be from 5.30pm to 5.45pm each Saturday or you can ring the office to make an appointment.*

Sat 5th	Syro Malabar Mass at 2.30pm	
Sat 5th	Andover Mass 6.00pm	Freddie Flood RIP - Anniversary
<b>Sunday 6th - Fifth Sunday in Lent</b>		
	Whitchurch Mass 9.00am	For the People of the Parish
	No Farleigh School Mass -	
	Andover Mass 10.30am	Rose and James Drugan RIP - Anniversary
Mon. 7th	Andover Mass 10.00am	Nirmal Silva - Birthday Blessings
Tue. 8th	Andover Mass 10.00am	Declan Ratnyake - Birthday Blessings
	Andover - Healing Prayers 6.30pm - 7.00pm	
Wed. 9th	No Mass or Service	-
Thur. 10th	Andover 11.00am - Requiem Mass for June Saunders RIP	
Fri. 11th	Andover Mass 10.00am	Victoria Ferrugia RIP [Divine Mercy Chaplet before Mass.]
	Andover 3.00pm - Goan Mass	
	Stations of the Cross led by the Prayer Group and Welcomers at 6.30pm	
Sat. 12th	Andover Mass 6.00pm (Adoration 4.45pm - 5.15pm)	Pat Tasker - Birthday Blessings
<b>Sunday 13th April - Palm Sunday</b>		
	Whitchurch Mass *8.45am	
	No Farleigh School Mass -	
	Andover Mass 10.30am	Arthur and Francis Drugan RIP - Anniversary
Mon. 14th	Andover Mass 10.00am	Frid Brender - For recovery
Tues. 15th	No Mass or Service	-
	Andover - Healing Prayers 6.30pm - 7.00pm	
Wed. 16th	No Mass or Service	-
<b>Thursday 17th April - Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper</b>		
	Andover Mass 7.30pm followed by Vigil until 11.00pm	
<b>Friday 18th April - Stations of the Cross at 10.00am</b>		
<b>Friday 18th April - The Passion of Our Lord</b>		
	Andover 3.00pm	 Collection for Holy Places.
<b>Saturday 19th April - Holy Saturday Vigil Mass</b>		
	Andover 7.30pm	For those being Confirmed and Received into the Church
<b>Sunday 20th April - Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord</b>		
	Whitchurch Mass *8.45am	Alf Rawlings RIP - Anniversary
	Farleigh School Mass 10.00am	
	Andover Mass 10.30am	Private Intention
<b>Please note that there will be no 'after Mass refreshments' on Easter Sunday.</b>		
<b>Please pray for:</b> Esmé Coveney, Rita Lane, Margaret Williams, Patrick Arnold, Sheila Muir, Mary Oak, Fiona Hilleard, Tony Fabian, Helen O'Connell, Douglas Manning, Diane Mahoney, Catherine Ash, Sile Monnelly, Linda Creaven, Jane O'Kelly, Rita Casey, Wendy Rawlings, Rose Bull, Paul Goodwin, and Mark Radcliffe. Please pray for the repose of the soul of June Saunders, Mary Horobin and Robert Maxwell. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.		
<b>Polite Request . . .</b> This is such a busy time of year and we really need to be mindful of where and how we park. In Andover we can park at Beech Hurst on a Saturday evening and a Sunday - it's only a short walk through Denning Mead to the church . . . Please use this car park! And <i>please</i> do not park down the centre of either car park in Andover.		