



## 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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**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:**

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

**12th and 13th April - PALM SUNDAY**

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Our readings today invite us to experience both exuberant joy and profound sorrow. The joy emerges during the procession of palms gospel when Jesus enters Jerusalem with "...people spreading their cloaks on the road..." and praising God "...for all the mighty deeds they had seen." Those who had heard about or seen him were joyful as he rode into Jerusalem on a colt.

The gospel during the liturgy plunges us into the depth of sorrow as we hear the description of the terrible injustice of the capture of Jesus, the interrogation by Pilate and Herod, and finally, the anger of the crowd calling for his crucifixion. Those who loved Jesus were overwhelmed with feelings of powerlessness and terror. They wanted him to return to them and continue to lead with compassion and grace. But for him to return in human form was not to be.

Holy Week is upon us with its messages of hope and despair; joy and grief - intermingled with the promise of salvation. There is a call here to invite Jesus to become a deeper part of our lives. May he be the lens with which we act, serve, and see. And as the world experiences our peaceful actions of love, compassion, and prayer, perhaps they too will declare: "That is Jesus!"

*from S.N.*

### DIOCESAN PRAYER INTENTIONS: 13th April - 19th April

**Sunday:** For a deeper love of the Passion of Christ. **Monday:** All readers in the Diocese.

**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.

### HOLY WEEK : EASTER TRIDUUM SERVICES - THREE SERVICES - ONE LITURGY (ALL IN ANDOVER)

**Thursday 17th April - Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm**

followed by Vigil before the Blessed Sacrament until 11.00pm.

**Friday 18th April - Good Friday - The Passion of Our Lord - 3.00pm**

**Saturday 19th April - Holy Saturday - 7.30pm**

*(Please note that: There will be no Mass in Andover on Tuesday 15th April*

*and Mass on both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday in Whitchurch will begin at 8.45am)*



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].

**The next Baptism Preparation evening session will be on WEDNESDAY JUNE 4th**

**from 7.00pm to approximately 9.00pm in the Parish Hall. Completion of the session is required before booking a baptism. To register for the course, please email / telephone the Parish Office.**

**Both parents are requested to attend - but not children - and you must be registered with the Parish.**

**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.**

**Please be considerate when parking for Mass - services at this time of year are VERY busy!**

In Andover we can use the spaces at Beech Hurst on a Saturday evening and a Sunday - it's only a short walk through Denning Mead to the church . . . Why not try it?

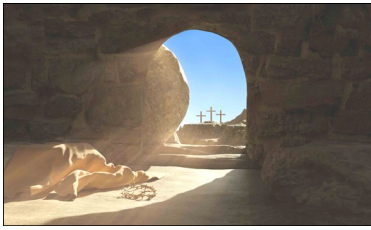
## 19th and 20th April - EASTER SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION

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.*

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

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 who 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 seen has and experienced; an empty tomb, burial cloths, and a head covering in another place. Having told the others, they too go to them tomb. They also see, but they 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!

### DIOCESAN PRAYER INTENTIONS: 20th April -26th April

**Sunday:** For an ever deeper confidence in the power of Christ and his Resurrection.

**Monday:** The newly baptised. **Tuesday:** Hosanna House and The Children's Pilgrimage Trust.

**Wednesday:** Our Lady and St. Bernadette, Pangbourne. **Thursday:** Parish of St. Joseph, Havant.

**Friday:** Community of St Mark, Dedworth.

**Saturday:** Parishes, Communities and Schools in the Isle of Wight Pastoral Area

The Easter Sunday collection will take place throughout the Easter weekend, so you will have the opportunity to give, at any service which you attend. The Easter Sunday collection traditionally supports our Parish Priests in recognition for all the dedication, guidance and care they give across our Diocese, and in each parish. If you would like to give a gift to support and thank Father Austin we recommend that you give your Easter offerings into the collection plate, into the Parish Office, or by bank transfer. Thank you.

**It's not too late! The new Gift Aid Envelopes are now available from the Church Porch - there are still some to be collected! If you would like have a set of envelopes - either a full set or just a set for Special Collections, then please contact the Parish Office - all you will need to do is complete a Gift Aid Declaration. These can be found in the porch, on the website or collected from the Parish Office.**

### MARRIAGE HELP

'Retrouvaille' helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage.

Next date: 20th -22nd June [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) Tel: 0788 7296983

### DIOCESAN FORMATION DAYS FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION AND FOR READERS 3<sup>rd</sup> May and 18<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Fr Anthony Fyk, Director of Liturgy Formation, will be running further formation days for readers and EMHC. The EMHC day will include a session on taking HC to the sick and housebound. The Readers' Day will include a session on Lectio Divina. There will also be a day for Ministers of Children's Liturgy on Saturday 7th June, further details to follow. They will all take place at St Bede's Church/Hall in Basingstoke.

Anyone interested is encouraged to register via [liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### 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 a 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 21<sup>st</sup> June at 11.00am**. This will be followed by a buffet lunch. . Please contact **the Parish Office** for a form or send an email to: [anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) to request a form for you to complete and return. To help celebrate the occasion please could you provide a **COPY** of your Wedding photograph, you can upload it when you return the form. 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.  
Alternatively the Parish Office here can scan your photo and send it for you, via email!

**FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY at St. Peter's Church, Winchester on Sunday 27th April 2025**

**Mass at 3:00pm**

Mass is in honour of and thanksgiving for The Feast. The celebration will include:

- The Chaplet of Divine Mercy • Veneration of The Image In honour of The Feast.

A Plenary Indulgence will be granted to all who celebrate it, and, who fulfil the usual conditions of receiving the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion and who offer prayers for the Pope's intentions.

Refreshments in the Pastoral Centre afterwards

Contact St Peter's Parish Office for further details (01962 852804)



**St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School** [www.sjbschool.co.uk](http://www.sjbschool.co.uk) **VACANCY FOR AN AFTER SCHOOL CLUB ASSISTANT**

**Closing Date:** Friday 4th April **Job Start Date:** Tuesday 22nd April **Contract/Hours:** Permanent, part-time (3.30pm – 6.00pm, Monday to Friday term time only) **Salary Type:** EHCC / Support Staff

**Salary Details:** Grade B, 39 weeks per year. **Contact e-mail address:** [t.hawkins@st-john-andover.hants.sch.uk](mailto:t.hawkins@st-john-andover.hants.sch.uk)

We are looking for an after-school club assistant who has the ability to supervise groups of children, lead games and creative activities. Applications are welcome from Catholics or non-Catholic candidates who can support our Catholic ethos. Applications must be submitted on the CES application form. We encourage you to visit our school. Your visit can be arranged by contacting the school office on [t.hawkins@st-john-andover.hants.sch.uk](mailto:t.hawkins@st-john-andover.hants.sch.uk) or 01264 361806. We look forward to meeting you. Please be aware that the information you provide will be passed on to those staff involved with your recruitment, and be kept in school as part of your record in line with our retention schedule.

For more information about our school's use of your data please go to the school website.

**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).

**ANDOVER FOODBANK**

Thank you very much for your continuing support.

Please find listed below the food and non-food items that are currently needed:

**Mashed Potato – URGENT; Chocolate – URGENT; Tinned custard - URGENT; Tinned Fruit; Longlife Milk; Tin Openers - URGENT and Shower gel.**



**Act for Creation: Renewing our Commitment to Create a World in Harmony With Creation.**

To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the publication of Laudato Si', **Caritas** and **CAFOD** are holding an event on **Saturday 10th May from 10.00am - 1.00pm** at St Peter's Winchester that will be packed with practical information on how we can make a difference in our lives and that of our parish.

There will be short talks from parishes working on the CAFOD's Live Simply Award, as well as other projects from around the diocese. You will participate in the Let us Dream activity from Journey to 2030.

A member of the Diocese estates team will be there to answer questions you may have about how your parish might become more energy efficient, along with case studies. There will be information on waste, food, and biodiversity and lots of ideas and resources to take back to help your parish celebrate Laudato Si' week later in the month.

Sign up at: [www.caritasportsmouth.org.uk](http://www.caritasportsmouth.org.uk)

**WHITCHURCH SILK MILL - SPRING FAYRE**

**Bank Holiday Monday, 26th May from 10.30am to 4.00pm**

*Roll up, roll up and get ready for some bank holiday family fun!*

This day promises to offer great fun, whether you hook a duck, splat the rat or want a turn at tin can alley, there will be something for all the family. Perhaps you want to try your luck at the egg and spoon race? In which case make sure you're around between 11.30am and 12noon! Or if you would like to take centre stage and give Limbo a go, we will welcome your efforts at 2.30pm. There'll be stacks of games, children's crafts and shows from the fantastic BUBBLES MAN throughout the day! Please bring cash as some stalls may be cash only! **This event is FREE entry.**

*In aid of Whitchurch Silk Mill Trust: 900621.*

**SATURDAY MAY 10th, 2025 - [www.whitchurchfolk.com](http://www.whitchurchfolk.com)**

The Whitchurch Folk Festival in north Hampshire for a captivating community-led celebration!

Featuring world-class folk artists, this vibrant festival spotlights traditional music, dance, arts and crafts.

Enjoy concerts, ceilidhs, interactive workshops and delicious local food & drink.

A spirited and welcoming gathering for all ages in this charming Hampshire town, situated on the picturesque River Test and surrounded by rolling countryside. Visit the website for ticket information.

**MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FROM 12TH APRIL - 2ND MAY**

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

**Sat. 12th** Andover Mass 6.00pm (*Adoration 4.45pm - 5.15pm*) Pat Tasker - Birthday Blessings

**Sunday 13th April - Palm Sunday**

Whitchurch Mass \*8.45am *For the People of the Parish*

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

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* -

**Thursday 17th April - Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper**

Andover Mass 7.30pm followed by Vigil until 11.00pm

**Friday 18th April - Stations of the Cross at 10.00am**

**Friday 18th April - The Passion of Our Lord**

Andover 3.00pm



*Collection for Holy Places.*

**Saturday 19th April - Holy Saturday Vigil Mass**

Andover 7.30pm *For those being received into the Church*

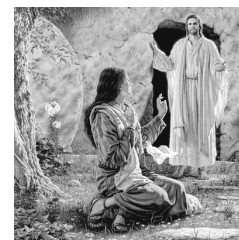
**Sunday 20th April - Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**

Whitchurch Mass \*8.45am *Alf Rawlings RIP - Anniversary*

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *Private Intention*

*Please note that there will be no 'after Mass refreshments' on Easter Sunday.*



**Mon. 21st** Andover Mass 10.00am

**Tue. 22nd** Andover Mass 10.00am *Fred Butcher RIP - Anniversary*

Andover - Healing Prayers 6.30pm - 7.00pm

**Wed. 23rd** *No Mass or Service* -

**Thur. 24th** Whitchurch Mass 10.00am

**Fri. 25th** Andover Mass 10.00am *Anna-Maria Rodrigues RIP - Anniversary*

Andover 2.00pm Funeral Service for Robert Maxwell RIP

Andover Goan Mass at 10.00am for Feast of the Divine Mercy

**Sat. 26th** Andover Mass 6.00pm

**Sunday 27th April - Second Sunday of Easter**

Whitchurch Mass 9.00am

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am

**Mon. 28th** Andover Mass 10.00am

**Tue. 29th** Andover Mass 10.00am

Andover - Healing Prayers 6.30pm - 7.00pm

**Wed. 30th** *No Mass or Service* -

**Thur. 1st May** Whitchurch Mass 10.00am

**Fri. 2nd** Andover Mass 10.00am *Esmé Kelly RIP - Birthday Memoriam*

***The Parish Office will be closed from 12 noon on Thursday 24th April to 8.30am on Monday 5th May.***

HE IS  
RISEN  
HE IS  
RISEN  
INDEED  
**ALLELUIA**