



## 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](mailto: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.**

### 18th and 19th May - Pentecost Sunday

#### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

##### 'Come Back to Life'

*As a body is one though it has many parts,  
and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body,  
so also Christ. (1 Corinthians 12: 12)*

In fear, the followers of Jesus hid behind locked doors. The air did not stir and the walls closed in like a tomb. The trauma of recent days silenced them. They had lost their way. In dread they awaited cries for more bloodshed. In guilt they felt they had failed him.

But it was a playful breeze that slipped under the door and swept over them? How could a wind trick its way through these thick walls? The crushing weight lifted and breath returned. Like dry branches, their spirits ignited. They laughed and embraced. Amazing words poured forth. Fear fell away. Once again new life came forth.

In desolation we drop like bones into a ditch. Rigid and alone. By reaching out to another, the spirit can find us. One person finds the words and the other listens. In one simple gift of compassion, the breath of life returns. Jesus' companions did not scatter, each seeking safety on his own. In misery, they clung to each other. God's spirit made them one body and they roared back to life together.

Intent on being self-sufficient, I can distance myself from the sources of life. Without deeper connections to others, God's spirit does not find me. Our world separates us in many ways: each absorbed with career, schooling, finances, house, car, disappointments, plans, problems . . . This ardent individualism can chip away. In friendship, prayer, conversation, struggles for justice, and service, the odd notion that we are all one body begins to ring true. As we come to stand together, the spirit of unity surprises us.

*Veni Sancte Spiritus.* The lush gifts of the Holy Spirit sound like paradise: "*rest most sweet; grateful coolness in the heat.*" Jesus greets his exhausted companions with "*peace be with you.*" We are not alone. No walls are too thick for God's spirit.

J.S.

#### DIOCESAN PRAYER INTENTIONS: 19th May - 25th May

**Sunday:** [Anniversary of the formation of the Diocese 19.5.1882]: Those being confirmed this year, their sponsors, families and catechists. **Monday:** the Dioceses of the Province; Canons of the Cathedral Chapter; Parish of St John's Cathedral.

**Tuesday:** Parish of St Saviour, Totland Bay. **Wednesday:** Parish of St Mary, Ryde.

**Thursday:** Diocesan Vocations Team for the Ordained Ministry; Those being ordained to the Priesthood & Permanent Diaconate this year. **Friday:** Parish of Our Lady, Help of Christians, Farnborough.

**Saturday:** Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes, New Milton.

**Caritas Portsmouth** is hosting Sue Carter from the Alzheimer's Society, to run a **Dementia Friends Information Session** for anyone interested in hosting a Dementia Café, looking to make their parish more Dementia Friendly or just want to know more to support people in their family or community. Everyone welcome.

The session will be held online on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 7.00pm. For more information or to register, please contact us at [caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or visit <https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk>

**The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes.** Bishop Philip warmly invites us all to join him and fellow pilgrims for the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. This year's pilgrimage is from Monday 22nd – Friday 26th July 2024. Departing from London Gatwick Airport on Monday 22nd July. Accommodation will be close to the Sanctuary at the four-star Hotel La Solitude which enjoys panoramic views of the upper town and the Pyrenees. The hotel boasts en-suite rooms with tea and coffee-making facilities and a comfortable restaurant with a varied and plentiful menu. The itinerary which takes full advantage of all that Lourdes has to offer, which includes participation in all the usual Pilgrimage activities. If you would like to know more about the Pilgrimage to Lourdes this year email: [lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**A repeat request - PLEASE DO NOT PARK DOWN THE CENTRE OF EITHER CAR PARK,  
OUTSIDE THE CHURCH PORCH OR ON DOUBLE YELLOW LINES.**

**MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FROM 18TH MAY - 31ST MAY**

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

*Congratulations to Aphelia Everest who is to be baptised this weekend.*

**Sat. 18th Andover Mass 6.00pm**

**Sunday 19th - Pentecost Sunday**

**Whitchurch Mass 9.00am**

**Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -**

**Andover Mass 10.30am** *For the People of the Parish*



**Mon. 20th Mass at St John the Baptist School at 9.30am - Parishioners Welcome. William James RIP**

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

**Andover - Healing Prayers 6.30pm - 7.00pm**

**Wed. 22nd No Mass or Service -**

**Thur. 23rd Whitchurch Mass 10.00am Eric Newman RIP**

**Fri. 24th Andover Mass 12 noon Private Intention**

**Mass followed by SOUP LUNCH in the Parish Hall - All Welcome!**

**Sat. 25th Andover Mass 6.00pm Pip Cotter for Health & Strength and for Margaret RIP**

**Sunday 26th - The Most Holy Trinity**



**Whitchurch Mass 9.00am**

**Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -**

**Andover Mass 10.30am Niyasha Silva - Birthday Blessings**

**Mon. 27th Andover Mass 10.00am Augusta Pereira RIP**

**Tue. 28th Andover Mass 10.00am M C Chacko RIP - Anniversary**

**Andover - Healing Prayers 6.30pm - 7.00pm**

**Wed. 29th No Mass or Service -**

**Thur. 30th Whitchurch Mass 10.00am**

**Fri. 31st Andover Mass 10.00am Nikesh Silva - Birthday Blessings**

**Sat. 1st June Andover - First Holy Communion Mass at 12 noon**

**Andover - Syro-Malabar Mass at 2.30pm**

**Please pray for:** Esmé Coveney, Rita Lane, Tom Wilkins, Margaret Williams, Patrick Arnold, Sheila Muir, Sheila Roberts, Mary Hathaway, Christopher Brown, Lisa Ramage, Mervyn Owen, Bernard Ivinson, Fiona Hilleard, Carol Keenan, Mary Oak, Tony Fabian, Sile Monnelly, Helen O'Connell, Ben and Frances Dunne, Robert Williams, Simon and Victoria Rowney, Douglas Manning, Guy Foa, Diane Mahoney, Sarah Viney and Mary Lisa Owen.

**The next pre-Baptism evening course will be on Tuesday 28th May 2024 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.**

You are invited to a **Mothers Prayers Day in Sacred Heart Church, High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett. SN4 7AH on 25th May 2024** starting at 11.00am until 3.30pm. Doors open at 10.30am  
Mothers prayers is a beautiful and efficacious manner of praying together for our children which we mothers have found very helpful and comforting. Please bring a packed lunch. Teas/coffee provided. Join us for all or part of the day. Limited free parking at the Church. For more information contact Pat on 07854566735 or patcon60@gmail.com

**ROTATIONS CHARITY SHOP, Newbury Street, Whitchurch. The parishioners and friends of St John Fisher Church will once again be running the Rotations Charity Shop for Parish Funds from Friday 24th May to Thursday 20th June. If you have never visited the shop in London Street before, I suggest to make a trip during this time - it is a treasure trove of great bargains and the stock is constantly being replenished!**