**Hello Everyone,** Welcome to The Messenger. It is June already and we are still not able to meet so here is The Messenger to keep us in touch. Please feel free to pass it on to anyone who you think might be interested. Do you have any ideas or suggestions about what you would like to see in future editions?

**Friendship** is the theme for this week**.** During this lockdown we are really missing our friends and they are really missing us.

Jesus though is always with us. He is a friend we cannot see but we can always talk to Him. We may say a prayer, like the Our Father, or we can just tell Him what we are thinking or feeling in fact anything, anytime, anywhere.  In St John's Gospel He tells the Apostles "You are my friends if you do what I command". Talk with him as a friend.

**Unlock the Code –** can you decipher the code? If you would like a clue it can be found at the end of this section.

"TLLW UIRVMH ZIV ORPV HGZIH. BLF WLM'G ZODZBH HVV GSVN, YFG BLF PMLD GSVB ZIV GSVIV "

**Word Play** And here is another game to play. How many words, of 3 or more letters, can you make from the letters of FRIEND? We have found 30. Can you beat that number?

Good luck. The answers can be found at the end.

Clue -

The second word is friends

**Third Challenge:** This week it is about getting in touch with someone you haven't seen or talked to or emailed for ages. Some people are very lonely during this 'lockdown'.

Take a minute and identify a person who you think would like to hear from you. It might be a school friend, an aunt, a cousin or a neighbour or someone you think of as acquaintance rather than a friend. Perhaps it is someone who doesn't have brothers or sisters so may be lonely at the present time.  It doesn't matter if you think they could have got in touch with you.

Your challenge is to make contact this week with the person you have thought about. It might be by sending her or him a card or a letter, making a phone call, sending an email or using social media. I'm sure she or he would love to hear from you.

Let us know how you found this challenge.
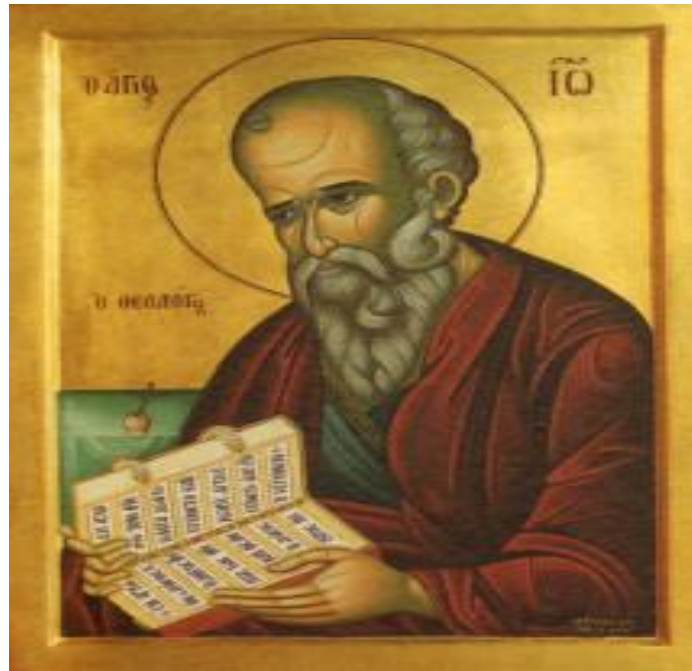
- St John was the son of Salome and Zebedee and the brother of St. James
- The brothers were followers of John the Baptist until they looked on Jesus and became his disciples
- St John was the 'beloved disciple' of Jesus
- As he stood at the foot of the cross St John was asked by Jesus to take care of Mary, his mother
- When St John and St Peter learned that Jesus was no longer in the tomb it was St John who ran and reached the empty tomb first
- St John is the patron saint of friendship and loyalty

St John pray for us

**Invitation:** 2 invitations this time:

**1. Youth Mass**

Would you like to watch a Mass attended and sung by young people? There are a group of young people who have been living in community at Alton. The team are living in community together with Fr Paul so they able to go to Mass together.

You can join Fr Paul and the team at Mass on Saturday evening at 6.00pm. Alternatively you could watch a video of it. Go to https:/youtu.be/leWZBSkMOLs

**2. It's a Knockout**

**What is it?**  Every summer term, youth groups from across the diocese gather together for a competition. Youth groups go head-to-head to complete a series of challenges, earning points and using their teamwork to win the It's a Knockout trophy. This year, It's a Knockout is being held '@home'. Instead of coming together for a weekend of challenges, tasks will be completed by contestants, who will submit photo/video footage of their efforts.

There are a range of tasks to be completed, each one earning points for the contestant's youth group or for the individual contestant. All skills and abilities will be tested throughout the tasks, evidence will be submitted, and the Kenelm Mission Team will judge the evidence to decide who this year's winner will be!

There are 45 possible tasks so there are plenty to choose from. To help you decide which tasks to complete, the challenges have been divided up into categories. Choose from something physical, a creative task, something silly and just for fun, musical or one that uses practical skills. A maximum of 20 completed tasks may be submitted.

**Dates:**
Registration is open NOW!
Submissions of evidence for completed tasks ends on June 28th.
Winners will be announced on July 5th.

**Who can take part?** Contestants can register as part of their youth group, or, if they don't have a youth group, as an individual contestant. The competition will be judged in these two categories, so that at the end of It's a Knockout @ Home, there will be an individual winner and a youth group winner. Contestants must be young people aged 9-17.

If you are part of a youth group, find a team of at least 6 others to join you. A parent or guardian must complete the registration form (link found below), letting us know which youth group you are part of.

If you don't have a youth group, a parent or guardian must complete the registration form for you informing us that you are competing in the 'individuals' category. Follow the link to the registration and list of tasks.

http://www.kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk/its-a-knockout--home.html

Please let us know if you would like to take part as a group.

**Prayer:**
Dear Lord, Thank you for each of my friendships. Please help me to build on these friendships. I am not always good at keeping up with my friends though they are there when I need them.

Jesus, you are my truest friend.  Make me a good friend. One who is loyal and caring and ready to forgive any upsets.  Amen

We hope you enjoyed The Messenger this week. If you have comments or ideas for future editions please get in touch or ask you parents/carers to get in touch via Sarah by emailing olas.stourbridge@rcaob.org.uk

**God bless, Sarah, Marie, Kathryn and Cathy**

**Answers:**

**Unlock the Code:** Good friends are like stars. You don't always see them, but you know they are always there.

**Words out of Friend:** Den, die, din, dine, diner, dire, end, fed, fen, fern, fie, fiend, fin, finder fine, fined, finer, fir, fire, fried, infer, ire, nerd, red, ref, rein, rend, rid, ride, rife