

THE MESSENGER

Serving the Parish of St. John the Baptist, Andover and St. John Fisher, Whitchurch

A PUBLICATION OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 119568

TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18th OCTOBER 2026



Diocese of Portsmouth
Bishop Philip Egan
Eighth Bishop of Portsmouth

Parish Priest:

Reverend Canon Christopher
Rutledge KHS
Co-ordinating Pastor of the Andover
Pastoral Area and Parish Priest

Deacon:

Deacon Michael Short

Parish Administrator:

Kasey Longman

Finance Administrator:

Mrs Murphy

Parish Office:

Alexandra Road, Andover SP10 3AD

Office Hours:

8:30am-1:30pm weekdays
*Closed Wednesdays

Phone Number: 01264 352829

Email: office@catholic-andover.org.uk

Website: www.catholic-andover.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Mrs Jackie Kelly:

Safeguarding@catholic-andover.org.uk

Confessions:

Saturdays
After 10:00am Mass;
5:15pm-5:40pm

Or by appointment

Parish Bank Details:

Name: CDP Andover St John the Baptist
Sort Code: 30-93-04
Account Number: 00873633

Scan the QR Code to give
through DONA



Parish Collections

Loose Plate: £479.05
Gift Aid: £276.50
Standing Orders: £933 (average)
Direct Debits: £315

Entrance Antiphon: To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

Psalm Response: Ascribe to the Lord glory and power.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. Shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life. Alleluia.

Communion Antiphon: Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

Upcoming Masses in **Andover (A)**, **Whitchurch (W)** and **Farleigh (F)**

Sat 17 th	A	10:00am - <i>Gabriela & Conor Beales-6th Wedding Anniversary Blessings</i>
Sat 17 th	A	6:00pm-Mary Hadley RIP

Sunday 18th October- THE TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

	W	8:30am - <i>People of the Parish</i>
	F	10:00am
	A	10:30am-Fiona Hilleard-Birthday Blessings
Mon 19 th	A	10:00am-Michael & Margaret Cunningham RIP Anniversary
Tue 20 th	A	10:00am-Canon Paul Townsend-Good Estate Andover-Healing Prayers from 6:30pm-7:00pm
Wed 21 st		No Mass or Service
Thurs 22 nd	W	NO MASS
Fri 23 rd	A	10:00am-Jean Kingsley-Birthday Blessings
Sat 24 th	A	10:00am-Jadwiga & Wladyslaw Kudlacik RIP Anniversary
Sat 24 th	A	6:00pm-People of the Parish

Sunday 25th October- THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

	W	8:30am-Anthea Hayward RIP Anniversary
	F	NO MASS
	A	10:30am-Jean Kingsley-Birthday Blessings
Mon 26 th	A	10:00am-Sheila Muir-RIP Birthday Memorium
Tue. 27 th	A	10:00am Andover-Healing Prayers from 6:30pm-7:00pm
Wed 28 th		No Mass or Service
Thurs 29 th	W	10:00am-Alish & Frazer Fernandes-Birthday Blessings
Fri 30 th	A	10:00am-In Thanksgiving

Please pray for:

Esmé Coveney, Rita Lane, Margaret Williams, Patrick Arnold, Fiona Hilleard, Tony Fabian, Helen O'Connell, Douglas Manning, Diane Mahoney, Rita Casey, Carol Keenan, Eileen Wharton, Oran Keenan, Margarita Hardiman, Robert Colledge, Eileen Price, Concepta Cuddihy, Frank Hinds, Clan Furtado, Lisa Rammage, Susanne Church, Sandy Saunders, Margaret Blair, Pat Middleton and Angelo and Angela Alvarez.
Please pray for the repose of the souls of Alan Bowden (Canon Chris' Uncle)
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

ROSARY

Please join us for the Rosary, we meet every Monday at 10:30am in the church hall.
Everyone welcome for faith and fellowship.

Thought for the Week

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus is asked a difficult question and replies, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." At first, his answer seems to be about taxes and civic duty, but it invites us to reflect on something much deeper. We are reminded that while we all have responsibilities in the world, our first and deepest identity is as children of God.

Life is often busy and demanding. We have families to care for, work to do, appointments to keep and concerns that weigh upon us. It is easy to become absorbed in the pressures of daily life and to forget that God is present in the midst of it all. Yet the Lord does not ask us to step away from our ordinary lives. Rather, he calls us to find him within them.

God is present in the small and often unnoticed moments of each day: in a word of encouragement, an act of kindness, a patient response, a visit to someone who is lonely, or a few quiet moments spent in prayer. These simple actions become signs of God's love at work in the world.

The question this Gospel places before us is not simply what we owe to others, but what we are offering to God. Do we bring him only the spare moments of our week, or do we place our whole lives into his hands? Our hopes, worries, joys and struggles all belong to him. When we entrust these to the Lord, we discover that his grace is more than sufficient for our needs.

As a parish family, we are blessed in many ways through the generosity, service and prayer of so many people. Whether through ministry, volunteering, supporting one another, or simply being present at Mass, each person helps to build up the Body of Christ. These acts of faith and love are a wonderful way of giving back to God what already belongs to him.

As we journey through the coming week, let us make a little more room for God in our lives. May we take time to listen to his voice, trust in his care and share his love with those we meet.

May the Lord help us to remember that everything we have is his gift, and may we respond by giving him the greatest gift we can offer: a faithful, grateful and loving heart.

REGISTER WITH THE PARISH

To ensure you remain registered as a parishioner and to continue to receive communications from the parish, including the newsletter, please make sure you have filled out a new Registration Form. You can use the link on the website to register which is found under downloads and forms on the front page of the website.

It is labeled **"Adult Parish Registration Form"**

There is also a **"Children's Parish Registration Form"** to register you children.

Please be assured that your data is protected and never shared - so it is useful to have all your details on the database - including postal addresses - even if you have been a parishioner for many years!

2027 MISSAL ORDERS

We are now taking orders for the new, 2027 Year B Sunday Missal. If you would like to purchase a copy, you may do so through the Parish office.

The cost will be £9 each and payments can be made by BACS (annotated 'Missal') or cash.

The deadline to order your copy is FRIDAY 30th OCTOBER

WINE TASTING

Organised by Andover Catenians

Friday 30th of October 2026 at 7:30pm in the St John the Baptist Parish Hall. Tickets are £10 and available from Catenians after Mass (Saturday and Sunday). As usual, expert guidance on the wines together with bread and cheese will be included. There will also be a raffle and prize donations would be very welcome. All proceeds go to charity.

THIS WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION

Missio-World Mission Sunday

Holy Father invites all Catholics to support

Missio – his charity for world mission – through a special collection. This day of prayer, solidarity and giving unites Catholics worldwide to share the Good News of God's love which has the power to transform lives and heal our world. This year marks 100 years of this special charity. Donations can be made online, cash or by DONA machine (NB We CANNOT claim Gift Aid on this collection, so please DO NOT use your envelopes!)



Is your child starting school in September 2027?

Are you looking for a caring, inclusive school where prayer is the heartbeat of the school day?

We are a small school with one class for each year group – this creates a family, every child is known by name, every strength celebrated, every challenge supported.

Our school family is uniquely diverse – twenty different languages are spoken across the school, our children are proud of their diverse cultural heritage.

We welcome children from all faiths and backgrounds.



St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School



Our mission is to **RECOGNISE** the original gifts of our young people, preparing them for **SERVICE** in the common good for the transformation of society and we aim for academic **EXCELLENCE** for all, for the sake of the dignity of the individual.

"Our school is like a tree. God is the trunk and we are the leaves. We are all one family."
Iyanu, Year 3



Starting a new school is a new adventure for both you and your child and it is important that you take the time to find the right school for them.

If we sound like the right school for your child...

- Visit our website: www.sjbschool.co.uk
- Call to arrange a tour or book a place at one of our open mornings 01264 361 805
- Meet our Head and Deputy Prefects during the open morning to hear from a child's point of view

Visit us...

6th October & 1st December 11am
19th October & 10th December 1.30pm
11th November 6pm

Applications for a place in Year R in September 2027 open on 1st November 2026 and close on 15th January 2027.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions>

If you would like your child to be considered under a faith category, contact the school for a supplementary information form.

Support Our School Through Our Amazon Wish List

As a Catholic school, we are blessed by the prayers, encouragement and generosity of our parish community. If you would like to support our children in a practical way, we have an Amazon Wish List containing resources that will enhance learning, wellbeing and play across the school. Please visit our Amazon Wish List using the link:

[Amazonwishlist](#)