



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

St John the Baptist, Andover and St John Fisher, Whitchurch

Parish Priest: Reverend Canon Christopher Rutledge KHS

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Parish Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Jackie Kelly: safeguarding@catholic-andover.org.uk

Office Hours: Mon: 8.30am - 3.30pm; Tues & Thurs: 8.30am - 12 noon; Fri. 8.30am - 2.30pm.

NB: The Office is CLOSED on Wednesdays / Canon Chris' Day off: Wednesday.

12th and 13th September – THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Entrance Antiphon: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that our prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel

Psalm Response: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia*

Communion Antiphon: How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

Life today can feel increasingly busy and fragmented. We are constantly connected through technology, yet many people still experience loneliness, worry, or a sense of being overlooked. Between family responsibilities, work pressures, and the demands of everyday life, it can be easy to feel that we are simply getting through each day rather than truly connecting with one another.

This Sunday's Gospel offers a simple but important reminder: every person matters. Through stories of things that were lost and then found, Jesus highlights the value of each individual and the joy that comes when someone feels seen, welcomed, and cared for.

It's a message that speaks powerfully to our world today. Many people around us may be carrying burdens that are not immediately visible: anxiety, grief, isolation, financial worries, or concern for loved ones. Sometimes the greatest gift we can offer is not a solution, but our attention, kindness, and presence.

As a parish community, we have countless opportunities to make a difference through small acts of care. A warm welcome to someone new, a conversation after Mass, a phone call to a neighbour, or simply taking time to listen can help someone feel that they belong.

This week, perhaps we can make a special effort to notice those who might be feeling overlooked or alone. In a world that often moves too quickly, kindness remains one of the most powerful ways we can support one another.

PARISH COLLECTIONS: Loose plate: £681.90 Gift Aid Envelopes: £244

Standing Orders: (weekly average) £933; **Direct Debits:** (weekly average) £315.00

RCIA – JOURNEY IN FAITH Have you thought about joining the Catholic Church and would like to find out more? Do you know someone who is interested in joining the Catholic Church? Did you miss out on Confirmation in the past but would like to become a full member of the Church? We are starting a new course on ***THURSDAY 17th September**.

The sessions would run weekly, every Thursday from **7.00pm to 9.00pm** in the Parish Hall.

If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office on 01264 352829

BIBLE STUDY COURSE

Mary: A Biblical walk with the Blessed Mother

This will be a new eight-week Bible Study Course using Scripture, reflection and prayer to explore the life of Our Lady and how she leads us ever closer to Christ. It will be held in the Parish Hall on Monday evenings from 7.30pm to 9.00pm starting on 5th October and ending on 30th November including a break for half term.

Each week is based on an episode of Our Lady's life.

Would those interested please contact Mark Johnson-Ferguson at: mandj.jf@gmail.com

or phone 0790 296 7210 or give your names and contact details to the Parish Office.

BAPTISM COURSE EVENING

The next pre-Baptism evening course will be on **Wednesday 16th September** 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 - not children - and must be registered with the Parish.

SECOND COLLECTION On 19th and 20th September there will be a **second collection** for the **HOME MISSION SUNDAY**. Home Mission collection takes place each year on the third Sunday of September. Dioceses rely on the generosity of our Catholic community each Home Mission Sunday as it is the day we ask our parishes to pray for the work of evangelisation and to support this vital work through your donations. 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!)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Mass count-We need volunteers to help our with the mass count over 4 weekends (19th/20th September; 26th/27th September; 3rd/4th October; 10th 11th October). If you can volunteer for any or all of the counts, please contact the Parish Office 01264 352829 or email: office@catholic-andover.or.uk

Dear Friends, this is just a short note to say a huge 'thank you' for all your cards, kind words, gifts and very generous collection; I am overwhelmed by your thoughtfulness and generosity. The start to retirement has been a gentle one; but you may see me around as I am covering the finance administration of the parish until the new Finance Administrator starts in October, but the lie-ins in the morning have so far been rather nice! I am going to invest in a new passport for myself - mine ran out years ago - and then I can visit my best friend when she is in France - something I've long wanted to do. We intend to try to move house in the coming months, although these things are never smooth and easy, but when it happens, I am going to buy some garden furniture for the new garden - I am envisaging leisurely morning coffees and afternoon teas. ... ever hopeful! **Thank you once again, Teresa.**

MASS INTENTIONS FROM 12th September – 25th September

Saturday 12th No 10:00am Morning Mass

Congratulations to Margot Hall-Vidler on her baptism this weekend

*We welcome Father Bruce Barnes who will be celebrating Mass this Saturday for us,
and Father Hugh Somerville-Knapman who will be celebrating Sunday Masses.*

Sat. 12th Andover Mass 6.00pm Mary Snelling RIP Anniversary

Sunday 13th September – THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Whitchurch Mass 8.30am *For the People of the Parish*

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *Lisa Rammage-for Health and Strength*

Mon. 14th No Mass or Service

Tue. 15th No Mass or Service

Andover - Healing Prayers from 6.30pm - 7.00pm

Wed. 16th No Mass or Service

Thur. 17th Whitchurch Mass 10.00am *Canon Daniel O'Hanlon RIP*

Fri. 18th Mass in St John the Baptist School at 9.30am – All Welcome. *Canon William Foran RIP*

Sat. 19th Andover Mass 10:00am *Marilyn Nicholls RIP*

Sat. 19th Andover Mass 6.00pm *Mike Cunningham RIP*

Sunday 20th September – THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Whitchurch Mass 8.30am *Amical Foran RIP*

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *People of the Parish*

Mon. 21st Andover Mass 10:00am *Malcolm Crabtree Strength and Healing*

Tue. 22nd Andover Mass 10:00am *Maureen Galavan RIP Anniversary*

Andover - Healing Prayers from 6.30pm - 7.00pm

Wed. 23rd No Mass or Service

Thur. 24th Whitchurch Mass 10.00am *Canon Dermot MacDermot-Roe RIP*

Fri. 25th Mass in St John the Baptist School at 9.30am – All Welcome. *Holy Souls in Reparation and Thanks*

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 Ann Matthews

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.