



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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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 / Canon Chris' Day off: Wednesday.

17th and 18th January 2026 - The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon: *All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!*

Psalm Response:
Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia. The word became flesh and dwelt among us; to all who did receive him, he gave the authority to become children of God. Alleluia*

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

After the anticipation that filled the weeks of Advent, and the glorious birth of Our Lord, Jesus, we have entered once again into what the Church refers to as 'Ordinary Time'. This part of the Church calendar is a wonderful time to really take into our hearts what has transpired in the joyous weeks that preceded it. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." This sentence from the Alleluia summarizes our reason for joy and hope.

Isaiah reminds us in the first reading that God has said that we are his servants, through whom he shows his glory. But, "it is too light thing," God tells us, "that you should be my servant . . . I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." This is a wonderful thing, but one that we should accept knowing that it is also a great responsibility. God shows his glory through us. Our lives should always reflect that. We are made in his image, and asked by him to reflect his light onto all nations.

The responsorial Psalm further shows that God is a loving Father. He does not ask us for offerings, but rather, he gives us a gift of "an open ear." We are asked to do God's will because it will be our delight. It will be from our heart where God has written his intentions for us. When we truly feel that God is speaking directly to us, all we can answer is, "Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will." This is the new song that God has given us.

The gospel reading for this Sunday recounts Jesus' meeting with John the Baptist. It provides us with a lesson in heeding, and acting on, what God has said to us. John the Baptist was told to look for a sign that the Son of God had come; he bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove". Jesus is that person. John the Baptist tells us, "I have seen and have borne witness that he is the Son of God." God the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit has come to us and will remain forever. Let us go into the new year singing the new song that God has given us, "Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will."

Information Notice. Please let the Parish Office know if you move house/change your phone number/change your email address. Let us know if you are going into hospital or if you have a relative who is either in hospital or in a care home. Even if it is outside of Andover, we can arrange for Holy Communion/a visit etc. ***Please help us to help you! Thank you.***

COLLECTION FOR THE DIOCESAN CATHEDRAL Next weekend, 24th and 25th January, there will be a second collection for the upkeep of our Diocesan Cathedral in Portsmouth, the **Cathedral of St John the Evangelist**. Special Collection Envelopes will be available at all Masses for those who do not have planned giving envelopes for second collections. We can claim Gift Aid on this collection. This collection is the only support our Cathedral receives from the wider Diocesan family. As well as many regular services, the Cathedral also has the Cathedral Discovery Centre, a multi-functional resource of benefit to the Parish, the diocese and the community at large. The Repository has a wide range of goods and a Coffee Shop selling Fair Trade products, snacks and meals. The Resource Centre offers a range of educational and Catholic courses for schools and parishes. **Do go and visit, it's yours to discover!**

There are still copies of the Yearly Missal or the 3-Year CTS Missal available to purchase from the Parish Office.

The Andover Foodbank would like to thank everyone who has donated over the past few weeks. We are, as always, incredibly grateful and appreciative of your continued support.

We currently have very low stocks of the food and non-food items listed below and would welcome any donations:

Tinned Minced Beef; White pasta sauce (for lasagne); Rice sachets; Washing up liquid; Anti-bac spray and Shampoo. All donations can be made at the foodbank office, and our opening hours are Monday to Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm or they can be put in the collection boxes at all the local supermarkets.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FROM 17TH JANUARY 2026 - 30TH JANUARY 2026
Confessions will be every Saturday after 10.00am Mass or from 5.30pm to 5.45pm on Saturday.

Please note: There will be no Masses or services from Monday 12th - until Saturday 17th (6.00pm Mass)

Congratulations to Kitty Iris Mary Monro who is to be baptised this weekend.

Sat. 17th Andover 6.00pm Mass *For the People of the Parish*

Sunday 18th January - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Whitchurch Mass 8.30am

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *Esmé Kelly RIP - Anniversary*

Mon. 19th Andover 10.00am Mass *(St Wulstan, Religious, Bishop, optional memorial or: Feria)*

Tue. 20th Andover Mass 10.00am *(St Fabian, Pope, Martyr, optional memorial or: St Sebastian, Martyr, optional memorial or: Feria)* **Mass in Thanksgiving for all Parish Volunteers**

Andover - Healing Prayers from 6.30pm - 7.00pm

Wed. 21st *No Mass or Service*

Thur. 22nd Whitchurch Mass 10.00am *(St Vincent, Deacon, Martyr, optional memorial or: Feria)*

Fri. 23rd Andover Mass 10.00am *(Feria)* followed by Exposition **Margaret Louisa Collins RIP - Anniversary**

Sat. 24th Andover Mass 10.00am followed by Exposition and Confessions
St Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor of the Church, memorial .

Sat. 24th Andover 6.00pm Mass *Peter Chen RIP - Anniversary*

Sunday 25th January - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *For Vocations*

Mon. 26th Andover Mass 10.00am *St Timothy, Bishop, Martyr & St Titus, Bishop, memorial*
André Mussert RIP - Anniversary

Tue. 27th Andover Mss 10.00am *(St Angela Merici, Foundress, optional memorial or: Feria)*
Thomas Eggleston RIP - Anniversary **NB: The Parish Office is CLOSED today.**

Andover - Healing Prayers from 6.30pm - 7.00pm

Wed. 28th *No Mass or Service*

Thur. 29th Whitchurch Mass 10.00am *(Feria)*

Fri. 30th Andover Mss 10.00am *(Feria)* followed by Exposition

Please pray for: Esmé Coveney, Rita Lane, Margaret Williams, Patrick Arnold, Fiona Hilleard, Tony Fabian, Helen O'Connell, Douglas Manning, Diane Mahoney, Sile Monnelly, Rita Casey, Rose Bull, Carol Keenan, Eileen Wharton, Oran Keenan, Margarita Hardiman, Robert Colledge, Eileen Price, Concepta Cuddihy and Frank Hinds.



Please pray for the repose of the souls of Jane Jackson and Henryk John Nita.

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

The Funeral Service for Henryk Nita - we knew as 'H' - is at 3.30pm on Friday 30th January at Charlton Park Crematorium. It would be lovely for the family if anyone was able to come along, as all his family are in Australia and can't be there.

DIOCESAN PRAYER INTENTIONS: 18th January - 24th January

Sun: Diocesan Committee for Christian Unity. **Mon:** Parish of Holy Family, Southampton.

Tue: The Anglican Communion. **Wed:** The Free Churches; Community of St Agnes, Liss.

Thur: The Byzantine Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox Churches. **Fri:** Association of Inter-Church Families.

Sat: Parish of St Francis de Sales, Wash Common.

MASS INTENTIONS. There is a tradition in our faith to have Masses celebrated on behalf of our friends and loved ones in particular circumstances. We are able to accept Mass intentions for the next 2 or 3 months; if you would like a Mass celebrated, please contact the Parish office, the usual offering is about £10 per Mass.

PARISH COLLECTIONS - 10TH/11TH JAN LOOSE PLATE: £547.65 GIFT AID ENVELOPES: £271.35

STANDING ORDERS: (Weekly Average) £933 DIRECT DEBITS: (Weekly Average) £315.00