

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

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 25th OCTOBER 2026



Diocese of Portsmouth
Bishop Philip Egan
Eighth Bishop of Portsmouth

Deanery: Blessed John Body

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: £802

Gift Aid: £336

Standing Orders: £933 (average)

Direct Debits: £315

Missio Collection: £544.10

Thank you for your donations

Entrance Antiphon: Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

Psalm Response: I love you, Lord, my strength.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him. Alleluia.

Communion Antiphon: Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, as a fragrant offering to God.

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

Sat 24th **A** 10:00am -Jadwiga & Wladyslaw Kudlacik RIP Anniversary
Exposition and confession after Mass

Sunday 25th October- THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Sat 24th **A** 6:00pm-People of the Parish
Confession before Mass

Sun 25th **W** 8:30am -Anthea Hayward RIP Anniversary

F **NO MASS**

A 10:30am-Jean Kingsley-Birthday Blessings

Mon 26th **A** 10:00am-Sheila Muir-RIP Birthday Memorium
Rosary after Mass

Tue 27th **A** 10:00am-Mary Lisa & Mervyn Owen-Health & Strength
Andover-Healing Prayers from 6:30pm-7:00pm

Wed 28th No Mass or Service

Thurs 29th **W** 10:00am-Alisha Frazer Fernandes-Birthday Blessings

Fri 30th **A** 10:00am-In Thanksgiving
Exposition after Mass

Sat 31st **A** 10:00am-Tony Downing-RIP Anniversary
Exposition and confession after Mass

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR

All those who are sick and housebound in the Parish and also,
please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Workman and Ron Charlwood
May the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

The Month of November

During the month of November, a Holy Souls Memento Box will be placed on the table near the Baptismal font in Andover. If you so wish, please write the names of your deceased loved ones on the slips of paper and put them into the box. There will be Masses offered for those whose names are placed in the box on the following days: **Mon 2nd Nov (10.00am Andover); Sun 8th Nov (8:30am Whitchurch); Tues 10th Nov (10.00am Andover); Thursday 12th Nov (10:00am Whitchurch); Sunday 15th Nov (10:30am Andover); Sun 22nd Nov (8:30am Whitchurch); Thurs 26th Nov (10:00 Whitchurch); Fri 27th (10:00am Andover)**. An offering can be placed in an envelope for CAFOD, marked 'CAFOD' and the envelopes can be placed in any Sunday Collection during November. *Please do not leave any money in the box*

Life can often feel busy and demanding. Between work, family commitments, responsibilities, and the constant distractions of modern life, it is easy to become focused on our own concerns and overlook the people around us. This Sunday's Gospel reminds us of something surprisingly simple: what matters most is how we treat others. When Jesus is asked which commandment is the greatest, He answers that we should love God and love our neighbour as ourselves. At its heart, this is a call to live with kindness, compassion, and respect for those around us. We do not need to do extraordinary things to make a difference. A friendly conversation with someone who is feeling isolated, patience with a family member, gratitude towards those who help us, or taking time to listen when someone needs support can have a lasting impact. Small acts of kindness often mean more than we realise.

The world can sometimes encourage us to judge, criticise, or put ourselves first. This week's readings invite us to take a different approach: to notice those around us, to be generous with our time, and to build relationships based on understanding and care.

As we go into the week ahead, perhaps we might pause and ask ourselves: *How can I make someone else's day a little better?* Often, the simplest gestures are the ones that speak most powerfully.

By choosing kindness, patience, and consideration in our daily interactions, we help create stronger families, a more caring community, and a better world for everyone.

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.

Each year on the **first Sunday of November** we celebrate the link between our diocese and the **Archdiocese of Bamenda** in Cameroon.

It is a time where we also ask for your financial support to help our brothers and sisters, who are still impacted by the civil unrest that has affected the region since 2016. Despite the risks and challenges the archdiocese continues to run its parishes, provide education and health services, and support thousands of displaced people. Currently, most government services in the region are closed and the only services available are those the archdiocese provides to people of all faiths. 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!)

Tuesday the 3rd of November following 10:00am Mass
Everyone Welcome!



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 361 806
- 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.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the parishioners who have so kindly supported our school by purchasing items from our Amazon Wishlist. Your generosity and thoughtfulness are greatly appreciated and will make a real difference to the experiences and opportunities we can provide for our children. Every item donated helps to enrich learning and support our school community. We are truly blessed by the kindness and encouragement shown by our parish family. Thank you for your continued support, prayers and care for our children and staff.

The organ is the principal instrument of our liturgy, and we are very blessed at **St John the Baptist** to have both a beautiful instrument and talented organists who enrich our worship week by week.

Unfortunately, the organ's amplification system has failed, and we now need to replace the speakers and amplifier. This essential work will also improve the overall sound quality and reliability of the instrument for the future. The total cost, including VAT, is **£6,000**.

Canon Chris would be very grateful for any donations towards this project. Any contribution, however small, will help ensure that the organ continues to support the worship and musical life of our parish for many years to come.

Thank you for your support and generosity.

A simple Mass of Remembrance will be celebrated at all of our weekend Masses.

Andover Town Remembrance Sunday Service Parade to The Cenotaph at St Mary's Church will begin at 10:35am with wreath laying at 11:00am.