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

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 29th NOVEMBER 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 Minister:
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: £ 523.15
Gift Aid: £ 304.55
Standing Orders: £933 (average)
Direct Debits: £315
DONA: £290

Entrance Antiphon: To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.
Psalm Response: Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia. Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia.
Communion Antiphon: The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

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

Sat 28th	**A**	10:00am-*Blasio Rodrigues-RIP* Confession and Exposition after Mass
Sunday 29th NOVEMBER- FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT		
Sat 28th	**A**	6:00pm- *People of the Parish* Confession before Mass
Sun 29th	**W**	8:30am-*Pat White-RIP Anniversary*
	F	10:00am- *Intentions of the Priest*
	A	10:30am- *Michael Roberts-RIP Anniversary*
		2:00pm-Goan Community Feast for St Francis Xavier
Mon 30th	**A**	**NO MASS-FEAST OF ST ANDREW**
Tue 1st	**A**	**NO MASS** Andover-Healing Prayers from 6:30pm-7:00pm
Wed 2nd		No Mass or Service
Thurs 3rd	**W**	**MEMORIAL OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER** **NO MASS AT WHITCHURCH** **10:00am-Mass at Farleigh School**
Fri 4th	**A**	10:00am- *Deceased Members of the Sunderalingam Family* 9:40am-Devine Mercy Chaplet Exposition after Mass
Sat 5th	**A**	10:00am- *Henry & Tina Rachwalski-RIP Memorium* Confession and Exposition after Mass 11:30am-Baptism-*Zendaya Chatikobo, Rowan and Arthur Horswill-Walsh* 2:30pm Syro Malabar Mass

Christmas Mass Times

Thurs 17th Dec	**A**	7:00pm-Advent Reconciliation Service
Thurs 24th Dec	**A**	6:00pm-Vigil Mass of Christmas
	A	9:00pm-Night Mass of Christmas
Fri 25th Dec	**W**	8:30am-Dawn Mass of Christmas
	A	10:30am-Day Mass of Christmas
Sat 26th Dec	**A**	6:00pm-Vigil Mass of Sunday



THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

As Advent begins, we are invited to pause amid the busyness of modern life and prepare our hearts for Christ. With Christmas shopping, packed calendars, constant notifications, and the demands of daily life, it can be easy to lose sight of the true meaning of the season. Advent offers us a chance to slow down, refocus, and remember that our greatest gift is Jesus Himself.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus calls us to be watchful and ready. His message is one of hope. He encourages us to recognise God's presence in our lives and to focus on what truly matters: faith, prayer, kindness, and care for one another. In a world that can often feel uncertain, Christ invites us to place our trust in Him and become signs of His love and peace.

The first candle of the Advent wreath, the Candle of Hope, reminds us that God is always faithful. Its light shines even in difficult times, assuring us that we are never alone and that Christ continues to walk with us.

As we begin our journey towards Christmas, let us make space for God through prayer, the Sacraments, reading Scripture, and simple acts of generosity. A kind word, a helping hand, or time spent with someone who is lonely can all help prepare the way for the Lord.

Thank you for the many ways you support our parish community through your prayers, service, and generosity.

ANDOVER CHAMBER CHOIR



WE ARE ON FACEBOOK

Stay Connected with St John the Baptist Parish

Keep up to date with parish news, upcoming events, Mass times, and community activities by following our Facebook page. It's a great way to stay connected and see what's happening in our parish family throughout the week.

Follow us on Facebook by searching:

ANDOVER CATHOLIC CHURCH

CAR PARKING

When parking in Andover for Mass, please remember that you **MUST NOT PARK** down the centre of either car park or on the double yellow lines. By doing this you are compromising everyone's safety.

Please **do not park beyond the Church site, in Croye Close or on the double yellow lines outside the car park.**

There is ample parking in Beech Hurst at the Council Offices, and it is an easy walk through Denning Mead. **Illegal parking could result in parking fines.**

CHARLTON CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON

Charlton's annual Christmas lights switch-on will take place this **Sunday, 29 November at 5 pm**.

Canon Chris will give a blessing before Deputy Mayor Iris Anderson switches on the lights.

Everyone is welcome to join for the celebrations.

ANDOVER CATENIANS

The Catenians of Andover Circle thank all those who attended and supported the Wine Tasting event in the hall last month. With raffle and ticket sales, the Parish raised £570 for Stella Maris the Catholic charity that supports sea farers. Thank you for your generosity.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY-SOUTH SUDAN APPEAL

The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) helps people in South Sudan through a combination of emergency relief, healthcare, nutrition programmes, education, and community development. SVP are making an appeal this weekend for South Sudan. Place any donations in an envelope labeled: **SVP South Sudan Appeal**

ANDOVER FOOD BANK

The Andover Foodbank would like to thank everyone who has recently made a donation. All donations are greatly appreciated, as always. The Andover Foodbank is currently in need of the following food and non-food items:

Veggie Meals and Tinned Vegetables
Meat meals – curry/chilli con carne
Packs of Instant Mash
Coffee
Peanut Butter
Hot Chocolate
Laundry pods
Washing Up Liquid
Cat food

All donations can either be delivered to our warehouse at the address below (opening hours Monday – Friday 0930-1230) or there are collection points at all the major supermarkets.

If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please go to our webpage which has all the relevant information
www.andoverfoodbank.org.uk

ROSARY

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

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR

All those who are sick and housebound in the Parish and also, pray for the repose of the soul of Frank Saunders and Maria Cassar May the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.