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

THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 8th 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: £588.40
Gift Aid: £285
Standing Orders: £933 (average)
Direct Debits: £315
Bamenda Collection: £615.30

Entrance Antiphon: Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.
Psalm Response: For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. Stay awake and be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Alleluia.
Communion Antiphon: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.

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

Sat 7th	**A**	11:00am-**Requiem Mass** *for Adi Nanice Saluaca Tuikoro* **NO MORNING CONFESSION** 2:30pm-Syro Malabar Mass
Sunday 8th NOVEMBER- THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
Sat 7th	**A**	6:00pm- *For the People of the Parish* Confession before Mass
Sun 8th	**W**	8:30am- *Holy Souls in Reparation & Thanks*
	F	10:00am
	A	10:30am- *For the Fallen of Tow World Wars & Subsequent Wars*
Mon 9th	**A**	**10:00am-The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica** *Joe Priestly-RIP Birthday Memorium* Rosary after Mass
Tue. 10th	**A**	10:00am- **St Leo the Great** *For Holy Souls in Reparation & Thanks* Andover-Healing Prayers from 6:30pm-7:00pm
Wed 11th		No Mass or Service
Thurs 12th	**W**	**NO MASS**
Fri 13th	**A**	10:00am- *Sue Pinnick-RIP* 9:40am-Devine Mercy Chaplet
Sat 14th	**A**	10:00am- *Lareto Ryan-Health & Strength*

Blessing of Graves. There will be Blessing of Graves at **2.30pm on SUNDAY November 8th at Charlton Cemetery.**
At **2.30pm on SUNDAY November 15th at St Mary's Cemetery,** Please come along if you would like the graves of your loved ones to be blessed.
The graves in the **Memorial Plot** at St John the Baptist will be blessed after Mass on **SUNDAY 22nd November**.

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 names on the following days: **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 placed in any Sunday collection in November-*Please do not leave any money in the box*

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, reminding us that faith requires more than good intentions. The wise were prepared when the bridegroom arrived unexpectedly; the foolish assumed there would always be more time. Jesus' message is simple but challenging: *"Keep watch, because you know neither the day nor the hour."* This message is especially relevant in today's fast-paced world. We live in an age of busy schedules, constant notifications, and endless distractions. It is easy to postpone what matters most, convincing ourselves that we will pray more, spend more time with family, forgive someone, or deepen our faith "when life settles down." Yet life rarely slows down, and the Gospel reminds us not to take tomorrow for granted.

The "oil" for our lamps can be seen in the choices we make each day: taking time for prayer, attending Mass faithfully, helping those in need, caring for our families, and living with kindness and integrity. These are the habits that keep our faith alive and our hearts open to the presence of Christ.

The Lord does not ask us to predict the future. He asks us to be faithful in the present. When we seek God's wisdom, nurture our relationship with Him, and live the Gospel in our daily lives, we are ready whenever He calls us.

As a parish community, may we use this week as an opportunity to pause, reflect, and ask ourselves: What am I doing today to keep the lamp of faith burning brightly?

SECOND COLLECTION-NEXT SUNDAY 14th NOVEMBER
Priests' Retirement Fund

The Priests' Retirement Fund in the UK is crucial for supporting retired priests who have dedicated their lives to serving the Church. These funds provide essential support for housing, healthcare, and day-to-day living expenses. Donations to these funds can make a significant difference to the lives of retired priests, ensuring they receive the care and support they deserve in their later years.



ROTATIONS CHARITY SHOP

Rotations charity shop in Whitchurch raised £1,000 for New Ways. New Ways' nutritional rehabilitation units aim to feed one child two meals per day for six days in an area of Northern Kenya that often extreme drought. Thank you for your generous support.

ORGAN APPEAL

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



ROSARY

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

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR

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 soul of Mary Workman

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