



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: 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.

18th and 19th July – SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Entrance Antiphon: See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

Psalm Response: O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia.* I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed the secrets of the Kingdom to little children. *Alleluia*

Communion Antiphon: Behold, I stand at the door and knock, says the Lord. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door to me, I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The owner plants good seed in the field. Weeds start to come up, planted by an enemy. The workers want to tear up the weeds. So as not to ruin the crop as well, the owner exhorts patience and will let the crop and the weeds grow up together. It will be enough to separate them at harvest time.

We all know this story. We know the experience. Those weeds are familiar. They represent any part of our life experience that is mixed or disappointing or messy or contaminated by evil. The story reminds us of how, if we don't blame God for life's weeds, we certainly have had the instinct to want to pull up the weeds or reach for the weedkiller.

Our everyday life brings us encounters with people or situations that seem wrong or are a terrible annoyance to us. Every morning's news confronts us with a world sewn with evil and forces at odds with God's Spirit of unity and love. Our closest relationships are complex. Who doesn't know the experience of frustration at the limitations of loved one? And, of course, we have daily reminders that we ourselves are not perfect. We have habits or patterns that are neither attractive or helpful in our growth as disciples of Jesus.

It is tempting - sometimes dangerously or tragically so - to desire a perfect world. Eliminating undesirables, executing murderers, segregating our reality - are always tempting solutions. We have all tried to fix flaws in our friends and loved ones. And, we have all gone through cycles of disliking or hating parts of ourselves - followed by periods of resolutions, reform, or chronic unhappiness with ourselves.

It is remarkable and consoling that Jesus is familiar with the movements in us and put the dynamics into a parable. He knows and understands. He also reveals to us that while God certainly grieves the evil that is in the world, and in us, God is not interested in pulling up all evil. God is able to love. And God teaches us to love. God embraces the whole world in love. God loves each and every one of us, unconditionally. God's redemptive plan - God's ultimate victory over the power of sin and death - can allow us to live more peacefully in a messy world.

In the parable of the mustard seed, Jesus gives us hope. From the smallest of seeds God is at work in us and in our world. God's work - love itself - is not violent or overnight. Only a little love brings tremendous growth and new life. Perhaps this is a wonderful reflection to bring us to the Serenity Prayer:

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

A.A.S.J.



ANDOVER CATENIANS PARISH BBQ – SUNDAY 23rd AUGUST

We are delighted to invite you to our Annual Parish BBQ on Sunday 23rd August at St John the Baptist Church.

Drinks will be available after the 10:30am Mass, with food being served from 12:15pm.

Tickets are available from the Catenians after the Saturday evening Mass and the Sunday 10:30am Mass at St John the Baptist Church, from now until the day of the event.

Your ticket includes: a burger and a sausage (each served in a bun); side salads and a dessert

Ticket prices: Adults: £6.00 Children (7 and under): Free (a ticket is still required for catering purposes)

Discounted family tickets are also available. Both cash and card payments are accepted.

As with any great Catholic gathering, there will also be a Charity Raffle. If you are able, we would be very grateful if you could donate a raffle prize to help support this year's charitable cause.

We look forward to seeing you there for an enjoyable afternoon of good food, fellowship, and fun!

Please remember – the speed limit around the church car park is a SLOW 5mph! Thank you.

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MASS INTENTIONS FROM 18th July – 1st August

Sat. 18th	Andover Mass 10.00am followed by Exposition and Confessions <i>Oliver Delaney RIP</i>
Sat. 18th	Andover Mass 6.00pm <i>For the People of the Parish</i>
Sunday 19th July – SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
	Whitchurch Mass 8.30am <i>Mary Orme RIP</i>
	Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -
	Andover Mass 10.30am <i>Annette Maud Cassel RIP</i>
Mon. 20th	Andover Mass 10.00am <i>[St Apollinaris, Bishop, Martyr, optional memorial]</i> <i>Thomas Singleton RIP</i>
Tues. 21st	Andover Mass 10.00am <i>[St Laurence of Brindisi, Religious, Doctor of the Church, optional memorial]</i> <i>Canon William Foran RIP</i>
	Andover - Healing Prayers from 6.30pm - 7.00pm
Wed. 22nd	No Mass or Service -
Thur. 23rd	Whitchurch Mass 10.00am <i>St Bridget of Sweden, Foundress, Patron of Europe, feast.</i> <i>Martin Roundell Greene RIP</i>
Fri. 24th	Andover Mass 10.00am <i>[St Sharbel Makhluf, Priest, Religious, optional memorial]</i> <i>Fransha Fernandes – 1st Birthday Blessings</i>
Sat. 25th	Andover Mass 10.00am followed by Exposition and Confessions <i>Feast of St James, Apostle. Beatrice Briggs RIP</i>
Sat. 25th	Andover Mass 6.00pm <i>Ante Churkovich RIP - Anniversary</i>
Sunday 26th July – SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
	Whitchurch Mass 8.30am <i>For the People of the Parish</i>
	Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -
	Andover Mass 10.30am <i>For the Souls in Purgatory</i>
Mon. 27th	Andover Mass 10.00am <i>Blasio Rodrigues RIP</i>
Tues. 28th	Andover Mass 10.00am <i>Alex and Amelia Rodrigues RIP</i>
	Andover - Healing Prayers from 6.30pm - 7.00pm
Wed. 29th	No Mass or Service -
Thur. 30th	Whitchurch Mass 10.00am <i>[St Peter Chrysologus, Bishop, Dr of the Church, optional memorial]</i> <i>Amical Foran RIP</i>
Fri. 31st	Andover Mass 10.00am <i>St Ignatius of Loyola, Founder, memorial. José and Anton Gomes RIP</i>
Sat. 1st August	Andover Mass 10.00am followed by Exposition and Confessions <i>St Alphonsus Liguori, Founder, Bishop, Doctor of the Church, memorial. Annette and Maud Cassel RIP</i>

Please pray for: Esmé Coveney, Rita Lane, Margaret Williams, Patrick Arnold, Fiona Hilleard, Tony Fabian, Helen O'Connell, Douglas Manning, Diane Mahoney, Rita Casey, Rose Bull, 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 and Angelo and Angela Alvarez.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Michael Pearson. May he rest in peace.

Next Sunday - Three Music Areas Across Andover Town Centre for ANDOVER CARNIVAL

Andover is turning up the volume with three fantastic music areas across Andover Town Centre, each offering something a little different. Enjoy live bands, choirs and headline performances on the Vigo Park Main Stage, discover brilliant local solo artists and acoustic acts on the High Street Stage, or head to Pocket Park to relax with Arkitex Soundsystem playing laid-back roots, reggae and dub. From **12 noon**, all three music areas come alive alongside a fantastic programme of entertainment, activities, food, stalls and family fun across the town centre, giving you plenty to see and do throughout the afternoon. Then, at **4.00pm**, don't miss the spectacular **Andover Carnival Procession** as it leaves the top of Weyhill Road, travels down Weyhill Road, along Bridge Street and into Vigo Park. Once the procession reaches Vigo Park at around **5.30pm**, the celebrations continue with the fair, live music, entertainment and all the fantastic attractions already taking place in the park. Whether you spend the day exploring the town, enjoying the music, cheering on the procession, or staying into the evening, Andover Carnival promises a full day of fun, community spirit and unforgettable entertainment for all ages!

Thank you to *everyone* who made the 'International Day' so special, the sun shone and everyone enjoyed themselves!

PARISH COLLECTIONS: 11th / 12th July: Loose plate: £648.45 Gift Aid Envelopes: £236.40

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

Thank you for your generosity for the **Sea Sunday** Collection last weekend. The collection came to **£622.20**