



PARISH NEWS FOR THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, ANDOVER

St John the Baptist, Andover and St John Fisher, Whitchurch

Parish Priest: Reverend Canon Christopher Rutledge KHS

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Parish Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Jackie Kelly: safeguarding@catholic-andover.org.uk

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.

25th and 26th July – SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Entrance Antiphon: God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

Psalm Response: O Lord, how I love your law!

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: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits. *OR*

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Today's readings are about discernment. How do we decide what to do when we have choices to make in our daily lives—at work, home and everywhere in-between? We need discernment. We need wisdom to look at our options and come up with the right decision, the decision that is most pleasing to God and most in line with God's purposes.

Solomon is renowned for asking God for the best gift, a gift God was very pleased to give him. Solomon could have asked for anything -God had basically given him a blank cheque. But he chose to ask for "an understanding mind, to govern your (God's) people and discern between good and evil." The Second Reading is not so much concerned with decision-making, but rather discernment about what is going on in your life - to discern that God is Love, and you are loved by God, and not to be engulfed by the emotions of any moment in your life.

The Gospel also is about discerning the true value of our spiritual reality. Jesus tells us to take notice of the spiritual pearls of wisdom and grace that are all around. Look for them, recognize them and value them. If we make them what we seek in life, we will lack for nothing!

From CMM



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. 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!

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR

Contract: Permanent, Part-Time, **10 hours per week**, flexible times to be agreed on appointment **Salary:** £7,020 per annum (FTE 26,325) **Location:** Based at St John the Baptist Church, Andover

We are seeking a Parish Finance Administrator. To provide financial management for the parish, ensuring sound stewardship of resources and effective support to the Parish Priest in the administration of the parish.

This flexible part-time position offers the opportunity to use your finance and administration skills to make a meaningful contribution to the local community. The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth is a registered charity. Employees working in parishes are formally employed by the Diocese of Portsmouth and must comply with all diocesan policies and procedures, as well as those related to local arrangements specifically authorised by the Parish Priest.

Applicant Information Employee benefits include 25 days paid holiday plus bank holidays, free life assurance and employee wellbeing programme, and contributory pension scheme. If you are inspired by the idea of working in a values-driven environment where your efforts will have a lasting impact, we would love to hear from you.

Apply Now! The closing date for applications is **28th July 2026 at 11.59pm.**

You will be notified shortly after the closing date, should we wish to progress your application and invite you to an interview. The Diocese of Portsmouth is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all who support the ethos and values of the Catholic Church.

You must have a valid UK Right to Work, as the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth does not offer UK Visa Sponsorship.

MASS INTENTIONS FROM 25th July – 14th August

Congratulations to Chloe Eveena Goloran Greig and Caleb Jacob Earle who are to be baptised this weekend.

Sat. 25th Andover Mass 10.00am followed by Exposition and Confessions *Feast of St James, Apostle. Beatrice Briggs RIP*

Sat. 25th Ante Churkovich RIP - Anniversary

Sunday 26th July – SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *For the Souls in Purgatory*

Baptism Course Evening

The next pre-Baptism evening course will be on **Wednesday 16th September** from 7.00pm to approximately 9.00pm in the Parish Hall. Completion of the session is required before booking a baptism. To register for the course, please email / telephone the Parish Office. Both parents are requested to attend - but not children - and you must be registered with the Parish.

Mon. 27th Andover Mass 10.00am *Blasio Rodrigues RIP*

Tues. 28th Andover Mass 10.00am *Alex and Amelia Rodrigues RIP*

Andover - Healing Prayers from 6.30pm - 7.00pm

Wed. 29th No Mass or Service -

Thur. 30th Requiem Mass Andover 10.00am for Michael Pearson RIP

Fri. 31st Andover Mass 10.00am *St Ignatius of Loyola, Founder, memorial. José and Anton Gomes RIP*

Sat. 1st August Andover Mass 10.00am followed by Exposition and Confessions *St Alphonsus Liguori, Founder, Bishop, Doctor of the Church, memorial. Annette Maud Cassel RIP*

Sat. 1st Andover Mass 6.00pm *Clifford and Eileen Ramsbag RIP - Anniversary*

Sunday 2nd August – EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *Fred Tarrant RIP - Anniversary*

Monday 3rd August to Friday 7th August – No Masses or Services *Canon Chris is on holiday.*

No 10.00am Mass on Saturday 8th August

Congratulations to Cesar Onel-Marambio who is to be baptised this weekend.

This weekend we welcome Father Bruce Barnes who is to celebrate our Masses this weekend.

Sat. 8th August Andover Mass 6.00pm *For the People of the Parish*

Sunday 9th August - NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Whitchurch Mass 8.30am *Donald Watkins RIP*

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *Felix Okafor RIP*

Monday 10th August – Friday 14th August – No Masses or Services.

Monday 10th August 11.00am - Burial of Ashes of Ben Dunne RIP at St John the Baptist.

No 10.00am Mass on Saturday 15th August.

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 souls of Michael Pearson and Joe Hatton. May they rest in peace.

Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School's 50th Anniversary Podcast

To celebrate its 50th Anniversary an ex-student, Simon Jones and now owner of a Podcast Company – The Bonjour Agency - has been recording a series of episodes recalling memories of the school. There are interviews with retired members of staff, ex-students (including students from the first cohort), a Priest who recalls the early days of the planning of the school and then right up to date with some current students and staff. They are wonderful to listen to and provide a great insight into the history of the school and how it has become a special place for so many. They can be heard here:

iPhone on: <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/the-bishop-challoner-school-podcast/id1886147202>

Spotify on: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/4bKhst18o1jIMOkMYy4RGi?si=4f29ddcb195547d8>

Thank you very much for your continued support of the school, it is greatly appreciated.

PARISH COLLECTIONS:

18th / 19th : Loose plate: £580.80 Gift Aid Envelopes: £398.95

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