



## 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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**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.**

**11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> July – Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Entrance Antiphon:** As for me, injustice I shall be hold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

**Psalm Response:** Some seed fell into good soil and yielded its fruit.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia.* The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower; all who find him will live forever.

**Alleluia**

**Communion Antiphon:** Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The Gospel reading from Chapter 13 of Matthew is one with which we are all familiar. From our early childhood days in Sunday school or catechism classes, we heard the story about the sower and the unlucky seeds that fell on thorny ground and the lucky seeds that fell on fertile ground. For most of us, the parable was likely described by our teachers as God as the sower and our hearts as the ground. Sometimes our hearts are open to his word, and the message of God grows in us and is apparent in our thoughts, words and deeds. And sometimes our hearts are like the scorched earth, and the word of God does not take root and we, too, wither.

But is this the only way to look at this wonderful reading? How else can we project ourselves into the reading? Maybe in addition to us being the soil, we should also consider the role of the sower and visualize ourselves as the one who is casting the seeds into the dirt, whether fertile or scorched. I think so, for the Word of God is too powerful for us not to want to share by spreading the seeds of the Gospel. So, in addition to us listening with purpose to the Word of God with an open heart, so that we might grow in grace and faith, we need to share our seeds of faith with others.

Maybe the easiest way to share our seeds of faith is by how we live our lives, for our actions speak louder than our words. Are our daily thoughts focused on the teachings of the Gospel, or are they focused on what we can get shipped for free from Amazon? Do we speak kindly about those we love and about those we don't but should, or are we oblivious to those around who could use a word of encouragement, because we have our heads down, constantly scrolling our phones for the latest text or email update? Are we willing to reach out and help those who are in need, by sharing our time and talents, or are our seeds of faith left in the sower's bag, where they will do no good and most likely rot?

As we practice our Daily Examen, reflect on the seeds God is sowing each and every day at your feet. Are they falling on fertile soil, ready to sprout and take hold, or are they falling on scorched earth, where they will soon wither and die? Realise that God's presence and the seeds he is casting are found not only at Mass or while we are reading this reflection, but in each and every step we take on our journey called life.

We must not forget to look at ourselves as sowers. What are we doing in our thoughts, words and deeds that truly demonstrates our deep desire to live our life in alignment with the Gospel? Living our faith is so much more than going to Mass. The personal satisfaction we experience, and the positive impact we have on those with whom we interact, is so much greater when we share with them the importance of our faith and our relationship with God. S.S.

### This weekend it is 'SEA SUNDAY'

*Most of us will go home today, sit at a table, and speak to the people we love. For thousands of seafarers, that simple moment doesn't exist. They can spend months at sea, moving from port to port, often unable to step ashore.*

*Communication with home is limited. When something goes wrong, they are far from everything and everyone familiar. Renars was taken suddenly ill while working on board. He was rushed to hospital in a foreign country, where he was told he needed an urgent heart transplant. He was alone. His family were thousands of miles away, frightened and unsure if they would see him again. Luckily a Stella Maris chaplain was there and they began visiting Renars every day. They sat with him through long, uncertain hours. They prayed with him. They helped him understand what was happening and reassured him that he was not facing this alone. Just as importantly, they supported his family from a distance, keeping them informed and offering comfort. Those daily visits became a lifeline. Renars later said that the presence of the chaplains that gave him hope, the sense that someone was walking this road with him.*

This is just one story. Over the past year, Stella Maris has supported more than 100,000 seafarers in UK ports, and many more worldwide.. The collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work, so please give generously.

You can donate by giving in the collection at Mass, by visiting [www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate](http://www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate), or by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. Please note, we cannot use Parish Gift Aid envelopes for this collection, but there are a limited number of Stella Maris envelopes in the porch. Thank you.

**MASS INTENTIONS FROM 11<sup>th</sup> July – 25<sup>th</sup> July**

**Sat. 11<sup>th</sup> Andover Mass 10.00am followed by Exposition and Confessions**  
*Feast of St Benedict, Founder & Patron of Europe. Canon John Longinotto RIP.*

*Congratulations to Haylie Harmsworth who is to be Baptised this weekend.*

**Sat. 11<sup>th</sup> Andover Mass 6.00pm** *Mary Workman, Birthday Blessings*

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July – FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME [Sea Sunday]**

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

**Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -**

**Andover Mass 10.30am** *Bernadette de Souza (née Fernandes) RIP - Anniversary Remembrance*

**Mon. 13<sup>th</sup> Andover Mass 10.00am** *[St Henry, Emperor, optional memorial] Charles Decrose RIP*

**Tues. 14<sup>th</sup> Andover Mass 10.00am** *[St Camillus of Lellis, Founder, optional memorial] Anne Scicluna RIP - Anniversary*  
*Mass followed by Tea, Coffee, Cake and Chat in the Hall – all welcome!*

**Andover - Healing Prayers from 6.30pm - 7.00pm**

**Wed. 15<sup>th</sup> No Mass or Service -**

**Thur. 16<sup>th</sup> Whitchurch Mass 10.00am** *[Our Lady of Mount Carmel, optional memorial] Thomas Foran RIP*

**Fri. 17<sup>th</sup> Andover Mass 10.00am** *St Bonaventure, Religious, Bishop, Memorial. Brian McAuley RIP – Anniversary*

**St John the Baptist School Year 6 Leavers' Mass at 6.00pm**

**Sat. 18<sup>th</sup> Andover Mass 10.00am followed by Exposition and Confessions** *Oliver Delaney RIP*

**Sat. 18<sup>th</sup> Andover Mass 6.00pm** *For the People of the Parish*

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July – SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Whitchurch Mass 8.30am** *Mary Orme RIP*

**Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -**

**Andover Mass 10.30am** *Annette Maud Cassel RIP*

**Mon. 20<sup>th</sup> Andover Mass 10.00am** *[St Apollinaris, Bishop, Martyr, optional memorial] Thomas Singleton RIP*

**Tues. 21<sup>st</sup> Andover Mass 10.00am** *[St Laurence of Brindisi, Religious, Doctor of the Church, optional memorial]*

*Canon William Foran RIP*

**Andover - Healing Prayers from 6.30pm - 7.00pm**

**Wed. 22<sup>nd</sup> No Mass or Service -**

**Thur. 23<sup>rd</sup> Whitchurch Mass 10.00am** *St Bridget of Sweden, Foundress, Patron of Europe, feast.*

*Martin Roundell Greene RIP*

**Fri. 24<sup>th</sup> Andover Mass 10.00am** *[St Sharbel Makhluf, Priest, Religious, optional memorial]*

*Fransha Fernandes – 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday Blessings*

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

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.

**ANDOVER CHAMBER CHOIR INVITES AUDIENCES TO REVISIT CHILDHOOD WITH "RHYMES AND RECOLLECTIONS"**

Andover Chamber Choir is set to transport audiences back to the carefree days of youth with their charming and evocative upcoming concert, "Rhymes and Recollections: A Choral Collection of Childhood Songs". This unique performance weaves together familiar nursery rhymes, beloved literature, and masterful choral arrangements that celebrate the wonder and nostalgia of childhood, promising a captivating evening for all ages. The concert takes place at **7.30pm, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July, at Farleigh School, Andover, SP11 7PW**. Tickets are £15 on the door or £12 in advance from The Lights (in person and online) or through choir members. Under 16s are admitted free. Proceeds are in aid of Andover Young Carers, providing vital support and respite to young carers in Andover and the surrounding area.

Following Vilma's retirement due to ill health, we now warmly welcome Effie as our new Parish Hall Cleaner. Effie will be cleaning the hall early every morning and we are delighted to have her as part of our Parish Team.

**PARISH COLLECTIONS:** 4<sup>th</sup> / 5<sup>th</sup> July: Loose plate: £548.55; Gift Aid Envelopes: £328.50  
 Standing Orders: (weekly average) £933; Direct Debits: (weekly average) £315.00