



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.

5th and 6th September – THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Entrance Antiphon: You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

Psalm Response: O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts'

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia*

Communion Antiphon: I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

As a parish community, we are blessed to share not only our faith, but also our lives with one another. Like any family, there are times when we misunderstand each other, say the wrong thing, or fail to live up to one another's expectations.

In those moments, forgiveness can be difficult, but it is at the very heart of the Gospel.

Jesus reminds us that God's mercy knows no limits. Time and again, He forgives us, welcomes us back, and gives us a new beginning. He asks us to show that same mercy to one another, not because it is easy, but because it is through forgiveness that relationships are healed and communities are strengthened.

Forgiveness does not mean ignoring hurt or pretending that everything is fine. It means choosing not to let bitterness have the final word. It means taking small steps towards understanding, reconciliation, and peace.

As we gather for Mass this weekend and throughout the week ahead, let us pray for the grace to forgive where forgiveness is needed, to seek forgiveness where we have caused hurt, and to continue building a parish community where everyone feels welcomed, valued, and loved.

May our parish be a place where God's mercy is not only spoken about, but lived each day in our words, our actions, and our relationships with one another.

PARISH COLLECTIONS: 22nd / 23rd August: Loose plate: £716.40 Gift Aid Envelopes: £271.40

29th / 30th August: Loose plate: £476.80 Gift Aid Envelopes: £272.30

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

RCIA – JOURNEY IN FAITH Have you thought about joining the Catholic Church and would like to find out more? Do you know someone who is interested in the joining the Catholic Church? Did you miss out on Confirmation in the past but would like to become a full member of the Church? We are starting a new course on ***THURSDAY 17th September**.

The sessions would run weekly, every Thursday from **7.00pm to 9.00pm** in the Parish Hall.

If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office on 01264 352829

BIBLE STUDY COURSE

Mary: A Biblical walk with the Blessed Mother

This will be a new eight-week Bible Study Course using Scripture, reflection and prayer to explore the life of Our Lady and how she leads us ever closer to Christ. It will be held in the Parish Hall on Monday evenings from 7.30pm to 9.00pm starting on 5th October and ending on 30th November including a break for half term.

Each week is based on an episode of Our Lady's life.

Would those interested please contact Mark Johnson-Ferguson at: mandj.jf@gmail.com or phone 0790 296 7210 or give your names and contact details to the Parish Office.

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 - not children - and must be registered with the Parish.

REQUIEM MASSES

If you come to Mass during the week, be it regularly or occasionally, and you see that instead of the usual Mass there is a Requiem Mass, please consider coming to that Mass. It is still 'Mass of the Day' and as a community it is right that we support the families of the person whose Requiem Mass is being celebrated.

Even if you didn't know the person, to attend the Requiem Mass and pray for them is the best thing we can do as a Catholic community. Please consider coming to Requiem Masses when they occur.

IT'S TEA O'CLOCK!

Come to tea at St John Fisher Church, Bell Street, Whitchurch on Saturday 12th September from 2.00pm – 4.00pm.

Join us for afternoon tea and a chance to catch up – all are welcome! Bring a plate to share – drinks provided.

*Raffle raising Funds for the Andover Foodbank. For more information contact the Parish Office
or call Jim White on 07881 912373*

SECOND COLLECTION On 12th and 13th September there will be a **second collection** for the **CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICE**. Education Sunday takes place each year on the second Sunday of September. Dioceses rely on the generosity of the Catholic community each Education Sunday to support education in the diocese and the work of the Catholic Education Service. (NB We CAN claim Gift Aid on this collection, so please use your envelopes!)

MASS INTENTIONS FROM 5th September – 18th September

Saturday 5th Andover Mass 10.00am followed by Exposition and Confessions.

[St Teresa of Calcutta, Religious, optional memorial]

Emma McAuley & Family – for Health and Strength

Sat 5th Andover Mass 6.00pm *Ante Churkovich RIP*

Sunday 6th August – THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

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

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *Dominic Godfrey RIP*

Mon. 7th Andover Mass 10.00am *Antonia Fernandes – Birthday Blessings*

Tue. 8th No Andover Mass

Crematorium Service at Charlton Park, 3.00pm for Horace Herft RIP

Andover - Healing Prayers from 6.30pm - 7.00pm

Wednesday 9th - Friday 11th No Masses or Services as Canon Chris is on retreat.

Saturday 12th No 10.00am Morning Mass

*We welcome Father Bruce Barnes who will be celebrating Mass this Saturday for us,
and Father Hugh Somerville-Knapman who will be celebrating Sunday Masses.*

Sat. 12th Andover Mass 6.00pm *Mary Snelling RIP*

Sunday 13th August – THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

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

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *Lisa Rammage-for Health and Strength*

Mon. 14th No Mass or Service

Tue. 15th No Mass or Service

Andover - Healing Prayers from 6.30pm - 7.00pm

Wed. 16th No Mass or Service

Thur. 17th Whitchurch Mass 10.00am *Canon Daniel O'Hanlon RIP*

Fri. 18th Mass in St John the Baptist School at 9.30am – All Welcome. *Canon William Foran 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, 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 souls of Pat Judge, Ann Matthews and Horace Herft.

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