



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

Office: Alexandra Rd, Andover, SP10 3AD Tel: 01264 352829

Office email: office@catholic-andover.org.uk

Website: www.catholic-andover.org.uk

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

Office Hours: Monday: 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.

31st January and 1st February 2026 - The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon: *Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.*

Psalm Response: *Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.*

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia*

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

At the very beginning of today's readings we are told to seek the Lord. And then, conveniently, we are told how to do that. Both readings, the psalm, and the Gospel all come together to give a definition of how to seek the Lord. We seek the Lord by seeking justice and righteousness, by seeking peace, by seeking humility.

The beatitudes can seem sort of oxymoronic - opposites together. How will the meek lead? Leadership usually comes to the bold. We see injustice around us every day. How are those who hunger for justice satisfied? Where is the comfort for the mourning? I know I continue to mourn. In a perfect world, people would treat each other decently. A perfect world would be at peace, and justice would prevail. Unfortunately, this world is not perfect. God chose the foolish to shame the wise, the weak to shame the strong, but not everyone understands that. Jesus was born poor, went against the standard norms of the time and the government. Did not seem to have the stuff to be a leader, but he was the greatest leader. And still people did not and do not understand him and his message.

The way to seek the Lord is to seek justice like he did, to seek righteousness like he did, to seek peace like he did. Unfortunately, even he did not get justice and righteousness and peace here on earth. He took the form of the lowly to shame the higher-ups, but they didn't understand. Many still don't understand.

We have to seek for justice and righteousness and peace, even if we don't get it. We need to do the right thing, even if we don't get what's right in return.

We are blessed who show mercy, who seek for justice, who are humble and helpful. Our blessings come from knowing we are acting appropriately. Even if we suffer for our actions here, our rewards will be great in heaven. And if our recompense is not in this imperfect world, it will be in the next perfect one. T.W.

There are still copies of the 3-Year CTS Missal available to purchase from the Parish Office.

You're warmly invited to join the **Lent 2026 Bible Studies**, a FREE, six-week journey presented **LIVE ONLINE** by Mauro Iannicelli of 'Come & See' Catholic Formation Ministries. We will lead you through an in-depth exploration of the six Lenten Sunday Gospels, preparing you to hear them proclaimed at Mass.

Info and registration: www.comenadsee.org/lenten-bible-studies

Breaking open each Lenten Sunday Gospel; 'Expository preaching' teaching method; Life Application Questions - The Holy Mass will come alive in a new way! **Starts: Tuesday 17th February** from 7.00pm - 8.15pm

6 Sessions: Tues. 17th Feb, 24th Feb, 3rd March, 10th March 17h March and 24th March

FORMATION MORNING FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNICATION

Fr Anthony Fyk, Director of Liturgical Formation and the Liturgy Formation team, invites you to a formation morning at St Peter's Pastoral Centre, Winchester on Saturday 9th May 2026 commencing with Mass at 9.00am. There will be a welcome session from Fr Anthony, a talk focussing on the Eucharist in the sacred scriptures as well as a session on Lectio Divina: "Living a Eucharistic life – what does it mean to live out the eucharist?". All Eucharistic Ministers, experienced and new, are very welcome to attend. If you wish to attend, please register via liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

READINGS AT MASS

For the readings each day at Mass, including Sundays, you can scan this QR code on your smartphone and it will take you to the Universalis Website for the readings for the day. Scroll to the bottom of the page and you have the readings for the week. *You can also click on 'save QR code' on the page, and take a screenshot and save it to photos. Then you only need to press on it to open in your browser. If you use this on your phone in Church, please remember to turn off your sounds and notifications - and it's not an excuse to read your emails!*



MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FROM 31ST JANUARY 2026 - 6TH FEBRUARY 2026
Confessions will be every Saturday after 10.00am Mass or from 5.30pm to 5.45pm on Saturday.

Sat. 31st Andover Mass 10.00am followed by Exposition and Confessions *St John Bosco, Founder, memorial*

Sat. 31st Andover 6.00pm Mass For Nicola RIP

Sunday 1st February - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Whitchurch Mass 8.30am *Cluny Heyman RIP - Anniversary*

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *For the People of the Parish*

Monday 2nd - Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Mass at St John the Baptist School at 9.30am - Parishioners Welcome

Tue. 3rd

ST BLAISE

Tuesday the memorial of St Blaise He was bishop of Sebastea and was martyred, probably early in the fourth century. Devotion to him spread throughout the Church during the Middle Ages. He is particularly invoked for disorders of the throat. At Mass we will be joined by 3 priests who are Canon Chris's Priestly support group. During the Mass will have the traditional blessing of throats. Canon Chris will be joined by Fr Marcus, Canon Dominic and Canon Tim.



Andover Mass 10.00am (St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr or: St Ansgar, Bishop, both optional memorial)
For the Souls in Purgatory

Mass will be followed by Tea, Coffee, Cake and Chat in the Parish Hall - All Welcome!

Andover - Healing Prayers from 6.30pm - 7.00pm

Wed. 4th *No Mass or Service*

Thur. 5th Whitchurch Mass 10.00am *St Agatha, Virgin, Martyr, memorial*

Fri. 6th Andover Mass 10.00am followed by Exposition *St Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs, memorial*

Congratulations to Chloe Greig and Lura Jasrosz who are to be baptised this weekend.

Sat. 7th Andover Mass 10.00am followed by Exposition and Confessions *Our Lady on Saturday*

Syro Malabar Mass at 2.30pm

Sat. 7th Andover 6.00pm Mass *Marianna Barbara RIP - Anniversary*

Sunday 8th February - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Whitchurch Mass 8.30am *For the Intentions of Wesley Brandi*

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *Carlton Kong RIP*

Mon. 9th Andover Mass 10.00am *Feria For All Souls*

Tue. 10th Andover Mass 10.00am *St Scholastica, Virgin, memorial Blasio Rodrigues RIP - Birthday Memoriam*

Andover - Healing Prayers from 6.30pm - 7.00pm

Wed. 11th *No Mass or Service*

Thur. 12th Whitchurch Mass 10.00am *Feria*

Fri. 13th Andover Mass 10.00am *Feria Artemesia Rodrigues - Birthday Blessings*

Please pray for: Esmé Coveney, Rita Lane, Margaret Williams, Patrick Arnold, Fiona Hilleard, Tony Fabian, Helen O'Connell, Douglas Manning, Diane Mahoney, Sile Monnelly, Rita Casey, Rose Bull, Carol Keenan, Eileen Wharton, Oran Keenan, Margarita Hardiman, Robert Colledge, Eileen Price, Concepta Cuddihy, Frank Hinds and Clan Furtado.

DIOCESAN PRAYER INTENTIONS: 1st February - 7th February Sun: Community of St Brigid, West End. **Mon:** Community of Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Bishop's Waltham.

Tue: Sisters of St Brigid in the Diocese. **Wed:** Community of Holy Rood, Folly Bridge, Oxford. **Thur:** Parish of Sacred Heart, Bournemouth. **Fri:** Chapel of St Amand & St John the Baptist, East Hendred. **Sat:** Bellringers' Guild of St Agatha.

PARISH COLLECTIONS - 24TH/25TH JAN LOOSE PLATE: GIFT AID ENVELOPES:
STANDING ORDERS: (Weekly Average) £933 DIRECT DEBITS: (Weekly Average) £315.00