



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

NORTH WEST HAMPSHIRE PASTORAL AREA

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

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Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 9.00am - 3.00pm. NB: CLOSED on Wed.

13th and 14th January 2018 - The Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

It is that time of the year when life seems a bit uneventful, after the big season of Christmas, as we wait for the season of Lent and Easter. The ordinary time of the life and mission of the Church has got its own character; it is rather a busy time for Jesus. He would be very surprised to hear anyone say it is a boring moment. Consider the readings the Church has put together at this time. They portray the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. They tell us more about his ordinary life. He knows he has got a mission. He needs disciples who are to work and walk with him. He calls ordinary fishermen, for he knows he would turn their ordinary skills into extra ordinary ministry; he doesn't mind calling two brothers for he knows it is personal calling – mission, not political appointment.

As for the boy Samuel, it is also a moment when life seems relaxed; bed time, when sleep needs no interruption. He hears a voice that seems to be calling his name. He goes off to ask Eli to find out who calls. It is for Eli to discern what the call is all about and point him to the right direction; just as the disciples in the gospel need John the Baptist to point to the Messiah. Who says God does not invite the very young like Samuel who probably struggle to find a sense of direction in life to follow? Who says God has no plans for the likes of Peter, the elderly folk who probably was thinking of retiring from the fishing business? Our stories may differ but it is the same God who edits our story lines. While Peter is asked to leave his fishing nets and follow with urgency, the boy Samuel is asked to go back and sleep over the situation of his calling, while keeping his ears open in discernment.

In ordinary time when life seems uneventful, we are called to discern the call to action, respond and get on with God's mission. There is so much to do that we cannot say there is nothing to do. It is ordinary time which reminds us that we are ordinary people with ordinary lives to live. We are invited to do ordinary things in an extra-ordinary way. We are called to see the ordinary in the extra-ordinary and see extra-ordinary things in the ordinary realities of life. We may not be able to sort out the big issues of our time but we can start with the little act of kindness to our neighbour, irrespective of creed, race and religion. St Paul reminds us that we have been bought by Christ. We belong to him. The same bond of the mystical body of Christ unites us; not just Christians but men and women of good will, who respond to the voice of conscience to do good in season and out of season.

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DIOCESAN PRAYER INTENTIONS: 14TH JANUARY - 20TH JANUARY

These are arranged so that in the course of a year we pray for each parish of our Diocese and the Catholic organisations within it. **Sunday:** *Verbum Dei Communities in the Diocese.* **Monday:** *Royal Navy and Royal Air Force Chaplains and Personnel.* **Tuesday:** *Army Chaplains and Personnel.* **Wednesday:** *"Churches Together".* **Thursday:** *Diocesan Committee for Christian Unity.* **Friday:** *Parish of Holy Family, Southampton.* **Saturday:** *The Anglican Communion.*

WHAT IS YOUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTION? Why not help to make a difference in the fight against poverty and injustice by volunteering for CAFOD? CAFOD, The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are currently looking for volunteers to help them in their work. There are many ways to get involved such as in local schools, in your Parish, or raising issues with your MP.. To find out more about our work please come to one of our Lent Fast Day briefings!

27th Jan. 10.00am-12noon at Our Lady of Sorrows Fordingbridge; 30th Jan. 7:15pm-9:15pm at Sacred Heart, Fareham; 3rd Feb. 10:30am--1.00pm at St Bede's Church Basingstoke or 8th Feb. 7:15pm-9.00pm at English Martyrs Church Reading. For more information and to book your place please call Jo Lewry on 01252 329385 or email: portsmouth@cafod.org.uk

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

At St John the Baptist Parish we organise **children's liturgy** during the 10.30am Mass on Sundays, during term time. All children who come into Children's Liturgy need to be at *least* in Reception Class. Younger children are very welcome to attend **if accompanied by an adult**. Children also need to be able to recognise and correctly spell/write their own names (first and surname). Please ensure that any child old enough to attend but unable to do this has someone with them who can be responsible for correctly writing and/or recognising their name for them. If you have any comments or questions, please speak to a member of the team. **We would also like to appeal for additional adult helpers (male or female)**. Help includes setting up the venue, clearing up, making sure the children walk safely from the church to the hall and back. It is rewarding and very worthwhile. If you would like to help keep this valuable liturgy going, please contact Elizabeth Calleja on: elizabeth.calleja@gmail.com Thank you!

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FROM 13TH JANUARY - 26TH JANUARY

Reconciliations each Saturday in Andover from 5.15pm - 5.45pm, and in Whitchurch before Sunday Mass.

Sat. 13th Andover Mass 6.00pm *For Tom - In Thanksgiving for Recovery*

Sunday 14th January - The Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

Whitchurch Mass 9.00am *For the People of the Parish*

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

Andover Mass 10.30am *Margaret Anne Jordan RIP*

Andover Polish Mass 6.00pm, preceded by Confessions (Polish) from 5.00pm

Mon. 15th Andover Mass 10.00pm *Margaret Louisa Collins RIP - Anniversary*

Tue. 16th Andover Mass 10.00pm *Thomas Bush RIP - Anniversary*

Funeral Service 11.45am at Basingstoke Crematorium for Mary Henderson RIP

Andover Prayers for Healing 7.00pm - 7.30pm

Wed. 17th Andover SOW 10.00pm -

Thur. 18th Whitchurch Mass 10.00pm *Winifred Hart RIP*

Fri. 19th Andover Mass 10.00pm *Esmé Kelly RIP - Anniversary*

Congratulations to Oriana Eva Shears who is to be baptised this weekend.

Sat. 20th Andover Mass 6.00pm *Ronald Holt RIP - Anniversary*

Sunday 21st January - The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

Whitchurch Mass 9.00am *Angela O'Neill RIP*

Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -

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

Mon. 22nd Andover Mass 10.00pm *Irene and Alfred Coveney RIP - Anniversary*

Tue. 23rd Andover Mass 10.00pm *Michael Adegbite RIP - Anniversary*

Andover Prayers for Healing 7.00pm - 7.30pm

Wed. 24th Andover SOW 10.00pm -

Thur. 25th Whitchurch Mass 10.00pm *For the People of the Parish*

Fri. 26th Andover Mass 10.00pm *John Finbar O'Sullivan RIP*

Please pray for all the sick and housebound of our Parish and remember them in your prayers this Christmas time.

Eva Boshier, Patrick Pacini, Daphne Channing, Audrey Stephenson, Jo Parker, Nan Mundy, Esmé Coveney, Maureen Bennett, Bill Hayes, Doreen Burke, Rita Lane, Valerie Muir, Kath Neuen, Mary and Alan Daws, Jess Dukes, Fr Gerry Mackrell SMM, Betty Twist, Mary and Albert Bullough, Cynthia Manning, Margaret Williams, Patrick Arnold, Patricia Hillier, Pat Moore, Ann Scicluna, Tom Wilkins, Diane Banks, Christopher Walter, Allan Wickens, Di Mussert, Lisa Ramage, Dick Germain, June Saunders, Christine Budden, and Sam Hearn.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Mary Henderson and Margaret McCorry.

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

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GET YOUR TICKETS FOR 'ESTHER AND THE ZARGONITES!'

Come and travel the Galaxy with Unity Christian Theatre! Performances at The Lights on Fri. 19th January at 7.30pm Saturday 20th January at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Tickets from the Box Office - Tel: 01264 368368

Services at Andover War Memorial Hospital

A service will be held from 3.00pm - 3.30pm on the first Sunday of each month in St Luke's Chapel at Andover War Memorial Hospital. This is off the Physio Department on the same floor as Kingfisher Ward. Patients and family members may attend. Prayers will be offered for the staff and the patients - a hymn, a Bible reading and a Thought for the Day.

CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE.

There will be a Christian Unity Service on 21st January in St Thomas, Charlton at 6.30pm. All are welcome.

MONEY RAISED FOR ANDOVER FOODBANK

The parish after Mass Refreshments on Sundays has donated **£368.13** for the Andover Foodbank. Thank you to all those who support this, and remember everyone is welcome to come along after Sunday Mass for a cuppa and a chat!