



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

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

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

**Father Austin email:** [agurr@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:agurr@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Office email:** [office@catholic-andover.org.uk](mailto:office@catholic-andover.org.uk)

or [stjtb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjtb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) **Website:** [www.catholic-andover.org.uk](http://www.catholic-andover.org.uk)

**Parish Safeguarding Officer:** Mrs Jackie Kelly: [safeguarding@catholic-andover.org.uk](mailto: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 / Father Austin's Day off: Wednesday.**

**20th and 21st July - Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time / 27th and 28th July - Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time**

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK - 16TH SUNDAY

Perhaps you've had this experience: You're feeling exhausted and burnt out. So, you're looking forward to some rest during your annual holiday. But when you arrive at your favourite holiday spot, one of the children falls ill - and now you must play nurse for the week. Or your boss calls with an emergency at work - and now you must take time to work remotely. Or the car breaks down, or you get a flat tyre, and you need to take it in for repairs - you must postpone your much needed rest out of necessity.

Something similar happens to Jesus and his disciples in our Gospel reading. The disciples return from their missionary journeys, reporting to Jesus all they had done. Jesus perceives their need for some rest and so they set off in a boat to a deserted place. Unfortunately, the people figured out where they were going and arrived there first. Instead of dismissing the crowd, Jesus' heart is moved with pity "for they were like sheep without a shepherd."

This shepherd imagery echoes our first reading in which Jeremiah reminds us how the kings in the royal line of David failed as shepherds for the flock of Israel. And so, because Israel belongs to God, the divine shepherd steps forward to care for the flock. God does not rest. Instead, God continually cares for us. Likewise, Jesus does not cancel his "holiday" and continues to teach the crowd who are hungry for spiritual food.

We are not God or Jesus. We do need rest. But we also need to allow our hearts to be moved with pity. In Jesus' time, shepherds worked 24/7 with little time for rest, always on the lookout for a lost or sick sheep or for a threatening predator. Balancing our own needs against the needs of our neighbours requires careful discernment. It also requires trust in Christ who, as our second reading reminds us, is the source of our peace. Jesus provides us the life and energy to serve others. Jesus gives us the strength to cancel our "holiday" when the need arises. And it is in Jesus where we can find true rest.

SJ S.J.

### DIOCESAN PRAYER INTENTIONS: 21st July - 3rd August

**Sunday:** Benefactors of the Diocese. **Monday:** Community of St Edmund, Southampton. **Tuesday:** Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage. **Wednesday:** Community of St John Vianney, Wantage. **Thursday:** Parish of St James, Reading.

**Friday:** Parish of St Anne, Brockenhurst. **Saturday:** Parish of St Joseph, Grayshott. **Sunday:** Parish of Our Lady of the Assumption and St Edward the Confessor, Lyndhurst. **Monday:** : Community of Our Lady, Star of the Sea, St Sampson, Guernsey. **Tuesday:** Diocesan Council of Priests. **Wednesday:** Jesuits in the Diocese. **Thursday:** Redemptorists in the Diocese. **Friday:** Family of Mary Immaculate and St Francis in the Diocese. **Saturday:** Retired or Sick Clergy of the Diocese.

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK - 17TH SUNDAY

In today's gospel from John, we hear of a feeding. "A large crowd was following him (Jesus), ..." They were following a kind, generous, gentle man who feeds the poor, cures the lame and heals the broken-hearted. A man who eats with women, foreigners and immigrants. Yet, a strong man who speaks the truth and stands up for those who cannot defend themselves. After much walking, the crowd is hungry for something to eat. But there is another sort of hunger which they cannot name. A hunger satisfied when they are with Jesus. Just being near Jesus seems to satisfy an inner desire. So they follow him.

Philip is trying to solve the practical problem of feeding a large crowd with not nearly enough food and not enough money. He could not fathom how it could be done. Jesus insisted and the crowd was fed with much left over.

On more than one occasion I get stuck in my head trying to figure out the logistics of Jesus' invitation, whatever it is. When I move from my head to my heart, I open up to Jesus. This is not a head calculation; this is a matter for the heart. This is a matter of faith, of being in a trusting, open relationship with Jesus. In my heart I can more readily receive Jesus, not try to cram Jesus into my brain. As if there will come a time when I will be able to unravel the mystery of God. That is a hope and prayer unworthy of us. It will never happen. We can hope for and trust in his mercy and love.

Jesus never said your title has saved you. Jesus says over and over again, "your faith has saved you". "Do not be afraid." "Trust me, follow me, love each other as I have loved you." "Feed my lambs, feed my sheep."

Jesus was teaching Philip that he could never feed the crowds or anything else outside of their oneness. Their relationship, as ours, must be based on faith, hope, trust, generosity and above all else the love of God. The best news is, I don't have to figure it out!

J.B.H.

**MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FROM 20TH JULY - 4TH AUGUST**

*Confessions will be from 5.30pm to 5.45pm each Saturday or you can ring the office to make an appointment.*

<b>Sat. 20th</b>	<b>Andover Mass 6.00pm</b>	<i>Brian McAuley RIP - Anniversary</i>		
<b>Sunday 21st July - Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>				
	<b>Whitchurch Mass 9.00am</b>	<i>For the People of the Parish</i>		
	<b>Farleigh School Mass 10.00am</b>	-		
	<b>Andover Mass 10.30am</b>	<i>T.C. Mathew RIP - Anniversary</i>		
<b>Mon. 22nd</b>	<b>Andover Mass 10.00am</b>		<b>The Parish Office will be closed on Monday 22nd, Tuesday 23rd July and Wednesday 24th July.</b>	
<b>Tue. 23rd</b>	<b>Andover Mass 10.00am</b>	<i>Roy Bates RIP</i>		
	<b>Andover - Healing Prayers 6.30pm - 7.00pm</b>			
<b>Wed. 24th</b>	<i>No Mass or Service</i>			
<b>Thur. 25th</b>	<b>Whitchurch Mass 10.00am</b>			
<b>Fri. 26th</b>	<b>Andover Mass 10.00am</b>	<i>Brigda Gomes - for Good Health</i>		
<i>Congratulations to Sebastian Lowe who is to be baptised this weekend.</i>				
<b>Sat. 27th</b>	<b>Andover Mass 6.00pm</b>	<i>Blasio Rodrigues RIP</i>		
<b>Sunday 28th July - Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>				
	<b>Whitchurch Mass 9.00am</b>	-	<i>Parish Barbeque this Sunday</i>	
	<b>Farleigh School Mass 10.00am</b>	-		
	<b>Andover Mass 10.30am</b>	<i>25th Wedding Anniversary Blessings - Jenny and Jeremy LeLean</i>		
<b>* NB There will be no Masses or services from 29th July until 2nd August inclusive.</b>				
<b>Sat 3rd</b>	<b>Syro Malabar Mass in Andover at 2.30pm</b>			
<b>Sat. 3rd</b>	<b>Andover Mass 6.00pm</b>	<i>Clifford and Eileen Ramsabag RIP</i>	<i>Exposition before Mass</i>	
<b>Sunday 4th August - Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>				
	<b>Whitchurch Mass 9.00am</b>	<i>For all souls</i>		
	<b>Farleigh School Mass 10.00am</b>	-		
	<b>Andover Mass 10.30am</b>	<i>James Drugan RIP</i>		
<b>Please pray for:</b> Esmé Coveney, Rita Lane, Tom Wilkins, Margaret Williams, Patrick Arnold, Sheila Muir, Sheila Roberts, Mary Hathaway, Christopher Brown, Lisa Ramage, Mervyn Owen, Bernard Ivinston, Fiona Hilleard, Carol Keenan, Mary Oak, Tony Fabian, Sile Monnelly, Helen O'Connell, Ben and Frances Dunne, Robert Williams, Simon and Victoria Rowney, Douglas Manning, Guy Foa, Diane Mahoney, Sarah Viney and Mary Lisa Owen.				
<b>CONFIRMATION 2025</b>				
If you are 16 or over, and would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year, then there will be a Parish Confirmation Course beginning in September. To register for the course, you will need to write a letter to Father Austin giving your <i>own</i> , personal reasons why you would like to be confirmed. You will also need to complete the Confirmation Application Form which you will find in the porch or which you can collect from the Parish Office. Please ensure that your family has completed the Parish Registration form.				
If your child is in Year 3 or above and does not go to St John the Baptist Primary School, then registration forms for <b>First Holy Communion 2025</b> can be found in the Church porch. The closing date is <b>15th August</b> .				
On <b>Saturday August 17th</b> you are invited to <b>AFTERNOON TEA at ST JOHN FISHER CHURCH</b> , Bell Street, Whitchurch from <b>2.00pm - 4.30pm</b> . All are welcome! Join us for afternoon tea and a chance to catch up with friends old and new! For catering purposes, please give your names to Lil, James or Mary after Mass on Sunday, or drop an email to the Parish Office and we will ensure your name is on the list!				
The ANDOVER FOODBANK would like to thank everyone who has donated to us in recent weeks. We are incredibly grateful. Please find listed below the food and non-food items that are currently needed: <b>Tinned Vegetables; Tinned Meat; Tinned Fish; Tinned Fruit; Tinned Tomatoes; Long Life Fruit Juice; Long Life Milk; Tinned Rice Pudding/Custard; Jam and Marmalade; Packs of Rice (can be microwaveable); Shower Gel and Antibac spray.</b> <i>Thank you.</i>				