



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

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

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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.

3rd and 4th August - Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Jesus shares the simple but profound message that he is the bread of life and whoever comes to him will never hunger and whoever believes in him will never thirst. But it seems that we do not always readily embrace this powerful message.

My own life is filled with blessings. My work is engaging and my social calendar is busy. I share love with many family members and friends. Yet there are times when I find myself over-extended and under-appreciated. After working hard on a project that still needs more attention I wonder when is enough, enough? When I get over-tired I can find myself being drawn into envy and the loneliness supported by consumerism and individualism. The first reading from Exodus opens with the Israelite community complaining about being led into the desert and fearing they will die of famine. God sends them bread so they will know the he the Lord is their God.

Social media can be a place where we compare our lives to others in an unhealthy way. But it can also be a place where we can celebrate joys experienced by others and be in solidarity with those who are hurt. And in a surprising way we can get inspiration from social media. A friend just posted this: 'Stop worrying about how it is going to happen and start believing it will.' This is something God might have said to the Israelites.

In the second reading Paul is guiding the Ephesians to their true lives. He tells them they must no longer live in the futility of their minds. This advice rings so true today as it is easy to fall into the trap of thinking we can reason our way through any situations. We start to think we can rely only on our own resourcefulness rather than rely on God's grace. Paul goes on to say that we should put away the old self of our former way of life, corrupted through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of our minds and put on the new self, created in God's way of righteousness and holiness of truth.

I find setting aside my comfortable habits to be very challenging. Even the habits and patterns that do not always help me be my best self are like a well worn pair of shoes. I am barely aware of their presence in my life. Putting away my old self requires active intentions.

In today's Gospel from John we see Jesus in his truly human form. He is tired after feeding the large crowds of people with loaves and fishes. And yet there are cries from people in the crowd who want proof of who Jesus is by demanding he perform miracles. Although frustrated with the demands of the crowd, Jesus continues to guide and teach. He shares that it is important to not work for food that perishes but for the food that gives eternal life. I think of the times when I am searching for an answer to a challenging situation, so I can imagine the confusion people in the crowd must have experienced when they heard Jesus say that the way to accomplish the work of God is to believe in the one he sent. That teaching is simultaneously so simple and so complex.

As I pray with the readings from today I explore these questions: How can I trust the word of the Lord? Where do I see examples of someone who lives on the true bread of life? What steps can I take to put away my old self? Who can I invite into my life to help me stop working so hard for food that will perish but rather seek the food that gives eternal life? *One does not live on bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.* M.L-B.

DIOCESAN PRAYER INTENTIONS: 4th August - 10th August

Sunday: Jubilee: Bishop Philip (ordained priest 4.8.1984). **Monday:** Don Bosco Summer Camp. **Tuesday:** Church Fabric Committees. **Wednesday:** Lay Dominicans and Dominican Secular Institute. **Thursday:** Dominican Sisters [of Malta, of Saint Joseph and of the Presentation] in the Diocese. **Friday:** Dialogue with other faiths, and especially the work of the Council of Christians and Jews. **Saturday:** Communities and Schools in the Andover Pastoral Area.

The ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY is celebrated Thursday 15th August and is a Holy Day of Obligation.

If your child is in Year 3 or above and does not go to St John the Baptist Primary School, then registration forms for **First Holy Communion 2025** can be found in the Church porch - on the wooden table. The closing date is **15th August**. *This has been advertised since 6th July, so there is no reason to miss the closing date.*

Thank you for your donations to **Stella Maris** (Apostleship of the Sea) on Sea Sunday. The collection came to **£750.85**.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FROM 3RD AUGUST - 16TH AUGUST

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

Sat 3rd	Syro Malabar Mass in Andover at 2.30pm		
Sat. 3rd	Andover Mass 6.00pm	<i>Clifford and Eileen Ramsubag RIP</i>	<i>Exposition before Mass</i>
Sunday 4th August - Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time			
	Whitchurch Mass 9.00am	<i>For all souls</i>	
	Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -		
	Andover Mass 10.30am	<i>James Drugan RIP</i>	

Mon. 5th **Andover Mass 10.00am** *For the Holy Souls* **The Parish Office is closed for Bank Holiday today.**

Tuesday 6th August - Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord.

Andover Mass 10.00am *Adrian Ratnayaka - Birthday Blessings*
Andover - Healing Prayers 6.30pm - 7.00pm

Wed. 7th *No Mass or Service* -

Thur. 8th **Whitchurch Mass 10.00am** *Tom Gorman RIP*

Congratulations to Canric Fernandes who is to be baptised today.

Fri 9th **Andover Mass 10.00am** *For Baby Canric*

Congratulations to Javien Charles Ramos and Terence-Junior Lah who are to be baptised today.

Sat. 10th **Andover Mass 6.00pm** *Soccorina and Family - for good health*

Sunday 11th August - Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Whitchurch Mass 9.00am *For the People of the Parish*
Farleigh School Mass 10.00am -
Andover Mass 10.30am *Audrey Bulner RIP*

Mon. 12th **Andover Mass 10.00am** *Alfonsina Magazzini RIP*

Tue. 13th **Andover Mass 10.00am** *In Thanksgiving for 47years of Ordination*
Andover - Healing Prayers 6.30pm - 7.00pm

Wed. 14th **Whitchurch Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Assumption at 7.00pm** **Nuala Brogan RIP**

Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - A Holy Day of Obligation

Thur. 15th **Andover Mass 9.30am** *Dorothy Nash RIP*
Andover Mass 7.00pm

Fri. 16th **Andover Mass 10.00am**



Please pray for: Esmé Coveney, Rita Lane, Tom Wilkins, Margaret Williams, Patrick Arnold, Sheila Muir, Sheila Roberts, Mary Hathaway, Christopher Brown, Lisa Ramage, Mervyn Owen, Bernard Ivinson, 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. Please pray for the repose of the souls of Fr Boniface Moran OSB (Monk of Douai), Dorothy Nash, Brian Nolan and Sally Coffey. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

On Saturday August 17th you are invited to AFTERNOON TEA at ST JOHN FISHER CHURCH, Bell Street, Whitchurch from **2.00pm - 4.30pm.** All are welcome! Join us for afternoon tea and a change 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!

PARISH BIBLE STUDY - ST JOHN'S GOSPEL

An eight week Bible Study on St John's Gospel will take place on Monday evenings in the Parish Hall from 16th September onwards. This study will use Ascension Press' course called "Follow Me - Meeting Jesus in St John's Gospel". Each 90 minute session will consist a short prayer and recap, a 30 minute video, discussion in small groups and complete with a summary, prayer and look forward. A course book will be provided.

Please enrol through the Parish Office by 5th September (to give us time to order books and prepare) or email Mark Johnson-Ferguson on mandj.if@gmail.com if you have any questions.