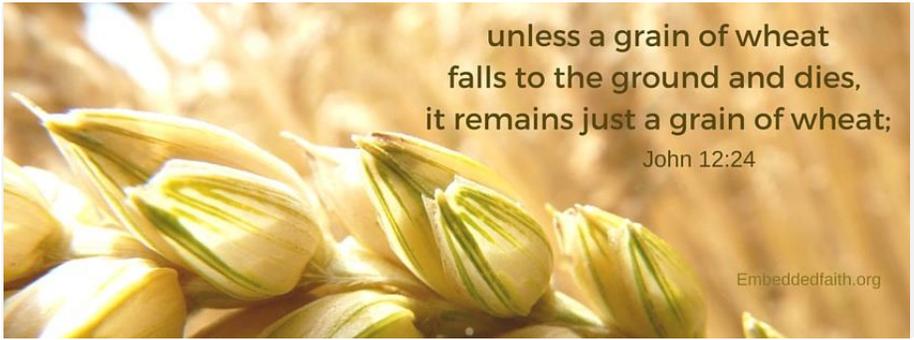




Coloma Catholic Life.



Passion Sunday



The fifth Sunday in Lent has traditionally been called Passion Sunday. It marks a two-week period known as Passiontide. Starting on this day all statues in the church are veiled in purple. The prayers and readings during this time relate to suffering. It is an act of fasting – not from food or

meat, but an act of fasting for the eyes. Our eyes are not given the pleasure of the sacred images for two weeks. At Easter, we again will feast our eyes on the beauty of the art that enhances our churches. Without any other focus, we are called to remember the central mysteries of our redemption during this holy time. It creates an environment of penance and royal hope as we anticipate the reawakening of the Alleluia at the Easter vigil. It is a period of mourning the divine Bridegroom and so the Church puts on the widow's garments. In the Catholic Church Passion Sunday is distinct from Palm Sunday. In other Christian denominations Passion Sunday is synonymous with Palm Sunday.



Pope Francis

Prayer Intention for march:

Sacrament of Reconciliation.

'Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.'

Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xEBGF-CsKbU&list=PLTroqZcBkue16MMgzz9LKRp-W1biit5sp&t=4s>

Tweet: "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." Precisely then, in trials and in solitude while the seed is dying, that is the moment in which life blossoms, to bear ripe fruit in due time.'

Liturgical Year

Week: 5th Sunday in Lent.

Colour: Purple

Holy Week



The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has issued guidance on the conduct of services during Holy week called 'Vade Mecum for Holy Week 2021. This year, the celebrations for Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum can be in the presence of the faithful, but will have changes to the usual conduct of the services, due to the restrictions related to the pandemic. More information can be found here:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2021/03/Vade-Mecum-Holy-Week-280221.pdf>

National Day of Reflection on the Pandemic 23rd March

The President and Vice President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have urged the faithful to make the National Day of Reflection on COVID-19 a day of prayer as well as a day of reflection.

Tuesday 23 March, the anniversary of the first national lockdown, will be marked with a minute's silence at midday.



At 8pm, people are encouraged to create a 'beacon of remembrance' on their doorsteps by beaming phones, candles and torches into the night sky. Prominent buildings and landmarks will also be lit up across the UK.

Cardinal Nichols and Archbishop McMahon stress that prayer is an essential part of this reflection and remembrance:

"For all who live by faith in God, reflection and prayer always go hand in hand. Prayer completes reflection. Reflection informs prayer. Prayer opens

our life to its true horizon.

"Without prayer we live in a foreshortened world and are more easily swamped by its clamour and tragedy. Throughout this difficult year, so many have been inspired by prayer, so much effort sustained in prayer, in every place. So let us make the 23 March truly a day of prayer."

The Archbishops also invite Catholics to pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament on 23 March:

"March 2020 was the first time our churches had to be closed. It is our hope that on this day, every one of our churches will be open. We invite everyone to enter a church on this day, to reflect and pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

"We know this will involve an extra effort, but this can be part of our important contribution to a significant moment in the life of our country. Indeed, we ask that you might invite a friend, neighbour or colleague to come to church with you as you make this visit."

The school Chapel will be open for prayer and reflection, for anyone who wants to take a moment to reflect on the impact the pandemic has had and the loss of life from it.

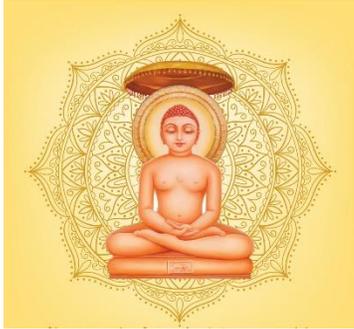
Sacrament of Reconciliation

Reconciliation is a sacrament which can be celebrated repeatedly throughout one's life. Catholics are encouraged to receive this sacrament frequently. The Church suggests regularly confessing our sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, *at least once a year* during the Easter Season. It helps us to return to Jesus and strengthen our relationship with him.



Religious Festivals

Mahavira Jayanti, Jainism - 25th March



This is a festival celebrating the birth in 540, 599 or 615 BCE of Mahavira, the last Tirthankara, the greatest teacher and model for all Jains. The events surrounding his birth are retold and re-enacted at all Jain temples. If monks or nuns are present, they will read from the scriptures and teach about the rest of Mahavira's life. The day is marked with processions, the sending of cards, and the bathing of images of Mahavira. At the end of the day lay people will return home to a celebratory feast with distinctive recipes.

Mahavira's injunctions for the monks and nuns were however very exacting.

Abstinance from every kind of physical comfort and material possession and absolute dedication to the highest ethical and spiritual discipline were enforced. Even today this pure and upright tradition of the monks has been maintained. Thousands of white clad Sanyasins and Sanyasinis and also nude monks move on foot from village to village and town to town, throughout the length and breadth of the country, carrying Mahavira's gospel of peace, non-injury and brotherhood among people.

Myths and legends abound about the other twenty-four great Jain teachers from previous ages, but the birth of Mahavira, the Conqueror, is of central importance in Jain communities everywhere. His influence on the Jain practices of ahimsa (non-violence to others), sharing of knowledge, donating medicines and food, and caring for all living creatures is clearly apparent throughout these celebrations.

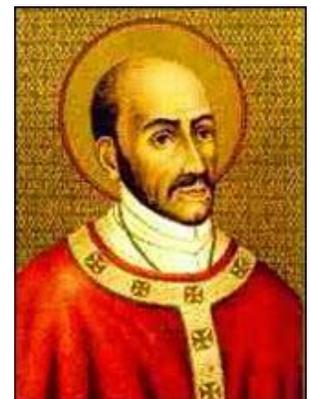
Saints of the Week

St Turibius of Mongrovejo, Bishop – 23rd March

Together with Rose of Lima, Turibius is the first known saint of the New World, serving the Lord in Peru, South America, for 26 years.

Born in Spain and educated for the law, he became so brilliant a scholar that he was made professor of law at the University of Salamanca and eventually became chief judge of the Inquisition at Granada. He succeeded too well. But he was not sharp enough a lawyer to prevent a surprising sequence of events.

When the archdiocese of Lima in Peru required a new leader, Turibius was chosen fill the post: He was the one person with the strength of character and holiness of spirit to heal the scandals that had infected that area.



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He cited all the canons that forbade giving laymen ecclesiastical dignities, but he was overruled. Turibius was ordained priest and bishop and sent to Peru, where he found colonialism at its worst. The Spanish conquerors were guilty of every sort of oppression of the native population. Abuses among the clergy were flagrant, and he devoted his energies and suffering to this area first.

He began the long and arduous visitation of an immense archdiocese, studying the language, staying two or three days in each place, often with neither bed nor food. Turibius confessed every morning to his chaplain, and celebrated Mass with intense fervor. Among those to whom he gave the Sacrament of Confirmation was the future Saint Rose of Lima, and possibly the future Saint Martin de Porres. After 1590, he had the help of another great missionary, Francis Solanus, now also a saint.

Though very poor his people were sensitive, dreading to accept public charity from others. Turibius solved the problem by helping them anonymously.

The Annunciation of the Lord – 25th March



The Annunciation – the angel Gabriel tells Mary that she has been chosen to be the Mother of Jesus, that he will be called Son of the Most High and whose reign will have no end. Mary is also told that her cousin, Elizabeth, who is beyond child-bearing age, has also conceived – for nothing is impossible to God Luke 1:26-38.

The greatest glory in living
lies not in never falling, but
in rising every time we fall.

Nelson Mandela