

Coloma Catholic Life.

Liturgical Year

33rd Week in Ordinary Time. Liturgical colour – Green

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for November Entrusted to the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

Dialogue and Reconciliation in the Near East

Pope Francis invites us to pray that a spirit of dialogue, encounter, and reconciliation emerge in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together.

Here is a link to a short video on the Pope's Prayer Intention for November.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=avlMSwqr5ms>



World Day of the Poor – Sunday 17th November

The World Day of the Poor was first observed on 19th November 2017, with the theme, "let us love, not with words but with deeds." In his message for that first World Day of the Poor,

Pope Francis said that "the *Our Father* is the prayer of the poor". He held a special Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, followed by a free lunch in the adjacent Paul VI Hall, in several Catholic colleges, and in other Vatican venues. During the week preceding the World Day of the Poor, free specialized medical services were offered at a mobile clinic. Yesterday was the third annual World Day of the Poor. It is celebrated on the 33rd Sunday of the liturgical year.

Below is an extract from the message from His Holiness on this day. The full text can be found at:

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/poveri/documents/papa-francesco_20190613_messaggio-iii-giornatamondiale-poveri-2019.html

In his letter announcing the theme, Pope Francis writes that these words, "express a profound truth that faith impresses above all on the hearts of the poor, restoring lost hope in the face of injustice, sufferings and the uncertainties of life". "How can we fail to note that the Beatitudes with which Jesus began his preaching of the



Upcoming Events

20th November – Mass for Deceased Relatives & Friends 4:30pm School Hall

27th November
Year 11 Speaker from Cafod

28th November
Year 8 Retreat Day run by RISE Theatre

20th December – End of term Masses in the school hall

Prayer of the Month:

Eternal Rest.

Eternal rest grant unto them
O Lord, and let perpetual
light shine upon them. May
they rest in peace.

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

Amen

kingdom of God open with the words: 'Blessed are you who are poor' (Lk 6:20). The meaning of this paradoxical message is that the kingdom of God belongs to the poor because they are in a position to receive it".

"How many poor people do we encounter each day! It seems that the passage of time and the advances of civilisation increase their numbers rather than diminishing them". "Centuries go by and the Beatitude appears even more paradoxical: the poor are always poorer, and today they are poorer than ever".

"The situation of the poor obliges us not to keep our distance from the body of the Lord, who suffers in them. Instead, we are called to touch his flesh and to be personally committed in offering a service that is an authentic form of evangelisation". "Commitment to the promotion of the poor, including their social promotion, is not foreign to the proclamation of the Gospel. On the contrary, it manifests the realism of Christian faith and its historical validity". "God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong. The poor save us because they enable us to encounter the face of Jesus Christ".

He concludes by saying: "If the disciples of the Lord Jesus wish to be genuine evangelisers, they must sow tangible seeds of hope". He then asks all Christian communities, and all those who feel impelled to offer hope, love and consolation to the poor, "To help ensure that this World Day of the Poor will encourage more and more people to cooperate effectively, so that no one will feel deprived of closeness and solidarity".



There is also a video message to those gathered in Lourdes for a four day pilgrimage responding to his call for a 'Poor church for the Poor.'

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2019-11/pope-francis-world-day-of-poor-2019.html>

Pope Francis Tweet

"In the #GospelOfToday is an antidote to haste, Jesus proposes perseverance to each of us: By your perseverance you will secure your lives." Luke 21: 5 - 19



Mass for Deceased Relatives and Friends of Coloma

This annual mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 20th November at 4:30pm in the school hall. It is an opportunity to gather together to remember and pray for all those who have died, especially during the last year. The date chosen is the anniversary of Margaret Dolan, one of our former head teachers and originally commemorated her anniversary. Now we commemorate those who are or have been associated with the school community. The mass is open to anyone who has suffered a bereavement.

Book of Life

In the Chapel there is a 'Book of Life' which contains the names of those who have died. We try to update this book regularly. If there is someone you wish to have included in the book please email Mrs Horsman at horsman@coloma.croydon.sch.uk giving the name of the person and, where possible, the date and year of death.

Tuesday Lunchtime Mass

Mass this week will take place in the Chapel on Tuesday 19th November organized by 11V & 9W – everyone is welcome.

Eucharistic Ministers

If you are a practising Catholic, in good standing with the Church and would like to be consider for training to be a Eucharistic Minister, please email Pat Horsman horsman@coloma.croydon.sch.uk asap.

Further, if you know of Coloma girls being Eucharistic Ministers in their parish please email Pat Horsman so that we can involve them in the school services. Additionally, any girl in Year 11 or above, who is over 16, been confirmed, a regular Mass attender can be considered for this role. If you can recommend any of our pupils, please let me know. Training will begin early next term.

Sunday 24th November – Feast of Christ the King

Next Sunday is the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, formerly referred to as "Christ the King," was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925 as an antidote to secularism, a way of life which leaves God out of man's thinking and living and organizes his life as if God did not exist. The feast is intended to proclaim in a striking and effective manner Christ's royalty over individuals, families, society, governments, and nations.



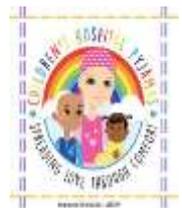
The Mass on this day establishes the titles for Christ's royalty over men: 1) Christ is God, the Creator of the universe and hence wields a supreme power over all things; "All things were created by Him"; 2) Christ is our Redeemer, He purchased us by His precious Blood, and made us His property and possession; 3) Christ is Head of the Church, "holding in all things the primacy"; 4) God bestowed upon Christ the nations of the world as His special possession and dominion. It also describes the qualities of Christ's kingdom. This kingdom is: 1) supreme, extending not only to all people but also to their princes and kings; 2) universal, extending to all nations and to all places; 3) eternal, for "The Lord shall sit a King forever"; 4) spiritual, Christ's "kingdom is not of this world." Before the reform of the Roman Calendar in 1969, this feast was celebrated on the last Sunday of October. It marks the end of the Church's liturgical year.

Advent Wreaths

As the end of the liturgical year approaches and preparations for Advent begin, there is an opportunity to create your own advent wreath. The annual advent wreath making event is taking place at Our Lady of the Annunciation Catholic Church, Bingham Road, on Saturday 30th November from 2 – 4pm. A small amount of greenery will be available on the day or bring your own. Additionally, bring some scissors, clippers, candles and decorations you. To reserve an oasis at a cost of approximately £2.50 call Joanna 07793826103.

Children's Hospital Pyjamas

Final date for collecting pyjamas is Wednesday 20th November for the registered charity Children's Hospital Pyjamas. The purpose is to provide a new set of pyjamas for children who are in hospital over Christmas. A collection box will be available in Learning support for donations. Thank you to all who have donated so far to this cause.



Saints of the Week

18th November Dedication of basilicas of St Peter & Paul



Basilica of St Peter

St Peter's is built on the Vatican Hill, where Peter is thought to have been buried. The original building was built during the reign of Constantine. The popes only began to live there after the return of the papacy from Avignon to Rome. The present building of St Peter's was begun by Pope Julius II in 1506 and for 120 years underwent many alterations under a succession of architects. Its final form derives from Michelangelo who died (1564) before the erection of its great dome. The Basilica was finally consecrated by

Pope Urban VIII on November 18, 1626. Excavations begun in 1942 discovered that the basilica was built over a large Roman cemetery: Peter's tomb is thought to be located at 100 metres under the main altar.

Basilica of St Paul's-outside-the-Walls

St Paul's-outside-the-Walls is located about seven miles from Rome near *Tre Fontane* on the Ostian Way, where Paul was said to have been martyred and the Emperor Constantine began a basilica.

This basilica was enlarged under Theodosius I and Pope St Leo the Great. It was burned to the ground in 1823. During reconstruction a fourth-century tomb was found, with the inscription PAULO APOST MART: "To Paul, apostle and martyr".

A new basilica, on the lines of the old one, was consecrated by Pope Blessed Pius IX on December 10, 1854. In the year of the Apostle Paul 2008-9 (the 2,000th anniversary of the apostle's birth) it hosted the opening Mass for the Synod of Bishops on the Word of God.



21st November - Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This feast highlights the holiness of Mary from the beginning of her life on earth that continued through her early childhood and beyond. It is celebrated both in the Roman and the Eastern Orthodox rites. In the East it takes its origin from the dedication of the Church of Our Lady near the Temple area in Jerusalem which took place on 21st November 543. The Eastern Church took it up as a celebration of Mary's presentation to God in the Temple at the age of three, a non-biblical story from the apocryphal Gospel of James in which we read that her parents offered Mary to God in the Temple when she was three years old. This was to carry out a promise made to God when Anna was still childless. Established in the West late in the Middle Ages, the feast was universally observed by the sixteenth century. It celebrates Mary in her grace-filled life, wholly given over to the Holy Spirit from the time of her conception. The feast is best linked with the other feasts of the birth of Mary (8th September) and of the Immaculate Conception (8th December). It highlights the holiness of Mary from the beginning of her life on earth that continued through her early childhood and beyond.

The Eastern Church has a special icon for this feast included in the top of the iconostasis in every church. This stresses that Mary from the beginning of her life was dedicated to God. She became a greater temple than any made by human hands. God came to dwell in her in a marvellous way and sanctified her for her unique



role in God's saving work. At the same time, the magnificence of Mary redounds on her children. They, too, are temples of God and sanctified so that they may enjoy and share in God's saving work.

22nd November St Cecilia



The story of St. Cecilia is not without beauty or merit. She is said to have been quite close to God and prayed often. In the city of Rome there was a virgin named Cecilia, who came from an extremely rich family and was given in marriage to a youth named Valerian. She wore sackcloth next to her skin, fasted, and invoked the saints, angels, and virgins, beseeching them to guard her virginity. During her wedding ceremony she was said to have sung in her heart to God and before the consummation of her nuptials, she told her husband she had taken a vow of virginity and had an angel protecting her. Valerian asked to see the angel as proof, and Cecilia told him he would have eyes to see once he travelled to the third milestone on the Via Appia (Appian Way) and was baptized by Pope Urbanus.

Following his baptism, Valerian returned to his wife and found an angel at her side. The angel then crowned Cecilia with a chaplet of rose and lily and when Valerian's brother, Tibertius, heard of the angel and his brother's baptism, he also was baptized and together the brothers dedicated their lives to burying the saints who were murdered each day by the prefect of the city, Turcius Almachius. Both brothers were eventually arrested and brought before the prefect where they were executed after they refused to offer a sacrifice to the gods.

As her husband and brother-in-law buried the dead, St. Cecilia spent her time preaching and in her lifetime was able to convert over four hundred people, most of whom were baptized by Pope Urban. Cecilia was later arrested and condemned to be suffocated in the baths. She was shut in for one night and one day, as fires were heaped up and stoked to a terrifying heat - but Cecilia did not even sweat. When Almachius heard this, he sent an executioner to cut off her head in the baths. The executioner struck her three times but was unable to decapitate her so he left her bleeding and she lived for three days. Crowds came to her and collected her blood while she preached to them or prayed. On the third day she died and was buried by Pope Urban and his deacons.

St. Cecilia is regarded as the patroness of music, because she heard heavenly music in her heart when she was married and is represented in art with an organ or organ-pipes in her hand.

Officials exhumed her body in 1599 and found her to be incorrupt, the first of all incorrupt saints. She was draped in a silk veil and wore a gold embroidered dress. Officials only looked through the veil in an act of holy reverence and made no further examinations. They also reported a "mysterious and delightful flower-like odour which proceeded from the coffin." St. Cecilia's remains were transferred to Cecilia's titular church in Trastevere and placed under the high altar.