

Coloma Catholic Life.

Liturgical Year

34th Week – The Feast of Christ the King. Last Sunday of the Liturgical Year. Liturgical colour – White

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=avlMSwar5ms>

Sunday 24th November – Feast of Christ the King

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)

Upcoming Events

26th November – Lunchtime Reconciliation in the Chapel
12:20 – 12:50pm

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

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.

Pope Francis Tweet

"The kingdom of heaven is our common goal, a goal that cannot be only about tomorrow. We have to implore it and begin to experience it today. "Luke 23: 35 – 43.



Tuesday Lunchtime - Reconciliation

Fr Keith will be available in the Chapel during lunchtime on Tuesday to hear confessions or for a private chat. 12:25 – 12:50pm. All are welcome to come and speak to him.

Year 8 Retreat Day Thursday 28th November 2019.



Girls in Year 8 will have the opportunity to spend the day with RISE Theatre Company reflecting on their faith and beliefs. RISE Theatre have been to the school many times during the last two years performing their highly successful play Romero, about the Life of St Oscar Romero and running in-school retreat days. They are a professional Christian theatre company with a passion for delivering

exciting, original, transformative theatre. They are passionate about creating:

- faith based stories that spark the imagination and speak to hearts and minds. Using
- transformative theatre that holds up a mirror to who we are and who we could be. Through multi-creative platforms they create opportunities for people of all ages to explore their sense of identity and purpose in the world.

Eucharistic Ministers

There are a small number of staff and pupils who wish to train for this ministry specifically for school. Training will begin in January.

If you are a practicing Catholic, in good standing with the Church and would like to be considered 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.

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

The final collecting date has now passed. Numbers of items collected to follow.

Charity Collections

Year 12 & 13 are involved in two collections for charity. Year 12 are collecting 'Smalls for All' pants and bras for girls in areas of the developing world, especially Africa, where there are great needs for even these basics. Year 13 are collecting food donations for the Shrublands Trust Foodbank. This is a locally based charity, originally providing support to the local community by the local church the Christian Trust Fellowship.

Our annual Charities Week will soon be upon us. Tickets for in-school events will be on sale during the coming week. More information to follow.

Saints of the Week

25th November St Catherine of Alexandria – Virgin and Martyr



Saint Catherine of Alexandria was martyred around 305 in Alexandria, Egypt. She is also recognized as the Great Martyr and Saint by the Orthodox Church. There are no surviving primary sources attesting to her existence, but the fact that her memory, and the stories about her, have been kept alive - and handed down in the tradition - certainly confirm her existence, and her life of heroic virtue and holiness.

The young saint was born around 287 in Alexandria, Egypt. At that time, Alexandria was one of the finest cities in the world, and a centre of learning and culture as well as faith. Christian tradition states she was of noble birth, possibly a princess. As a member of the nobility, she was also educated and was an avid scholar. Around the age of fourteen, she experienced a moving vision of Mary and the infant Jesus, and she decided to become a Christian. Although she was a teenager, she was very intelligent and gifted. When the emperor Maxentius began persecuting Christians, Catherine visited him to denounce his cruelty.

Rather than order her execution, Maxentius summoned fifty orators and philosophers to debate her. However, Catherine was moved by the power of the Holy Spirit and spoke eloquently in defence of her faith. Her words were so moving that several of the pagans converted to Christianity and were immediately executed. Unable to defeat her rhetorically or to intimidate her into giving up her belief, the emperor ordered her to be tortured and imprisoned.

Catherine was arrested and scourged. Despite the torture, she did not abandon her faith. Word of her arrest and the power of her faith quickly spread and over 200 people visited her. Following her imprisonment, Maxentius made a final attempt to persuade the beautiful Catherine to abandon her faith by proposing marriage to her. This would have made her a powerful empress. Catherine refused, saying she was married to Jesus Christ and that her virginity was dedicated to him. The emperor angrily ordered her to be executed on a breaking wheel. The breaking wheel is an ancient form of torture where a person's limbs are threaded among the spokes and their bones are shattered by an executioner with a heavy rod. It is a brutal punishment that results in a slow and painful death, normally reserved for the worst criminals. When Catherine was presented before the wheel, she touched it and a miracle occurred that caused the wheel to shatter. Unable to torture her to death, the emperor simply ordered her beheaded. One account claimed that angels took her body to Mt. Sinai. In the sixth century, the Emperor Justinian ordered a monastery established in her name. The monastery, Saint Catherine's, remains to this day and is one of the oldest in the world.

30th November – St Andrew - Apostle

St. Andrew, also known as Andrew the Apostle, was a Christian Apostle and the older brother to St. Peter. According to the New Testament, Andrew was born in the village of Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee during the early first century. Much like his younger brother, Simon Peter, Andrew was also a fisherman. Andrew's very name means strong and he was known for having good social skills.

In the Gospel of Matthew, it is said Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee and saw Andrew and Simon Peter fishing. It is then he asked the two to become disciples and "fishers of men."

The Gospel of John tells a separate story, stating Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist. When Jesus walked by one day, John the Baptist stated, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" It is then that Andrew and another made the decision to follow Jesus. Little else is said about Andrew in the Gospels, but it is believed Andrew was one of the closer disciples to Jesus. It was he who told Jesus about the boy with the loaves and fishes, according to John 6:8. When Philip wanted to speak to Jesus about Greeks seeking him, he spoke to Andrew first. Andrew was also present at the last supper.



Per Christian tradition, Andrew went on to preach the Good News around the shores of the Black Sea and throughout what is now Greece and Turkey. Andrew was martyred by crucifixion in Patras. He was bound, rather than nailed, to a cross, as is described in the Acts of Andrew. He was crucified on a cross form known as "crux decussata," which is an X-shaped cross or a "saltire." Today this is commonly referred to as "St. Andrew's Cross." It is believed Andrew requested to be crucified this way, because he deemed himself "unworthy to be crucified on the same type of cross as Jesus."

Andrew's remains were originally preserved at Patras. However, some believe St. Regulus, who was a monk at Patras, received a vision telling him to hide some of Andrew's bones. Shortly after Regulus' dream, many of Andrew's relics were transferred to Constantinople by order of Roman emperor Constantius II around 357. Regulus later received orders in a second dream telling him to take the bones "to the ends of the earth." He was to build a shrine for them wherever he shipwrecked. He landed on the coast of Fife, Scotland.

His saltire cross is featured on the flag of Scotland and is represented in much of his iconography. He is commonly portrayed as an old man with long white hair and a beard, often holding the Gospel book or a scroll. St. Andrew is the patron saint of fishermen and singers. He is also the patron saint to several countries and cities including Scotland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine and Patras.

One of the criminals who was hanged
insulted him, saying, "If you are the
Christ, save yourself and us!"

But the other answered, and rebuking
him said, "Don't you even fear God,
seeing you are under the same
condemnation? And we indeed justly, for
we receive the due reward for our deeds,
but this man has done
nothing wrong." He said to Jesus, "Lord,
remember me when you come into your
Kingdom."

(Luke 23:40-42, WEB)



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