

Coloma Catholic Life.

Liturgical Year

32nd 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>

Gospel reflection for Sunday 10th November: Luke 20:27-38

Yesterday's Gospel told us of the question posed by the Sadducees to Jesus about life after death. They created a scenario of a woman who, after her husband's death, marries his 6 brothers in order to raise up children for him. This was the law for Jews so that there would be someone to pray for the deceased father. Interestingly, Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection of the dead as it is not part of the written Torah (law). Why did they ask the question? Probably to trick or embarrass Jesus and undermine his teachings or popularity.

The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection of the dead but believed in the traditional Jewish concept of Sheol for those who had died. They also believed the soul is not immortal; there is no afterlife and there are no rewards or penalties after death. They also rejected the notion of spirits or angels.

Pope Francis Tweet

"Listening to the simple and clear words of Jesu about life after death in the #GospelOfToday (Luke 20:27-38) gives great consolation and hope. We need this a lot in our time, so rich in knowledge about the universe but so poor in wisdom about eternal life."



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

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.

Prayer of the Week

This has been uploaded to General Teachers' Admin – Prayer of the Week Folder as a PowerPoint to use in lessons for all staff. Below is a link to use during form time. This will be the prayer for the whole of November as it is dedicated to the Holy souls in Purgatory.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZPfKfo8mms>

Tuesday Lunchtime Mass

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

Eucharistic Ministers

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.

Children's Hospital Pyjamas

Miss Coleman is organising for the collection of new children's pyjamas from Monday 4th November to 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.





Remembrance Day – Monday 11th November

Remembrance Day is Monday 11th November. We will not publicly announce the 2 minute silence on the tannoy at 11am as this will disturb the PPE exams. All the year groups will have had an assembly input on Remembrance by 11am on Monday.

If you wish to use an 11am timeslot in lesson to observe the 2 minutes silence, there is a link here

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/stories/two-minute-silence> with a video about why Remembrance Day is still so important in today's society, which you may find helpful to use.

Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji – Tuesday 12th November

Guru Nanak Jayanti, or as it is commonly called, Guru Nanak Gurburab, is a Sikh festival which is celebrated with a lot of fervour and excitement in many parts of [India](#) by Sikh and [Punjabi](#) communities alike. Most Sikh festivities are centred around the birth of their ten Gurus, who helped shape the religion and preach the importance of religious devotion. As the name suggests, Guru Nanak Gurburab celebrates the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, who is the first Guru of the Sikhs and the founder of Sikhism.

The day is celebrated by an Akhand Path, a non-stop reading of the Sikh's holy book Guru Granth Sahib Ji, which commences two days prior to the actual day. Processions are held in various states like Punjab and Delhi and people do a lot of Sewa, extending their selfless service, in cleaning the road ahead of the procession for the Palki or Palanquin, and distributing free food and drinks to everyone, regardless of the caste or background. These processions are led by the Panj Pyaras, the Five Beloved Ones carrying the Sikh flag, Nishan Sahib.

The original Panj Pyaras played a major role in defining the history of Sikhism as they were the first ones to get baptised in the Sikh initiation ceremony of Amrit Sanchar. The procession also has devotees singing hymns in the praise of their lord and performing Gatka, a form of martial art. Gatka: On the day of the Gurburab, the Akhand Path is concluded by singing Asa di Var, the morning prayers. It is followed by people visiting the Gurdwaras to offer their prayers, take blessings, listen to melodious hymns and calm their minds. All the Gurdwaras are beautifully adorned with flowers and upholstery, and at night, they are lit with light bulbs, rendering it a breath-taking view.



Since it is a special day, people flock to the Gurdwaras in huge numbers with their friends and families. As a form of Sewa, there are usually many stalls serving all kinds of delicious food outside the Gurdwaras, and inside, Langar, the food prepared by the people, is served to everyone, regardless of their caste or community. Karha Prasad is also served throughout the day. People also distribute sweets to others to show and spread their happiness.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji

Born into a Kshatriya (warrior) family on 14th April 1469 A.D in the village Talwandi in Lahore, Pakistan, Guru Nanak was the son of Mehta Kalu Chand and Mata Tripti Devi. He got married to Bibi Sulakhani and was blessed with two sons, Srichand and Lakshnichand. Since an early age, he was religious and spent time reciting God's name. He had a Noor, radiant glow on his face which made him stand out in the crowd. He never threw any tantrums and was a very balanced and poised child. His devotion led him to leave his family to go in the woods and

meditate. He became an advocate of God's teachings, impressing upon the fact that there is no Hindu or Sikh or Muslim, that we all are the children of God and should recite his name during duress or eustress. His hymns were recorded in Japji Sahib, a holy scripture in Sikhism, which is a part of Guru Granth Sahib as well. It is a description of the stages of a man's life before he departs this life.

His first devotee was Mardana, and as Baba Nanak travelled across the land to preach to the public, his devotees kept increasing, regardless of any religious affiliation. There are many saakhis, or short stories, which serve as important moral lessons as part of Guru Nanak's journey that are still famous today. They throw light on his divine journey and his profound understanding of things. During the last years of his life, he went back to his home to live with his family. Mardana, who was his faithful devotee, also followed him and lived with him. Guru Nanak took his last breath at the age of 69 in 1538.

Saints of the Week

11th November St Martin of Tours - Bishop (c.316 – 397)



He was born in the Roman province of Pannonia (approximating to the western half of modern Hungary) in about 316 and was educated at Pavia in Italy. He was baptized, left the army and after spending some time as a hermit on an island off the Ligurian coast, founded a monastery at Ligugé in western France, where he lived a monastic life guided by St Hilary. Later he was ordained priest and became bishop of Tours. In his actions he gave an example of what a good shepherd should be. He founded other monasteries, educated the clergy, and preached the Gospel to the poor. He died in 397. The famous story about St Martin is that while a soldier in Amiens he gave half of his military cloak to a beggar and later had a dream in which the beggar revealed himself as Christ.

12th November St Josaphat

He was born in the Ukraine of Orthodox parents. In 1595 the Union of Brest brought the Ruthenian Church into communion with Catholic Rome while still preserving its own liturgy. The result was a schism within the church itself, with one party wanting to remain Orthodox and in the orbit of Moscow and Constantinople, while the other accepted the Union. Matters were complicated by the presence of the Greek Uniates, a remnant of a century-old attempt at church union (who remain a living church to this day).

Josaphat joined the first monastery of the order of St Basil to be united to the Catholic Church: he was the first person to do so. He was ordained priest and, eventually and reluctantly, appointed bishop of Polotsk in 1617. Although Sigismund III Vasa, King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania, supported the union, the local aristocracy were against it because it threatened their control of ecclesiastical benefices. Plotting with the Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem, who visited the Ukraine in 1621, they stirred up trouble and as a result Josaphat was murdered by a mob in 1623 while on a pastoral visit to Vitebsk.



15th November St Albert the Great



He was born at Lauingen on the Danube, in Germany, and studied at Padua and Paris before entering the Dominican Order. He taught in a number of places including the University of Paris, where St Thomas Aquinas studied under him. He was one of the greatest philosophers of the Middle Ages, coming at the beginning of the great flowering that came with the rediscovery of the works of Aristotle. He had a great interest in science and astronomy and his learning gave him the title, as a Doctor of the Church, of *Doctor Universalis*, the "Universal Doctor." In 1260 the Pope made him Bishop of Regensburg, a post that he held for three years before resigning it. He made great efforts to secure peace between people and between cities. He died at Cologne in 1280.

16th November St Margaret of Scotland – House Saint

Margaret was born in 1046 and was a member of an ancient English royal family. She was a direct descendant of King Alfred and was the granddaughter of King Edmund Ironside of England through his son Edward. Along with her family Margaret had been exiled to the eastern continent when King Canute and his Danish army had overrun England. Beautiful and devout she was also intelligent receiving her formal education in Hungary.



Margaret and her family returned to England towards the end of the reign of her great-uncle, Edward the Confessor, as her younger brother Edgar the Aetheling, had a very strong claim to the English throne. As some of the last remaining Saxon Royals in England, Margaret and her family's position was precarious and fearing for their lives they fled northwards, in the opposite direction to the advancing Normans. They were heading back to the continent from Northumbria when their ship was blown off course and landed in Fife.

The Scottish King, Malcolm III, known as Malcolm Canmore, offered his protection to the royal family. Malcolm was particularly protective towards Margaret! She initially refused his proposals of marriage, preferring, according to one account, a life of piety as a virgin. Malcolm however was a persistent king, and the couple finally married in Dunfermline in 1069.

Their union was exceptionally happy and fruitful for both themselves and the Scottish nation. Margaret brought with her some of the finer points of current European manners, ceremony and culture to the Scottish Court, which highly improved its civilised reputation. Queen Margaret was renowned for her moderating and good influence on her husband and also for her devout piety and religious observance. She was a prime mover in the reform of the Church in Scotland.

Under Queen Margaret's leadership Church councils promoted Easter communion and, much to joy of the working-class, abstinence from servile work on a Sunday. Margaret founded churches, monasteries and pilgrimage hostels and established the Royal Mausoleum at Dunfermline Abbey with monks from Canterbury. She was especially fond of Scottish saints and instigated the Queen's Ferry over the Forth so that pilgrims could more easily reach the Shrine of St. Andrew.

Mass was changed from the many dialects of Gaelic spoken throughout Scotland to the unifying Latin. By adopting Latin to celebrate the Mass she believed that all Scots could worship together in unity, along with the other Christians of Western Europe. Many people believe that in doing this, it was not only Queen Margaret's goals to unite the Scots, but also Scotland and England in an attempt to end the bloody warfare between the two countries.

In setting the agenda for the church in Scotland Queen Margaret also ensured the dominance of the Roman Church over the native Celtic Church in the north of the country.

Margaret was very pious and cared especially for the poor and orphans. It was this piety that caused considerable damage to her health with the repeated fasting and abstinence. In 1093, as she lay on her deathbed after a long illness, she was told that her husband and eldest son had been ambushed and treacherously killed at the Battle of Alnwick in Northumbria. She died shortly after aged just forty-seven.

She was buried alongside Malcolm in Dunfermline Abbey and the reported miracles that took place in and around her tomb supported her canonization in 1250 by Pope Innocent IV.

