

## Upcoming Events

**2<sup>nd</sup> December**  
Charities Week

**3<sup>rd</sup> December**  
Senior Advent Service  
6:00pm at Our Lady of the  
Annunciation, Addiscombe

**18<sup>th</sup> December**  
Coloma Carol Service  
7:00pm Croydon Minister

**20<sup>th</sup> December** – End of term  
Masses in the school hall

### Prayer of the Month:

#### Advent Prayer:

4,3,2,1...count the weeks till  
Jesus comes.

Each week we add another  
light, our hope for Jesus  
growing bright.

We pray, we share, we do  
our part to welcome Jesus  
into our hearts.

Amen

# Coloma Catholic Life.

## Liturgical Year

1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent – Liturgical colour – Purple



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

### The Future of the Very Young

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering

### 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.



### Advent

Advent marks the beginning of the Church's liturgical year. Advent comes from the Latin word meaning "coming." Jesus is coming, and Advent is intended to be a season of preparation for His arrival. While we typically regard Advent as a joyous season, it is also intended to be a period of preparation, much like Lent. Prayer, penance and fasting are appropriate during this season. Advent is not as strict as Lent, and there are no rules for fasting, but it is meant to be a period of self-preparation. The purple colour associated with Advent is also the colour of penance. The faithful should fast during the first two weeks in particular and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The colour of the Third Sunday of Advent is rose. This colour symbolizes joy and represents the happiness we will experience when Jesus comes again. The Third Sunday is a day of anticipatory celebration. It is formerly called "Gaudete" Sunday; gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin. Finally, Sundays during Advent, just as during Lent, should not be given to fasting, but instead to celebration because we celebrate the resurrection of Our Lord every Sunday. These links are a simple way of explaining the meaning of Advent.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eC0FGQLBp7w>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ksHKrlaO1pl>

## LITURGICAL COLOURS

In order to help us to enter into the cycle of the year the Church uses different colours for different seasons. The practice of using different colours for vestments and other liturgical objects during the various seasons of the Church year was first noted amongst a clerical order in Jerusalem in the 12th century. The liturgical colours were standardised throughout the Church in the period after the Council of Trent in the mid-16th century. The four basic liturgical colours are white, green, red and purple.

The traditional symbolism of these colours is:

**WHITE** – innocence, purity, victory, joy, resurrection; used during the Easter and Christmas season; on Trinity Sunday, on celebrations of the Lord (other than his passion) such as Ascension, Corpus Christi, Christ the King, celebrations of the Blessed Virgin Mary, celebrations of the Holy Angels and of Saints who were not martyrs; on the feasts of All Saints, the Birth of John the Baptist, St John the Evangelist, the chair of St Peter and the Conversion of St Paul.

**GREEN** – hope, growth, increase, life, fidelity; used throughout Ordinary Time. Green is often linked to Spring and the coming of new life. It also shows the greenness of God's creation; and the growth of the church throughout the liturgical year.

**RED** - sacrifice (particularly the sacrifice of life), charity, zeal, Holy Spirit; used on Pentecost, martyrs feast days

**PURPLE** – sorrow, penitence, preparation. Used in advent and Lent and may be used in Masses for the Dead. Purple in the liturgical year represents both the suffering and death of Jesus, and also a realisation that the death of Christ is caused by the sin of humanity.

Rose may be used on *Gaudete* Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent) and *Laetare* Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent).

According to the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, the purpose of the variety of colour of the sacred vestments is to 'express outwardly the specific character of the mysteries of faith being celebrated and to give a sense of the passage of the Christian life throughout the course of the liturgical year.' (GIRM 2000 - 345)

This vestment worn by the priest at mass is called a chasuble; a stole is also worn underneath the chasuble and signifies the person has been received into holy orders and has a duty to spread the Word of God.



## 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 consider for training to be a Eucharistic Minister, please email Pat Horsman [horsman@coloma.croydon.sch.uk](mailto: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 Services**

The Senior service is taking place at Our lady of the Annunciation Church, Addiscombe on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 6:00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Coloma Carol Service is being held at Croydon Minster on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7:00pm.

### **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.

### **Charities Week**

Our annual Charities Week begins on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. This year's theme is 'Decades' and the chosen charity is The Rainbow Trust Children's Charity. Rainbow Trust supports families who have a child aged 0-18 years with a life threatening or terminal illness and are in the greatest need. They provide a lifeline to these families and children. They support the whole family including parents, carers, the unwell child, brothers, sisters and grandparents. They bring support and help to families who so desperately need it at home, in hospital and in the community. Any family can receive support from the moment of their child or young person's diagnosis. The support is varied and depends on the needs of the child and family.

### **Canon Guillaume van Crombrughe**



1<sup>st</sup> December is the anniversary of the death of Canon Constant Guillaume van Crombrughe in 1865. He lived during a time of great upheaval in Western Europe in what is now Belgium. He was born and baptized in Grammont (Geraardsbergen) in the region of East Flanders in Belgium on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1789. His father, Ghislain-Francois was a successful brewer. His mother Cecile-Joseph, a leading force in the lace-making business, belonged to an established and influential family in Grammont. During his life, van Crombrughe undertook a wide variety of activities including responsibility for the choristers of the Cathedral of Amiens in France, secretary and special envoy to the Bishop of Gent, an elected delegate to the National Constitutional Congress of Belgium, Headmaster of the College of Aalst and founder of four religious orders, including the Daughters of Mary and Joseph, our trustees. He died on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 1865 from the effects of sunstroke to which he was exposed many years previously.

## Saints of the Week

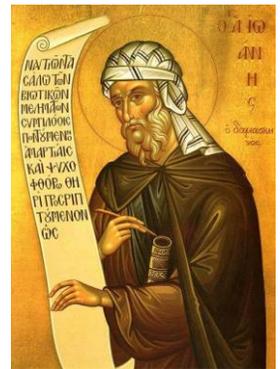
### 3<sup>rd</sup> December: St Francis Xavier, Priest



St Francis Xavier (1506-1552) was born in the Basque country of Spain in 1506. He met Ignatius Loyola when he was a student in Paris, and he was ordained priest in 1537. In 1541 the Pope sent him as part of a mission to India, and he spent the rest of his life in the East, preaching the Gospel in Goa and Malacca. He made many converts and fought against the exploitation of the native population by the Europeans. He spent two years on a successful mission to Japan, laying the foundations of many Christian communities; and in 1552, after entering China secretly to preach the Gospel there, he died of fever and exhaustion on the Chinese island of Shangchwan.

### 4<sup>th</sup> December St John Damascene, Priest and Doctor

St John Damascene (676-749AD) was born of a Christian family in Damascus in the second half of the seventh century, where his father was a high official under the Umayyad caliph; a post which he inherited. When the Iconoclast movement (seeking to prohibit the veneration of icons) gained acceptance in the Byzantine court, John, being under Muslim rather than Byzantine rule, was able to write effective treatises attacking Iconoclasm and attacking the emperor for supporting it. At about this time he retired to the monastery of Saint Sabas near Jerusalem, where he became a monk and was ordained. He died in the middle of the eighth century. He wrote many theological treatises in a dangerously clear and accessible style which made the issues understandable even by non-experts. His name was reviled and execrated by the imperial Iconoclast party even after his death. Sometimes known as "the last of the Church Fathers," he was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Leo XIII in 1883.



### 6<sup>th</sup> December St Nicholas, Bishop, Patron Saint of Children



St Nicholas (c270-343AD) was bishop of Myra, in Lycia (now part of Turkey) and died about the middle of the fourth century. He has been venerated throughout the Church, especially since the 10th century. Because of his help to the poor he is the patron saint of pawnbrokers, whose insignia of three golden balls represent the three purses of gold he is said to have given secretly to a poor man who could not afford dowries for his three daughters.



Happy  
New  
Liturgical  
Year!!