

Coloma Catholic Life.

Liturgical Year

2nd Week in Lent. Liturgical colour – Purple

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March Catholics in China

We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

Video link: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-03/pope-francis-prayer-intention-march-2020.html>

Pope Francis Tweet

"The wondrous event of the Transfiguration, recounted in the Gospel of today, opens us to a fuller understanding of the mystery of Christ, who must suffer, die and then rise again."

Gospel reflection for Sunday 1st March: Matthew 17: 1 - 9



The transfiguration of Jesus Christ was a powerful demonstration of His divine nature and manifestation of His glory, which Jesus possessed prior to coming to earth in the human body. Jesus takes Peter, James, and John into a very secluded place they see Jesus standing before them with an ineffable (indescribable) manifestation of light and glory which will be His when he reigns as King in days to come. He had laid aside that external glory and for just a few minutes as they watched they see him transfigured.

The Transfiguration provides further evidence that Jesus was the divine Son of God. It is not coincidental that this happened soon after Jesus had acknowledged Himself to be the Christ, the one who left heaven's glory to come to earth. Now three of His disciples were to get a glimpse of that glory. The appearance of Moses and Elijah with Jesus is highly significant. The name Moses was equated with the Old Testament law that God had given to the people. Jesus came and fulfilled the commandments of the law and did the things the law could not do, that is, to provide an answer for the problem of sin. The law pointed out the problem; Jesus gave the solution. Elijah was an outstanding figure in the Old Testament. He was a great prophet and his appearance with Moses on the Mount of Transfiguration testified that Jesus fulfilled the prophets, as well as the law.



Upcoming Events

10th March – Periods 5 & 6 Reconciliation for Year 8

17th March – Periods 5 & 6 Reconciliation for Year 9

24th March – Periods 5 & 6 Reconciliation for Year 10

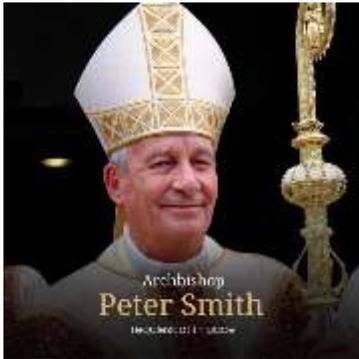
1st April - Periods 5 & 6 Reconciliation for Year 11

Years 12 & 13 are warmly invited to attend any of the above to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

10th April - Good Friday

The voice of God the Father gave further confirmation of the calling and Sonship of Jesus. He acknowledged that Jesus had pleased Him in the things He had said and done.

The Most Reverend Peter Smith Emeritus Archbishop of Southwark



On Friday 6th March the Archdiocese of Southwark announced that Archbishop Peter had returned to the Lord. Archbishop Peter joined us at Coloma on 11th July 2019 to celebrate 150 years since the founding of the school. He presented us with a Papal Blessing commemorating the occasion.

Below is the statement by Archbishop John Wilson on the diocesan website.

"It is with great sadness that I write to inform you that Archbishop Peter Smith, our beloved Archbishop Emeritus, died peacefully just before midnight yesterday, Friday 6 March 2020, at the Royal Marsden Hospital, Chelsea.

Archbishop Peter had received the sacraments and prayers of the Church, and his former secretary, Fr Philip Glandfield, was with him when he died. I was able to visit him earlier that evening, together with the Vicar General, Mgr Matthew Dickens, and the Hospital Chaplain, Fr Joseph McCullough. Mr John Toryusen, the Director of the Archdiocese of Southwark Youth Service, accompanied Archbishop Peter during his illness and his time in hospital. Archbishop Peter was visited in hospital by family and friends, and by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the Archbishop of Westminster.

Archbishop Peter's illness progressed very quickly following his diagnosis of cancer just a few weeks ago. He was a much loved brother, uncle, and friend; a priest of the Archdiocese of Southwark, Rector of St John's Seminary, Wonersh, Bishop of East Anglia, Archbishop of Cardiff and Archbishop of Southwark until his retirement in July 2019. While Archbishop of Southwark, he also served from 2014-2015 as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. So many good wishes have been passed to him in the past few weeks, and prayers and Masses offered. Thank you for all of these.

Our gift to Archbishop Peter now is to pray for the repose of his soul, and to remember prayerfully his family, friends and loved ones at their time of loss.

Please pray for Archbishop Peter in your parish intercessions at the Masses this weekend and also offer Mass for him as soon as possible. I would be grateful if you could let any religious in your parish know of Archbishop Peter's death, and also ask the prayers of your parish and school communities.

In a ministry that spanned almost fifty years, Archbishop Peter made an outstanding contribution to the Catholic Church across three dioceses, and nationally through his service on the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Most importantly, he was a disciple who witnessed to Christ with straightforward, splendid faith and radiant joy. Together with the other dioceses in which Archbishop Peter served, we mourn him with enormous affection and deep gratitude for all he gave so willingly and selflessly to so many people.

We are grateful for the care Archbishop Peter received from the staff at the Royal Marsden Hospital.

We now entrust our friend and brother to the Lord whom he served with such faithfulness, generosity and gentleness. May Archbishop Peter rest in peace and rise in glory.

More information about the funeral arrangements for Archbishop Peter will be forthcoming, along with more comprehensive appreciations of Archbishop Peter's life of service.

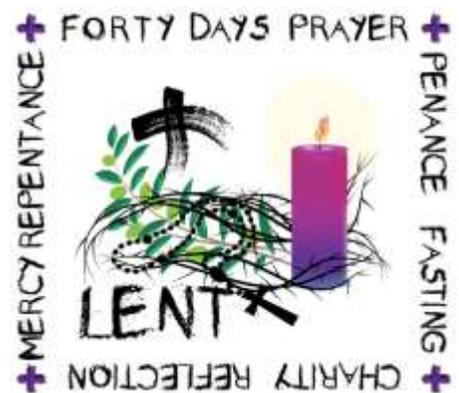
May the saints and angels welcome him to paradise.
Yours devotedly in Christ

+ John
Most Rev John Wilson
Archbishop of Southwark"

Lent

Lent is a special time of prayer, penance, fasting and good works (almsgiving) in preparation for the celebration of Easter. The word **lent** is derived from the Anglo-Saxon words **lencten** meaning 'Spring' and **lenctentid**, which literally means not only 'Springtide' but also the word for 'March'.

Present fasting and abstinence laws are very simple: On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, the faithful fast and abstain from meat. We are still encouraged 'to give up something' for Lent as a sacrifice. On Sundays and solemnities like St Joseph's Day, March 19 and the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25th, we can break the fast.



At least once a year, especially during Lent we are strongly encouraged to receive absolution in sacramental confession for any mortal sin and to receive the Eucharist during the Easter season.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

During Lent all girls will have the opportunity to receive absolution in sacramental confession. This week we welcome to Coloma Fr Bartholomew, from St Chad's, South Norwood and Fr Innocent from St Michael's Pollards Hill. They will be available in the Chapel for girls in **Year 8** on Tuesday 10th March from 1:10 – 2:50pm. Any girl wishing to take this opportunity must collect a ticket from her Form Tutor with a specific time to go to the Chapel to receive the sacrament.

9th March Purim – Judaism



Purim begins at sunset on Monday 9th March and ends at sunset on Tuesday 10th March. In Judaism the day begins and ends at sunset, based on Genesis where it says "evening came and morning came, the first day".

The story of the joyous holiday of Purim might appear sombre at first glance: It tells of the near-destruction of the Jewish people as decreed by Haman, an adviser to the Persian King Ahasuerus.

However, Ahasuerus' newly crowned queen, Esther — who replaced Vashti when she was thrown out of the kingdom — is secretly a Jew.

Due to her courage and her eventual role in saving the Jews, the story of Purim is known as "Megillat Esther," or the Scroll of Esther. There are several common practices on Purim: giving gifts to poor people, reading the megillah, the Purim story, eating a festive meal, or seudah, giving food gifts, called mishloach manot, to friends, eating hamantaschen, triangle-shaped cookies named for the villainous Haman.

10th March Holi – Hinduism

An ancient Hindu festival, which later became popular among non-Hindu communities as well, Holi heralds the arrival of spring after winter. It signifies the victory of good over evil and is celebrated as a day of spreading happiness and love. The festival is also celebrated as thanksgiving for good harvest.



According to Bhagvata Purana, King Hiranyakashipu--the king of demonic Asuras, who could neither be killed by a man or an animal--grew arrogant and demanded that everybody should worship him as god. The king's son, Prahlada, disagreed and chose to remain devoted to Vishnu. Hiranyakashipu was infuriated and subjected his son to cruel punishments. Finally, Holika, the king's sister, tricked him into sitting on a pyre with her. While Holika protected herself with a cloak, Prahlada remained exposed. As the fire blazed, the cloak flew from Holika's body and encased Prahlada, thus saving his life. Later, Vishnu appeared in the avatar of Narsimha, half man and half lion, and killed the king. This is why Holi begins with the Holika bonfire, which marks the end of evil.

According to another legend, Lord Krishna had developed a characteristic blue skin colour after Putana, a demon, poisoned him with her breast milk. Krishna worried if the fair-skinned Radha and her companions would ever like him because of his skin colour. Krishna's mother then asked him to approach Radha and smear her face with any colour he wanted. The playful colouring gradually evolved as a tradition and later, as a festival observed as Holi, in the Braj region of India.

Holi celebrations start on the night before Holi with Holika Dahan, where people perform rituals in front of a bonfire, praying for their inner evil to be destroyed, just as Holika was killed in fire. The carnival of colours begins the next morning, where people come out on the streets to play with colours, and drench each other in coloured water through water guns or balloons.

Saints of the Week

St Frances of Rome – 9th March



Frances was born in 1384 in Rome to a wealthy and aristocratic couple, Paolo Bussa and Iacobella dei Roffredeschi, in the up-and-coming district of Parione and christened in the nearby Church of St. Agnes on the famed Piazza Navona. When she was eleven years old, she wanted to be a nun, but, at about the age of twelve, her parents forced her to marry Lorenzo Ponziani, commander of the papal troops of Rome and member of an extremely wealthy family. Although the marriage had been arranged, it was a happy one, lasting for forty years, partly because Lorenzo admired his wife, and partly

"May your love be upon us O Lord, as we place all our hope in you"

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because he was frequently away at war.

With her sister-in-law Vannoza, Frances visited the poor and took care of the sick, inspiring other wealthy women of the city to do the same. Soon after her marriage, Frances fell seriously ill. Her husband called a man in who dabbled in magic, but Frances drove him away, and later recounted to Vannoza that St. Alexis had appeared to her and cured her.

When her mother-in-law died, Frances became mistress of the household. During a time of flood and famine, she turned part of the family's country estate into a hospital and distributed food and clothing to the poor. According to one account, her father-in-law was so angry that he took away from her the keys to the supply rooms; but gave them back when he saw that the corn bin and wine barrel were replenished after Frances finished praying.

During the wars between the Pope in Rome and various anti-popes in the Western Schism of the Catholic Church, Lorenzo served the former. According to one story, their son Battista was to be delivered as a hostage to the commander of the Neapolitan troops. Obeying this order on the command of her spiritual director, Frances took her son to the Campidoglio. On the way, she stopped in the Church of the Aracoeli located there and entrusted her son's life to the Blessed Mother. When they arrived at the appointed site, the soldiers tried to put her son on a horse to transport him to captivity. However, the horse refused to move despite heavy whipping. The superstitious soldiers saw the hand of God in this and returned the boy to his mother.

During a period of forced exile, much of Lorenzo's property and possessions were destroyed. In the course of one occupation of Rome by Neapolitan forces in the early part of the century, he was wounded so severely that he never fully recovered. Frances nursed him throughout the rest of his life.

Frances experienced other sorrows during her marriage to Lorenzo. They lost two children to the plague. Chaos ruled the city in that period of neglect by the pope and the ongoing warfare between him and the various forces competing for power on the Italian peninsula devastated the city. The city of Rome was largely in ruins, and wolves were known to enter the streets. Frances again opened her home as a hospital and drove her wagon through the countryside to collect wood for fire and herbs for medicine. It is said she had the gift of healing, and over 60 cases were attested to during the canonization proceedings.

According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, "With her husband's consent St. Frances practiced continence, and advanced in a life of contemplation. Her visions often assumed the form of drama enacted for her by heavenly personages. She had the gift of miracles and ecstasy, as well as the bodily vision of her guardian angel, had revelations concerning Purgatory and Hell, and foretold the ending of the Western Schism. She could read the secrets of consciences and detect plots of diabolical origin. She was remarkable for her humility and detachment, her obedience and patience".

On August 15, 1425, the feast of the Assumption of Mary, she founded the Olivetan Oblates of Mary, a confraternity of pious women, under the authority of the Olivetan monks of the Abbey of Santa Maria Nova in Rome, but neither cloistered nor bound by formal vows, so they could follow her pattern of combining a life of prayer with answering the needs of their society.

In March 1433 she founded a monastery at Tor de' Specchi, near the Campidoglio, in order to allow for a common life by those members of the confraternity who felt so called. This monastery remains the only house of the Institute. That July 4, they received the approval of Pope Eugene IV as a religious congregation of oblates with private religious vows. The community later became known simply as the Oblates of St. Frances of Rome.

Frances herself remained in her own home, nursing her husband for the last seven years of his life from wounds he had received in battle. When he died in 1436, she moved into the monastery and became the superior. She died in 1440 and was buried in Santa Maria Nova.



Rest in peace
Good and faithful servant