



# Coloma Catholic Life.

**TRUST THE PAST TO THE  
MERCY OF GOD,  
THE PRESENT TO HIS LOVE,  
THE FUTURE TO HIS  
PROVIDENCE.**

ST AUGUSTINE



A very warm welcome back to school for everyone, but especially new members of staff and pupils. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide resources and suggestions for supporting and developing the spiritual life of the school. As the year progresses there will be a wide variety of information explaining different customs or traditions pertaining to the Catholic faith, other world faiths, links to interesting information and resources to support our school community, enabling us to deepen our knowledge of our faith whatever that may be.

## Chapel

The school chapel is open every day for anyone to take time out for quiet reflection. The chairs have been rearranged to allow for social distancing; please do not move the chairs. There will be many opportunities for prayer, reflection and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the year. Please feel free to go to the Chapel for quiet time, whatever your faith perspective, always mindful of the presence of the Blessed sacrament.

## Sacrament of Reconciliation



Hopefully, Fr Keith or Fr Jackson from Our Lady's will be able to come to school to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, which is open to everyone. Once this is confirmed, further details will follow.



## Pope Francis

**Prayer Intention for September:  
Respect for the Planet's  
resources.**

'We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.'

**Tweet:** "For Peter and the other disciples – but for us too! – the cross is a 'hindrance', whereas Jesus considers the 'hindrance' escaping the cross, which would mean avoiding the Father's will, the mission that the Father has entrusted to Him for our salvation."

## Liturgical Year

Week: 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Colour: Green

## Mass in School

Below is an extract from Archbishop John Wilson to Head Teachers of Catholic schools.

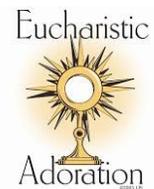
*“As we approach the beginning of a new school year, new procedures and routines need to be established in all areas of school life, including the life of prayer and the celebration of the liturgy. As we know, the celebration of the Mass is foundational to our faith as Catholics. However, you will also be aware that, at present, Mass is being celebrated in parishes with particular restrictions and hygiene regulations in place. This is to reduce any possible spread of Covid 19. The temporary suspension of the obligation on Catholics to attend Mass on Sunday also remains in place because of the pandemic. Following due consideration, it therefore seems prudent, for the time being, to continue the deferral of the celebration of Mass within schools, including school Masses usually held in a local Church. It is also not possible to hold any school celebrations of Word and Communion, where Holy Communion is distributed in a liturgy outside of the Mass.*

*These are provisional measure which will be reviewed on a half termly basis. I know you will appreciate how important it is that we do all we can to limit any spread of Covid 19. This said, we also want our staff and students to be able to attend Mass in school again as soon as possible.”*

Unfortunately, this means we will be unable to celebrate Mass as a whole school or individual classes for the foreseeable future. Therefore, we will be looking at ways to be more creative in our prayer life, and to provide alternative ways of coming together to pray in smaller groups.

## Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Once we have settled into the new routines and changes to the school day, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place once a week at some point during the lunchtime period. It is a wonderful opportunity to take a break from our hectic school life and ‘waste time with Jesus’. Everyone is welcome, please encourage the girls to come along. Specific tutor groups will receive a special invitation to come along in due course.



## Class Assemblies

Class assemblies are a fundamental and integral part of the spiritual life of the school. They provide the girls with an opportunity to focus on a particular theme, request prayers and just to have a little time out during the day. Resources and ideas will be provided during the coming year. A meaningful collective act of worship is a statutory requirement; it is not sufficient to simply say the school prayer. Guidance on class assemblies/collective acts of worship will be provided for all Heads of Year and Tutors.



## New School Year Resolutions

The beginning of any new year brings with it firm resolves to change. As we all return to school, perhaps take time to consider how things can change and be done differently, so that the new year is a rich and rewarding experience.

## Pupils' Dedication to Studies

God, our almighty Father, to you we dedicate our studies and the work we do this year.

Open our minds and our hearts so that together we may be grateful for our gifts and the gifts of others; generous to one another; attentive and discerning in the events of daily life; compassionate with the needy; loving towards others; faithful to our beliefs, with hope in the future; learning to find God in all things; curious to know and engaged with the world.

May we use resources wisely, employ our knowledge for the benefit of others and create one family in school to the greater glory of God.

Amen.

### Staff Dedication to Teaching

Lord, you have called me to teach, to be your face and word in school, to bring your message of faith, hope and love.

With my pupils may I be always patient and understanding.

With my colleagues may I be always generous and supportive.

To those entrusted to lead the school may I be always considerate and constructive.

With myself may I be always grateful for daily blessings.

With everyone I encounter may I be just in my actions and forgiving with my words.

May I praise, encourage, help, accompany and bring light and joy to those I meet.

May my words be truthful and inspiring.

May my room be a place of peace and respect, discovery and learning, where each person can flourish, growing to be the person you call them to be.

Give me energy, faith and commitment.

Give me the wisdom and strength of your Spirit, today and every day, that I may help those entrusted to my care for the common good and for your greater glory.

Amen

### Religious Festivals this Week

#### Installation of the Guru Granth Sahib in the Harmandir Sahib - Amritsar 1604 CE

In 1604 CE, in the place of worship where the Golden Temple now stands, Guru Arjan Dev, the Sikhs' fifth Guru, installed the Adi Granth, a newly compiled volume of scripture. It consisted of the hymns of the first five Gurus plus those of other Indian and Persian 'saint-poets' from the Hindu and Muslim traditions. After the selections were made, the Guru dictated the hymns to Bhai Gurdas, who wrote down the words and music of the Adi Granth. Guru Arjan later suffered a martyr's death, preferring to save his life rather than make alterations to the hymns, as required by Emperor Jahangir.



Having compiled the Granth, the Guru placed it in the newly-built *Harmandir Sahib* (Golden Temple) in Amritsar. He nominated Bhai Buddha as the custodian of the Granth. The Guru bowed before the collection, acknowledging the higher authority of the written words to the personal importance and significance which he possessed as Guru. After this time, he no longer sat at a level above the Granth, but below it. He also instituted daily public worship at the *Harmandir Sahib*, where the Granth was recited all day long to the accompaniment of stringed musical instruments.

The second version of the Granth was prepared by Guru Gobind Singh in 1706 CE. He dictated the entire Guru Granth Sahib from memory to Bhai Mani Singh, re-editing the Adi Granth to the form in which it is found today. He removed several unauthenticated writings and added four hymns for evening prayers and several from his father, Guru Tegh Bahadur. Otherwise, the Granth was left as it was before in the days of Guru Arjan. Sikhs regard the Guru Granth Sahib as their living Guru – hence the importance of this celebration. Since his day the Guru Granth Sahib consists of 1430 pages and 5864 verses. Its spiritual teachings are referred to as *bani* or *gurbani*.

In all gurdwaras and many Sikh homes, the Guru Granth Sahib is read every day. No Sikh ceremony is regarded as complete unless it is performed in the presence of the Granth. Sikhs frequently receive a hukam or divine order through one of the hymns chosen at random from the left hand pages of the Guru Granth Sahib. Similarly, at the end of a service,

after the *ardas* prayers, the Granth is opened at random and a portion is read. On special occasions, the Guru Granth Sahib is recited non-stop from cover to cover by a string of readers. It requires nearly 48 hours to complete the continuous reading, which is known as an *akhand path*. This can be performed on any important occasion, and is regarded as the highest and noblest ceremony in the Sikh religion.

The Guru Granth Sahib is a remarkable storehouse of spiritual knowledge and teachings which does not prescribe any rites or rituals but stresses meditation on the Name of God. Most of the hymns are addressed to God and often describe the devotee's condition: his aspirations and yearning, his agony in separation and his longing to be with the Lord. There are no mythological narratives, although God is described in anthropomorphic terms, and the Gurus are not afraid to use the imagery of family relationships to describe the union of God and man. Whether in Temple, Gurdwara or home, the Guru Granth Sahib has become the focal point of all Sikh worship.

### Saints of the Week



#### **St Gregory the Great – Pope & Doctor of the Church 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

He was born in Rome and followed the career of public service that was usual for the son of an aristocratic family, finally becoming Prefect of the City of Rome, a post he held for some years. He founded a monastery in Rome and some others in Sicily, then became a monk himself. He was ordained deacon and sent as an envoy to Constantinople, on a mission that lasted five years.

He was elected Pope on 3 September 590, the first monk to be elected to this office. He reformed the administration of the Church's estates and devoted the resulting surplus to the assistance of the poor and the ransoming of prisoners. He negotiated treaties with the Lombard tribes who were ravaging northern Italy, and by cultivating good relations with these and other barbarians he was able to keep the Church's position secure in areas where Roman rule had broken down. His works for the propagation of the faith include the sending of Augustine and his monks as missionaries to England in 596, providing them with continuing advice and support and (in 601) sending reinforcements. He wrote extensively on pastoral care, spirituality, and morals, and designated himself "servant of the servants of God."

He died on 12 March 604, but as this date always falls within Lent, his feast is celebrated on the date of his election as Pope.

