

St Mary's Parish Newsletter

ST MARY'S CHURCH
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ALL SAINTS 2nd November, 2025

"A huge number, impossible to count" – that is the picture this Solemnity creates. In every age there have been men and women who have followed the Lord faithfully, and who now rejoice in the Liturgy of Heaven, as they stand before the throne of the Lamb. These are the "anonymous" saints, whose names we don't remember - but even though their names are not on our lips, their memory, inspiration, example and prayers are set

before us today, so that we too can be encouraged in our own "journey of perfection". What does it take to be a saint? Surely the Gospel that is appointed for today (the Beati-tudes) shows us that it is in the small things that we triumph: gentleness, mercy, making peace, faithful mourning, purity of heart, poverty in spirit - these are not grand, public ways to sanctity. They are domestic, and homely, to be practised and perfected with those closest to us. We sometimes exalt the "named" saints to the degree that we can feel they are distant from us. Today's feast, as well as celebrating the memory of the many whose name we do not know, also prompts us to see holiness as within our grasp.

'Blessed are the poor in spirit.'

Parish Priest - Rev. Peter Hart

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TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

Sunday 2nd November, 2025

ALL SAINTS

(Year C) Office Proper

Saturday	<i>Our Lady on Saturday</i>	
	5.30pm	Names in the Book of the Dead
Sunday	ALL SAINTS	
St. Lucy's	9.00am	The People of The Parish
St Mary's	11.00am	Anna Rodrigues, RIP (LR)
Monday	ALL SOULS	
	9.30am	The Faithful Departed
	11.00am	Blessing of Graves
Tuesday	<i>St. Charles Borromeo</i>	
	NO MASS	
Wednesday	<i>Feria</i>	
	9.00am	Rosary
	9.30am	
Thursday	<i>Feria</i>	
	9.30am	Deceased Family & Friends (Davis)
Friday	<i>Feria</i>	
	9.30am	Names in the Book of the Dead
Saturday	<i>Our Lady on Saturday</i>	
	5.30pm	Special Intention (RG)
Sunday	The Dedication of The Lateran Basilica	
	Including Remembrance Sunday	
Medstead	9.00am	The People of The Parish
St Mary's	11.00am	For those killed in War

Confessions: Saturday 4.45pm prior to Mass and by request.

All Saints

Entrance Antiphon:

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, as we celebrate the feast day in honour of all the Saints, at whose festival the Angels rejoice and praise the Son of God.

Responsorial Psalm:

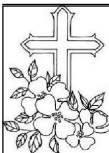
Such are the people who seek your face, O Lord.

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia! Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, says the Lord, and I will give you rest. **Alleluia!**

Communion Antiphon:

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



Blessing of Graves - Alton Cemetery

At 11am on Monday, 3rd November (Commemoration of the Faithful Departed—All Souls Day) there will be a service of prayer and blessing for all who are interred at the Alton cemetery. If you would like a grave blessed then please come along or ask a friend to represent you.

Grad.

R

Equi-em * aetér- nam dó- na é- is

A POPE'S REFLECTION

Pope Benedict XVI

*This Sunday coincides with the Solemnity of All Saints, which invites the pilgrim Church on earth to a foretaste of the everlasting feast in the community of Heaven, and to revive our hope in eternal life. This year marks 14 centuries since the Pantheon one of the oldest and most famous of the Roman monuments was dedicated to Christian worship and named after the Virgin Mary and all the Martyrs: **Sancta Maria ad Martyres**. The temple of all the pagan divinities was thus converted to commemorate all those who, as the Book of Revelation says, "have come out of the great tribulations; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" Subsequently, the celebration of all the martyrs was extended to all the saints: "a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues" according to St John. In this Year for Priests, I would like to remember with special veneration all the priest saints those whom the Church has canonized upholding them as examples of spiritual and pastoral virtue, and those much more numerous who are known to the Lord. Each one of us treasures a grateful memory of some of them who have helped us to grow in faith and made us feel the goodness and closeness of God. Tomorrow, then, is the annual commemoration of All Souls' Day, of all the faithful departed. I would like to invite you to live this occasion in an authentic Christian spirit, that is, in the light that comes from the Paschal Mystery. Christ died and rose again, and has opened for us the way to the house of the Father, the Kingdom of life and peace. Whoever follows Jesus in this life is welcome where he has preceded us. Therefore, as we visit the cemeteries, let us remember that resting in those tombs are merely the mortal remains of our dear ones who await the final resurrection. Their souls, as Scripture tells us, are already "in the hand of God" (Wis 3: 1). Thus, the most proper and effective way to honour them is to pray for them, offering acts of faith, hope and charity. In union with the Eucharistic Sacrifice, we can intercede for their eternal salvation, and experience the most profound communion in the expectation of being together, enjoying forever the Love which created and redeemed us. Dear friends, how beautiful and comforting is the communion of Saints! It is a reality that instils a different dimension into our whole life. We are never alone! We are part of a spiritual "company" where profound solidarity reigns: the good of each one is for the benefit of everyone, and vice versa, common happiness shines on every individual. It is a mystery which, in some measure, we can already experience in this world, in the family, in friendship, and especially in the spiritual community of the Church. May Mary Most Holy help us to walk quickly on the way to holiness, and may she be the Mother of mercy for the souls of the departed.*

**The Special Collection this week-end
1st & 2nd November is for BAMENDA**

Saints of the Week

Saint Charles Borromeo, 4th November

The name of Charles Borromeo is associated with reform. He lived during the time of the Protestant Reformation, and had a hand in the reform of the whole Church during the final years of the Council of Trent. Although he belonged to the Milanese nobility and was related to the powerful Medici family, Charles Borromeo desired to devote himself to the Church. In 1559, when his uncle, Cardinal de Medici was elected Pope Pius IV, he made Charles cardinal-deacon and administrator of the Archdiocese of Milan. At the time Charles was still a layman and a young student. Because of his intellectual qualities Charles was entrusted with several important offices connected with the Vatican, and later appointed secretary of state with responsibility for the papal states. The untimely death of his elder brother brought Charles to a definite decision to be ordained a priest, despite his relatives' insistence that he marry. Soon after being ordained a priest at age 25, Borromeo was consecrated bishop of Milan. Working behind the scenes, Saint Charles deserves the credit for keeping the Council of Trent in session when at several points it was on the verge of breaking up. Borromeo encouraged the pope to renew the Council in 1562, after it had been suspended for 10 years. He took upon himself the task of the entire correspondence during the final phase. Because of his work at the Council, he was unable to take up residence in Milan until the Council concluded. Eventually, Borromeo was allowed to devote his time to the Archdiocese of Milan, where the religious and moral picture was far from bright. The reform needed in every phase of Catholic life among both clergy and laity was initiated at a provincial council of all the bishops under him.

Specific regulations were drawn up for bishops and other clergy: If the people were to be converted to a better life, Borromeo had to be the first to give a good example and renew their apostolic spirit. He took the initiative in giving a good example. He allotted most of his income to charity, forbade himself all luxury, and imposed severe penances upon himself. He sacrificed wealth, high honors, esteem, and influence to become poor. During the plague and famine of 1576, he tried to feed 60,000 to 70,000 people daily. To do this he borrowed large sums of money that required years to repay. Whereas the civil authorities fled at the height of the plague, he stayed in the city, where he ministered to the sick and the dying, helping those in want. Work and the heavy burdens of his high office began to affect Archbishop Borromeo's health, leading to his death at the age of 46.

Reflection: St Charles Borromeo made his own the words of Christ: "...I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me". He saw Christ in his neighbor, and knew that charity done for the least of his flock was charity done for Christ.

November 5th, St Peter Chrysologus

A man who vigorously pursues a goal may produce results far beyond his expectations and his intentions. Thus it was with Peter "of the Golden Words," as he was called, who as a young man became bishop of Ravenna, the capital of the empire in the West. At the time there were abuses and vestiges of paganism evident in his diocese, and these St Peter was determined to battle and overcome. His principal weapon was the short sermon, and many of them have come down to us. They do not contain great originality of thought. They are, however, full of moral applications, sound in doctrine, and historically significant in that they reveal Christian life in fifth-century Ravenna. So authentic were the contents of his sermons that some 13 centuries later, he was declared a doctor of the Church by Pope Benedict XIII. He who had earnestly sought to teach and motivate his own flock was recognized as a teacher of the universal Church. In addition to his zeal in the exercise of his office, Peter was distinguished by a fierce loyalty to the Church, not only in its teaching, but in its authority as well. He looked upon learning not as a mere opportunity but as an obligation for all, both as a development of God-given faculties and as a solid support for the worship of God. Some time before his death around A.D. 450, Peter returned to his birthplace of Imola, in northern Italy.

Reflection: Quite likely, it was St Peter's attitude toward learning that gave substance to his exhortations. Next to virtue, learning, in his view, was the greatest improvement to the human mind and the support of true religion. Ignorance is not a virtue, nor is being anti intellectual. Knowledge is neither more nor less a source of pride than physical, administrative, or financial prowess. To be fully human is to expand our knowledge—whether sacred or secular—according to our talent and opportunity.



Book of the Names of the Dead

Christian Communities remember the names of their dead, especially in the month of November and we pray for the repose of their souls. Our custom here is to give a place of honour to a book in which parishioners write the names of their deceased relatives and friends.

Our Book of the Names of the Dead is now available. Please write down the names of anyone you wish to be remembered in prayer during this month. A weekly Mass will be offered for all inscribed therein.

*Eternal Rest, Give To them O Lord
Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon them
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE*

Luminosa Choir

is delighted to announce it will be performing on Saturday 15th November at St Thomas on the Bourne, Farnham. 7pm, Luminosa and the electric Farnham Youth Choir, led by international conductor Patrick Barrett, will be performing John Rutter's charming and moving Mass of the Children and a work by Vivaldi. For tickets and more information, visit: www.luminosamusic.com.

THE LEGION POPPY APPEAL

Each year the nation expresses its unequivocal support for The Royal British Legion's charity work through the Poppy Appeal. The Poppy Appeal is emphasising the need to support today's generation of the Armed Forces and their families – now and for the rest of their lives. For their sake, wear a poppy - and please help our fundraising by making a donation or volunteering your time.

Poppies are available at the back of the Church
"at the going down of the sun, we will remember them".

Daily Prayer For The Holy Souls

Immortal God, holy Lord, Father and Protector of all You have created, we raise our hearts to You today for those who have passed out of this mortal life.

In Your loving mercy, Father of all,
be pleased to receive them in Your heavenly company,
and forgive the failings and faults

they may have done from human frailty.
Your only Son, Christ, our Saviour, suffered so cruelly that
He might deliver them from the second death.

By his merits may they share in the glory
of His victory over sin and death.

For all the faithful who have died we pray,
but in particular for those dear to us,
parents, relatives and friends.

nor do we forget all who did good to us while on earth,
who helped us by their prayers, sacrifice and example.

We pray also for any who may have done us harm,
and stand in special need of Your forgiveness.

May the merits and prayers of our Virgin Mother,
Mary, and those of all the Angels and Saints,
speak for us and assist them now.

This we ask in Christ's name. Amen.

D	R	A	W	E	R	C	E	M	Y
E	E	P	Y	P	A	H	E	S	E
C	G	E	P	T	I	R	I	P	S
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M	H	I	L	I	E	O	L	A	R
C	A	E	L	G	R	O	O	P	T
R	P	L	A	C	U	E	S	P	I
O	Y	W	E	R	P	A	H	Y	
D	R	A	E	L	T	N	E	G	

CROWDS HILL HAPPY
POOR SPIRIT GENTLE
HERITAGE HUNGER MERCY
PURE HEART REWARD



Please remember in your prayers

Tony Davis, Baby Polly Phillips, John D., Sr. Joan Henry (St. Lucy's)
Mary McGinty, Maria Proli, Sister Terry, Francesca Adams,
Mary McGrath, Annie Tomlinson, Rita Rawling, Kate Cradock,
Alex Smith, Jonathan & Lindy Wiltshire, Simon Wilder,
Mary Sturgess, Theresa Davies, Flavia Stampa Gruss,
Kay Hulbert Pam Barbour
**MARY, MOTHER OF THE AFFLICTED,
PRAY FOR THEM**