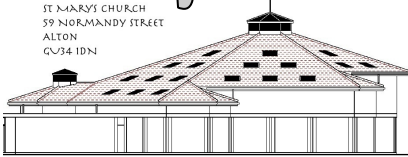


St Mary's Parish Newsletter



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MASS INTENTIONS

w/c Sunday 1st November, 2026

ALL SAINTS

Year (A) (Office Proper)

5.30pm	Amy & Len Guilbert, RIP
Sunday	ALL SAINTS
9.00am	Sr Lucy, RIP
11.00am	Holy Souls
Monday	ALL SOULS
9.30am	Faithful Departed
11am	Blessing of Graves in Alton Cemetery
Tuesday	<i>Feria</i> NO MASS
Wednesday	<i>St. Charles Borromeo</i>
9.30am	Names in the Book of the Read
Thursday	<i>Feria</i> People of Bishkek
Friday	<i>Feria</i> The People of the Parish
Saturday	<i>Feria</i> In Thanksgiving
5.30pm	
Sunday 32nd Sunday of the Year—Remembrance Sunday	
9.00am	People of the Parish
11.00am	For those killed in War
Confessions Saturday 4.45pm, and by request	

ALL SAINTS—1st November, 2026

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.

First Reading Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14

Responsorial Psalm

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

Second Reading 1 John 3:1-3

Gospel Acclamation

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

Gospel Matthew 5:1-12a

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

The Special Collection this weekend

Which is designated **BAMENDA Sunday**

This is a Diocesan Collection and therefore we are able to claim Gift Aid on your Donations. Donations can also be made via:

<https://www.bamendaandportsmouth.com/donate.php>

Charity unites us to God... There is nothing mean in charity, nothing arrogant. Charity knows no schism, does not rebel, does all things in concord. In charity all the elect of God have been made perfect. -- Pope St. Clement I



ALL SAINTS 2026

"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.'

A POPE'S REFLECTION—POPE BENEDICT

Today, we are celebrating the Solemnity of All Saints, allowing us to experience the joy of being part of the large family of

God's friends or, as St Paul writes, to "share the lot of the saints in light". The Liturgy re-proposes the expression, full of wonder, of the Apostle John: "See what love the Father has bestowed on us in letting us be called children of God! Yet that is what we are". Yes, to become saints means to completely

fulfil what we already are, raised to the dignity of God's adopted children, in Christ Jesus. With the Incarnation of the Son and his death and Resurrection, God wanted to reconcile humanity to himself and open it up to sharing in his own life.

Whoever believes in Christ, Son of God, is reborn "from above", regenerated through the work of the Holy Spirit. This mystery is accomplished in the Sacrament of Baptism, through

which Mother Church gives birth to 'saints'. New life, received in Baptism, is not subject to corruption and the power of death. For those who live in Christ, death is the passage from the earthly pilgrimage to the Heavenly Homeland, where the Father welcomes all of his children "from every nation and race, people and tongue", as we read today in the Book of Revelation . For this reason, it is significant and appropriate

that after the Solemnity of All Saints, the Liturgy tomorrow has us celebrate the Commemoration of all of the Faithful Departed. The "communion of saints", which we profess in the Creed, is a reality that is constructed here below, but is fully

made manifest when we will see God "as he is". It is the reality of a family bound together by deep bonds of spiritual solidarity that unites the faithful departed to those who are pilgrims in the world. It is a mysterious but real bond, nourished by prayer

and participation in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. In the Mystical Body of Christ the souls of the faithful meet, overcoming the obstacle of death; they pray for one another, carrying out in charity an intimate exchange of gifts. In this

dimension of faith one understands the practice of offering prayers of suffrage for the dead, especially in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, memorial of Christ's Pasch which opened to

believers the passage to eternal life. Uniting myself spiritually to those who are visiting cemeteries to pray for their deceased, tomorrow afternoon I too will prayerfully visit the tombs of the Popes in the Vatican Grottoes, which surround the tomb of the

Apostle Peter. Dear friends, may the traditional visit of these days to the tombs of our dear departed be an occasion to fearlessly consider the mystery of death and to cultivate that constant vigilance which prepares us to meet it serenely.

The Virgin Mary, Queen of Saints, to whom we now turn with filial trust, will help us.

SAINTS OF GOD, PRAY FOR US

Saints of the Week

November 1st—All Saints

The earliest observance of a feast in honour of all the saints is an early 4th-century commemoration of “all the martyrs.” In the early 7th century, after successive waves of invaders plundered the catacombs, Pope Boniface IV gathered up some 28 wagon-loads of bones and then reentered them beneath the Pantheon, a Roman temple dedicated to all the gods. The pope then rededicated the shrine as a Christian church. According to Venerable Bede, the pope intended “that the memory of all the saints might in the future be honoured in the place which had formerly been dedicated to the worship not of gods but of demons”. But the rededication of the Pantheon, like the earlier commemoration of all the martyrs, occurred in May. Many Eastern Churches still honour all the saints in the spring, either during the Easter season or immediately after Pentecost. How the Western Church came to celebrate this feast, now recognized as a solemnity, in November is a puzzle to historians. The Anglo-Saxon theologian Alcuin observed the feast on November 1 in 800, as did his friend Arno, Bishop of Salzburg. Rome finally adopted that date in the 9th century.

Reflection: This feast first honoured martyrs. Later, when Christians were free to worship according to their consciences, the Church acknowledged other paths to sanctity. In the early centuries the only criterion was popular acclaim, even when the bishop’s approval became the final step in placing a particular commemoration on the calendar. The first papal canonization occurred in 993; the lengthy process now required to prove extraordinary sanctity took form in the last 500 years. Today’s feast honours the obscure as well as the famous—the saints each of us have known.

November 2nd—The Holy Souls

The Church has encouraged prayer for the dead from the earliest times as an act of Christian charity. “If we had no care for the dead,” Augustine noted, “we would not be in the habit of praying for them.” Yet pre-Christian rites for the deceased retained such a strong hold on the superstitious imagination

that a liturgical commemoration was not observed until the early Middle Ages, when in the monastic communities they began to mark an annual day of prayer for the departed members. In the middle of the 11th century, Saint Odilo, abbot of Cluny, France, decreed that all Cluniac monasteries offer special prayers and sing the Office for the Dead on November 2nd, the day after the feast of All Saints. The custom spread from Cluny and was finally adopted throughout the Roman Church. The theological underpinning of the feast is the acknowledgment of human frailty. Since few people achieve perfection in this life but, rather, go to the grave still scarred with traces of sinfulness, some period of purification seems necessary before a soul comes face-to-face with God.

The Council of Trent affirmed this purgatorial state and insisted that the prayers of the living can speed the process of purification. Superstition easily clung to the observance. Medieval popular belief held that the souls in purgatory could appear on this day in the form of witches, toads or will-o’-the-wisps. Graveside food offerings supposedly eased the rest of the dead. Observances of a more religious nature have survived. These include public processions or private visits to cemeteries and decorating graves with flowers and lights.

This feast is observed with great fervour in Mexico.

Reflection: Whether or not one should pray for the dead is one of the great arguments which divide Christians. Appalled by the abuse of indulgences in the Church of his day, Martin Luther rejected the concept of purgatory. Yet prayer for a loved one is, for the believer, a way of erasing any distance, even death. In prayer we stand in God’s presence in the company of someone we love, even if that person has gone before us into death. Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord.



Book of the Names of the Dead.

November is the month when we display our Book of the Dead and ask parishioners to write in the names of their deceased relatives and friends. The Book will be displayed on the Sanctuary and a Mass will be offered each week for those whose are written therein.

In Paradisum

May angels guide you and bring you into paradise:
and may all the martyrs come forth to welcome
you home; and may they lead you into the holy city, Jerusalem.
May the angel chorus sing to welcome you,
and like Lazarus forgotten and poor,
you shall have everlasting rest.

Teen Film Night

There will be another film night for the teens of the Parish on November 8th at 5.30pm. Please sign the list in the porch if you are hoping to attend.

Church Kneelers

Plans are underway to replace the padding on all the kneelers in the Church. People have asked to be able to contribute towards the overall cost. The price per kneeler works out at about £89 each. If you wish to make a donation, please use a brown envelope and write ‘Kneelers’ on it. Don’t forget to add your gift aid number. Many thanks. Work will begin in the New Year.

Minute Meditations

Peace is the Way to Perfection

Peace is simplicity of heart, serenity of mind, tranquility of soul, the bond of love. Peace means order, harmony in our whole being; it means continual contentment springing from the knowledge of a good conscience; it is the holy joy of a heart in which God reigns. Peace is the way to perfection, indeed in peace is perfection to be found. The devil, who is well aware of all this, makes every effort to have us lose our peace.

from the book *The Joyful Spirit of Padre Pio:*

St Gertrude’s prayer for the Holy Souls

Eternal Father,
I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood
of Thy Divine Son, Jesus,
in union with the masses said throughout the world today,
for all the holy souls in purgatory,
for sinners everywhere,
for sinners in the universal church,
those in my own home and within my family. 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
R	N	A	A	A	C	O	T	D	P
E	U	E	T	Y	H	N	W	H	I
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D	R	A	E	L	T	N	E	G	E

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



Please remember in your prayers

Baby Polly Phillips, Matthew & Duncan Graham,
John D., Mary McGinty, Regina Elliot,
Francesca Adams, Mary Hall, Michael Power
Annie Tomlinson, Rita Rawling, Kate Craddock,
Alex Smith, Jonathan & Lindy Wiltshire,
Simon Wilder, Mary Sturgess, Theresa Davies,
Flavia Stampa Gruss, Kay Hulbert, Pam Barbour,

