

**DEANERY OF ST EDMUND CAMPION**  
**ENGLISH MARTYRS—**  
**VALE OF THE WHITE HORSE PASTORAL AREA**

[www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

[www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk](http://www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk)

# **East Hendred Catholic Parish**

**30<sup>th</sup> October – 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022**



***All Saints***

# WEEK 31 YEAR 2

## 30<sup>th</sup> October – 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022

All masses live-streamed [www.churchservices.tv/easthendred](http://www.churchservices.tv/easthendred)  
book for Sunday morning Mass: [hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)  
St Mary's is usually open each day from 9am until late afternoon.

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|                                |                |                             |                            |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>SUNDAY 31C</b>              |                |                             | [Green]                    |
| <b>30<sup>th</sup> October</b> | <b>9.30am</b>  | <b>Holy Mass</b>            | RIP Philip Simm (2021)     |
|                                | <b>11.15am</b> | <b>Mass at St Patrick's</b> | Pro populo                 |
|                                | <b>6pm</b>     | <b>Holy Mass</b>            | RIP Andrew Jolliffe (2022) |

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|                               |            |  |                               |
|-------------------------------|------------|--|-------------------------------|
| WEEK 31 (Year 2)              | Feria      |  |                               |
| <b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup></b> | 9.15am     | <b>No Mass</b>                               |                               |
| <b>ALL SAINTS</b>             | <b>6pm</b> | <b>First Mass of All Saints</b> (Hallowe'en) |                               |
|                               |            |  | FM Cecilia Anne Dearlove 1942 |

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup>**                      **9.30am**      **School Mass**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>**                      **Commemoration of All Souls**                      [Black]  
**12 noon**      **Requiem Mass**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>**                      *St Martin de Porres, Religious*                      [White]  
9.15am      Holy Mass                      FM Charles Eyston 1863

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup>**                      St Charles Borromeo, Bishop                      [White]  
**No Mass**  
3pm                      Adoration (St Mary's)

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>**                      *Our Lady St Mary on Saturday*                      [White]  
**No Mass**

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|                                |                |   |                            |
|--------------------------------|----------------|---|----------------------------|
| <b>SUNDAY 32C</b>              |                |   | [Green]                    |
| <b>6<sup>th</sup> November</b> | <b>9.15am</b>  | <b>Children's Church</b>                  | (St Mary's Parish Rooms)   |
|                                | <b>9.30am</b>  | <b>Parish Mass and Blessing of Graves</b> |                            |
|                                | <b>11.15am</b> | <b>Mass at St Patrick's</b>               |                            |
|                                | <b>6pm</b>     | <b>Holy Mass</b>                          | RIP Stanley Bennie, Priest |

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## CONTACT DETAILS

Fr Andrew: 01235 835038 or 07976 437979

[aburnham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:aburnham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

[office@hendredcatholicparish.org.uk](http://office@hendredcatholicparish.org.uk) is monitored by the Parish Secretary.

# Year of Prayer to the Holy Spirit

**IN HIS** Pastoral Letter on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Bishop Philip presented us with the challenge to 'to establish or pledge to develop six holy habits':

- to keep Sunday special, a family day, by attending Mass.
- to spend five minutes a day in prayer using the Scriptures
- to do penance on Fridays, and to serve the poor and needy
- every fortnight to make a Holy Half Hour before the Blessed Sacrament
- to go to Confession once a month
- join a small group for formation, prayer, and fellowship

**AS WE** prepare for this Year of Prayer, which will begin on the First Sunday of Advent (27<sup>th</sup> November), we look at these 'holy habits' in turn. So.....

## **(2) Spending five minutes a day in prayer using the Scriptures**

It is important to have a habit of daily prayer. Ideally morning and evening. Five minutes is a basic minimum. Some people use simple forms of Morning Prayer (*Lauds*) and Evening Prayer (*Vespers*) or Night Prayer (*Compline*). Various publications such as *Magnificat* are very helpful. There are also schemes of Bible reading for use at one or other time of prayer each day. The most accessible is the daily Mass lectionary, which we publish each week. In *Food for the Journey* (in the Bulletin each week) we print out a reading for each day and a short devotional commentary on it which usually is the homily at Mass on a weekday. Some base their prayer on the *Angelus*, which we ring at Church at 9am or 6pm, whenever Mass is expected shortly. Others base their prayer on the Rosary. An important component of prayer is the purposeful silence. We are all different and we must adapt the resources at our disposal to suit our own needs.

# FOR YOUR PRAYERS



## NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

### THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER

We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

### DIOCESAN PRAYER INTENTIONS

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>   | Parishes, Communities, & Schools in the Solent Pastoral Area |
| Monday 31 <sup>st</sup>   | Organisers of Ongoing Formation for Clergy                   |
| Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup>   | To attain the Company of the Saints                          |
| Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Faithful Departed of the Diocese                             |
| Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Faithful Departed of the Parish                              |
| Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>    | Parish of Our Lady of the Assumption, Thatcham               |
| Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup>  | All Deceased Clergy of the Diocese                           |

### THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED

Martha, Diana France, Helen Lewis, Fr Robin Sanders, John Castle, Daniel Cuevas, John Stringer, Louise Woodhouse, Brenda Paddon, Karen Greig, Mary McNichol, Des McNichol

### THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

*Recently Departed:* Andrew Jolliffe

*Week 30th October - 5th November:* Lilian Latham, Charlotte Colt, Henry Hunt, Marjorie Hilda Jones, Cecilia Ann Dearlove, Maria Jones, Chris Sheehan, Peter John Howard, Francis Connolly, Charles Eyston.

# EAST Hendred Catholic Parish

## NOTICEBOARD

### **MASS TIMES**

A week of changes: no Mass on Monday or Friday mornings; First Mass of All Saints on Monday evening at 6pm; Mass on Tuesday at 9.30am (attended by the School); Requiem Masses on Wednesday at 12 noon; Mass on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> will not be attended by the school.

### **ALL SOULS' MASS** (*12 noon on Wednesday*)

Please **print** names of the Faithful Departed to be read out at Mass on the sheet at the back of Church.

### **ST AMAND'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL OPEN DAY**

The Open Day is on Thursday (3<sup>rd</sup> November), for new children starting school in September 2023. Contact the school on 01235 833342 to book one of the following times to visit: 9:30am, 11am, 1:30pm

### **MISSIONARY COMMUNITIES**

The Bishop unveils a ten-year Mission Plan: *You Shall Be My Witnesses*: [https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/communications/news/enews/Didcot and Wallingford; Hendred, Hinksey, Wantage and Lambourn](https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/communications/news/enews/Didcot%20and%20Wallingford%20Hendred%20Hinksey%20Wantage%20and%20Lambourn) (i.e. the current Pastoral Area). We shall be represented at a meeting about this at 7.30pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> November in St John Vianney Hall in Wantage.

### **HENDRED HOUSE CHAPEL**

Hendred House Chapel is closed for building works. This week there will be no Friday Mass and Adoration will take place in St Mary's.

### **SECOND COLLECTION**

Second collection next weekend, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November, is for Bamenda.

### **BLESSING OF GRAVES**

This will take place after the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November.

### **GATHERING TOGETHER IN CHRIST**

Our St Mary's and St Augustine's Bible study and Prayer group will be meeting again on Tuesday November 8<sup>th</sup>. We shall be using Luke, chapter 21 to help us learn, discuss and pray together. The chapter includes the gospel for the following Sunday. If you feel like an evening with coffee/tea/hot chocolate, good biscuits, friendship and the opportunity to be together in prayer, you will be very welcome. We begin in the Holy Family Room in St Mary's Church at 7.30 pm and finish between 8.30 and 9.00. If you'd like more information, please get in touch with

Geoff Bailey; 01235 762221, [gjbshoes@gmail.com](mailto:gjbshoes@gmail.com), or  
Denis Smith; 01235 765564; [djbm.smith@ntlworld.com](mailto:djbm.smith@ntlworld.com)

### **CHURCH SERVICES**

On Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2022, 203 people viewed, 69 machines looking only at St Mary's. 36 of these were in the UK, 21 in the USA, and 12 elsewhere. 109 probably stayed on-line long enough to take part in Mass.

### **COLDS AND FLU?**

Stay home and watch the livestream! Details on

[www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk](http://www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk)

### **HOMES FOR PEOPLE DISPLACED BY WAR IN UKRAINE**

Are you able to help the Catholic Charity *Caritas*?

<https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/>

### **CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH**

Information from the Bishop and Portsmouth Diocese. To keep up to date with the news of the Diocese and the Bishop:

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/>

### **CLOSER TO CHRIST**

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October, East Hendred pledges, including Gift Aid, totalled £74,550 (over five years). This is 107% of the target we were seeking to raise. The average gift has risen to £2,982 per household, about £50 per month. Thank you for your generosity. We shall be winding up the campaign next Sunday, when there will be a final opportunity to give, for those who have not yet responded. In the meantime, in the 'Closer to Christ' Newsletter (for the link, see below), your Parish Priest and his dog feature prominently.



Welcome to the latest edition of the ***Closer to Christ*** Campaign Weekly Newsletter.

It's been a busy week across the parishes with individual meetings and small group gatherings taking place across many of the worshipping communities that are currently active. We were pleased to see that this week has also seen another parish surpass their goal and you can read more about that [here](#)!

With every thanks,

***Closer to Christ*** Campaign Team

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# CHILDREN.....

## **CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

Have a word with Veronica or Libby if you would like to help. Children's Church is at 9.15am on Sundays in St Mary's Parish Rooms, except school holidays.

## **CHILDREN'S CHURCH TRAINING SESSION**

The Dominican Sisters are offering an online **Children's Liturgy Training session** on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October**, from 9am to 12noon. We will look at the fundamental principles, model sessions, and share resources. Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUscemrpzoiEtbsbgOsOqqVj-XCRhUE0sMo>

# .....YOUNG ADULTS

## **DAVE AND GEMMA**

I have asked Dave and Gemma, a couple at St Mary's who are marrying later this year, to head up and liaise our work with young adults. If you are interested in any of the things below – or other activities – have a word with them. They can be reached on [davegem2022@gmail.com](mailto:davegem2022@gmail.com)

## **FLAME**

Flame, the largest youth gathering of Catholics, is taking place at the OVO Arena, Wembley on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2023, with the theme 'Rise Up!' All young people, whether from the parish, at school (Year 9 or older), or at university are welcome. Loud music, bright lights, moments of stillness..... Any questions? Contact [youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or phone 07780 221686.

## **WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023**

Those aged 16 or above by July 2023 are invited to join with like-minded young people from across the diocese to journey on pilgrimage to Lisbon for World Youth Day. This is a life-changing experience for all those who accept the invitation and this pilgrimage, led by Bishop Philip, is set to be the best one yet! But hurry, spaces are limited! Plans are in the early stages, but we will provide more information and details as soon as possible. For further information, see the posters in church, or please email [wyd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:wyd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



# UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

## ***The Universe Catholic Weekly***

Is true to its mission of being “a light to guide the world, and a mirror to reflect it” Keeping Catholics informed about their faith, and bringing them ever closer to God. In order to keep our high standard going and maintain a strong weekly Catholic voice at a time when it is much needed in the world, please consider taking out a subscription.

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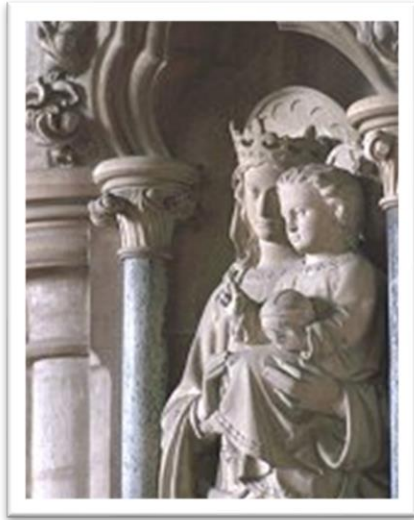
[michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk](mailto:michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk)

**We invite you to submit articles/news and celebrations  
about your local parish activities**

Please see link below for this week’s Universe Catholic Weekly.

<https://universecatholicweekly.co.uk/universe-weekly-newsletters/october-2022/Universe-21-October.pdf>

# East Hendred Catholic Parish



**Thirty-First Sunday  
in Ordinary Time (C)  
30<sup>th</sup> October 2022  
Antiphons,  
Prayers and Readings**

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## **Entrance Antiphon**

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!

*Ne derelinquas me  
cf Ps 38:22-23*

## **Collect**

Almighty and merciful God, by whose gift your faithful offer you right and praiseworthy service; grant, we pray, that we may hasten without stumbling to receive the things you have promised. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever

## **First Reading**

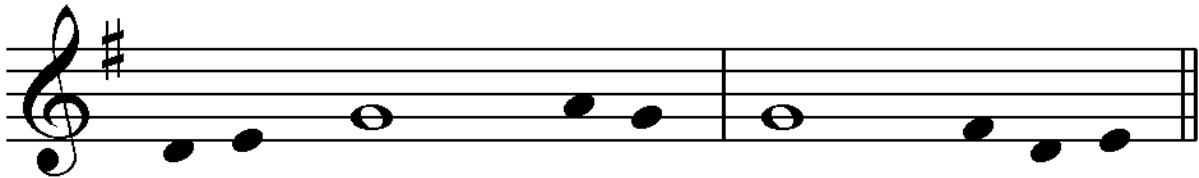
The whole world before you, O Lord, is like a speck that tips the scales, and like a drop of morning dew that falls upon the ground. But you are merciful to all, for you can do all things, and you overlook men's sins, that they may repent. For you love all things that exist, and you loathe none of the things which you have made, for you would not have made anything if you had hated it. How would anything have endured if you had not willed it? Or how would anything not called forth by you have been preserved? You spare all things, for they are yours, O Lord who love the living. For your immortal spirit is in all things. Therefore you

*Wisdom 11:22 – 12:2 (RSV)*

correct little by little those who trespass, and remind and warn them of the things wherein they sin, that they may be freed from wickedness and put their trust in you, O Lord.

Psalm 145:1-2, 8-11, 13-14 *R/ cf 1*

*Tone II.1*



*R/ I will* **ble**ss your name for *e-ver*, | **O** *God* my **King**.

*I will* extol you, my God *and* king  
and bless your name for ever *and* e-ver.  
*I will* bless you day af - *ter* day  
and praise your name for ever *and* e-ver. *R/*

The Lord is kind and full of com- *pa* -ssion  
slow to anger, abounding *in* mer-cy.  
How good is the Lord *to* all,  
compassionate to all *his* crea-tures. *R/*

All your works shall thank you, O Lord,  
and all your faithful *ones* bless you.  
They shall speak of the glory of *your* reign  
and declare your *migh*-ty deeds. *R/*

The Lord is faithful in all *his* words,  
and holy in *all* his deeds.  
The Lord supports all *who* fall  
and raises all who *are* bowed down. *R/*

## Second Reading

*2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2 (RSV)*

To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his call, and may fulfil every good resolve and work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our assembling to meet him, we beg you, brethren, not to be quickly shaken

in mind or excited, either by spirit or by word, or by letter purporting to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

### Gospel Acclamation



*Bles-sings* on the King who comes, in the name *of* the Lord!  
Peace in heaven and glory in the *high* - est hea - vens.

### Gospel

*Luke 19:1-10 (RSV)*

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchae'us; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchae'us, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today.' So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, 'He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.' And Zacchae'us stood and said to the Lord, 'Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold.' And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost.'

### Prayer over the Offerings

May these sacrificial offerings, O Lord, become for you a pure oblation, and for us a holy outpouring of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord.

### Preface

*(VII De salute per obœdientiam Christi)*

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. For you so loved the world that in your mercy you sent us the Redeemer, to live like us in all things but sin, so that you might love in us what you have loved in your Son, by whose obedience we have been restored to those gifts of yours that, by sinning, we had lost in

disobedience. And so, with all the Angels and Saints, we, too, give you thanks, as in exultation we acclaim: Holy, holy, holy &c.

### **Communion Antiphon**

*Notas mihi fecisti vias vitae*

You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord. *cf Ps 16:11*

### **Prayer after Communion**

May the working of your power, O Lord, increase in us, we pray, so that, renewed by these heavenly Sacraments, we may be prepared by your gift for receiving what they promise. Through Christ our Lord.

### **Salve Regina**

*Liturgical Hymns 597*

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy! Hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us; and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!

### **Scripture Reading (Week 31 Year 2)**

|                   |                                |   |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Monday            | Philippians 2:1-4              | Luke 14:12-14                                   |
| Tuesday           | Philippians 2:5-11             | Luke 14:15-24                                   |
| Wednesday         | Philippians 2:12-18            | Luke 14:25-33 ( <i>or</i> 15-33)                |
| Thursday          | Philippians 3:3-8              | Luke 15:1-10                                    |
| Friday            | Philippians 3:17 - 4:1         | Luke 16:1-8                                     |
| Saturday          | Philippians 4:10-19            | Luke 16:9-15                                    |
| <b>Sunday 32C</b> | <b>2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14</b> | <b>2 Thessalonians 2:16 – 3:5 Luke 20:20-38</b> |

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# FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

31<sup>st</sup> October to 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022 Week 31[ii]

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## Collect for Week 31

**ALMIGHTY** and merciful God, graciously keep from us all adversity, so that, unhindered in mind and body alike, we may pursue in freedom of heart the things that are yours. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

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## Monday of Week 31

31<sup>st</sup> October

**Reading**

*Philippians 2:1-4*

*Imitating Christ's Humility*

**2** So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

## Reflection

**ST PAUL** is writing to the Philippians from prison but we cannot be sure of which imprisonment he speaks. Is he in Ephesus (AD 54-56) where we have no knowledge of him being imprisoned? Or is he in Caesarea (AD 58-60) where he was held after being arrested in Jerusalem? Or is he in Rome (AD 60-63) where he was under house arrest and lived at his own expense? He is in a thoughtful mood, conscious that he might die rather than live to see the Second Coming of Christ (e.g. 1:20-26, 2 Cor 5:1-10)

and he is anxious about rivals trying to outdo him (Phil 1:15) and keen to encourage exemplary behaviour in the Christian community. And so we have this passage at the beginning of Phil 2, just before the Christological hymn about adopting the Mind of Christ.

## **ALL SAINTS' DAY**

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November**

**Reading**

*Philippians 2:5-11*

*The Mind of Christ*

<sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### **Reflection**

**THOUGH** All Saints has its own special readings, it would be perverse to pass over Phil 2:5-11 today. This ferial reading for the Tuesday of Week 31 in Year 2 encapsulates the quest for sanctity.

\*\*\*\*\*

**AFTER** the introductory verse – ‘Have this mind among yourselves’ – is what is generally agreed to be a Christian hymn. We cannot be sure whether St Paul wrote it or simply inserted it. We cannot be sure whether it was written in Aramaic or in Greek. It is clearly in two halves – the first half about Christ emptying himself, the second half about God raising him to glory – but we cannot be sure whether the hymn is six three-line strophes or three four-line strophes. The passage is only one of twenty hymns in the New Testament (and I too was surprised to find that there are as many as that [the passages are listed in Raymond E. Brown’s *Introduction to the New Testament* p. 491]). The importance of the

passage – whether Paul inherited it or composed it – is that it picks up the theme of Christ as Servant, the controlling image in Isaiah’s prophecies of the Messiah. It also gives us the twin notions of abasement and exaltation descending and ascending - which are at the heart of the Gospel. A further layer of meaning is that this Christ, whom we celebrate, pre-existed as God and became fully human. His humbling was what he deliberately did rather than something which befell him.

## **ALL SOULS’ DAY**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

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### **Collect for All Souls**

**LISTEN** kindly to our prayers, O Lord, and, as our faith in your Son, raised from the dead, is deepened, so may our hope of resurrection for your departed servants also find new strength. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

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### **Reading**

*Romans 5:5-11*

*Now that we are reconciled, we shall be saved by the life of Christ*

Hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> While we were yet helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man—though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. <sup>8</sup> But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup> Not only so, but we also rejoice in God



through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received our reconciliation.

## Reflection

**TODAY'S** passage from the Letter to the Romans shows us how Christ's death accomplished our justification, our salvation, and our reconciliation with God. St Paul tells us that 'while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us' (Romans 5:8). We are reminded of the verse: 'Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends' (John 15:13) but St Paul goes further. Christ did not die for good men. He died for sinners: you and me. This belief that Christ's death makes us righteous (justifies us), saves us (rescues us from eternal perdition), and reconciles us with God, is the reason 'Hope does not disappoint us' (Romans 5:5). St Paul's fuller discussion of death and resurrection is in 1 Corinthians 15 and he makes this telling point: 'If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all men most to be pitied' (1 Corinthians 15:19). The Theological Virtues of Faith and Love have their place but on All Souls' Day what sustains us most is Hope, Hope in Christ.

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## Week 31

### Reading

*Philippians 2:12-18*

#### *Shining as Lights in the World*

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

<sup>14</sup>Do all things without grumbling or questioning, <sup>15</sup>that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, <sup>16</sup>holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labour in vain. <sup>17</sup>Even if I am to be poured as a libation upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad

and rejoice with you all. <sup>18</sup> Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

## Reflection

**FOLLOWING** on from the hymn earlier in the chapter, St Paul encourages the Christians in Philippi to imitate Christ by shining as lights in the world. They do this partly by working out their own salvation, that is, not by earning salvation nor even by working at the implications of being saved for the way they live but by allowing God to work in them, willing and working for his good pleasure. There used to be a common cliché – ‘Let go and Let God’ – which perfectly expresses the thought that the Mind of Christ enables us to give control of our growth in holiness to the Holy Spirit of God.

## Thursday of Week 31

**3<sup>rd</sup> November**

**Reading**

*Philippians 3:3-8*

*Whatever gain I had , I counted as loss for the sake of Christ*

<sup>3</sup> We are the true circumcision, who worship God in spirit, and glory in Christ Jesus, and put no confidence in the flesh. <sup>4</sup> Though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If any other man thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law a Pharisee, <sup>6</sup> as to zeal a persecutor of the church, as to righteousness under the law blameless. <sup>7</sup> But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> Indeed I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as refuse, in order that I may gain Christ

**Reflection**

**THE SITUATION** in Philippi is a complex, with much disagreement. is internal disagreement, even amongst those who have worked alongside

Paul. Then there is opposition from outside the community from those who think the Christian movement is a strange set of teachings, a teaching which disregards the gods of the ancient world. Thirdly, in today's passage, we detect St Paul having the same problem with the Judaisers in Philippi as we heard about with the Galatians. The issue is whether Christianity is a Jewish sect, which requires all who join to submit to Jewish laws, in particular male circumcision, or a new movement for Jews and Gentiles which one can join without submitting to the Jewish Law. St Paul here deals with it by burnishing his Jewish credentials. His Jewish background is impeccable. What he stresses is that all this counts as loss - is swept away - compared with personal knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord.

## **Friday of Week 31**

**6<sup>th</sup> November**

**Reading**

*Philippians 3:17 - 4:1*

*Our Commonwealth is in Heaven: Stand Firm*

<sup>17</sup> Brethren, join in imitating me, and mark those who so live as you have an example in us. <sup>18</sup> For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, live as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our commonwealth is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power which enables him even to subject all things to himself.

**4** Therefore, my brethren, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

## Reflection

**THE LETTER** takes up yesterday's theme of dissension and continues with the denunciation of the enemies of the cross of Christ. Some scholars think that this chapter – Philippians 3 – forms a separate letter, and it is perhaps unfortunate that the Lectionary omits the central part of the chapter (3:9-16). Here we are dealing not with different opinions but scolding those who pretend to belong to the Church but whose membership is belied by their behaviour. Two thousand years after St Paul writing to the Philippians we have enough evidence that this kind of nominal membership, which makes no demands on our ethical and moral life, is endemic in the Church. As the Gospels put it, wheat and tares grow side by side and are not sorted out until the harvest. Meanwhile, faithful Christians are exhorted to 'stand firm' and await the coming of the Saviour at the end of time, knowing that 'our commonwealth is in heaven' – one of the loveliest phrases in the New Testament.