

**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**

**31<sup>st</sup> October – 7<sup>th</sup> November 2021**



***All Saints***

# WEEK 31 YEAR 1

## 31<sup>st</sup> October – 7<sup>th</sup> November 2021

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.

<b>ALL SAINTS</b>			[white]
<b>31<sup>st</sup> October</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Parish Mass</b>	Pro populo
	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Mass at St Patrick's, East Isley</b>	
		UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow	
	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Holy Mass</b>	Private Intention

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WEEK 31 (Year 1)

<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November</b>	<i>Of All Saints</i>		[white]
	9.15am	Holy Mass	St Amand's Staff

<b>ALL SOULS' DAY</b>			[black]
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	<u>9.30am</u>	Mass Pro Defunctis [Requiem]	
	<u>6pm</u>	Mass Pro Defunctis [Requiem]	

<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November</b>	<i>St Winefride, Virgin</i>		[white]
	No Mass		

<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<i>St Charles Borromeo, Bishop</i>		[white]
	9.15am	Holy Mass	
		Kristina's Intentions (Julie Lazarus)	

<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<i>Of Week 31</i>		[green]
	9.15am	Holy Mass	
		FM Lady Agnes Eyston 1986	

<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<i>Our Lady St Mary on Saturday</i>		[white]
	No Mass		

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<b>SUNDAY 32B</b>			[Green]
<b>7<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Parish Mass</b>	Pro populo
		and Blessing of the Graves	
	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Holy Mass</b>	Private Intention

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### CONTACT DETAILS

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# Reflection

## COP-26

*By Fr Hugh Somerville Knapton, Monk of Douai Abbey, Parish Priest of St Elizabeth's, Scarisbrick. Published on 24<sup>th</sup> October in his Parish Bulletin. Re-printed here by Permission.*

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**T**HE COP 26 conference of world leaders to discuss climate change is riding the crest of the wave of climate change alarm in recent years. It is almost a truism to say that humanity's progress over the last couple of centuries has had some ill-effects on the natural environment. For more than a century from the mid-1800s pollution was a significant problem, especially in London. In 1956 the British Parliament passed the Clean Air Act, a direct result of the Great Smog of 1952 which caused or contributed to the deaths of more than 4,000 people and literally brought road and rail traffic to a standstill; the Thames was declared biologically dead. That I have never seen similar smog, except perhaps in south-east Asia more than two decades ago, is testament to the effectiveness of concerted action.

At the same time, I would be very careful about accepting at face value all that you hear on the news about climate change. There is as much propaganda as there is factual information, perhaps more. In 1967 a Stanford University (one of the Ivy League universities) biologist, Paul Ehrlich, declared *world* famine by 1975; it never came. In 1969 he garnered more press attention when he was quoted as saying that by 1989 'unless we are extremely lucky, everybody will disappear in a cloud of blue steam.' We're still here. In 1970, another scientist, James Lodge Jr, confidently declared that the first third of the 21<sup>st</sup> century would see a new ice age, but only after increasing demand for electricity would 'boil dry the entire flow of rivers' in the USA. So many alarmist advocates of this cause or that have other agendas. Paul Ehrlich, for example, was a 'population biologist' whose ultimate aim was to spread contraception, if necessary by enforced sterilization. There is nothing like declaring an emergency to make immoral action seem justifiable.

The Church's moral tradition and teaching has always been mindful of the natural environment as something given by God for our benefit and sustenance, providing both food for the body and beauty for the soul. It is to be cared for, managed wisely, enjoyed lovingly. The earth has its own rhythms, and it has had ice ages and hot ages many times before

we began to have any appreciable effect on the environment. Clearly, of course, CO<sup>2</sup> has a real and negative effect on our atmosphere if emitted in too great a quantity. We do well to reduce emissions as soon as possible, and science is quickly finding other, more sustainable, ways to power our irreversibly hi-tech lives, and the richer nations should lead the way in embracing these. But I shall not be blocking traffic nor parroting the alarmism of people who, I suspect, have other agendas. The Church's mission is to save souls not nature. As our Lord reminds us in the gospel (*on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October*), it is our faith in God that will save us for life beyond a world that is, with or without climate change, destined to pass away. Let us go green by all means, yes; but *always* be ready for eternity.

*Fr Hugh Somerville Knapton*

## **A PRAYER FOR THE COP26 CLIMATE TALKS**

LOVING God,  
We praise your name with all you have created.

You are present in the whole universe,  
and in the smallest of creatures.

We acknowledge the responsibilities you have placed upon us  
as stewards of your creation.

May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 as they seek  
to embrace the changes needed to foster a more sustainable society.  
Instil in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions  
for the poorest and most vulnerable,  
and commit their nations to the care of Our Common Home.

We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ your Son.

Amen.

**CAFOD**

# FOR YOUR PRAYERS



## **HOLY FATHER'S NOVEMBER PRAYER INTENTION**

We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

## **THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED**

Baby Martha, Sid Wallace, Dame Catherine, Diana France, John Castle, Petal Connell, Daniel Cuevas, John Stringer, Louise Woodhouse, Mary Wallace, Brenda Paddon, Karen Greig, Kitty Teasdale, Mary McNichol, Elizabeth Gunn, Des McNichol

## **THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED**

*Week 31st October - 6th November:* Charlotte Colt, Henry Hunt, Marjorie Hilda Jones, Cecilia Ann Dearlove, Maria Jones, Chris Sheehan, Peter John Howard, Francis Connolly, Charles Eyston, Charles de Bertodano, Emma Castle.

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# East Hendred Catholic Parish

## NOTICEBOARD

### **ORAZIO, SILVIA, & EDWARD**

We wish Orazio Camaioni, Rector of Wantage Downs Benefice, all the best and assure him and his family of our prayers. Orazio finishes public ministry in the Church of England on 31<sup>st</sup> October and, with his wife and child, will continue his journey as a Catholic. Having Orazio as a fellow pastor has been a real blessing to St Mary's and we thank God and pray that he will take care of this family and provide too for the next stage of the life of the Wantage Downs Church of England community.

### **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

Though Children's Liturgy is suspended, we have now restored the Children's Corner, with resources, and there are resources at the main door too. Please make use of all this whilst children are with you in church. For those at home, there is SDC Children's Liturgy Resource. Click link and select the date: <http://www.sdc.me.uk/sundayliturgy/>  
See also:

#### **All Saints** (31 October)

We remember the Saints and think about how we can follow their example to live our lives as God wants us to. Includes a special focus on Saint Oscar Romero, a CAFOD friend and partner.

#### **Download the accompanying illustration**

### **SYCAMORE**

We have just started a **SYCAMORE** course for adults interested in finding out more about the Faith or preparing for baptism and/or confirmation. If you are interested, please contact [aburnham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:aburnham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) a.s.a.p. **SYCAMORE** usually happens on Tuesday at 8pm but is paused for half-term this week. All Souls' being on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, **SYCAMORE** will resume on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November.

### **BOOKING FOR MASS**

There is no booking at St Mary's for the present. We still are required to carefully note who comes, in case of infection alerts, and so we ask you to sign in and sit as allocated by the steward.

### **CHURCH SERVICES LIVESTREAM**

On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October there were 231 hits from 74 unique viewers, with 67 remaining on-line long enough to take part in Mass. 53 machines were in the UK and 21 in the rest of the world.

### **WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK**

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

Some also look at our East Hendred Catholic Parish page on Facebook.

# GIVING

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## **CHARITY: BAMENDA**

There will be a Second Collection on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November for the Archdiocese of Bamenda (see archbishop's Letter below). Please use the yellow envelopes for cash gifts and please use Gift Aid where possible. Mark the envelope 'Bamenda'.

## **CHARITY: AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED**

Aid to the Church in Need is appealing for funds to help the suffering Church in Syria. The situation is desperate, and they are asking for donations. Contact 0345 646 0110 or [www.acnuk.org/sy21donate](http://www.acnuk.org/sy21donate)

## **CHARITY: DIDCOT**

To help with supplying the Didcot Foodbank, contact Veronica Paget: [veronicapaget@hotmail.com](mailto:veronicapaget@hotmail.com) or leave suitable food outside her front door.

## **GIVING TO THE PARISH**

*BY REGULAR STANDING ORDER OR GIFT*

**BANK DETAILS: PRCDTR East Hendred, St Mary**

**Sort Code: 309304 Account Number: 00877183**

**To arrange Gift Aid, contact : [hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)**

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Please let us know (if you are a UK Taxpayer) if you are happy for us to claim Gift Aid. At the start of the tax year we need anybody in Gift Aid to let us know if they are no longer taxpayers. In that case we should not make a claim.

Donations to the parish: [www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk](http://www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk)

# GREETINGS FROM BAMENDA

***Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November is Bamenda Sunday. The Bishop of Portsmouth commends the Archdiocese of Bamenda and its Archbishop to our prayers. There will be a second collection.***

***The Archbishop of Bamenda writes:***

**O****N BEHALF** of all the members of Christ's faithful here in the Archdiocese of Bamenda, I send fraternal greetings to our Sister Church in the Diocese of Portsmouth. As the third metropolitan Archbishop of Bamenda, by the grace of God and the choice of the Apostolic See, I thank God for this link and the fruits it has borne for both churches in the over forty years. As we look forward to the celebration of the golden jubilee of this link, it is my vision that our link goes more to the evangelisation of our peoples through the exchange of human and spiritual resources.

When I heard how each year the diocese of Portsmouth dedicates a Sunday, not only to pray, but also to raise funds for the development and growth of the faith in the Archdiocese of Bamenda, I was so touched and moved by the gesture. Apart from this, during the socio-political crisis that we have been going through since 2016, I have got reports how the whole church in Portsmouth have been journeying with us spiritually, supporting us financially, and clergy and people petitioning to Her Majesty's Government through its parliamentary representatives to look for a lasting solution to our problem. Moved by these charitable acts, I have decided also to institute a Portsmouth Sunday to be celebrated here in the whole Archdiocese of Bamenda on the very day Bamenda Sunday is celebrated in Portsmouth. Our people here in Bamenda also need to pray and think of ways of supporting you too in your own challenges. We may not be able to reach your standards; but in our own way, we will be able to show a sign of solidarity with you in your own challenges. Covid-19 has revealed the poverty of humanity, no matter where we find ourselves on planet earth. The people of Bamenda need to learn to journey with you, not only in sending priests as you have them now in Portsmouth, but in other areas of evangelisation which our young Church can also help to inspire in Portsmouth. Hence, Portsmouth Sunday will be an opportunity

for us to pray and reflect on other ways in which Bamenda can also be of more assistance to you our sister diocese.

Sharing our pastoral life is of paramount importance, and I am looking at a situation where our Catholic Women, Catholic Men, Youths and other groups will share their experiences of faith with their corresponding groups in the Diocese of Portsmouth, as brothers and sisters without making any material demands.

As you well know, the Socio-Political crisis in the Anglophone area is now in its fifth year and we are very far from reaching a solution.

One of the greatest challenges facing us now is the revival of our schools and reinstating them to their glory before the socio-political situation we found ourselves in since 2016. Although parish life has continued unhindered in the whole of the archdiocese of Bamenda, with even more parishes and Eucharistic Centres created, our schools have suffered a lot because the main tool used by those craving for federation or the independence of the Southern Cameroons was the boycott of schools. While we did our utmost best to keep schools going, we succeeded more in Bamenda, the regional capital since there was some security. Because most of the fighting between government forces and the 'Amba Boys' concentrated more in rural areas, there was mass exodus into Bamenda and other secured towns and villages in French Speaking Cameroon. Not only did schools stop totally, most of the buildings and infrastructures have dilapidated. In Bamenda town, make-shift structures were created in some of our primary schools and even secondary schools to accommodate students fleeing from St. Bede's College, Ashing-Kom, John Paul II Comprehensive College, Wum, St. Joseph's Comprehensive College, Mbengwi and St. Benedict XVI's Comprehensive College, Widikum. As for primary education, they have been almost inexistent out of the Bamenda town area since 2016.

The good news now is that schools are gradually resuming in almost all parts of the archdiocese and many families are returning to their homes and areas of resident prior to the beginning of the crisis. There is, therefore, the need to rehabilitate the schools' buildings and infrastructures that have been abandoned in the last 5 years and employment of more teachers, considering that with the closures of

schools and lack of money to pay teachers, some have looked for greener pastures elsewhere. Unlike in the UK, teachers are paid solely from the meagre school fees children have to pay for their tuition. Also, the new schools opened in Bamenda town, as they expand at terrific speed need more structures equipment in order to accommodate the high enrolment and some of the students would not want to go back to their respective towns and villages. An example can be seen in the St Joseph's Comprehensive Secondary School opened last year in a section of the primary school here at the Cathedral premises run by Fr. Bonaventure, who served at St. John Bosco's Parish in Woodley, Reading. Last year, the first year of its existence, there were just over 300 students. This year, its enrolment has gone over 600. There is dire need, therefore, of constructing good classrooms.

Considering that as more IDPs return with increased security, I think that donations for the Bamenda Sunday would help a lot in reviving Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of the young. Justice has not been done to these children in the past 5 years. As a church, believing and knowing that education is a fundamental human right, we need to put our hands on deck and see how fast and far we can make right the errors of these past years.

I have forwarded to your Bishop and to the Chairperson of the Portsmouth/Bamenda Committee, copies of the five year Strategic Plan of the Archdiocese of Bamenda, for both pastoral, spiritual and material growth. It is my sincere hope that you will journey with us through this plan, especially by your prayers.

Once more, thanks a lot and I commend all of you into the hands of St. Joseph, the Patron of the Archdiocese of Bamenda and to the Immaculate Conception, the Co-Patroness of the Archdiocese of Bamenda.

***+Andrew NKEA,***

Archbishop of Bamenda.

# East Hendred Catholic Parish



## All Saints' Day Antiphons, Prayers and Readings

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### Entrance Antiphon

*Gaudeamus omnes*

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.

### Collect

Almighty and ever-living God, by whose gift we venerate in one celebration the merits of all the Saints; bestow on us, we pray, through the prayers of so many intercessors, an abundance of the reconciliation with you for which we earnestly long. 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

*Apocalypse 7:2-4, 9-14 (RSV)*

I saw another angel ascend from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, saying, 'Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God upon their foreheads.' And I heard the number of the sealed, a hundred and forty-four thousand sealed, out of every tribe of the sons of Israel...After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels stood round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.' Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, clothed in white robes, and whence have they come?' I said to him, 'Sir, you know.' And



**Gospel***Matthew 5:1-12 (RSV)*

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Offertory Hymn***Jerusalem the Golden (see below)***Prayer over the Offerings**

May these offerings we bring in honour of all the Saints be pleasing to you, O Lord, and grant that, just as we believe the Saints to be already assured of immortality, so we may experience their concern for our salvation. Through Christ our Lord.

**Preface***De gloria matris nostræ Ierusalem*

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 today by your gift we celebrate the festival of your city, the heavenly Jerusalem, our mother, where the great array of our brothers and sisters already gives you eternal praise. Towards her, we eagerly hasten as pilgrims advancing by faith, rejoicing in the glory bestowed upon those exalted members of the Church through whom you give us, in our frailty, both strength and good example. And so, we glorify you with the multitude of Saints and Angels, as with one voice of praise we acclaim: Holy, holy, holy &c.

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**SPIRITUAL COMMUNION***after St Alphonsus Liguori (18<sup>th</sup> cent.)*

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Even if I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus. There is room in my heart for you.

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**Communion Hymn***For all the saints (see below)***Communion Antiphon***Beati mundo corde*

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.

### **Prayer after Communion**

As we adore you, O God, who alone are holy and wonderful in all your Saints, we implore your grace, so that coming to perfect holiness in the fullness of your love, we may pass from this pilgrim table to the banquet of our heavenly homeland. Through Christ our Lord.

### **Salve Regina**

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 1)**

Monday	Romans 11:29-36	Luke 14:12-14
Tuesday	Romans 12:5-16	Luke 14:15-24
Wednesday	Romans 13:8-10	Luke 14:25-33
Thursday	Romans 14:7-12	Luke 15:1-10
Friday	Romans 15:14-21	Luke 16:1-8
Saturday	Romans 16:3-9, 16, 22-27	Luke 16:9-15
<b>Sunday 32B</b>	<b>1 Kings 17:10-16</b> <b>Hebrews 9:24-28</b>	<b>Mark 12:38-44</b>

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#### **Parish Priest:**

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#### **Parish Office:**

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

## **HYMNS FOR ALL SAINTS**

### **OFFERTORY**

*Urbs Sion aurea*

JERUSALEM the golden,  
with milk and honey blest,  
beneath thy contemplation  
sink heart and voice oppressed:  
I know not, O, I know not,  
what social joys are there;  
what radiancy of glory,  
what light beyond compare!

They stand, those halls of Zion,  
conjubilant with song,  
and bright with many an angel,  
and all the martyr throng:  
the Prince is ever in them,  
the daylight is serene;  
the pastures of the blessed  
are decked in glorious sheen.

There is the throne of David;  
and there, from care released,  
the song of them that triumph,  
the shout of them that feast;  
and they who with their Leader  
have conquered in the fight,  
for ever and for ever  
are clad in robes of white.

O, sweet and blessed country,  
shall I ever see thy face?  
O, sweet and blessed country,  
shall I ever win thy grace?  
Exult, O dust and ashes!  
The Lord shall be thy part;  
his only, his for ever,  
Thou shalt be, and thou art!

### **POST COMMUNION**

**FOR ALL** the saints, who from their  
labours rest,  
who thee by faith before the world  
confessed,  
thy Name, O Jesu, be forever  
blessed. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress  
and their Might;  
thou, Lord, their Captain in the well  
-fought fight;  
thou, in the darkness drear, their  
one true Light. Alleluia &c.

O may thy soldiers, faithful, true and  
bold,  
fight as the saints who nobly fought  
of old,  
and win with them the victor's  
crown of gold. Alleluia &c.

O blest communion, fellowship  
divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory  
shine;  
yet all are one in thee, for all are  
thine. Alleluia &c.

And when the strife is fierce, the  
warfare long,  
steals on the ear the distant triumph  
song,  
and hearts are brave, again, and  
arms are strong Alleluia &c.

The golden evening brightens in the  
west;  
soon, soon to faithful warriors  
comes their rest;  
sweet is the calm of paradise the  
blest. Alleluia &c.

But lo! there breaks a yet more  
glorious day;  
the saints triumphant rise in bright  
array;  
the King of glory passes on His way.  
Alleluia &c.

From earth's wide bounds, from  
ocean's farthest coast,  
through gates of pearl streams in the  
countless host,  
singing to Father, Son, and Holy  
Ghost: Alleluia &c

# FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021

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## Monday of Week 31 [Year 1]

1<sup>st</sup> November

### Reading

*Romans 11:29-36 (RSV)*

*All Israel will be saved*

<sup>29</sup> The gifts and the call of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup> Just as you were once disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup> so they have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may receive mercy. <sup>32</sup> For God has consigned all men to disobedience, that he may have mercy upon all.

<sup>33</sup> O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

<sup>34</sup> For who has known the mind of the Lord,  
or who has been his counsellor?

<sup>35</sup> Or who has given a gift to him  
that he might be repaid?

<sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory for ever. Amen.

### Reflection

**IN ST PAUL'S** understanding, gentiles are wild olive-branches that are grafted on to the tree to replace natural branches that have been pruned. In that sense, the conversion of Gentiles is a step along the road to the final goal, which is the conversion of Israel. God shows his mercy to both Gentiles and Jews who, in the course of time, have been disobedient. The depths of his mercy can scarcely be plumbed those who have benefited from his forgiveness. The gift is such that it could never be repaid.

# All Souls' Day

2<sup>nd</sup> November

## Reading

*Romans 12:5-16 (RSV)*

### *Marks of the True Christian*

We, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup> Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup> if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup> he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup> love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honour. <sup>11</sup> Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints, practise hospitality.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; never be conceited.

## Reflection

**IN ROMANS** Chapter 12 we come across some practical guidance for Christian living. The image of the Body of Christ, which figures so prominently in the First Letter to the Corinthians, now comes into play again, showing the variety of the different gifts which together build up the rich diversity of the Body. Each plays a part, and must play it with great diligence, achieving a remarkable integrity and vitality in the communal life of the Body. The exhortation is not based on experience: St Paul has not met the Church in Rome, so he is issuing counsels of perfection, such as he himself might have drawn up, or which might have been drawn from the Jewish Wisdom tradition, so that the Christian community might be prepared for the new age inaugurated by Christ. Paul looks towards a *kairos* moment, a time when this new age will come into being.

## Wednesday in Week 31 [Year 1]

3<sup>rd</sup> November

### Reading

*Romans 13:8-10 (RSV)*

*Love for One Another*

<sup>8</sup> Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbour has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,' and any other commandment, are summed up in this sentence, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' <sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

### Reflection

**WHILST** the moral law is of utmost importance – love of God and of our neighbour is the fulfilling of the law – our obedience to the moral law must not arise from a sense of duty or obligation. It should arise from an interior awareness of what love is. The natural law – the knowledge of good and evil – is implanted within us and our response to God's love should spring from that, rather than from fear or legalism.

## Thursday in Week 31 [Year 1]

St Charles Borromeo, Bishop

4<sup>th</sup> November

### Reading

*Romans 14:7-12 (RSV)*

*Do not Judge One Another*

<sup>7</sup> None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

<sup>10</sup> Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; <sup>11</sup> for it is written,

**As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God.**

<sup>12</sup> So each of us shall give account of himself to God.

## **Reflection**

**AN INEVITABLE** rivalry existed between Jewish converts to Christianity and the new Gentile converts. There was a need for the upbuilding of the whole community, whose unity was threatened by judgmentalism and rivalry. It is hard to know whether the Jewish group formed the majority of the Church in Rome, or whether they were outnumbered by Gentile converts. Further tension would focus on the keeping or otherwise of the Mosaic Law. We know, for instance, that many of the Gentile Christians of Galatia accepted circumcision and obedience to the Law – to Paul’s annoyance – and it is not easy to work out how things played out in Rome. We see Paul embracing the notion of individual accountability: ‘each of us shall give account of himself to God.’ (v.12)

## **Friday in Week 31** [*Year 1*]

**5<sup>th</sup> November**

**Reading**

*Romans 15:14-21 (RSV)*

*Paul’s Reason for Writing So Boldly*

<sup>14</sup> I myself am satisfied about you, my brethren, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct one another. <sup>15</sup> But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God <sup>16</sup> to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. <sup>17</sup> In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. <sup>18</sup> For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has wrought through me to win obedience from the Gentiles, by word and deed, <sup>19</sup> by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Holy Spirit, so that from Jerusalem and as far round as Illyr’icum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ, <sup>20</sup> thus making it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on another man’s foundation, <sup>21</sup> but as it is written,

**They shall see who have never been told of him,  
and they shall understand who have never heard of him.**

## **Reflection**

**THE FIRST** of two final sections in the Letter to the Romans provides us with verses for today's reading. The second is due to be read tomorrow, Saturday, and conveys his greetings from Corinth and mentions two controversial people. One is Phoebe, who appears to have been a woman deacon. We have no information on quite what that means: is it a deacon who is a woman or is it a distinct ministry? The other is Junia, or Junias, who is described as an 'apostle'. That presumably does not presume maleness: St Paul uses the term of those who had first-hand experience of the Risen Lord, and we know from 1 Cor 15:6 that there were more than 500 such people, presumably including men and women. Before the finale we find in chapter 16 we have, as mentioned earlier, a first final section in chapter 15. This outlines Paul's plans: he seeks to minister to the Gentiles, much as the Jewish priesthood ministered in the Temple, to make God's people into an acceptable sacrifice. His journeys have taken him from Jerusalem to Western Greece and he plans to visit Rome and then far beyond Rome, possibly to Spain.

