**Newsletter for the week commencing 5th November 2023**

**Thirty-First Sunday (A)**

**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.**

**First Reading: Malachi 1: 14-2:2,8-16**

**Psalm 130 Response: Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.**

**Second Reading: First letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 2: 7-9, 13**

**Acclamation:  Alleluia, alleluia!  Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!**

**Gospel:  Matthew 23: 1-12**

**Communion antiphon: You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.**

**Father Behr writes:**

Dear Parishioners

**Exciting course for Advent with a light supper at 7pm on Friday 24 November for four weeks.**

**Why not prepare for Christmas with a chance to deepen our faith in preparation for the feast of Christmas.**

**The Sycamore course has been designed to be accessible and interactive.**

**There is a sign-up sheet so we can organise the catering.**

**If you would like to know more about Sycamore please visit here.**

<https://www.sycamore.fm/pathways/b-formation-pathways/advent-course/>

**Fr Behr**

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased:  Deacon Kevin Dunne**

**Those ill or infirm:** Mara McDermot, June Munton, Ailish Cantwell (Jones), Sylwia Dorosz, Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Patricia Hook, Josie Payne, Pat Holland and all those who are unwell and in need of our prayers.

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time:**Joan D’Arts, Bernadette O’Malley, Yvonne Smith, Jo Babicz, Ross Smith, Williams Ovens and John Gray.

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| **This week’s services (4th – 12th November), Feasts and Mass intentions during the week.** | |
| **Saturday 4th November**  St Charles Borromeo, Bishop | No public Mass am  10.30 -11am Confession  6pm Vigil Mass  People of the Parish **Reader: Pat** |
| **Sunday 5th November**  **THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY (A)** | 10am Mass   Robert Williamson RIP           **Reader: Rachel**  12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass |
| **Monday 6th November**  Feria | 10am Mass Mary Iglinski RIP |
| **Tuesday 7th November**   The Dedication of the Cathedral Church of St George. | 10am Mass  Donor’s  Intention |
| **Wednesday 8th November**  St Willibrord, Bishop | 10am Mass Our Lord & Our Lady’s Intention |
| **Thursday 9th November**  The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica | 9am-10am Adoration  10am Mass Elizabeth Feeley RIP |
| **Friday 10th November**  St Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor of the Church | 10am Mass Sandra Marshall RIP  10.30 – 11.30am Adoration |
| **Saturday 11th November**  St Martin of Tours, Bishop | No public Mass am  10.30 -11am Confession  6pm Vigil Mass  People of the Parish              **Reader: Pat** |
| **Sunday 12th November**  **THIRY-SECOND SUNDAY (A)** | 10am Mass Purton Family                                **Reader: Collette**  12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass |
| **Flowers: for Saturday 11th /Sunday 12th November - Breeda** | |

**Confession**

Fr Behr is available for Confession every Saturday from 10.30am - 11am. He is also happy to visit those who are not able to come to church.

**Children’s Liturgy**Children’s Liturgy at the 10am Mass on the first Sunday of every month. All children who have not made their First Holy Communion are welcome to attend.  The next lesson with Lorraine is**this Sunday**, **November 5th**.

**Course on Our Lady (Let It Be)**

The last engaging session (25 mins) = Help of Christians Tuesday 7 November

Input from experts such as Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Fr Raniero Cantalamessa, Mgr John Armitage, Dr Sarah Boss, Fr Jim McManus, Sr Catherine Droste & others

And extended interviews with Dr Mary Healy (Detroit Seminary & Pontifical Biblical Commission)

**Growing in Faith Together**

consists of four one hour-long sessions via Zoom and is a wonderful opportunity for engaged couples who have completed their marriage preparation course and want to continue exploring their faith together and married couples to enrich their friendship and love. The course dates are 4 Tuesday evenings 8pm – Oct 24th, 31st, Nov 7 and 14th To register click on the link below from October 1st: Growing in Faith Together — Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis ([rcaos.org.uk](http://rcaos.org.uk))

**"Affirming the Church’s Message on Marriage and Family Life?”**

On 15 November a Mass will be offered by Canon Michael Branch at 2pm in St George's Cathedral. Southwark.

We hope that the Coloma Convent Girl’s choir will enhance the liturgy and there will be a happy reception afterwards.  Tickets for the occasion will be £25.  We hope to have enough to give a donation to charity.

**Blessing of Graves Tenterden Cemetery**

We have a service of blessing at Tenterden Cemetery on Sunday 12 November at 3pm.

We will pray for all those buried there and for all the faithful departed.

**Mary Iglinska RIP**

I am grateful to the Iglinski family for the generous legacy of £2000 to our parish left by Mary. Please pray for Mary and Stan and all their family in thanksgiving for their kindness. Legacies make such a difference to our parish.

**Why Purgatory?**

The mercy of God is above all his works. The beauty of God is beyond all imagination. The magnificence of the halls of Heaven are beyond all telling.

When we go to a party we want to look right in every way; we bath and shower and put on fitting clothes and sometimes we’ll use perfume or eau de cologne. Heaven is the greatest party of all time, outside of time, a party that will last for ever.

It is only right that we whom Almighty God, thanks to the sacrifice of Jesus, invites with great love to the Heavenly party, should be able to acknowledge that great love and sacrifice.

But we fall short time and again. We fail ourselves and the people we love with our selfishness, pettiness, greed, and anger, among other sins. We spoil the beauty of our souls. Purgatory is a place God has created so that we can prepare for the overwhelming love that awaits us in Heaven. Overall, for most people, their sins mean that they have not the capacity to receive God’s overwhelming beatific love without some extra spiritual exercise – that is the cleansing, the purgation of Purgatory. For in Purgatory with sorrow and contrition the soul realises and atones for the impediments that through sin it placed in the way of others and itself in failing to love God fully, in failing to stay beautiful and through grace to amplify that beauty and radiate that beauty so that it would bear the fruit of beauty in others. St Francis was an example of someone who radiated spiritual beauty and to such a degree that its effects are felt today centuries later.

The sacraments of the Church are there to give us the grace to love God and our neighbours so that we can be spiritually beautiful and reach Heaven after our lives continue in the next world. Only the truly saintly are ready for Heaven on passing from this life. The sacraments shorten the purgation required in purgatory. Jesus laid down his life so that we could have a means to cleanse ourselves and be worthy of the awesome magnificence and overwhelming love that God wants us to experience. In the New Testament we find in Chapter 7 of the Book of the Apocalypse:

“I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands” and we are reminded “And these people have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.”

**Catholic Youth Internships**

Castlerigg Manor (The Lancaster Diocese Youth Service) are looking for young Catholics aged 18-25 to join their internship programme. The scheme lasts for one or two years and gives participants wide ranging experience, skills, training, and qualifications as well as the opportunity to work with a fantastic team based in the Lake District. For more information contact [director@castleriggmanor.co.uk](mailto:director@castleriggmanor.co.uk)

**Passing on the Faith as Grandparents**

What practical steps can we take and what sort of conversations can we have which will help anchor our grandchildren’s faith?

Four online sessions starting Weds eves November 8th, 7:30 – 9pm.  Email Lisette on [mflse@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflse@rcaos.org.uk)

**Passing on the Faith for Parents**

How do we start?  How do we continue?  What works well for children at different stages?

Four online sessions starting Thurs eves November 9th, 8pm – 9:30pm.  Email Lisette on [mflse@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflse@rcaos.org.uk)

**Faith in the Family**

St Anthony Communications have produced a new video series Faith in the Family which is available FREE online. There are 15 short videos covering various aspects of the faith: Faith in the Family – YouTube

**Archbishop’s Appeal diocesan second collection**

This will take place on Sunday 12th November, in parishes across the Archdiocese of Southwark. This important second collection will enable our Archdiocese to fund three key areas of ministry as we journey together to become a missionary and evangelising Archdiocese; which is why this is one of the mandatory collections.

• Youth and Evangelisation: To strengthen the formation of young people in the faith; enhance the faith life of parishioners; support the journeys of new Catholics in their conversion; thus, enabling Southwark to become an evangelising and missionary Archdiocese, proclaiming passionately the Good News of the Lord Jesus.

• Our Faith in Action: to show compassionate and active service in the world around us through love for all people: to proclaim and protect the dignity of each and every human person, from conception to natural death; respect for the inter-connectedness of our world and common home; hearing the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth; and, funding social outreach projects taking place in our parishes and schools.

• Clergy Care and Formation: to support the work of the vocations team in the formation of seminarians, deacons and priests; supporting the on-going formation of our priests and deacons in active ministry; and, caring for our clergy in their old age, sickness, and retirement.