

St Margaret Mary Parish



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Safeguarding: Please see notice in bulletin

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

Sunday 4th November, 2018

31ST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

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Sunday	The 31st Sunday of the Year
	8.00am People of the Parish
	10.15am Frank & Mary Navesy
	6.30pm Simon Donohoe (<i>Morrish</i>)
Monday	Feria
	9.30am Names in the Book of the Dead
Tuesday	Feria
	9.30am Michael & Tess O'Toole, RIP
Wednesday	Feria
	9.30am Ralph Fordham, RIP (<i>Fordham</i>)
Thursday	Feria
	9.30am Names in the Book of the Dead
Friday	Dedication of the Lateran basilica
	9.30am MASS AT FAREHAM
Saturday	Pope St. Leo the Great
	9.30am NO MASS
Sunday	32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
	8.00am People of the Parish
	10.15am Elsie Hawkes, RIP
	6.30pm DIACONAL CANDIDACY MASS

Confessions: After Saturday Morning Mass and
By request or appointment at any time

31st Sunday of The Year

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!

Responsorial Psalm;

I love you, Lord, my strength.

Gospel Acclamation;

Alleluia, Alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord,
and they are life; you have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:

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

WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS:

Monday, Philippians 2:1-4; **Tuesday**, Philippians 2:5-11;
Wednesday, Philippians 2:12-18; **Thursday**, Philippians 3:3-8;
Friday, Ezekiel 47:1-12; **Saturday**, Philippians 4:10-19.

Bamenda Collection

The collection this weekend is for our
sister Diocese of Bamenda.

31ST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

4th November, 2018



Each one of us, might find ourselves
in the position of someone asking
"This religion of yours, what's it all
about, really, when you come down to
it, what's the bottom line?"

Our temptation might be to start going
on at length, which is when we might
remember this Gospel. Jesus, when
asked a very similar question, pins our

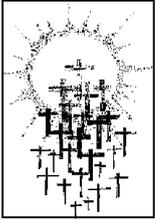
faith down to two very simple things— love of God and
love of neighbor, which together make up the foundation
for everything else in our religion. The very simplicity of
these two commandments is a gift, so that we can try to
live them out each day of our lives. The first command-
ment, which is also that given by Moses in the first read-
ing, is actually a prayer that our Jewish brothers and sis-
ters still recite every single day. Jesus, our perfect
High Priest, gives us these two commandments
to be written in our heads and our hearts,
to remember each day, so that we may conduct
ourselves in the paths of the Kingdom of God.

**"This is the first commandment;
the second is like it."**

A POPE'S REFLECTION

This Sunday's Gospel offers us Jesus' teaching on the greatest
commandment, the commandment of love, which is two-fold:
love of God and love of neighbour. The Saints, who we have
just recently celebrated together in a single solemn Feast are
precisely those who, trusting in God's grace, tried to live
according to this fundamental law. In fact, those who live a
profound relationship with God, just as a child becomes capable
of loving, starting from a good relationship with his mother and
father, may put the commandment of love fully into practice.
St John of Avila, writes at the beginning of his Treatise on the
Love of God: "the cause", he says, "that mostly pushes our
hearts to love of God is considering deeply the love that He had
for us.... This, beyond any benefit, pushes the heart to love;
because he who gives something of benefit to another, gives him
something he possesses; but he who loves, gives himself with
everything he has, until he has nothing left to give". Before
being a command, love is not a command, it is a gift, a reality
that God allows us to know and experience, so that, like a seed,
it can also germinate within us and develop throughout our life.
If the love of God has planted deep roots in a person, then he is
able to love even those who do not deserve it, as God does us.
Fathers and mothers do not love their children only when they
deserve love; they always love them, though of course, they
make them understand when they are wrong. We learn from
God to seek only what is good and never what is evil. We learn
to look at each other not only with our eyes, but with the eyes of
God, which is the gaze of Jesus Christ. A gaze that begins in the
heart and does not stop at the surface, that goes beyond appear-
ances and manages to capture the deepest aspirations of the
other: waiting to be heard, for caring attention, in a word: love.
But the opposite is also true: that by opening myself to another,
just as he or she is, by reaching out, by making myself available,
I am also opening myself to know God, to feel that he is there
and is good. Love of God and love of neighbour are inseparable
and are mutually related. Jesus did not invent one or the other
but revealed that they are essentially a single commandment
and did so not only through the Word, but especially with his
testimony: the person of Jesus and his whole Mystery embody
the unity of love of God and neighbour, like the two arms of the
Cross, vertical and horizontal. In the Eucharist he gives us this
two-fold love, giving himself, because, nourished by this Bread,
we love one another as he has loved us.

Benedict XVI



November - The Faithful Departed

The Church has encouraged prayer for our beloved deceased from the earliest times as an act of true Christian charity. "If we had no care for the dead," Augustine noted, "we would not be in the habit of praying for them."

Yet pagan pre-Christian rites for the deceased retained such a strong hold on the superstitious imagination that a specific liturgical commemoration was not observed until the early Middle Ages, when monastic communities began to mark an annual day of prayer for the departed members.

In the middle of the 11th century, Saint Odilo, the abbot of Cluny, in France, decreed that special prayers be offered 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 purgatory 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 of prayer or private visits to cemeteries and decorating graves with flowers and lights. This feast is observed with great fervour in many countries the world over.

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 the presence of God in the company of someone we have loved and still love, even if that person has gone before us into death. The love of God binds us together for ever.

Book of the Names of the Dead

As the leaves begin to fall
we pause to remember
those we loved
but see no more



Christian Communities remember the names of their dead. In the month of November especially, we pray for the repose of their souls.

A common custom is to give a place of honour to a book in which parishioners write the

names of their deceased relatives and friends.

This book is at the back of the Church, together with an Icon of the Resurrection and the Descent into Hell and the Paschal Candle, symbol of the Risen Christ. Please write down the names of anyone you wish to be remembered during this month. Weekly Mass will be offered for all inscribed therein.

Eternal Rest Give To them, O Lord

BAMENDA SUNDAY

This is Bamenda Sunday, when we give thanks to God for bonds which have forged together our two Diocese since 1974. Back then the first missionaries from Portsmouth went out to Bamenda to spread the Gospel. Today that situation is now reversed, this autumn we have three priests from Bamenda Diocese ministering in our Diocese and we hope and pray that two more will be awarded the appropriate documentation to join us in 2018. The Bamenda newsletter is available today. Please take a copy when leaving. Remember Banda in prayer.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE PICK UP AN EVENT LEAFLET

Nov. 10th, Beetle Drive £5

Nov. 16th, Wine Tasting Evening £25, (limited numbers)

Nov. 18th, Toy Sunday

Vinnies Cafe: 24/11/18; 27/12/18

Wine Tasting Evening

Friday 16th Nov. at 7pm by ticket only

Join us for an interactive fun wine tasting evening in the church hall hosted by Waitrose Wines. No prior knowledge required.

Arrive from 7pm to start promptly at 7.30pm.

We will be running other fun activities on the night including a raffle, a gin bar and Christmas presents. Tickets are limited so please contact stmm.fundraisingteam@gmail.com, or buy your ticket from one of the team at the end of Sunday mass.

All profits go towards the church fundraising.

Family fun guaranteed

at the Beetle Drive here on Saturday 10th November
Adults £5, Family of 4 £15. Tickets available after mass
or Ring Catherine 01489576818

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE.

Fr Francis Sasinowski and Abba shields are running a marriage and family life seminar on 10th November 10.30 - 3.00 pm at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Stubbington, Please do come along, refreshments provided.

Catholic Legacy Week 1-7th November.

Gifts in your Will are a wonderful way you can continue to support the Church's ministry and mission and help meet the needs of future generations. Do please consider gifts to the Church and Catholic charities next time you update your Will.

For more information pick up a leaflet or contact

Your Catholic Legacy on 020 7095 5370

or visit www.yourcatholiclegacy.org.uk

PERMANENT DIACONATE - CANDIDACY MASS

On Sunday 11th November at the 6.30pm Mass, Fr Peter will confer **Candidacy** on behalf of Bishop Philip Egan, on two Permanent Diaconal candidates, Steve Joseph (Alton) and Stephen Opoku-Anokye (Reading). This marks a important moment in these men's journey towards Ordination. Candidacy is a public declaration of their desire to offer themselves to God and to the Church as Deacons, and then the Church's formal acceptance of this offering. It is a very simple ceremony but after it, the two men are no longer *aspirants*, but *Candidates for Holy Orders*, a crucial difference. Parishioners are very welcome to attend and be part of in this joyful celebration. Refreshments will be available afterwards in the Church Hall.

Vocations Promotion – First Friday Group

Fr. John Cooke will be hosting monthly gatherings for 'Seekers', from 7-9pm at Sacred Heart Fareham, on the first Friday of each month. This is for anyone aged 16+ to share discernment, food, catechesis and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. (under 18 will need a consent form which is provided by Fr. John). If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Fr. John at jcooke@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Please remember in your prayers

Elsie Joel, Helen Worstmann, Aileen Hopkins, Pam Hale, Jim Brown, Oliver Russell, Irene Hollywood, Pat Juke, Joseph Dolan, Siobhan Jefferies, Irene Otter, Marion Celan, Samantha Donohoe, Pat & Hugh Cooke, Josie Cutcliffe, Eileen Parsons, Maria & John Marvao, Michelle Gray, Kol Thelis, Val Stoker, Thomas McCartney, Pat Elward, Mamie Allen, Netta Tracy, Sue & John Forer, June Paris, John Kinneavy, Susan Bolton, Natalie Mahon, Jeanne Key, Kazzy Madeley, Joseph Chisholm, Anne-Marie Mooney, Joyce Redding.

MARY, HEALTH OF THE SICK, PRAY FOR THEM