

St Peter's Parish Magazine



October & November
2026

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From Fr Jonathan

Dear friends



As we enter the month of October we have celebrated Harvest Festival on the first Sunday of the month, which is also the day on which the church remembers and give thanks for the life and witness of St Francis of Assisi, the 800th anniversary of whose death falls this year. St Francis has become one of the most popular saints of the middle ages and his Feast Day marks the end of the Season of Creation, which is not so much a proper liturgical season, but rather an ecumenical endeavour by all the major churches of the east and the west to help us focus our attention on our vocation of being stewards of the beauty and fragility of creation. Harvest Festival was celebrated by a well-attended joint Parish Mass, followed by a lunch and BBQ in the church grounds, when we were serenaded by the Saxophone Choir which played at the May Fair.

One day, when St Francis was visiting the dilapidated church of St Damian in Assisi he heard the voice of God coming from the cross saying, "Francis, go and repair my church which, as you see, is falling down". Something I had just a little sympathy with when I first saw the scaffolding in the portico and realised the extent of work which has to be done at St Peter's! At first St Francis thought that the call of God was simply to repair the physical church of St Damian, but what he later realised was the call was for the renewal of the life of the whole wider church.

The good news is that we have been moving on apace with works at the church. The new kitchen is fully installed and the Parish Hall now has new flooring and carpet and has been redecorated throughout. The kitchen now has an accessible door in the centre of the arch and we look forward to all the events which we will be able to put on and to host in there. The old lift has been stripped out and the engineers

are well on their way to installing the new lift. All this has been made funded entirely, as you know, through a generous Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) grant from Westminster City Council.

Over the summer we heard the good news that we have been successful in our application for a grant from the Heritage Fund which will make possible Phase 1 of our “Doors Wide Open” project. This will allow us to undertake all the high level work on the tower, removing the need for the green net and will uncover the defective structure under the loggia of the Portico and put in a temporary ceiling so that we will be able to use the Portico again without any need for scaffolding as we approach the further phases of the project to get everything done. The grant allows us to prepare for the forthcoming phases of the work which will all have a Carbon Net Zero focus in the best aspirations of St Francis of Assisi. This is very exciting as we are at last finally making significant progress here. My experience of such projects in previous parishes is that a lot of time is spent in preparation and application under the surface when nothing seems to be happening and then everything suddenly springs into life.

During the first week of November the London Plane and other trees around the carpark will all be pruned and trimmed and work will be undertaken in the front garden to prune and tidy it up so that the church will be far more visible as we invite people in through our large and welcoming red doors and grow our congregations.

Faith Group on AI

We have two further sessions of the Faith Group exploring the fascinating and terrifying subject of Artificial Intelligence following the wisdom of Pope Leo XIV’s encyclical “Magnifica Humanitas” in which he makes a welcome response on behalf of Christians of all denominations. I am most grateful to Fr Carlos in leading these sessions which will take place in the Vicarage at 7 pm on 19th October and 16th November. All warmly welcome.

October – the month of the Holy Rosary

October is traditionally the month of the Holy Rosary and includes the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on the 7th October. Fr Carlos will be leading a teaching session on Zoom on the holy rosary on Wednesday 7th October at 7.30 pm and further sessions will take on the remaining Wednesdays of October. For the Zoom link, please contact Fr Carlos and see the article further on in this magazine.

November – the month of holy saints and souls

As the evenings draw in and we approach the month of November, we do so aware of the great cloud of witnesses who surround and enfold us in every chapter of our earthly pilgrimage. All Saints' Day falls on a Sunday this year and the following day is all All Souls' Day (Monday 2nd November) when we remember in love and heartfelt gratitude all those who have gone before us – those we see no longer, but love no less. As usual we shall have our Solemn Choral Requiem at 7 pm in the evening, which is one of the most beautiful and poignant in the whole church calendar. Do please join us for this special annual celebration of the Holy Eucharist, as we light candles before our iconic cross and remember our loved ones by name. A list will soon be up at the back of church to add your loved ones' names.

Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday 8th November we shall observe Remembrance Sunday with our act of remembrance taking place between the Family and Choral Eucharists at 10.50 am. Although the great wars of the last century seem a long time ago, the screens of our televisions, computers and hand-held devices, as well as the pages of the traditional media witness to a darkened and frightening world in which warfare and violence seem to take centre stage. On Remembrance Sunday we remember with thanksgiving all those whose lives were lost so that you and I might live in freedom and liberty. We remember the past with gratitude so that we might renew the future in hope.

Christ the King

The penultimate Sunday of November is the great Solemnity of Christ the King at the close of the Church year. We remember that Christ, who is Lord and King of the whole universe is also the suffering

servant who knelt down and washed his disciples' feet as a prefiguring of his greatest act of love and service on the cross. It is a majestic Festival when gold vestments are worn, before we begin the new liturgical year the following Sunday on the First Sunday of Advent.

Stop press... new Associate Vicar for St Peter's...!

We deliberately slightly delayed the publication of this edition of the magazine so that we might include in it the announcement we made on Harvest Festival on 04 October of Fr Baxter McRolston, as our new Associate Vicar, joining us for St Luke's and Christ Church, Chelsea. Please see further details later in this magazine.

2027... St Peter's 200th birthday..!

Fr Baxter's licensing at Candlemas by the Acting Bishop for the Two Cities will mark the beginning of ten months of celebration for St Peter's 200th birthday. The original church was consecrated on 19th July 1827, when we were first carved out of the Parish of St George's, Hanover Square. There will be a whole programme of events and activities throughout those ten months, the heart of which will be between our Patronal Festival of Ss Peter and Paul and the original Dedication Festival of 19th July. We have commissioned a new anthem by the contemporary composer, Judith Bingham, based around the words of "Tu es Petrus et super hanc petram aedificabo ecclesiam meam..." ("You are Peter and on this rock, I will build my Church").

Fr Carlos

This central time of our 200th Birthday Festival will also include Fr Carlos' ordination to the Priesthood which will take place here at St Peter's as well as his First Mass as a newly ordained priest. Fr Carlos is kindly chairing the planning group for our 200th birthday programme. If you would like to be a member of this planning group, or have ideas for what might be included in this programme, please contact him on

frcarlos@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk

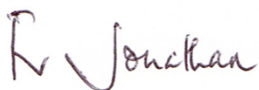
New Bishop of London

As we go to press we have also been told that the shortlisting for the new Bishop of London has taken place, with interviews scheduled for November and an announcement in the new year. Please do pray for the gifts of discernment and wisdom for all those involved in selecting the right person to be our new Diocesan Bishop who will be the most senior Bishop after the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

There is much to look forward in the coming months and years at St Peter' and a sense of renewed hope. We seek to build up our common life in a spirit of hospitality and invitation, praying that our large open red doors will draw others to experience for themselves the fire of God's love and the warmth of the fellowship which binds us together.

With my love, thanks and prayers,

as always,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Jonathan'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

From the Parish Magazine October 1936

“So, pray that God will give us a happy year of work and fellowship together.

That work has to be done in an atmosphere which is full of darkness and difficulty. It is the impotency of the forces working for peace which, as I believe, are more universal in the hearts of the peoples of the world than perhaps at any time in history which perplexes us all. We in this country have been compelled to take decisions which we have never so reluctantly taken. Yet we cannot deny the deep instincts of our heart and our faith that God’s cause will triumph. Resolves of nations as of individuals have to be refashioned if they break and the resetting is painful and difficult. Meanwhile many lose faith in themselves and in others. If the Church loses faith in the possibility of the eventual triumph of justice and peace it will be guilty of a great betrayal. There is a saying that “no cause is truly God’s as when he allows it to be crucified and raises it again the third day.” So if we are to witness the crucifixion of our best hopes let us still keep our faith. We may be passing through a catastrophic period yet God is able to “turn the fierceness of men to His praise.”

COMMENT:

We may reasonably feel anxiety at the world situation today but this Vicar’s letter shows a similar equally understandable anxiety from ninety years ago. Nazi Germany was an increasing threat, with increasing militarisation in breach of the Treaty of Versailles while Mussolini was expanding his imperial ambitions in Africa and Stalin had begun the Great Purge in Russia. A coup in July had begun the Spanish Civil War. Meanwhile, the increasing use of private cars had threatened the traditional Sunday with parishioners increasingly away. So Austin Thompson’s message of courage and hope, against such a dark background was much needed and well-expressed.

Valerie Smith

From the Parish Magazine November 1936

“On the 17th August, we met at St Peter’s Church at 9am and soon packed all our equipment into the lorry ready for the journey to St Margaret’s Bay. It was rather a bumpy ride, as we were perched on tents, packing cases and kitbags, while someone murmured that the Tenderfoot was sitting on her lunch all the way. After sundry adventures, such as knocking over a barrow of bricks, taking several wrong roads, and reversing, we reached the field which was to be our home for a week.

It looked an enormous field, and we thought that our tiny party of a dozen would be lost in it. Most of us are quite experienced campers so that it was not long before our tents were pitched and a meal ready. The first evening passed all too quickly and we were soon ready for our pallsies.

After the first night, we seemed to have been in camp for days, and everyone settled down very quickly. We had several walks and bathed every day in the little bay. This was a really charming spot, and as the weather was good, we were all able to get really brown and well.”

COMMENT:

According to Google, the weather in Kent on 17 August 1936 left something to be desired, being cool and misty with periods of light drizzle. However, it seems to have improved enough for the girls to become tanned and to walk, bathe, play cricket and sing round the campfire every day. Those of us familiar with girls’ school stories from the 1930s to the 1950s will be pleased to have this verification, from real life of the sturdiness and stoicism of St Peter’s Girl Guides. From having one’s sandwiches sat on, bumping into wheelbarrows and getting lost, to the painfully smoky fires and the dash down to the beach on the last day for a final bathe before packing everything away and fitting in a quick visit to Canterbury Cathedral on the trip back the girls’ resilience and uncomplaining cheerfulness certainly impress.

Valerie Smith

Searching for St Peter



I didn't exactly have to look very far in my latest search for St Peter. Fr Jonathan mentioned, during the Family Service, there were some recently rediscovered paintings of Jesus and The Saints, on display in the assembly area, behind the golden apse. They had once been donated to Fr Desmond for display at St Peter's by the musicals maestro Andrew Lloyd Webber. And there they were, at the back of the Church. St Peter was one of them. And very handsome, holy and dramatic they are too, in a Victorian, make that Edwardian, way.

In fact they are flat sculptures - bas-reliefs to use the art experts' expression - made from plaster and painted by the artist, sculptor and stained-glass designer Robert Anning Bell in 1903. They were made for Park Church in Glasgow - a Roman Catholic Church. It was pulled down in 1968. Only the church tower still remains. Andrew Lloyd Webber bought them at a Christie's auction in 1992 for £3,960, double the estimate, with the intention of displaying them at his home at 11, Eaton Square. Apart from their aesthetic appeal, perhaps the most interesting thing is how they ended up at St Peter's. I asked Fr Desmond and he gave me an intriguing account involving the previous owner of Number 11, an arms dealer, his three wives, shards of shot-down Israeli war planes pinned to the wall as trophies and the resulting nocturnal distress of tortured spirits. With Fr Desmond's prayers and sprinkling of holy water, those spirits were left at peace.

Lord Lloyd-Webber, as he is these days, was so grateful, he gave Desmond the artworks for our Church.
Hopefully they will remain on show in Church for a little while yet.

Father Desmond, Valerie and John Hilary helped me with this

David Stanley



New Associate Vicar for St Peter's



With great joy we made this announcement in Church at Harvest Festival

Subject to the usual pre-employment checks, the Acting Bishop of London is delighted to announce the appointment of Fr Baxter McRolston as Associate Vicar of St Peter's, Eaton Square. Fr Baxter is currently the assistant curate of St Luke's and Christ Church, Chelsea.

He comes originally from Brighton and read Divinity and Politics at the University of Aberdeen. He became a Pastoral Assistant at St Dunstan's with All Saints, Stepney where he also graduated with a master's degree in the Middle East in Global Politics from Birkbeck College here in London. He received his formation for ordination at Westcott House, Cambridge and since 2023 has been serving his curacy at St Luke's with Christ Church, Chelsea

Fr Baxter's last service in Chelsea will be on Epiphany Sunday, and he will be licensed here by the Acting Bishop for the Two Cities at Candlemas as we begin our celebrations for St Peter's 200th birthday year. We much look forward to welcoming him and Jimmy to St Peter's. Most importantly and refreshingly of all, Fr Baxter was born the year that I was ordained to the priesthood...!

Fr Jonathan

Martin of Tours

c.316 – 11 November 397

Remembrance Day across the Commonwealth falls on 11 November — a date chosen in 1918 to mark the hour at which the guns of the First World War fell silent. What is less widely known is that the date had already been significant for fifteen hundred years before the Armistice: 11 November is the feast day of St Martin of Tours, the patron saint of soldiers. It is a quietly paradoxical patronage for a man whose most celebrated act was his refusal to fight, and whose deepest instinct was always for the cloister rather than the battlefield. But the paradox is entirely in keeping with a life of striking contradictions, in which a pagan soldier became a Christian hermit who was dragooned into being one of the most influential bishops in the Western Church.

Martin was born around 316 at Savaria in Pannonia — modern Szombathely, in Hungary — the son of a tribune in the Imperial Horse Guard. The family moved to Pavia in northern Italy when his father was posted there, and it was in Pavia that Martin grew up. His parents were pagan, but the boy was drawn to Christianity from an early age: at ten he began attending church against his parents' wishes and was enrolled as a catechumen. At fifteen, as the son of a Roman officer, he was conscripted into the cavalry — his father, Sulpicius Severus tells us, had little sympathy for his son's religious leanings and was perfectly willing to see him in uniform.

The episode that would make Martin famous throughout Christendom occurred during his garrison duty at Amiens in northern Gaul, in the depth of a particularly bitter winter. At the city gates he encountered a beggar, barely clothed and shivering. Martin had already given away what he had; all that remained was his military cloak. He drew his sword, cut the cloak in two, and gave half to the beggar. His fellow soldiers found this more amusing than admirable. That night, Martin dreamed of Christ wearing the half-cloak he had given away, and heard him say to the angels gathered around him: "Martin, not yet baptised, has covered me with this garment." The vision, as Sulpicius Severus records it, confirmed what Martin had long intended. He was baptised shortly afterwards, and after completing a further two years

of military service — his commanding officer was a friend who begged him to stay — he left the army for good.

He made his way to Poitiers, drawn by the reputation of its bishop, Hilary — one of the great theologians of the fourth century and a formidable opponent of the Arian heresy that was then threatening to fracture the Church. Hilary recognised what Martin was and took him on as a disciple. When Hilary was sent into exile by the Arian emperor Constantius, Martin returned briefly to Pannonia to visit his parents, converting his mother to Christianity, before withdrawing to live as a hermit on the island of Gallinara off the Ligurian coast. When Hilary was recalled from exile in 360, Martin rejoined him at Poitiers, and together they established a small monastic community nearby at Ligugé — the first monastery in Gaul, and one of the oldest in the Western Church still in existence.

Martin's reputation for holiness and miraculous healing drew a growing number of disciples, and with disciples came fame; and with fame came the unwanted attention of the church at Tours, which was in need of a new bishop. In 371, the people of Tours resolved that Martin was their man. Knowing that he would refuse any direct invitation, they resorted to a stratagem: he was summoned to the city on the pretext of giving his blessing to a sick person, then seized and brought before the assembled clergy and people. Some of the bishops present objected that his appearance was too rough and his dress too poor for a man of episcopal dignity. The objection, Sulpicius Severus notes with evident relish, amounted to a commendation. Martin was consecrated bishop of Tours.

He remained a monk at heart throughout his episcopate. Unable to bear the noise and intrusion of life in the city, he founded a second monastery — Marmoutier, across the Loire from Tours — to which he retreated whenever he could, living in a cell carved from the rock face, surrounded by disciples who occupied caves nearby. From this base he governed his diocese, trained a remarkable generation of clergy, and pursued an energetic campaign of evangelisation through rural Gaul, where the peasant population remained largely pagan. He destroyed pagan temples and sacred trees with a systematic determination, though Sulpicius also records that on more than one occasion he stood bodily between his followers and the violence they

intended, trusting that holiness was a more reliable instrument than force.

His episcopate brought him into contact with the great political and ecclesiastical controversies of the age. When the Spanish bishop Priscillian was accused of heresy and sorcery and condemned to death by the Emperor Maximus — making him the first person to be executed by a Christian emperor for heresy — Martin was alone among the bishops of the West in protesting vigorously that this was an abuse of both civil and ecclesiastical power. He argued that heresy was a matter for the Church to address by persuasion and penance, not for the state to punish with the sword. His protest proved unavailing, and Priscillian was executed in 385; but Martin's principled stand on the separation of ecclesiastical from civil jurisdiction placed him on the right side of a question that would trouble the Church for many centuries to come.

He died on 8 November 397, at Candes-sur-Loire, where he had gone to resolve a dispute between the clergy of that town. He was buried at Tours on 11 November — the date that became his feast day. Within a generation, his tomb had become one of the great pilgrimage sites of western Europe. The *Vita Martini* of Sulpicius Severus, written during Martin's own lifetime and drawing on direct personal acquaintance, ensured that his memory was preserved with unusual immediacy. Gregory of Tours, writing two centuries later, recorded more than two hundred miracles at his tomb. The half-cloak — the *cappa* — became a relic of the Frankish kings, carried into battle as a talisman; it is from this relic that the word chapel derives, the *capella* being originally the sanctuary in which the *cappa* was housed and the *capellani* the priests who guarded it.

In the Church of England he is commemorated on 11 November as a lesser festival. He is patron saint of soldiers, of the poor, of innkeepers, and of France. His feast day is 11 November.

Richard Carter



Calendar of Intentions October 2026

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Mass intention</i>
Th 1	Remigius, Bishop of Rheims, Apostle of the Franks, 533	The Church and People of France
Fr 2	The Holy Guardian Angels	All who travel
Sa 3	Feria	London Ambulance Service
Su 4	HARVEST FESTIVAL St Francis of Assisi 800 th anniversary of his death in 1226 and end of the Season of Creation	The Parish and People of God Thanksgiving for the fruits of the earth and our conservation of creation
Mo 5	Feria	Archdeacon of Charing Cross
Tu 6	William Tyndale, translator, martyr, 1536	Bible translators
We 7	Feria	Eaton House School
Th 8	Feria	St Peter's School
Fr 9	Denys, bishop and companions, martyrs, c 250	The Cathedral of Notre Dame
Sa 10	Paulinus, bishop, missionary, 644	The Archbishop of York
Su 11	NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	The Parish and People of God
Mo 12	Wilfrid, bishop, missionary, 709	Westminster Capitular Mass
Tu 13	Edward the Confessor, king, 1066	Westminster Abbey
We 14	Feria	Westminster City School
Th 15	Teresa of Avila, teacher of the faith, 1582	Spiritual Directors

Calendar of Intentions October 2026 cont.

Date	Day	Mass intention
Fr 16	Nicholas Ridley and Hugh Latimer, bishops, martyrs, 1555	Mutual flourishing between Christians of different traditions
Sa 17	Ignatius, bishop, martyr, c 107	Courage in our faith
Su 18	TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	The Parish and People of God
Mo 19	Henry Martin, translator, missionary, 1812	The Church in India
Tu 20	Feria	Belgravia Neighbourhood Forum
We 21	Feria	Victoria Neighbourhood Forum
Th 22	Feria	Victoria Station
Fr 23	Feria	Metropolitan Police
Sa 24	Feria	Dominican Republic
Su 25	LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	The Parish and People of God
Mo 26	Alfred the Great, king, scholar, 899	The House of Commons
Tu 27	Feria	The House of Lords
We 28	Ss Simon and Jude, Apostles	The College of the Resurrection, Mirfield Foundation Day
Th 29	James Hannington, bishop, martyr, 1885	The Church and People of Uganda
Fr 30	Feria	Westminster St Margaret Deanery
Sa 31	Martin Luther, reformer, 1546	The Lutheran Churches

Calendar of Intentions November 2026

Date	Day	Mass intention
Su 1	ALL SAINTS' DAY	The Parish and People of God
Mo 2	ALL SOULS' DAY	That the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, may rest in peace
Tu 3	Richard Hooker, priest, teacher of the faith, 1600	Theologians
We 4	Feria	Westminster City Council Offices, 64 Victoria Street
Th 5	Feria	Churches Together in Britain and Ireland
Fr 6	Leonard, hermit, 6 th century	Modern day solitaries and hermits
Sa 7	Willibrord, bishop, 739	The Old Catholic Churches
Su 8	THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	The Parish and People of God All who died in years of world wars and military conflict
Mo 9	Margery Kempe, mystic, c 1440	Spiritual writers
Tu 10	Leo the Great, bishop, teacher of the faith, 461	Pope Leo XIV
We 11	Martin of Tours, bishop, c. 397	St Martin's-in-the-Fields Armistice Day
Th12	Feria	Cleveland Clinic Hospital
Fr 13	Charles Simeon, priest, evangelical divine, 1836	The Church Missionary Society CMS
Sa14	Samuel Seabury, bishop, 1796	St Michael's, West 99 th Street Our New York partner parish
Su 15	THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT	The Parish and People of God

Calendar of Intentions November 2026 cont.

Date	Day	Mass intention
Mo 16	Margaret of Scotland, queen, philanthropist, 1093	The Church and People of Scotland
Tu 17	Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, 1200	The Diocese of Lincoln
We 18	Elizabeth of Hungary, princess, philanthropist, 1231	The Church and People of Hungary
Th 19	Hilda, abbess of Whitby, 680	The Sisters of the Order of the Holy Paraclete, Whitby
Fr 20	Edmund, king and martyr, 870	Those martyred for the faith in our world of day
Sa 21	Feria	The Wellington Barracks The Guards Chapel
Su 22	CHRIST THE KING	The Parish and People of God
Mo 23	Clement, bishop, martyr, c 100	Westminster Cathedral
Tu 24	Feria	The Royal Mews
We 25	Catherine, martyr, 4 th century	Amnesty International
Th 26	Feria	The Heritage Quarter
Fr 27	Feria	Victoria Business Improvement District (BiD)
Sa 28	Feria	Chelsea and Westminster Hospital
Su 29	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	The Parish and People of God
Mo 30	Andrew, the Apostle	+Emma, Acting Bishop of London

Saint for October

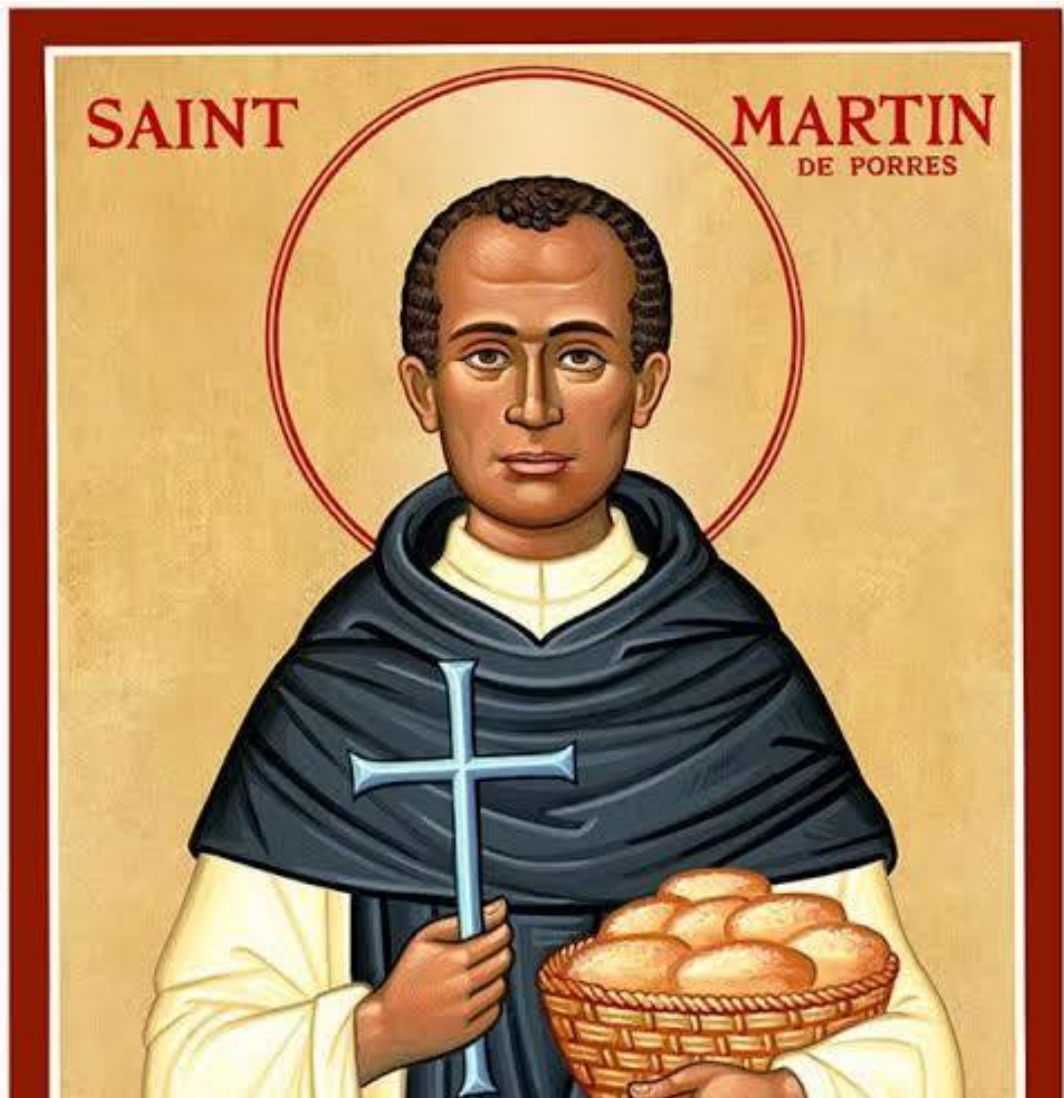
St Ignatius of Antioch



Ignatius of Antioch, also known as Ignatius Theophorus, was an early Christian writer and the Patriarch of Antioch. While en route to Rome, where he was to be killed, Ignatius wrote a series of letters. This correspondence forms a central part of a later collection of works by the Apostolic Fathers.

Saint for November

St Martin de Porres



Martín de Porras Velázquez OP was a Peruvian lay brother of the Dominican Order who was beatified in 1837 by Pope Gregory XVI and canonized in 1962 by Pope John XXIII. He is the patron saint of Black people, mixed-race people, barbers, innkeepers, public health workers, all those seeking racial harmony, and animals

Readings for October & November 2026

04 October 2026 Harvest Festival 2 Corinthians 9:6-end Luke 12:16-30	01 November 2026 All Saints Day Revelation 7:9-17 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12
11 October 2026 Trinity 19 Isaiah 25:1-9 Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14	08 November 2026 Third before Lent/ Remembrance Sunday Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16 1 Thessalonians 4:13-end Matthew 25:1-13
18 October 2026 Trinity 20 Isaiah 45:1-7 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Matthew 21:15-22	15 November 2026 Second before Advent Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30
25 October 2026 Last after Trinity Leviticus 19:1-2 & 15-18 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Matthew 22:34-46	22 November 2026 Christ the King Sunday next before Advent Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46
	29 November 2026 First Sunday of Advent Isaiah 64:1-9 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13: 24-37

Book Review

Religio Medici: Sir Thomas Browne

This book contains the musings of a 17th century Norwich doctor and still makes good reading today. The title 'Religio Medici' (A Doctor's Religion) was intended as something of a shock since it was popularly



believed that all doctors were atheists: a contemporary proverb was, "Three medical doctors, two atheists." Browne writes, with idiosyncratic elegance, both about the content and practice of his faith, and about his love of God's "second manifestation in the book of nature". Born in London of a modestly prosperous merchant family, he studied in Oxford and also in Montpelier, Padua and Leyden before returning to practice in England until his death at the age of 77. He lies buried in his parish church of St Peter Mancroft.

His life spanned the strengthening of Puritanism in England, the Civil War, the execution of Charles I, the return of Charles II and most of his reign. In this period of often violent extremist views his own are remarkable and refreshing. Of the Roman Catholic Church he says, "We have reformed from them, not against them. I am not scrupulous to converse and live with them, to enter their churches in defect of ours and either pray with them or for them. At the sight of a cross or crucifix I can dispense with my hat but scarcely the thought or memory of my Saviour". Of his own observances he says: "my common conversation I do acknowledge austere, my behaviour full of rigour yet at my devotions I love to use the civility of my knee, my hat and my hand with all those outward and sensible motions which may express or promote my invisible devotion".

Nor did he suffer from the personal anguish that we see for example in Donne, in Bunyan and in Milton. He says encouragingly, "If any doubts arise, I do forget them" and "For my original sin I hold it to be washed away in my baptism; for my actual transgressions I compute

and reckon with God but from my last repentance, sacrament or general absolution.” He makes clear the basis of his beliefs: “In brief where the scripture is silent, the church is my text; whatever is beyond, as points indifferent I observe according to the rules of my private reason, or the humour and fashion of my devotion.”

The book of nature as God’s second manifestation explains his curiosity and its religious motivation. He was a keen observer of nature and collector of historical artefacts; his “entire house and garden functioned as a museum of natural and human history.” In his community he was generous and concerned with the plight of the poor to whom he would give free treatment; from other patients he accepted payments either in money or in kind according to their wealth.

In his steady faith and in his wide interests Browne calls to mind his younger contemporary John Evelyn. Like him he was devoted to the Church of England and a Royalist. Norwich was very much a Puritan and Parliamentary City; however, Browne’s more retired life saved him from the sorts of risks Evelyn faced; Evelyn was one of those arrested in London on Christmas Day 1657 when armed soldiers threatened worshipers as they went up to Communion. With so much in common he and Evelyn corresponded regularly for some years and in 1671 Evelyn made the opportunity, when travelling with King Charles II to Norwich, to visit Browne. He describes his visit in glowing terms. As well as having the opportunity to examine all his collections, to see all the plants of his garden, to listen to his introduction to all kinds of local birds, he was given a full tour of Norwich City.

If you are interested, there is a copy of “Religio Medici” with a few others written by Browne on the table in the prayer corner.

Valerie Smith

Harvest Festival Lunch



Fr Jonathan's Sixtieth Birthday!



Father Jonathan reached the age of 60yrs old on 7th September!

One of his many celebrations (including getting his 60+ oyster card) was after the Family Service on 6th September where he was presented with a wonderful birthday cake baked by Ranna!



October is the month of the Holy Rosary



October is traditionally kept as the Month of the Rosary, centred on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on 7 October.

Through its mysteries, the Rosary lets us walk with Mary through the life, death and resurrection of Christ, and its gentle repetition quiets the mind so the heart can rest in prayer. Our first gathering falls on the feast day itself, and everyone is warmly welcome, whether the Rosary is a lifelong companion or something new to you.

- **When:** Wednesdays in October
 - 7 October (Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary): 7.30pm–8.30pm
 - 14, 21 and 28 October: 7 pm to 7.30 pm
- **Where:** Online via Zoom
- **Register here to receive the Zoom link:**

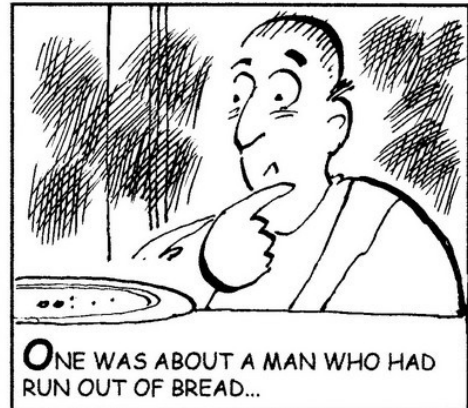
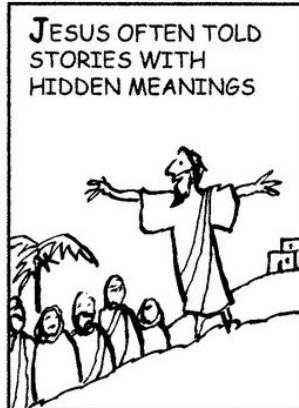
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/h8XAnMdlRKiOQ0xZSWz4Yg>

or do feel free to contact me

Fr Carlos

frcarlos@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk

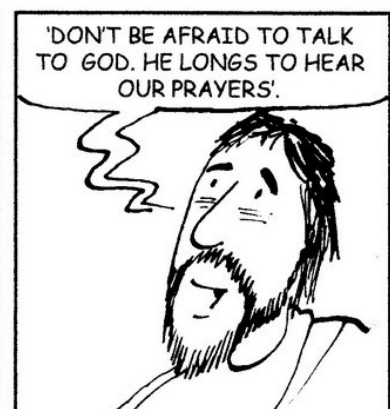
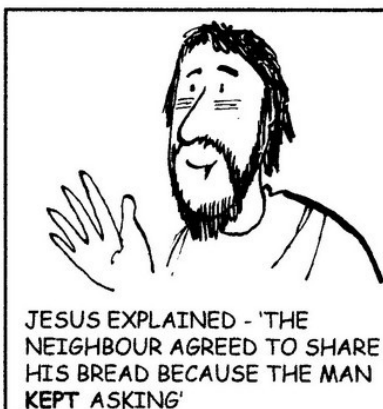
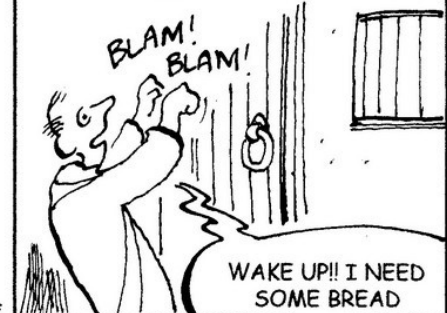
Children's Page



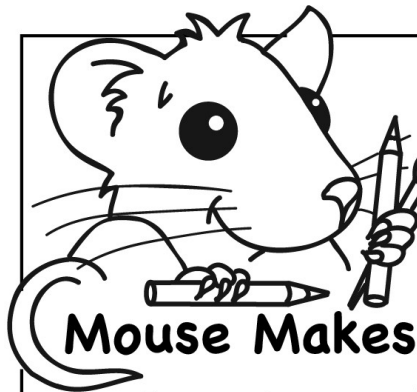
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS
MIDNIGHT...



... HE WENT TO HIS NEIGHBOUR'S
HOUSE AND BANGED ON THE
DOOR - LOUDLY!



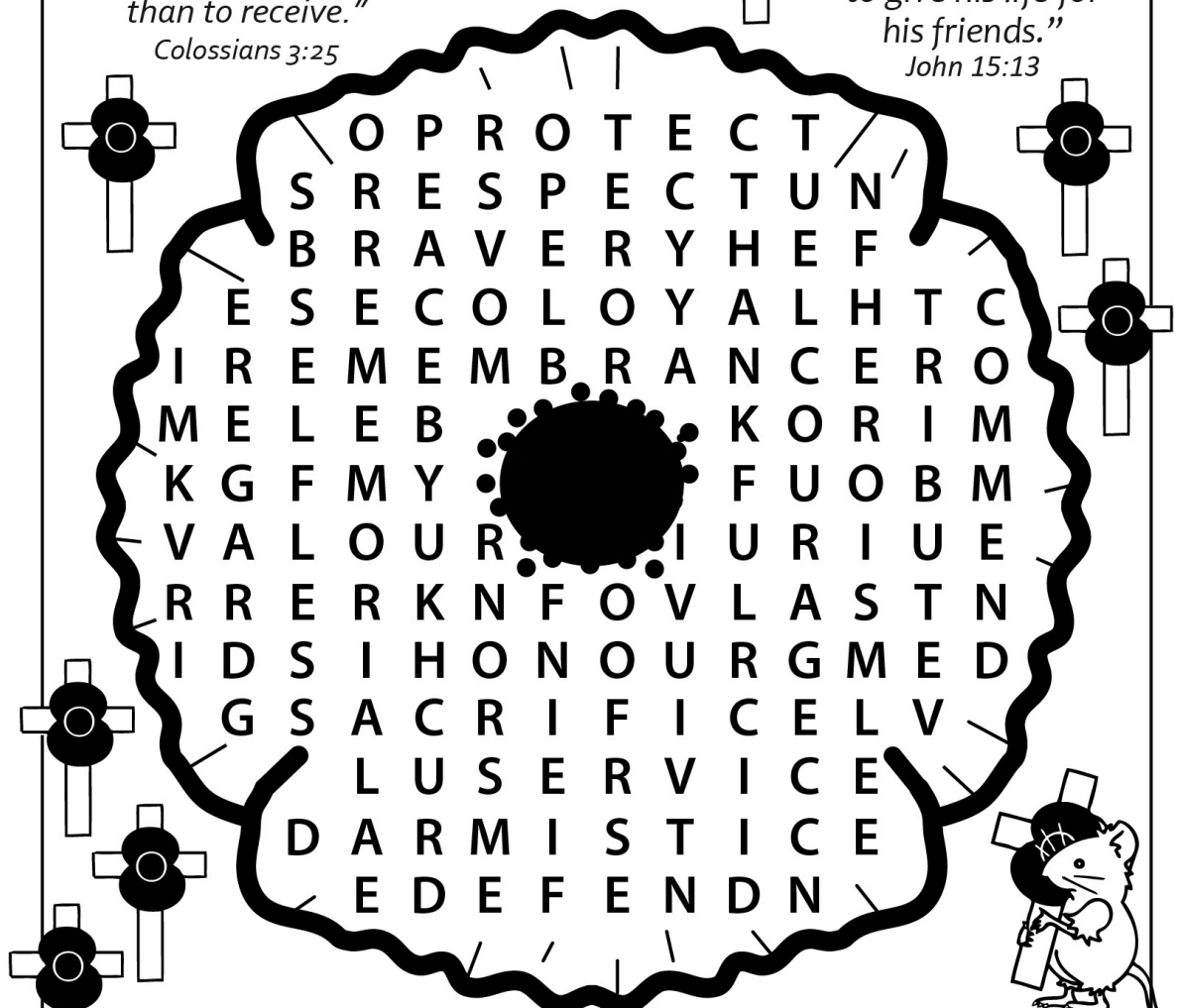
Children's page



Remember
the words Jesus said:
*"It is more blessed to give
than to receive."*
Colossians 3:25

Remembrance Sunday is the day
we remember the sacrifice of those
who gave their lives so that we
could live in peace, it mirrors what
Christ did for us when he gave his life
so that we could live in peace with God.

Jesus said:
*"No one can have
greater love than
to give his life for
his friends."*
John 15:13



REMEMBRANCE • PROTECT • DEFEND • SACRIFICE • SELFLESS • SERVICE
BRAVERY • VALOUR • HONOUR • COURAGE • HEROISM • LOYAL • REGARD
RESPECT • THANKFUL • MEMORIAL • TRIBUTE • COMMEND • ARMISTICE • PEACE

Recipe



Sausage and Mash pie

Ingredients

For the mash

- 1kg/2lb 4oz Maris Piper potatoes, peeled and cut into large chunks
- 50ml/2fl oz milk
- 40g/1½oz butter
- 25g/1oz cheddar, grated

For the filling

- ½ tbsp oil, for frying
- 8 pork sausages (we used Cumberland)
- 1 tbsp butter
- 1 large onion, sliced
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 1 tbsp dried mixed herbs
- 2 tbsp apple chutney
- 1 tsp wholegrain mustard
- 2 tbsp plain flour
- 1 tbsp cider vinegar
- 500ml/18fl oz hot beef stock
- salt and cracked black pepper

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200C/180C Fan/Gas 6.
2. Place the potatoes in a large saucepan of salted water. Bring to the boil, then turn down the heat to medium and allow to simmer for 10–15 minutes until the potato is soft when tested with a sharp knife.
3. Drain the cooked potatoes into a colander, then return them to the warm pan along with the milk, butter and some salt and pepper. Mash the potatoes until smooth and fluffy. Set aside ready for assembly.
4. Meanwhile, make the filling. Warm the oil in a pan over a medium heat then add the sausages. Fry for 8–10 minutes, browning the sausages on all sides. Remove the sausages from the pan and transfer to a plate.
5. In the same pan, melt the butter then add the onion. Fry the onions for 4–5 minutes until they start to soften and brown. Add a pinch of salt and the garlic. Fry for a further 1–2 minutes.
6. Sprinkle in the herbs and stir through the chutney and mustard. Sprinkle in the flour, stir to coat the onions, then add any juices from the sausage plate along with the cider vinegar and stock.
7. Bring everything in the pan to the boil before reducing the heat to a rapid simmer. Cook for 5–8 minutes until the liquid is reduced and a thick, glossy gravy is created. Chop the cooked sausages into chunky pieces and add to the gravy. Taste and season as necessary with salt and pepper.
8. Carefully pour the sausage mixture into an ovenproof dish before spooning over the prepared mashed potatoes. Sprinkle with the grated cheese and place in the oven for 25–30 minutes until the potato is golden and crispy.
9. Remove from the oven and allow to rest for 5 minutes before serving alongside seasonal greens.

All Souls' Day - Monday 02 November 2026

12.30 pm Requiem Eucharist (said)

7 pm Solemn Choral Requiem

Missa pro defunctis à6

Cardoso



Remembrance Sunday – 08 November 2026

**8 am Holy Communion
Book of Common Prayer**

9.30 am Family Eucharist

**10.50 am Act of Remembrance
in the Churchyard**

leading into the

Choral Eucharist



They shall grow not old, as we
that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor
the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.

Our Common Life	
Vicar Fr Jonathan Kester 020 7235 4242 07539 332408 frjonathan@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk	Parish Administrator Sheila Matthews 020 7235 4482 admin@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk
Assistant Curate Fr Carlos Remotti-Breton 07528 677682 frcarlos@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk	Bookkeeper Susan Redwin 020 7235 4482 finance@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk
Honorary Assistant Priest (weekdays) Fr Herbert Bennett revherbert.bennett@gmail.com	Verger/Facilities Coordinator Colin Chadwick 07365 002204 verger@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk
Licensed Lay Minister Dr Judith Richardson 07907 459693	Director of Music Andrew-John Smith 07545 009607 music@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk Assistant Director of Music (Choral Eucharist Organist) Dan Moulton
Churchwardens Samantha Singlehurst sammiefromlondon@hotmail.com 07930 826475 Ekanem Peers empeers@yahoo.co.uk	Family Eucharist Deputy Director of Music To be appointed Director Family Eucharist Choir Jennifer Spencer-McDaid
Hon Treasurer John Hilary jhilary@gmail.com	Resources Committee Convenor: Richard Carter
P.C.C. Secretary Valerie Smith Vasmith440@gmail.com	Formation Group Convenor: Fr Jonathan Kester
	Transformation Group Convenor: Fr Carlos Remotti-Breton

Our Common Life	
Standing Committee Chair: Fr Jonathan Kester	Electoral Roll Officer Dr Judith Richardson richardson_judith@hotmail.com 07907 459693
Hospitality Co-Ordinator Raana Khatabakhsh	Communications Group Valerie Smith
Parish Magazine Editor Phoebe Hilary	Safeguarding Officer Raana Khatabakhsh safeguarding@stpetereatonsquare.co.uk
School Headteacher Jane Carrington 020 7641 4230	Children's Champion
	Bible Reading Fellowship Please contact Parish Office for more information
P.C.C. Members The Churchwardens ex officio Richard Carter Rulaca Cimpoiasu Stephen Couttie Della Dunsin Jane Franses Oliver Grant John Hilary Raana Khatabakhsh Alasdair Locke Sergio Marques Nicolas Moore David Propert Ekanem Peers Judith Richardson Valerie Smith James Watson	Deanery Synod Richard Carter 020 76414230 Valerie Smith vasmith@btinternet.com Ekanem Peers empeers@yahoo.co.uk Judith Richardson 020 3268 0055
	Lay Eucharistic Ministers Jane Booth Raana Khatabakhsh Lee Marshall Evelyn Olugboja David Propert Laura Propert Valerie Smith

Sunday Morning Services

Holy Communion BCP	08:00 am
Family Eucharist	09:30 am
Choral Eucharist with our world-class choir	11:00 am

Weekday Eucharist

Each day Monday to Friday	12.30 pm
also Wednesday	08.00 am

Morning Prayer: Monday - Friday at 08:00am
(Excluding Wednesday)

Evening Prayer:
Monday - Friday at 5.00pm

We are open for private prayer Monday – Friday
8.00am – 5.00pm