

Thirty Second Sunday of Ordinary Time
Remembrance Sunday

Diary of a Canvey Priest

On Wednesday, we had the privilege of gathering with nine fellow priests from our deanery to offer Mass for the deceased clergy who have served our parishes. It was a beautiful and moving occasion. As I looked upon the candles burning silently before the altar, I was struck by how much a little flame can say. Each represented a life lived, a priesthood offered, a man who had spent himself in the service of God and His people. Though their voices have fallen silent, the light of their witness remains.

This Sunday, our remembrance widens. We recall the countless soldiers and civilians whose lives were lost through war, and those who laid down their lives so that others might live. The familiar poppy speaks powerfully: its red petals recall blood shed, its black centre the darkness of death, while its green stem might remind us of something equally important: hope.

For Christians, death is neither natural to God's original plan nor the final word on human life. Scripture tells us that death entered through sin, but Christ, the new Adam, has transformed it from within. By dying, He destroyed our death; by rising, He restored our life. Death, once a seemingly impenetrable wall, has become, through Christ, a doorway. St Paul therefore urges us not to grieve "as others do who have no hope" (1 Thessalonians 4:13). Notice, he does not tell us *not to grieve*. Love makes grief inevitable. Rather, faith allows us to grieve with hope, trusting that those who die in Christ are not lost to Him.

There is something profoundly Eucharistic about the lives we remember. At every Mass the priest repeats Christ's words: **"This is my body, given for you."** Those words, spoken first by our Saviour, express the very heart of sacrificial love. The priest at the altar and the soldier on the battlefield, in different ways, remind us that a life finds its greatness not in being preserved at all costs, but in being given in love.

This November, may our remembrance become prayer, our grief be touched by grace, and our hope rest firmly in Christ, who has conquered the grave.

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Parish Notices

Events:

Carols by Candlelight – On Sunday the 20th December at 5pm join the parish for a beautiful evening service of carols readings. This will be followed by refreshment, raffles and a chance to see Santa!

New Years eve – Join us to give thanks for 2026 and welcome in the new year. An evening Mass at 7pm will see the year out and a fun filled parish party from 8.30pm will help us count down into 2027!

Other notices:

Blessing of graves – Woodside (Benfleet) on the 15th and St Katherines (Willow) on the 21st of November at 13:30pm.

Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner invites/menu choice – The invites/menu choice forms are now at the back of the Church & need to be filled in & given back as soon as possible no late than the 28/29th November.

Extrodinary Minsiters of Holy communion meeting – on Wednesday 18th November at 7pm.

Readers meeting & rotas – There will be a meeting on Wednesday 25th November at 7pm. The new readers rotas are also available now at the back of the Church.

No Mass – There will be no morning Mass on Saturday 14th November.

Friendship Club – Reminder to bring fish & chips money to the next meeting on Tuesday 17th November.

Spiritual:

An Advent retreat day – On Saturday the 12th of December the feast day of Our lady of Guadalupe, we will have a retreat day to prepare our hearts for Christmas. There will be talks, prayer, availiablity for confession, a shared lunch and an opportunity to hear about my trip to Mexico!

Staying Connected:

Parish WhatsApp Group – Please see Posters at the Back of Church to join.
Facebook – **https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61594932892468**

Faith in Focus

Did You Know?

You Can Obtain an Indulgence for the Dead!

An indulgence is the remission of temporal punishment due to sins already forgiven (CCC 1471). A plenary indulgence removes all such punishment and can be offered for a soul in purgatory.

From 1–8 November, Catholics can obtain one by visiting a cemetery and praying for the dead. The usual conditions are Confession, Holy Communion, prayer for the Pope's intentions and complete detachment from sin, even venial sin.

This Remembrance Sunday, let our love reach beyond the grave!

Post Communion Prayer – De Profundis Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading.
If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you.
My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity.
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for Maureen Ann Simpson

Office Hours – Mon – 10:00am to 3:00pm, Wed – 9:30am to 2:00pm, (Parish Surgery 4:30-6:30) Thurs 10:00am to 3:00pm. Fri 10:00am to 3:00pm

Adoration and recitation of the Holy Rosary take place every day, with the church being open from 6:00 am – 8:00pm during the week

Offertory collection last week: £523.25

Weekly Mass Times & Intentions

All Masses are preceded by a time of Eucharistic Adoration – a peaceful opportunity to spend time in prayer with Jesus, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome.

Day & Time	Feast day & Intention
32nd Sunday of OT	
4:30 – 5:30pm	*Confessions*
Saturday 7th 10:00am	• **RIP** Brendan Campbell (Anniv)
Saturday 7th Vigil Mass 6:00pm	*Sunday Vigil* • Pro Populo
Sunday 8th Nov 10:00am	*Sunday Mass* • **RIP** Julia Lydia Galvin (Foundation)
Monday 9th Nov	***NO MASS***
Tuesday 10th 11:15 am	*St Leo the Great* • **RIP** Brendan Campbell (Johnstone)
Wednesday 11th 10:00am	*St Martin of Tours* • The James Family
Thursday 12th 10:00 am	*St Josaphat* • Maureen Ann Simpson
Friday 13th 10:00am	*Feria* *Maureen Ann Simpson*
Saturday 14th 10:00 am	*Feria* • **RIP** Brendan Campbell (Anniv)
33rd Sunday of OT	
4:30 – 5:30pm	*Confessions*
Saturday 14th Vigil Mass 6:00pm	*Sunday Vigil* • Pro Populo
Sunday 15th Nov 10:00am	*Sunday Mass* • **RIP** Paul Bowen (Stalley)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND – Neil Lockwood, Eddie Fearne, Carol Tebbutt, Maria Redgrove, Joan Dettke, Peggy Fearne, Joseph Sullivan, Maureen Pring, June Fen, Clare Ashford, Joseph Pisani, Edward Horton, Patrick O'Brien, Joan Flegg, Lorraine Ballin, Marie McDonagh, Maureen Preshaw, Valerie Ham, Lena Williams, Peggy O'Brien, Eileen Sharp, Miliana Bridie Mayamba, Janis & Christy Nixon

OUR LADY OF CANVEY & ENGLISH MARTYRS
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