Ss Mary & Joseph & St Mark

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Parish Priest: Fr David Cherry
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32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time: 9 November 2026
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

SUNDAY GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

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Knowing and being known.
...I suspect many of us fall into the same trap. I'll make the right choice when it really matters. There is something important, something we will certainly do, but not just yet. So, we do something easier, or more instantly rewarding, and then something urgent crops up, and we find the thing that mattered most has been left undone, and we're past the point of no return.
But beyond this simple, but still very true message, of 'do not put off 'til tomorrow what can be done today', there are elements to this story which should trouble us as Christians and cause us to go deeper.
First, the wise bridesmaids refuse to share their oil. It seems ungenerous; we expect better of the wise. Surely Jesus should chastise them as selfish? But what might the oil stand for. Well, some in the tradition have read the lamps as the visible flame we carry of our good works, and the oil as charity, the love that feeds it. And the problem is that you cannot lend someone your love of God. Nobody can be in a relationship on another person's behalf.
Second, and more chilling: the bridegroom at the door says, 'I do not know you.' Faith and good works, if it is only a lamp held in the hand, can be a notional assent: yes, Jesus existed; yes, I believe what the Creed says. Yes, I'll do what he says I have to. But *charity* is entering into a relationship. It is the difference between knowing about someone and knowing them, between the knowing and keeping the law, and knowing and loving the giver of the Law. *Fr Toby Lees OP* Full text

Painting by Wilhem von Schadow, 1788-1862, in Düsseldorf



Praying for the Dead
The Church celebrates this act of entrustment and hope within the communion of saints. When we pray for the dead, we do so not only *for* them, but also *with* them, drawn into a reciprocity that the Holy Spirit brings to life in our hearts. The Church is the mystery of communion between Christ, the head, and us, his members: from him we receive life. This communion unites the blessed spirits who already contemplate the face of God with all those who, in heaven or on earth, are journeying toward that radiant goal.
Dear friends, in Christ, death does not dissolve our bonds. Rather, it transfigures them into a new dimension, which can be understood only in the mystery of his love, given to the very end on the cross and poured out after his paschal victory. By welcoming the charity of the risen Lord in the holy Eucharist, let us therefore preserve and nurture this communion throughout our journey, so that when our own hour comes, we too may receive the prayers of our brothers and sisters still on pilgrimage and rejoice with all the saints in the joy of our heavenly homeland. *Pope Leo XIV*



How a single flower came to define British Remembrance

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Parish Address: The Presbytery, 186 St John's Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP1 1NR

Sunday Cycle: Year A
Week Day Readings Year: 2
Divine Office: Week 4

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Jesus says that a disciple must carry his own cross and follow him. All of us sinners tend to see the universe turning around our ego, our needs, our projects, our plans, and our likes and dislikes. True conversion—the *metanoia* that Jesus talks about—is so much more than moral reform, though it includes that. It has to do with a complete shift in consciousness, a whole new way of looking at one's life.
If God is self-forgetting love even to the point of death, then we must be such love. The cross, in short, must become the very structure of the Christian life. This is just what Jesus shows on his terrible cross. And this is just what we, his followers, must imitate. Taking up the cross means not just being willing to suffer but being willing to suffer as he did, absorbing violence and hatred through our forgiveness and nonviolence. *Bishop Robert Barron*

SMSJ: *Ss Mary & Joseph Church, St John's Road, Boxmoor, HP1 1NR*
SM: *St Mark's Church, John F Kennedy School, Hollybush Lane, HP12PH*

Date	Holy Mass Intentions
Sat 7 Nov	*The Blessed Virgin Mary*
(SMSJ) 8am	Adoration & Confessions
(SMSJ) 9am	Mass Holy Souls
(SMSJ) 11am	Mass for the Deceased Members of the CWL
(SMSJ) 4-4.45pm	Confessions
(SMSJ) 5pm	Vigil Mass Denis Murphy (RIP)
Sun 8 Nov	**32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**
	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 8.30am	Mass Holy Souls
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass of Requiem for the Fallen & Act of Remembrance
	John & Marion Gavin (50th Wedding ANNIV)
(SMS) 11.30am	Mass People of the Parish
Mon 9 Nov	*THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA*
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Holy Souls
Tues 10 Nov	*St Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor of the Church*
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Holy Souls
(SMSJ) 6pm	Mass The Persecuted Church
7pm	***Adult Formation (RCIA) in St Joseph's Hall***
Wed 11 Nov	*St Martin of Tours, Bishop*
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Mass Holy Souls
(SMSJ) 9am	Holy Hour of Adoration
	Mass Joanne Pascale Trenchard (Birthday ANNIV)
(SMSJ) 10am	
5pm	***Confirmation Group A in St Joseph's Hall***
Thurs 12 Nov	*St Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr*
(SM) 8.15am	Mass for JFK
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Holy Souls
Fri 13 Nov	*Feria*
(SMSJ) 9am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Holy Souls
Sat 14 Nov	*The Blessed Virgin Mary*
(SMSJ) 8am	Adoration & Confessions
(SMSJ) 9am	Mass Holy Souls
(SMSJ) 4-4.45pm	Confessions
(SMSJ) 5pm	Vigil Mass Bridget & Michael Gavin (RIP)
Sun 15 November	**33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**
(SMSJ) 7.30am	Holy Hour of Adoration
(SMSJ) 8.30am	Mass People of the Parish
(SMSJ) 10am	Mass Baby Joshua Jones (20th RIP ANNIV)
(SM) 11.30am	Mass Holy Souls
(SMSJ) 1pm	Baptism Adeline Fleming
2pm	***Caritas Tea at Our Lady's***

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)
Saturday 8am-8.45am & 4pm-4.45pm at SS Mary & Joseph Church

THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER: For the proper use of wealth. Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

THE SICK: Paula Moore, John Ranch, Margaret Marchant, Tommy McLoughlin, Chrissie Ward, Juliet Edgar, Peter & Rose Gray, Andrew Cooper, David Turner, Andy Swift, David O'Mahoney, Rosie Fletcher, Lucy Chapman, Ellen Brett, Susana, Fr Dennis Opoku, Sabina Xavier, Jacqueline Austin, Merril Delaney, Marie Anthony, Terry Pearson, Mary Alcock, Louie Reidy

RECENTLY DEPARTED: Sylvester Nolan (d.4 Nov) Hazel Charles (d. 3 Nov), Adrian Flowerdue

PARISH OFFICE: The office will be closed on Friday 13 November, until Tuesday 17 November.

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS FUND: Next weekend there will be the annual collection for sick and retired priests in the Diocese of Westminster. Envelopes are available at the back of church. More details

Knights of St Columba (KSC) NATIONAL CHRISTMAS PAINTING COMPETION for all younger members of the parish. Please click **here** to see all the details. Loads of prizes!

RCIA (Adult Formation in the Catholic Faith) Next Session: Tuesday 10 November, 7-8.30pm. *See the website for all of the dates.*

Throughout NOVEMBER Masses will be offered for the Holy Souls. Please fill in the purple sheet with the names of your beloved departed, place it in the envelope with your offering and place the envelope in the boxes in front of the Altar.

ST ROSE'S SCHOOL: To book onto the Pre School, Nursery and Reception 2027 tours please click **here** ***A Certificate of Catholic Practice is not required for St Rose's and St Cuthbert Mayne Schools***. If you require a CCP for St Albert the Great School, please make an appointment by email with Fr David to obtain one. Download the 2 forms **here**

ST CUTHBERT MAYNE SCHOOL: Click **here** for details of the Year 3 Open Events at St Cuthbert Mayne School, HP1 3EA.

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST are currently seeking to recruit Foundation Governors. More details **here**

BRAND NEW DESIGNER CLOTHES SALE: Thursday 12 November, 10am-2pm at Northchurch Social Centre, HP4 3RD. For more details call Dawn on 07790326981.

CHRISTMAS COFFEE & SHOP EVENT: Friday 13 November, 10am until 12 noon in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor. Tropic Skincare and festive gift sets will be available.

NEW LIFE RETREAT: Saturday 14 November, 10am-5pm at Our Lady and St Vincent Parish, Potters Bar. Details **here**.

WESTMINSTER INTERFAITH GROUP will meet in the Hinsley Room, Morpeth Terrace, Wednesday 18 November, 1.30pm until 3pm to discuss Pope Leo XIV's encyclical **Magnifica Humanitas**. More details **here**

ST JOSEPH'S MENS GROUP will meet on ***Friday 27 November***, at 7pm in the Presbytery. All men are welcome.

YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT DAY: "RECEIVE & RESPOND" at Christ the King, Cockfosters, N14 4HE on Sat 28 Nov, 10.30am-5.30pm. See flyer & register here

BUILDING FUNDRAISER DINNER: Saturday 28 November, 6.15pm in the Parish Centre, Boxmoor. The Cochin Restaurant will be providing Indian food. £21 for a starter main and dessert, please bring your own glasses and drinks. There will be a quiz and raffle. Contact Irene Soares on 07377804128 or email valsoares@aol.com

HEMEL YOUNG ADULTS 18-25: Friday 4 December, 7.30-9.30pm, Adoration and Social at Our Lady Queen of All Creation. See flyer for details. (Mass is at 7pm).

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE in either the first or second week in October 2027. If you are interested in going, please contact Pat Henry

DAILY PRAYER @ Sacredspace.com & MAGNIFICAT
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