

Sunday Message

DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

THE WORD

Year C • 9 November 2025 • Psalter Week 4



MOTHER CHURCH

JOHN 2:13-22

SAY

"Lord, I thank you for the gift of the ecclesial community of which I am part. Help me to do my part to build it up. Amen."

DO

Through baptism you are a member of the Church. Think about what it means for you to be a member of the Church.

LEARN

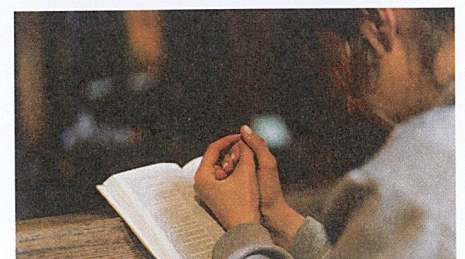
The Emperor Constantine built the Lateran Basilica in the fourth century on land that had belonged to the Laterani family (hence the name 'Lateran'). It has had a rather unfortunate history. The original building, dedicated to the Saviour, was sacked by barbarian invaders and restored in the fifth century, ruined by an earthquake in the eighth century and rebuilt in the ninth, twice burnt down in the fourteenth century and then restored. It was the residence of the popes until 1308. Pope Innocent X commissioned the present structure in 1646.

'Basilica' is the word given to an early form of building used for Christian worship. It was modelled on the Roman Basilica – a building used as a law court and a commercial exchange. At first the name was used of churches which resembled the Roman building, but now the title of 'basilica' is given by the pope to certain privileged churches both in Rome and throughout the world.

The dedication of churches can be traced back to the Jewish practice of dedicating the Temple in Jerusalem to God. Once the Temple had been dedicated, there was a feast each year to celebrate the anniversary of the dedication. This feast was celebrated not only in Jerusalem but in every synagogue as well. Similarly, every Western Catholic church observes the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome.

PRAY

Pray for our Holy Father. Ask the Lord's blessing on his ministry of leadership and service as Bishop of Rome, and our bishop, too.



Today is the feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica which is located in Rome. We might think that St Peter's is the pope's main church in Rome but, in fact, that distinction goes to the Basilica of St John Lateran.

St John Lateran is the pope's main church because it is the cathedral church of the Diocese of Rome, which has the pope as its bishop. It is the seat of papal authority and therefore is, in a sense, the parish church of Catholics throughout the world.

Every year, on 9 November, the anniversary of its dedication is celebrated by Catholics everywhere as a way of expressing the unity of the whole Church with the Bishop of Rome.

It is an opportunity for us to reflect on the universal nature of the Church, and what it means to be a member of it. ■

REFLECT

Today we celebrate the feast of the dedication of a particular church in Rome, but the readings remind us that what is really important is not bricks and mortar but rather our relationship with God and one another.

In the Gospel, Jesus drives out the money changers who had turned the Temple into a marketplace rather than a house of worship. He then refers to his own body as a sanctuary, a theme taken up by St Paul in today's second reading.

The Greek word for Church is *ekklesia*, which means a community of believers, people who come together in faith. When St Paul tells the people at Corinth that they are God's building, he is speaking of the community that they have become. Each of them has become a new person because God's Spirit lives in and among them. They are the holy temple in whom God resides.

This is an extraordinary statement when you think about it. We are God's building. We are God's temple because God dwells in us.

This knowledge has clear implications for how we see and relate to our physical bodies, and for how we see and relate to each other. I must treat my physical body as a sacred vessel, taking good care of it, respecting and treasuring it. I must treat every person's body in the same way. Imagine how different our world would be if we all tried to do just that. ■



HASLEMERE
HINDHEAD
CHIDDINGFOLD

Parish Bulletin

Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica 9th November 2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

For many of us, when we think of Rome, we think of St Peter's Basilica. In a Jubilee Year such as this, the entry through the Holy Door of St Peter's is a high point of any pilgrimage. It is from the Apostolic Palace, next to St Peter's, that the Holy Father makes his Angelus addresses and it is there that the public audiences take place, as well as significant celebrations in the life of the Church: canonisations, the inaugurations of new popes and the requiem Masses for deceased popes.

Yet it is the Lateran Basilica, built originally by the Emperor Constantine, that is described as "the mother and head of all the churches of the City and the World." It is the Cathedral Church of Rome, and popes lived in the Lateran Palace for hundreds of years. It is the Pope's Cathedral, for he is the Bishop of Rome.

It is for this reason that the whole Church celebrates this feast. It is a celebration of our unity with the Holy Father, the successor of St Peter.

This Sunday's first reading, the vision of Ezekiel of the Temple in Jerusalem, speaks of the water that flows from the Temple bringing life to the desert. So it is for the Church. The waters of baptism – in which, as St Paul tells us, we die and rise with the new life of Christ – bring us to live our lives in the love that exists in the Trinity, as members of Christ's Church.

The celebration of the dedication of any Church is a reminder, as St Paul tells us in this Sunday's second reading, that the Church is made of the living stones of the baptised. We are the Church, called to reflect the wonder of the Gospel to the world around us. This is the mission that we have been given through our baptism – the mission that calls others to share in the wonder of the Church's life, the life of Christ.

The Lateran Basilica, the "mother of all the churches" stands as a witness to the world and a reminder to us, who are the living stones, of the mission to which we are called, in union with Pope Leo, the successor of Peter.
With every blessing,

+Richard

Remembrance Sunday is observed this Sunday, an opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life. Our Masses will be for those who died serving their country and will include two minutes silence at around 11am at Our Lady of Lourdes.

November is a Month of Prayer for the Holy Souls *'Praying for the dead is, first and foremost, a sign of appreciation for the witness they have left us and the good that they have done. It is giving thanks to the Lord for having given them to us and for their love and their friendship. We pray with Christian hope that they may be with him in Paradise, as we wait to be together again in that mystery of love which we do not comprehend, but which we know to be true because it is a promise that Jesus made. We will all rise again and we will all be forever with Jesus, with Him.'* (Pope Francis)

Christmas Fair 30th November 12pm Parish Hall, Our Lady of Lourdes. Donations required of bottles, fancy goods and unwanted gifts can be dropped off at the Parish Office or put in the box at the back of church. Anyone with ideas for stalls, or willing volunteers, please let the Parish office know. This will be a cash only event.

Advent Wreath Workshop We are going to run a workshop to make Advent Wreaths to sell at the Christmas Fair 11am to 2pm on **Saturday 29th November** in the Garden Room. If you would like to come along and help or if you would like to order an Advent Wreath please ring Diane on 07775972722 or email Haslemere@abdiocese.org.uk

Interested in knowing more about becoming a Permanent Deacon? Deacon Simon Tierney and Anne his wife, invite you to an informal information evening on Thursday **27 November** at 7:30 pm at St Joan of Arc Parish Centre, 19 Tilford Road, Farnham Surrey GU9 8DJ. All are welcome. For further information contact simon.tierney@abdiocese.org.uk

CAFOD's Christmas World Gifts Catalogue is now available so please take a copy home. <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/collections/all-Gifts>

Planning for the Future of Our Parish. At Fr Jonathan's presentation on Sunday, 26th October, we heard a bit more about our becoming part of the new Parish of Guildford from that from the start of Advent (29th November). It was also shared that the church roof at OLL requires major repair work, estimated at £200,000–£250,000. Given that the 11am Sunday Mass is often full, we are considering combining the roof project with a church extension. Sketches of potential plans have been prepared, and we welcome your thoughts on this and would love to hear from anyone who might be up for being part of a fund raising team to make this possible. Please contact Mark Clayton at markclayton@chelsminster.com or Diane in the parish office.

Confessions A few people have been asking about opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confessions can be heard every Saturday at Our Lady of Lourdes from 10am. Fr Patrick is often available after weekday Mass, but best to ask in advance if you can. You can also make an appointment by ringing 01428 643877.

Holy Year parish pilgrimage to Rome A group of parishioners from the Godalming and Haslemere parishes will be on pilgrimage from 17th-21st November, led by Fr Jonathan. Please keep them in your prayers, that this Jubilee pilgrimage may be a time of special grace.

Jubilee of Choirs There will be a special Mass at 10am at St Joseph's Guildford to mark this Jubilee on Saturday **22nd November**, the Feast of St Cecilia. All are welcome and some of our choir will be there.

Lighthouse: Illuminate your life in Christ. Join a day of charismatic renewal at St Joseph's, Guildford, from 10.30am on 15th November. For more dabcdsc@gmail.com

Youth Discipleship Group This friendly and supportive group offering pizza, fun, friendship and prayer for young people in years 11 to 13 will resume 7pm-9pm Friday, 21st November, depending on availability and interest. If you would like to take part or know more please speak with Fr Jonathan or contact David at Ladywell davidberesford@franciscancentre.org.uk.

Book your tickets for the Wintershall Nativity! 18-21st December, 2pm/5pm. It's a great Christmas experience for the family. www.wintershall.org.uk

ADORE online retreat 10am-1pm, 22nd November, 'Pilgrims of hope – signposts to the kingdom', with guest speaker Hannah Vaughan-Spruce. More information at www.altonrenewal.com

Global Action For Climate Change COP30 is taking place in Brazil from 10-21st November, and a day of action is planned in London and other major cities on 15 November. You can register your interest with CAFOD and get more details <https://cafod.org.uk/campaign/latest-campaigns/cop30>

Haslemere's Cards for Good Causes shop at Haslemere Museum is open now until Wednesday December 24th. They will be selling Christmas cards, many with a religious theme, on behalf of a wide range of over 40 Charities. For further info: <https://www.cardsforcharity.co.uk> or call Haslemere Museum on 01428 642112.

Rosary every 1st Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm at Frances & Mark Clayton's home at Shillinglee Park House, Shillinglee Park Road, Shillinglee, NR Chiddingfold, GU8 4TA.

Following Bishop Richard's recent pastoral letter it has now been confirmed that **Guildford Deanery will become the new Parish of Guildford at the start of Advent.** Our church communities will continue to be the places in which the Gospel is proclaimed and the sacraments celebrated, and to be led by priests assigned to them, as at present. Working together will help us to be more effective in our prayer, formation and mission. Fr Jonathan, together with Fr Patrick will look after Godalming and Haslemere, Hindhead and Chiddingfold.

Bishop Richard will celebrate Mass at 6pm on Saturday 29th November at St Joseph's Guildford at which the new parish will be entrusted to its team of priests and Fr Jonathan will be inducted as their moderator. As many as are able from across the deanery, especially our parish, are warmly encouraged to attend.

Radio Maria Strengthen your faith by listening to Radio Maria England, dedicated Catholic radio station available 24/7, 365 days of the year on DAB Radio, Smart Devices, Mobile App and the Internet at www.radiomariaengland.uk

The Church's prayer intention for November is for the prevention of suicide. Let us pray that all those struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care and love they need in their community.

Coffee First Friday of the Month after 10am Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes. You

are invited to join fellow parishioners for coffee in the Parish Garden Room. 5th December next Coffee morning.

Parish repository now has Advent candles and calendars also a selection of Christmas cards for sale. Do please browse and show support as all surplus goes to Parish funds.

Daily Missals. The hardback version on the Daily Missal is now available for those who prefer to use an actual prayer book rather than an App. The price is £70 from either the parish offices or the repository at Haslemere.

Date for your Diary Advent Carol Service You are warmly invited to join us for a service of readings and carols at Our Lady of Lourdes on **21st December** at 3pm. Refreshments in the hall afterwards.

We would love to have a group of our younger parishioners (age 5-18) to sing some carols with us. If you are interested, please speak to Pauline after mass (any Sunday in November) or email: paulineprior@sky.com

Weekly Bulletin If you wish to receive the Parish Weekly Bulletin online on a Friday please sign up on the Parish Website. On the homepage click on 'Contact' and scroll down to 'Subscribe' and fill in your email address to join.

Donation by QR Code

You can give to our parish (including any current appeals) by using the Digital Plate, our [Parish Website](http://www.parc.org.uk) also by using the QR Code which is displayed at all our churches.



Next weekend there will be a collection for the Retired Priests' Fund (gift aided).

Live Simply Tips

Remembrance Sunday – let's all pray for peace in our World

Please Pray For

The sick: Ija George Breen, Anne-Marie Thompson, Caroline Foster, Mary Thomas, Michael Gaul, Charlotte Lindsay, Henrietta Lenahan (Holt), Arul Salathian, Diana Molyneux, Louise Milford, Hazel O'Flynn, Abigail Stafford Johnson, Livvy Miller, Louise Reeve, Patricia Reidy, Jo Allen, Jane Adolph, Carmel & Roland Murray, Teresa Marshall, Alberto Costantini and Sebastian Codlin.

Please pray for Shiela Nicholas who died recently and remember her brother Ian. Her Funeral Mass will be on **Thursday 27th November** at 11.30am

The Deceased: Margaret Collins (Peggy), Lilian McManus, Aldo Di Marzio, Patrick Bicknell and Avis Harding.

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Saturday 8 Nov	6pm Mass (St Anselm) - Private Ints. For Claire
Sunday 9 Nov CONSECRATION OF THE LATERN BASILICA Remembrance Sunday	9.00am Mass (St Teresa) 9.30am Mass (Holy Cross) 11.00am Mass (Our Lady of Lourdes) - Margaret Evenden RIP 12.30pm Rosary (Our Lady of Lourdes)
Monday 10 Nov St Leo the Great	10am Mass (St Joseph's, Guildford)
Tuesday 11 Nov St Martin of Tours	9.30am Adoration (Our Lady of Lourdes) 10am Mass (Our Lady of Lourdes) - Private Ints. for Claire
Wednesday 12 Nov St Josaphat	9.30am Mass (Holy Cross)
Thursday 13 Nov	7.30am Mass (St Edmund's, Godalming)
Friday 14 Nov	9.30am Adoration (Our Lady of Lourdes) 10.00am Mass (Our Lady of Lourdes) - Private Ints. for Claire
Saturday 15 Nov St Albert the Great	6pm Mass (St Anselm) - Private Ints. for Claire
Sunday 16 Nov THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.00am Mass (St Teresa) 9.30am Mass (Holy Cross) 11am Mass (Our Lady of Lourdes) 12.30pm Rosary (Our Lady of Lourdes)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*I saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.*

Or

*Behold God's dwelling with the human race.
He will dwell with them and they will be his people,
and God himself with them will be their God.*

COLLECT

O God, who from living and chosen stones
prepare an eternal dwelling for your majesty,
increase in your Church the spirit of grace you have bestowed,
so that by new growth your faithful people
may build up the heavenly Jerusalem.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Or

O God, who were pleased to call your Church the Bride,
grant that the people that serves your name
may revere you, love you and follow you,
and may be led by you
to attain your promises in heaven.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel.

In those days: The angel brought me back to the door of the Temple, and behold, water was issuing from below the threshold of the Temple towards the east (for the Temple faced east). The water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the Temple, south of the altar. Then he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me round on the outside to the outer gate that faces towards the east; and behold, the water was trickling out on the south side. And he said to me, 'This water flows towards the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, and enters the sea; when the water flows into the sea, the water will become fresh. And wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish. For this water goes there, that the waters of the sea may become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes. And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 46(45):2-3. 5-6. 8-9. R. 5

**R: The waters of a river give joy to God's city,
the holy place, the abode of the Most High.**

1. God is for us a refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in time of distress:
so we shall not fear though the earth should rock,
though the mountains quake to the heart of the sea. **R.**
2. The waters of a river give joy to God's city,
the holy place, the abode of the Most High.
God is in her midst, she cannot be shaken;
God will help her at the dawning of the day. **R.**

3. The LORD of hosts is with us:
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
Come and behold the works of the LORD,
the awesome deeds he has done on the earth. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.
Brothers and sisters: You are God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL 2 Chronicles 7:16

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

I have chosen and consecrated this house, says the LORD,
that my name may be there for ever.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL John 2:13-22

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the Temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the Temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, 'Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade.' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.'

So the Jews said to him, 'What sign do you show us for doing these things?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, we pray, O Lord, the offering made here
and grant that by it those who seek your favour
may receive in this place
the power of the Sacraments
and the answer to their prayers.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*Be built up like living stones,
into a spiritual house, a holy priesthood.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who chose to foreshadow for us
the heavenly Jerusalem
through the sign of your Church on earth,
grant, we pray,
that, by our partaking of this Sacrament,
we may be made the temple of your grace
and may enter the dwelling place of your glory.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**