

Saint Mary's Newsletter: Nov 2025

Vicar: David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

Lay Minister: Charles Clark 021 02691764

Peoples Warden: Sally-Ann Riddell 022 107562

Vicars Warden: John Heaton 021 702871



SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday 2nd:

10am All/Saints Holy Communion Service

Refreshments: Rosalie

Readings: Charles

Intercessions: Trish

Sunday 9th:

10am Holy Communion Service

Refreshments: Majella

Readings: Charles

Intercessions: Majella

Sunday 16th:

10am Holy Communion Service

Refreshments: Melanie

Readings: Charles

Intercessions: Melanie

Sunday 23rd:

10am Holy Communion Service

Refreshments: Trish

Readings: Charles

Intercessions: Trish

Sunday 30th:

10am Advent 1: 1662 Holy Communion Service

Readings: Charles



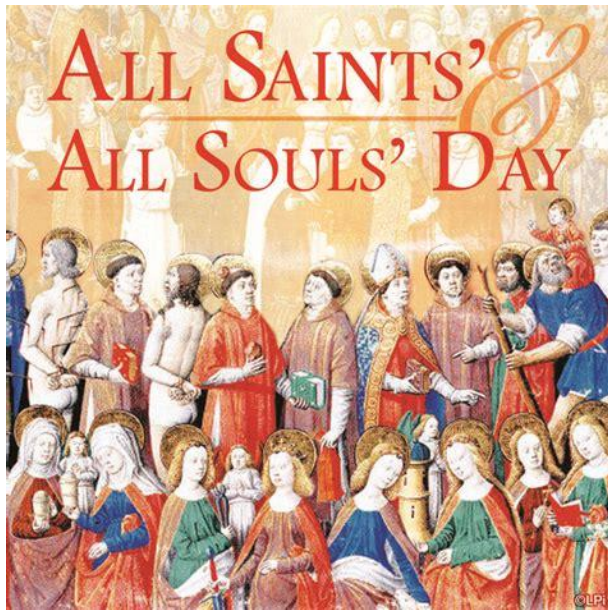
All Saints/Souls Service:

Sunday 3 November: Please bring a photo of your past loved ones

Parish Lunch @ a Café (venue TBA)

30 November, after the service





November in the Northern Hemisphere is the cusp between the dying of summer passing into autumn and the cold harshness of the winter, and also the time where the Church likewise celebrates that “cusp” between life and death – All Soul’s and All Saint’s day. Here in the Southern Hemisphere, it is spring – a more of a “resurrection” season – therefore a more apt season, I think, to reflect on those loved ones who have gone before us, who are now with Christ. Luke 20:38 states: “Now He is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to Him all of them are alive.” They are not dead! They are alive, and what’s more, they are in Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:16). Furthermore, in Hebrews 11 St. Paul wrote about all those people of faith who had gone before us. Of them he further wrote in verse 12:1 “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.” They are aware of our journey in Faith, and we are surrounded by them, and I can imagine them cheering us on and praying to God for us. However, it is forbidden for us to contact and talk to them (Deuteronomy 18:10-12) but I believe as the great theologian N.T Wright believes; there is nothing forbidding us to *pray to God* for them – much like when they were still with us before they parted; we may have prayed to God to care for them: “Dear God, thank you for my Dad, take care of him, wrap him in your love, and let him know of my love too.” There is nothing from stopping you praying that when they have passed on to be with Him!

Parish Giving

Please consider giving to the parish via Automatic Payment. St Mary’s has to pay for our vicar and all other costs of running a parish, as well as giving a proportion to the Diocese. Please help us to be sustainable by giving via Automatic Payment. It is an easy way to give and is useful for the parish in running its budget. The Parish Bank Account is:

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This Month in Christian History:

10 Nov 432: Patrick, a young British man who had been held captive by the Irish as a slave, returns to the land of his captivity as a priest, and begins a lifelong mission to the Irish people. Patrick ministered there for fifty years, and became known as the “apostle of Ireland”.



A Prayer for November

May my horizon this day, Lord,
not be so foreshortened that I notice little.
Instead, open my eyes
that I may see afar and above
as well as in front and beneath me.
Lead me to keep my life in perspective and
balance
and discover that the thread of your presence
is interwoven through the events and people
of this day.