



THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael's School and Parish • Harts Lane • Burghclere • RG20 9JW

No. 23

November 2019

Holy Souls and Unholy Events

Dear Parishioners,

It is good to remind ourselves of elementary truths, so well known that we often fail to give them proper heed.

November is dedicated to prayers for our departed brethren. Saint Thomas Aquinas explains the principle of the doctrine relating to prayers and Masses for the deceased: "All the faithful in a state of grace are united by charity and are members of one body, that of the Church. However, in an organization, each member is helped by others, and therefore each Christian can be helped by the merits of others."

Charity compels us to love God above all things and to love our neighbour as ourselves. The order of charity would have us to first pray for our most helpless brethren, namely the suffering souls in Purgatory. The Holy Trinity dwells in them. Jesus lives in them intimately through the divine life of grace they share with Him. We must, therefore, love them as our neighbour, especially since some are from our earthly family, and we have special duties of charity towards the souls of our deceased family members.

We should not forget that the souls in Purgatory can do nothing for themselves. They rely on us for their eventual release from their toil and pain. It takes but a single prayer to allay their sufferings. God is impatient to bring them to Himself, and yet He relies in great measure on our prayers to speed their entrance to heaven.

Father Faber notes also that by working for these suffering souls we do not work in vain, because we know our prayers will be heard. The Holy Souls will indeed enter heaven, as we request. What we do for them is never lost.

During the month of November, we must rekindle in our hearts real compassion for the souls of Purgatory; we must help them by praying for them, by having Masses celebrated for them, by accepting for them our daily cross. As our Lord taught us: "Blessed are the merciful, for they too will obtain mercy".

Amazonian Synod has taken place in Rome. I have included in this newsletter a pithy post by a Dutch bishop which sums up well the consternation, sense of betrayal and downright nonsense of what is, in reality, a costly publicity stunt to create the impression of the inevitability of change in Church doctrine and discipline.

Many souls are scandalized by the masquerading of head-dress and idols, as evident from articles in the press and on social media. Leo XIII's exorcism prayer comes to mind: "In the Holy Place itself, where the See of Holy Peter and the Chair of Truth has been set up as the light of the world, they have raised the throne of their abominable impiety, with the iniquitous design that when the Pastor has been struck, the sheep may be scattered."

It is a great mystery that our Lord allows His Church and His Vicar to succumb to the forces of evil in such a manifest way. And yet He too seemingly succumbed to the might of His enemies. "In Him there was no sightliness, that we should be desirous of him .. His look was as it were hidden and despised, whereupon we esteemed him not." (Is. 53)

God has made the world in such a manner that victory comes only after pain and apparent defeat. Our Mother Church is passing through a time of purification. Whilst we weep for her and with her, we must not lose hope, for she remains the Bride of Christ and the apple of His eye. It is a great honour for us to be members of a Church that is despised by the world and made a spectacle of ridicule by her ministers. We thus share in the ignominy suffered by our Saviour. Some of us are tempted to discouragement and despair which show themselves in various forms of bitter zeal. How many of us mock Pope, bishops, priests and laity? How many of us pity them and pray for them? Perhaps with half the graces we have received they would be better Catholics.

Christ is King, and His reign will come, but He alone knows the time and the hour. Meanwhile - Vigilate et orate.

Fr. John Brucciani, Prior

On another note: the infamous and much-criticized

Pandora's Box

If you follow the daily press conferences of the Amazon Synod, you will hear the same tune being played every time: new paths, listening to the indigenous people, climate change, and Mother Earth. It looks as if no one actually wants to even mention the fundamental problems. This synod is very similar in that respect to the Youth Synod (October 2018).

Is there a shortage of priests in the Amazon? Yes, there is, but the same is true in many areas (Africa, China, the Middle East). However, that is not the real issue. Meanwhile, these mantras are being repeated daily, while Catholic vocabulary is almost nonexistent. The bishops and cardinals are discussing the environment, the rise of the sea level; they are saying that above all, we should listen. They speak like politicians, using the same slogans, the same cheap rhetoric. It's strange that in a synod these kinds of topics should be the subject of discussion. It is not the specialty of the Church, it is not our core business and it is not our perspective. We want to be relevant, apparently, at the expense of our own identity. That is nowhere to be deduced from the lexicon, the jargon, and the vocabulary being used. Now and then, it even feels as though you are watching TV Kantine [a television comedy series mocking well known Dutch people]. Whereas our vocabulary once consisted of words such as "our Mother the Church," "hellfire," and "virtues," now it's all about Mother Earth, Amazonian fires, and ecology. These points of view are not at all different from those of political parties and pressure groups.

And there's another thing: missionaries are suddenly being portrayed as imperialists who have imposed their values on the indigenous peoples. Does this mean that these missionaries never meant anything for the indigenous peoples? They risked their lives to proclaim the gospel. How many martyrs are there now? They went into the jungle to obey Jesus's command to proclaim the gospel unto the ends of the world. The missionaries were all too aware that they had to meet the physical needs of the Amazonian people first. They fought poverty; they built hospitals; they built schools. This attitude led to people becoming curious about what they actually had to say. These missionaries knew that God does not speak through trees (some synod participants make different noises

in this regard) and that sacrificing children is a horrible thing. They showed the indigenous people a way out of darkness and fear and gave them access to the sacraments. To suggest that missionaries were not concerned about the welfare of the people but were driven by imperialist motives and self-interest, is truly bizarre. Just as bizarre is the idea that we have now suddenly seen the light and realize that it is all about something else: Mother Earth, global warming, CO2.

All this has nothing to do with compassion for indigenous tribes. It is becoming increasingly clear that the Amazon Synod is being misused to push through a hidden agenda. Celibacy, it is suggested, would be incomprehensible to indigenous men, and that's why we're introducing the married priesthood. How strange, after all, that for more than a thousand years, people of all times, races and cultures have accepted celibacy, but the Amazonian people would be incapable of comprehending it? Are they just too stupid? Is that what is being suggested? What kind of strange discrimination is this? Of course, there is also a plea to open up the priesthood to women as well.

And all of this to give people more opportunities to participate in the Eucharist. Is that so? What about Japan, where for 250 years there was not a priest to be seen and Holy Mass could not be celebrated? After 250 years, the vitality of the Japanese Christians was amazing. The catechists had done an excellent job. No one had had the idea to admit married men or women to the priesthood. Indeed, it is not the Catholics from the Amazon who are asking for this, but Western cardinals and bishops. By the way, why do these pretend that the people in the Amazon all live in the jungle and worship trees? Eighty (80!) percent of the indigenous population live in big cities, just like you and me. And like you and me, they wear jeans and T-shirts, not grass skirts.

If your heart really goes out to the Amazon, you tell the truth — namely, that it is Jesus Christ who saves. That's the reason why you proclaim the unadulterated gospel. The call to repentance, and the promise of forgiveness associated with it, is that not the summary of the whole Bible? But the word "sin" did not cross anyone's lips, so forgiveness and mercy didn't, either. Yes, they did talk about it once — sin against Mother Earth. The environment is considered more

important. This fits in perfectly with the core concepts of the new theology: integrated ecology, diversity, synodality, building bridges, global warming, new paths, change, and all that kind of nonsense.

This synod is truly the most politically correct meeting of all time. It's a relief that Greta Thunberg has not yet been chosen to be a cardinal. Is there anyone left who is actually worried about saving souls? But isn't that why Christ died on the cross?

If sacraments, sin, justification, and hell are no longer relevant, why should you be having a synod at all? If the Church has apparently been wrong for 2,000 years — that is the impression that is being created — why would you still listen to the Church's views on ecology or on anything at all? What does the Church intend to do about the rise in sea level and CO2 emissions? Ordaining women as priests doesn't really help. It turns out once again that one has nothing to do with the other, but must and will be implemented at all costs. By the way, when the water level rose in Noah's time, it didn't work out so badly.

Everyone knows that global warming is not the real problem of the Amazon, but — if we can't be talking about Jesus — it's drugs and the drug gangs, the drug wars, and the innumerable drug victims. Why don't we listen to drug victims and drug addicts? That's a much bigger problem. In South America, an estimated six million children are victims of abortion. That too is a much bigger problem than global warming. Wouldn't a synod about this problem be much more appropriate?

To conclude: At the press conference last Friday (October 18), Sister Daniela Adriana Cannavina stated that the arrival of female deacons is likely to be one of the results of the synod. Archbishop Rino Fisichella went on to say that accompanying the new evangelization pagan input should be expected, so that “indigenous people can express their faith in accordance with their customs, thus giving the Church an Amazonian face.” And just to put a tin lid on it, the introduction of a new rite, the Amazonian rite, was also announced — of which, it should be understood, pagan elements are a part. In short, Pandora's box is wide open. This is clear from the words of Bishop Mario Antonio da Silva, who said that we — oh yes, don't let's forget — need priests, so (so?!?) we will look at the possibility of married priests, delicately adding that this synod should not be considered as a

synod limited to the Amazon region, but has consequences worldwide.

The final words of da Silva summarized it nicely. He considers the synod “an opportunity to get in touch with life, forests, water, animals, minerals, but especially communities that are filled with wisdom” (quoted from the Vatican website). Even Luther and Calvin would be shocked by this nonsense. Because that's what it is. And the pope is looking on...

A plenary indulgence for the poor souls in purgatory may be obtained each day from Nov. 1-8. Plenary indulgence means the complete remission of the debt due to sin. To obtain a plenary indulgence for the holy souls, one must:

1. Between Nov. 1-8 : visit a cemetery and pray for the poor souls.
2. Receive communion on the day of the visit.
3. Go to confession 8 days before or after.
4. Offer the Our Father, Hail Mary and Apostles' Creed for the Papal intentions.
5. Have no attachment to sin, even venial. Partial indulgences obtained otherwise.

From the Fioretti of St. Francis

As Brother John was saying Mass on the day after All Saints, for the souls of the dead, as the Church has ordered, he offered with such charity and such compassion the holy sacrifice, which the dead desire above all else we can give them, that he seemed to be overwhelmed and consumed by the ardour of the feelings which filled his heart; and when he lifted up the Body of Christ and devoutly offered it to God the Father, entreating Him, for the love of His blessed Son Jesus Christ, who had died on the cross for the souls of men, to deliver from the pains of Purgatory the souls of the dead which He had created and redeemed, he saw immediately an immense number of souls go out from Purgatory, **like innumerable sparks of fire coming out of a burning oven**; and he saw them go up to heaven, through the merits of the Passion of Christ, who is daily offered for the living and the dead in that most Holy Sacrifice, which is worthy to be adored for ever and ever.

WEEKLY CONFESSIONS

- Saturday: 11:00
- 1st Friday during Holy Hour
- Sunday before Masses

BENEDICTION & ROSARY

Sunday 18:00

CHAPEL AND FACILITIES CLEANING

Volunteers **urgently** needed to clean chapel and refectory facilities or arrange flowers. Please come and give a hand. Police checks may be required.

Contact secretary@sanctusmichael.com**God's house is worth our best efforts!****Saturday 9th November****Family Quiz***At Portal Hall, Burghclere*

- 13:30: Doors Open
- 14:00 - 16:00 : Quiz
- 16:30: Doors Close
- ☑ **£5 per adult, kids under 14 free.**
- ☑ 3 to 10 people per team, come as a team or get together on the day.
- ☑ Nachos, hot dogs, beer, soft drinks, snacks...

Organised by St. Michael's PTA

	Liturgical Calendar November 2019	Masses
1	All Saints (Holyday, Holy Hour 18:00)	7:15 / 9:00 / 19:00 (sung)
2	All Souls	7:30 / 12:00 (sung)
3	21st Sunday after Pentecost	7:30 Low
		9:00 Low
		18:00 Benediction
4	St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop & Confessor	8:00
5	Feria	7:15
6	Feria	7:15
7	Feria	7:15
8	Feria	7:15
9	Dedication of Archbasilica St. John Lateran	7:30 / 12:00
10	22nd Sunday after Pentecost	7:30 Low
	Memorial Sunday	9:00 Low
	<i>Laying of the Wreath, Burghclere,</i>	18:00 Benediction
11	St. Martin of Tours, Bishop & Confessor	7:15
12	St. Martin I, Pope & Martyr	7:15
13	St. Didacus, Confessor	7:15
14	St. Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr	7:15
15	St. Albert the Great, Bp, Conf. Doc.	7:15
16	St. Gertrude the Great, Virgin	7:30 / 12:00
17	23rd Sunday after Pentecost	7:30 Low
		9:00 Sung
		18:00 Benediction
18	Dedication of Basilicas Ss. Peter & Paul	7:15
19	St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Widow	7:15
20	St. Felix of Valois, Confessor	7:15
21	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	7:15
22	St. Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr	7:15
23	St. Clement I, Pope & Martyr	7:30 / 12:00
24	Last Sunday after Pentecost	7:30 Low
		9:00 Sung
		18:00 Benediction
25	St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr	7:15
26	St. Sylvester, Abbot	7:15
27	Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal	7:15
28	Ferial	7:15
29	Ferial	7:15
30	St. Andrew, Apostle	7:30 / 12:00

SATURDAY  14TH DEC.

ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL
ADVENT FAIR

PORTAL HALL - BURGHCLERE

Open 1 pm Raffle Draw 3 pm Close 4 pm

**Memorial Poinsettias
Christmastide**

If you wish to place around the altar poinsettias in memory of a loved one, please fill out and hand in the forms (soon available) before December 15. The January newsletter will list the names of those remembered. Holy Mass will be offered for them and for their benefactors on January 1st, Feast of the Circumcision and Octave Day of Christmas. Poinsettias (for the sanctuary and church): £10 a pot.

November Poor Souls Envelopes

These are available at the back of the Church. **Write the names of your deceased inside the envelope and place it in the collection basket or mail box at the back of the church.**

All envelopes will be placed on the Church altar and remembered at each Mass during the month of November in the *Memento pro defunctis*. No stipend is required for this act of charity.

If you wish to include an offering, it will be used for general expenses.