



The Wood Green Parish Round Up November 2026

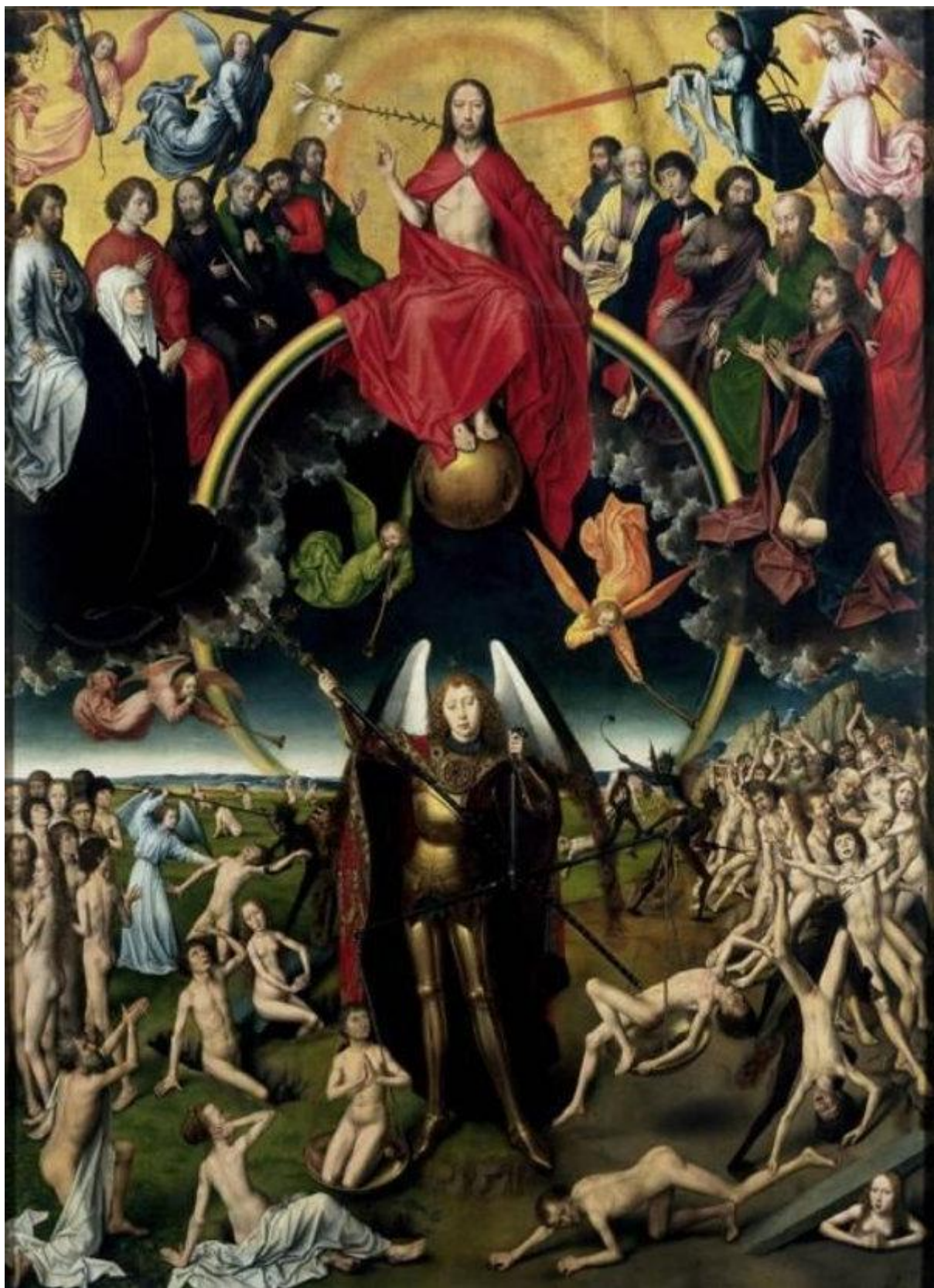
Welcome...

...to the *November* edition of the monthly round up for the Wood Green Parish. In this months magazine we have an article about November being the month of Requiem. We also have an update of all our services for the month ahead, our upcoming events, and a look back upon what has happened in the parish over October.

On the Monday 2nd November the Parish will come together to celebrate the feast of All Souls in Wood Green. This will mark the beginning of the Church's Requiem month, which coincides with Remembrance Sunday on 8th November. Every midday mass on Fridays will be one of requiem with the opportunity to pray for any departed loved ones. This will culminate in our celebrating the great Feast of Christ the King on 22nd November, after which we enter into Advent. It's a really important month that concludes the Christian calendar year and starts a fresh the next one.

If you have any articles you think may be of use for supporting the spiritual life and welfare of the parish, please do speak with Fr Simon. Or if you are interested in supporting with the publication and arranging of the Round Up – similarly speak with Fr Simon.

- Fr Simon Billington.



*Hans Memling Last Judgement 1467-1471 Triptych
centre panel showing the Archangel Michael*

The Season of Requiem.

When Father Simon asked me to write the letter for the November newsletter, on the theme of 'Why do we pray for the dead?', I honestly felt a bit stumped. I don't really know the theology of why we do pray for the dead, I just know that in Catholic tradition, both Anglican and Roman Catholic, we pray for the souls of the dead. I firstly had to do a bit of research, but it wasn't long before I began coming up against questions around topics such as purgatory, and whether or not Catholic Anglicans still hold to it. I discovered that whilst 'Roman Catholicism defines purgatory as a formal doctrine of post-death purification ... Catholic Anglicans preserve belief in purification and prayer for the dead without accepting the full Roman Catholic doctrinal framework.'

Still confused? Me too. So, then I asked myself a simpler question: "I pray for the dead, but WHY do I pray for the dead?"

Like all of us, especially us older folk, I have experienced the deaths of many family members and friends. A good friend of mine died suddenly last March. My mother died last year. Most devastating of all was the death of my nephew aged only 35. I pray for their souls daily. As a Christian, I believe that when our body die, our souls are released with the hope of going to God in Heaven. It is the great hope that we have as Christians, that the promise that Jesus Christ made us is true: believing that He is the Son of God, will give us the reward of eternal life.

What do I think that eternal life will be like? I have absolutely no idea, but I think about the term 'rest in peace' and imagine that the soul that goes to God will find true rest. That all the pain, worries and difficulties of this world will be over and we will be in the 'Peace of Christ'. That His light will perpetually shine upon us. So, when I pray for the dead, I pray that they are now in that indescribable place called Heaven, and not just 'gone' into a nothingness.

November is the Church's month of Remembrance. All Saints Day, All Souls Day and of course Remembrance Day, when we turn again to the great wars where so many people lost their lives, especially millions of young men. It is right that we pray for their souls. It is right that we remember all of those who have gone before us: parents, children, siblings, friends, family who died in the armed forces, grandparents, and great grandparents who we barely remember. But this also gives us the chance to reflect on our own deaths. We are here in exile; our homeland is Heaven.

Our modern, secular world finds ways of hiding death. Grandad's open coffin no longer takes pride of place in the front room until his funeral. Most people die in hospital or hospice and not in their own beds as in the past. Now we see TV adverts for cremations where there will be no family members attending. They will have a 'celebration of life' away from any coffin or body. Away from any reminder of death. As Christians, we must look death in the face. St Francis of Assisi referred to 'Sister Death', looking forward to that moment when his soul will ascend to God, not in terror, not in denial, but in love and confidence that it will not be the end. Allow November to be a sombre month. Pray for your dead loved ones and reflect on your own death. The days get shorter and we move into Advent, through the deep midwinter and finally, joyfully, the light will come into the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it.

Amen. Alleluia! *Sr Pat*

The Parish Diary

Do take note of the worship services below. November has an array of important services so do keep an eye for any altered Mass times. Any revisions to this schedule will be advertised at the earliest point.

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1st 10:30 Joint Sung Mass at Wood Green (All Saints)	2nd 19:30 Joint Sung Mass at Wood Green (All Souls)	3rd 11:00 Said Mass at Bowes	4th 12 Noon Said Mass at Wood Green	5th	6th 12 Noon Said Mass at Wood Green	7th No Midday Mass
8th 09:30 Sung Mass at WG 10:55 Sung Mass at Bowes <i>(Remembrance Sunday)</i>	9th	10th 11:00 Said Mass at Bowes	11th 12 Noon Said Mass at Wood Green	12th	13th No Midday Mass	14th No Midday Mass or Confessions
15th 08:30 Said Mass at WG 10:30 Sung Mass at WG 11:00 Sung Mass at Bowes	16th	17th 11:00 Said Mass at Bowes	18th 12 Noon Said Mass at Wood Green	19th	20th 12 Noon Said Mass at Wood Green	21st 11:00 Confessions at Wood Green 12 Noon Said Mass at WG
22nd 10:30 Sung Mass at WG 11:00 Sung Mass at Bowes <i>(Christ the King)</i>	23rd	24th No 11:00 Mass at Bowes	25th No Midday Mass	26th	27th No Midday Mass	28th 11:00 Confessions at Wood Green 12 Noon Said Mass at WG
29th 10:30 Joint Sung Mass at Wood Green (Advent 1)	30th					

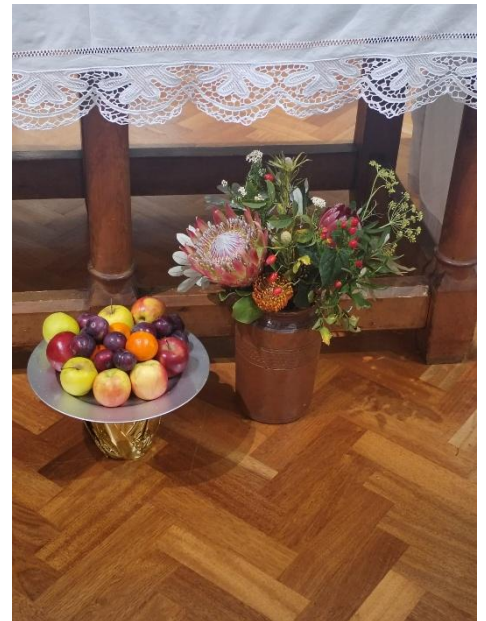
October in the Parish

Celebrating the Harvest.



On the 4th of October the Parish came together to celebrate and mark the harvest that we have received since last autumn. It gave us an opportunity to reflect upon the spiritual harvest that we have each received and to meditate upon where we are putting those graces to work. A wonderfully generous collection was received from parishioners which was donated to the Bounds Green Food Bank, which operates outside of our Large Hall on Bounds Green Road. Thank you to all who were able to give something, your generosity made a real

difference to those in need in our parish. Our giving was also bolstered by our school, who also celebrated the harvest festival on the same week and collected for the Food Bank.





THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION



ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH ARE PREPARING
CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION.

CONFIRMATION IS THE FINAL STEP OF INITIATION INTO
THE CHURCH. FR. SIMON WILL GUIDE CANDIDATES
THROUGH A MONTHLY COURSE THAT WILL COVER ALL
THE NECESSARY PILLARS OF BELIEF IN THE CHURCH
THROUGH DISCUSSION, TEACHING AND READING.

PLEASE SEE OR SPEAK TO FR SIMON IF YOU WOULD
LIKE TO KNOW MORE INFORMATION.

FRSIMONBILLINGTON@GMAIL.COM/ 07759496936



*Last Reminder – Confirmation Preparation
Begins – Sunday 25th October 4pm.*

There is still time to register for anyone who is seeking to receive the sacrament of confirmation. The preparation course is 7 sessions and will span the end of October the just past Easter 2027. Please contact Fr Simon, before the first session, should you wish to join the course ahead of being confirmed.

Looking Ahead...

The Feast of All Saints, Sunday November 1st

10:30 Sung Mass at St Michael's Wood Green.

The Feast of All Souls, Monday November 2nd.

19:30 Sung Mass, St Michael's Wood Green.

Men's Group Pilgrimage to The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Saturday November 7th.

Departing St Michael's Church 7am. Please confirm seat allocation with Harris.

Remembrance Sunday, Sunday November 8th.

09:30 Mass at Woos Green followed by Remembrance Service at War Memorial. 10:55 Mass at St Michael at Bowes with an Act of Remembrance.

Feast of Christ the King, Sunday November 22nd.

10:30 Sung Mass, St Michael's Wood Green/ 11am Mass at St Michael at Bowes.

Advent 1, Sunday November 29th.

10:30 Sung Mass, St Michael's Wood Green

Donations

Important Banking Information: If you pay your offering via a Standing Order or a direct debit, please note the following account details. **All cheques** to be made payable to:

The Parish of Wood Green

Account no. 00037635

Sort code 405240