

Monday in 30th Week in Ordinary Time – 27th October 2025:

Baptism is necessary to remove 'Original Sin', the stain of humanity's disobedience which prevents us from living in paradise with God. Baptism, though, is more than that; it provides '*sanctifying grace*', making us a '*Temple of the Holy Spirit*', a sacred dwelling place fit for God to live in us. God chooses to live in us, so we might one day reside with God in the Father's House, our true home and destiny. Baptised in the '*sign of the cross*', we become a new creation, freeing us from the corruption of sin and death and we should not wish to return to our old life, which would mean the loss of eternal life and our place in the Communion of Saints, a share in the of the Trinity for eternity. In this life, our souls are restless until we find our eternal rest in God.

The Feast of St Simon and St Jude, Apostles – Tuesday 28th October 2025:

The Church is a city of saints, part of God's household. As citizens of heaven, we have the mission to live holy lives and as subjects of the kingdom, we must teach others to progress towards this holiness. As we venerate the Apostles Simon and Jude, we recognise we know very little about them, but they are always linked together as a team. Simon is called a Zealot, a member of a religious sect. Perhaps, it is his passion that attracts him to Jesus? Jude, nicknamed '*Thaddeus*', meaning '*courageous heart*', is the patron saint of hopeless causes. There is a letter in the New Testament attributed to him, urging his readers to defend the deposit of Christ's teaching in face of a world caught up in the devil's empty show which promotes selfishness and pride. Both Simon and Jude gave their lives for the sake of the good news of salvation.

Wednesday in 30th Week of Ordinary Time – 29th October 2025:

Faith and good works open the doors of salvation for us. This requires a sustained effort, for the gate to heaven is narrow and we must live up to our baptismal dignity which is a share in the threefold office of Jesus Christ, who is priest, prophet and king. The gate is not so wide that everyone, regardless of their faith or actions, can enter with no effort. All of us, will be required to give an account of our stewardship and it will be the quality of our faith, hope and love that will be judged. A Christian should not be proud enough to think that they are already perfect, for life is a constant struggle of uniting our passions to the Passion of Christ on the cross, which is the means of our reconciliation and peace, providing us with a humility of giving our lives in sustained service of God, His Most Holy Church and His People in spiritual and material need.

Thursday in 30th Week in Ordinary Time – 30th October 2025:

God's '*Elect*' have confidence of emerging unscathed and victorious from the spiritual attacks faced in life. We are not free from danger or suffering, but with God's grace, we have the strength to stand firm for the sake of Christ and the gospel. Nothing external – not even the fear of death – separates us from the Lord. Even if someone in the Church lets us down, we must never walk away from the living organism of the body of Christ, the place where our divine life is nourished in Word and Sacrament. Baptism has removed us from the world, but for now we must live in it and bring the joy and hope of the gospel to others. Many people live under the tyranny of some metaphorical Herod who oppresses them. Our witness to the truth and example of virtue helps people reject the duplicity and hypocrisy of this fallen world that promotes selfishness, greed and other deadly sins as the highest goals in life, but which all too often lead to depression. Instead, we show them that our true destiny is life with the Blessed Trinity in the Communion of Saints, a blessedness that endure for ever.

Friday in 30th Week in Ordinary Time – 31st October 2025 (Halloween):

In other years, today would be '*Halloween*' or more properly '*All Hallows Eve*'. This Year, All Saints has been transferred to the Sunday. Halloween is a Catholic day, although it has been somewhat hijacked in recent years as another American import designed to make families part with their cash and at its worse, a glorification of evil. The original idea of Halloween was meant as a good-humoured way to ridicule the power of death over our lives. As Christians confident in the saving death and Resurrection of Christ we could show our greatest foe, '*death where is thy sting, where grave thy victory?*' Historically, Catholics went door-to-door begging for '*soul cakes*' and in return for these '*treats*', they would pray for the souls of the faithful departed.

Saturday in 30th Week in Ordinary Time – 1st November 2025:

In other years, this would be the celebration of All Saints – but we will celebrate that Feast together on Sunday. Humility is necessary for salvation and Jesus takes every opportunity to stress its importance. He uses the attitudes of people attending a banquet to remind us that we do not choose our seats; it is God who assigns the places at the Heavenly banquet. Our baptismal dignity, our faith and our salvation are all the initiative of God, and we respond to his invitation positively, like a child to a Father, showing our gratitude for every grace and heavenly blessing that we receive in life.