

The Memorial of St Leo the Great – Monday 10th November 2025:

Pope Leo the Great was elected in 440AD and was a great theologian. The *‘Tome of Leo’* articulated the doctrine of the *‘hypostatic union’*, the belief that Jesus Christ is both fully divine and fully human. It was instrumental in the discussions at the Fourth Ecumenical Council of Chalcedon (451), which affirmed that Christ is one person in two natures, fully divine and fully human, without confusion, change, division or separation. Leo was a strong advocate of Papal Primacy, and indeed, when Chalcedon concluded, the council declared St Peter himself had spoken through Pope Leo! In 452, Leo stood firm against Attila the Hun, who was threatening to invade Italy, persuading him to withdraw his forces and spare Rome from destruction. In 455, when the Vandal King Genseric invaded Rome, Leo could not prevent the sacking of the city, but persuaded him from destroying Christian sites, including St Peter’s Basilica.

The Memorial of St Martin of Tours – Tuesday 11th November 2025:

In AD 316, the ten-year-old Martin asked to be admitted as a catechumen. His parents were not keen on this, insisting instead he enter the army when he came of age, at 15. And so, he became a soldier, serving for two years past his baptism, aged 18. One day, he offered a scantily clad beggar his cloak, and it was later revealed that the beggar was Christ himself – a vision showing him Jesus saying to the angels, *‘Martin, a mere catechumen has clothed me’*. Martin, now saw himself as *‘a soldier of Christ’* and refused to fight, which led to calls of cowardice. To show how untrue this was, he volunteered to go to the front lines, unarmed. He was spared this because the enemy sued for peace. Discharged from the army, he dedicated himself to Christ, traveling to Tours to complete his studies. He wanted to pursue his vocation as a monk and hermit, but the people convinced of his holiness, called Martin to be their bishop. He was reluctant and tried to hide, but the people found him and continued their calls that he be their bishop and he proved to be a holy and hardworking prelate.

The Memorial of St Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr – Wed. 12th November 2025:

St Josaphat lived in Lithuania in a country divided between Orthodox and Catholic. In 1614 he was elected the Byzantine Catholic Archbishop of Polotsk and supported Byzantine patrimony. Other Catholic bishops thought he should have fully imposed the Roman / Latin Catholic Rite, and this led to a fierce and angry debate. When Josaphat confronted the mob, he was struck in the head, and his body was thrown into the river.

Thursday in 32nd Week in OT (School Mass) – 13th November 2025:

The Kingdom of heaven is connected to Jesus Christ – where he is, there is found the Kingdom; thus, we say it is *'here and not yet'*. We were initiated into the Kingdom at Baptism when the Holy Spirit sanctified our soul and made his home in us. Just as the Spirit is not a passive guest; in Confirmation, He strengthens our baptism, energising us and making us fit for mission - the proclamation of the gospel to the nations. Having the gifts of the Spirit, the Christian stands strong in the spiritual battle we often find ourselves in. We become soldiers for Christ and have the obligation to defend the faith of the Church. The gifts of the Holy Spirit also have an active power that help us receive the other sacraments in a way that speaks of fruitfulness and brings further growth to the Church of God. The Sacrament of Confirmation, also, brings the Christian into a closer union with the Church, so that we truly understand our part in the body of Christ.

Friday in 32nd Week in Ordinary Time – 14th November 2025:

We can know God from human reason – we see beauty, harmony, and order in creation: *'the heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows forth the work of his hands!'* This, though, is not enough, we need God's Revelation, found in the two channels of Scripture and Tradition. From this, we see that God in Christ is the *'Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end'* of our existence – through him all things were made! In our souls, we find God's image and likeness, a dignity for us to cherish and preserve for the eternal life. God has *'created us to know him, to love him, to serve him, in this world and be happy with him in the next'*. This has been revealed to the Church for us to announce to the world, so that many may come to know Truth.

The Opt. Memorial of St Albert the Great – Saturday 15th November 2025:

Bishop Albertus Magnus of Bavaria was a great philosopher, well versed in Aristotle becoming a lecturer at the Dominican College in Cologne. He was the first Dominican to become a Master of Theology which allowed him to teach at the University of Paris and take the Chair of Theology at St James. One of his students was the famous Thomas Aquinas who is, perhaps, the greatest theologian in the history of the Church. Between the two of them, they developed a curriculum for philosophy, which would form the basis of the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas, in Rome, known today as the *"Angelicum,"* which is still one of the foremost theological colleges in the world and where many of our Seminarians still make use of in their theological studies.