The Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica – Mon. 9th Nov. 2026:

Jesus comes to the Temple for Passover and in seeing the abuses, he makes a whip out of a cord and drives the money changers out of his Father' House. In doing so, we understand that our Church should be a house of prayer. Yes, Jesus comes to purify the Temple, but more profoundly comes to deal with sin and death. In doing so, he purifies the temple of our souls making them a suitable dwelling place for the Holy Spirit who makes us fit for the kingdom to come. In the Sacraments, Jesus purifies us from sin and death, giving us the pledge of eternal life in the True Temple, our true home – heaven. Just as every Israelite offered a Passover sacrifice, we should come with an offering of thanksgiving which we offer for the good estate of the living or the repose of the dead. In emptying ourselves, and by offering our thanksgiving, we receive from God, every blessing needed to prosper on our pilgrimage home.

The Memorial of St Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor: Tues. 10th Nov. 2026:

Leo I was a great administrator but also a great unifier, famously leading Rome's defence against Attila the Hun's invasion of Italy. As a defender of Catholic teaching, he helped people understand the relationship of Christ's divinity and humanity, providing the *'Tome'* or theological framework for the Council of Chalcedon which taught the Hypostatic Union of Christ – one person with two natures, without which the Incarnation and Human redemption cannot be properly understood. He demonstrated a dynamic faith and shows outstanding theological wisdom, focussing heavily on the pastoral care of his people, inspiring and fostering charitable work in Rome affected by famine, refugees and poverty, showing that being a Christian is not just about doctrine but living out the 'works of mercy' in a world filled with hurt, suffering and need.

The Memorial of St Martin of Tours, Bishop – Wednesday 11th November 2026:

Today, Martinmas, we commemorate Martin of Tours. Today is also *'Armistice Day'* and we pray for peace. Martin was born just as Christianity is legalised after the Edict of Milan (313AD) which ended persecution. Martin's parents were pagan, but the 10-year-old Marton chose to become a Christian. Called to the Military he became a conscientious objector. After being accused of cowardice, he went into battle unarmed. A critic of the Arian Heresy, which gripped the Church in 4th C, he was for a time forced into exile. Returning from exile, he was made bishop of Tours in 371, developing parishes and establishing a system of pastoral visitations that still exist today.

Saint Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr – Thursday 12th Nov. 2026 (Buddy Mass):

St Josaphat reminds us that there are 22 Catholic Rites in communion with Rome. The Ruthenian Catholics lived in Ruthenia, part of the Carpathian Mountains which straddles the borders of Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Romania, and Ukraine. Josaphat promoted Catholic unity in a country divided between Orthodox & Catholic. While proclaiming unity with Rome he supported the local Byzantine customs and was criticised by other bishops for not fully imposing the Latin Rite. The debate turned nasty, and Josaphat was attacked by the mob, who threw him into the river.

Friday in 32nd Week in OT (II) – 13th November 2026.

Truth and love go hand in hand. Lying demonstrates a lack of love and breaches the commandment to love thy neighbour. It is also never a loving thing to confirm a person in their error. While we do not condemn a person out of hand, we help them come to the full knowledge of the truth. Here we are making a distinction between the Gradualness of the Law and the Law of Gradualness. The moral life is objective, otherwise there would anarchy and chaos, as individuals determine differently what is good or bad! We reject the Gradualness of the Law, meaning we do not lower standards because we are struggling but we accept a law of gradualness, an acknowledgement that people need help taking steps towards the acceptable standard. We are wary of those who say there is no sin, for we know that love never allows us to commit an evil to achieve a good. We know that the truth is the truth, even if no one wants to believe it, and we know that a lie is a lie, even if everyone has chosen to believe it. By staying connected to the Church, we are given surety on faith and morals, for the Church preserves that which the Apostles have handed onto us, everything they learned from Jesus himself, who gave the Church the Holy Spirit to keep us clear from error, even amid the new challenges proposed by this current era.

Saturday in 32nd Week in Ordinary Time (II) – 14th November 2026:

The mission of the Church in A&B, like much of Northern Europe, is not easy moving forward. The parable of the *'unjust judge'* teaches us about the effectiveness of persevering, confident prayer. This parable speaks of watchfulness – our society is falling further away from truth and virtue, leaving the innocent and vulnerable at risk. We must ensure that the *'gospel of life'* trumps the *'culture of death'* which Saint John Paul II warned of us during his pontificate, and which has taken hold in recent years.