

Opt. Mem: St Chad and Cedd, Bishops & Missionaries: Mon. 26th Oct. 2026:

Chad and Cedd (brothers) were part of St Aidan's Lindisfarne Abbey. Cedd participated in the Synod of Whitby, resolving the date of Easter after the Roman Tradition. By helping the Celtic Church align its communion with Rome, with good diplomatic skills and grasp of language, he was successful in cementing the faith among the East Saxons. For his efforts, he was consecrated their bishop and later blessed as Abbot of Lastingham, Northumbria. Chad becomes the bishop of Northumbria and of York but found his consecration contested. He travels to Canterbury, only to find the See vacant after the death of the archbishop. He travels to Wessex and is ordained bishop, although it is not recognized by Rome. He preaches the gospel to the towns and countryside, baptising and confirming the people, bringing a formation that was lacking. When the new archbishop of Canterbury arrived, he instructed Chad to step down in favour of Wilfrid. When the King of Mercia asks for a new bishop, ++Theodore sends him Chad. His relics are in Birmingham Cathedral.

Tuesday in 30th Week in Ordinary Time (II) – 27th October 2026:

The sacraments offer a tangible way to experience the life of heaven. Holy Matrimony helps us appreciate God's love for humanity, that the Incarnation accomplished the marriage of the divine to the human. The couple are the ministers of the sacrament; by the exchanging of their consent, they allow the Lord to accompany them on a life-long witness of becoming an image of Christ and the Church. By his presence at the Cana, Jesus raises marriage to the dignity that God always intended of it; the sacrament of his presence to the world; that, as the bridegroom, he so loves his bride, the Church, he gives himself up for her, so that she might be holy and blameless before Him. As the Eternal Logos, his Word is his bond, and so when entered into with full consent, the marriage bond cannot be broken and is entered *'until death do us part'*.

The Feast of Simon & St Jude, Apostles – 28th October 2026:

Simon is described as zealous, from the Zealot party but also because he burns with zeal in serving God. Thaddaeus (or Jude) asks Jesus, *'Lord how is it that you will manifest yourself to us and not to the world?'* Our Lord's answer is complex, *'if a man loves me, he will keep my words, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him'*. It is the Apostles' mission to make known everything they have seen, heard and touched concerning Jesus Christ, the Word who is life.

Thursday in 30th Week in Ordinary Time (II) – 29th October 2026:

The Apostle Paul invites us to put on the armour of God whose grace is a powerful spiritual weapon and is manifested in truth, righteousness, peace, faith and prayer; strengthened by the Holy Spirit and the unity of the community of faith. St Paul is writing from prison - he is in chains and yet, his faith remains strong and asks for the prayers of the community so that he may, despite his physical captivity, freely preach the gospel of salvation. He shows that prayer is a powerful weapon helping us overcome our disordered passion and the temptations of the devil. No-one is an island; we pray not only for ourselves but for other members of our community who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith and long to reach their perfection. And so, the Church gives us the whole of November to do this, a season of remembrance.

Friday in 30th Week in Ordinary Time (II) – 30th October 2026:

We think of the saints as a future reality, those in heaven; and yet, St Paul greets the Philippians as 'saints'. This is how the early Christians referred to one another, a perfect reflection of the condition of the baptised, washed clean of sin. This saintliness is lost when we sin; we forget our consecrated status. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we are restored to our baptism: we can once more say we are '*saints*'. Saints (plural) mean that we are in a communion with one another – we cannot really call ourselves Christian and not be part of the Church. There are many people on the periphery of the Church, showing us how important that Lay Apostolate is in applying the corporal and spiritual works of mercy in our society, helping to create new saints.

All Hallows Eve – 31st October 2026:

Resist another American commercial import and reclaim Halloween as a commemoration that reassures us that death is not to be feared: '*Death where is thy sting, O grave where is thy victory*'. November reminds us that at death, life is changed and not ended. As Christians, we do not just celebrate any old happiness but the blessedness of heaven, a permanent intimacy with God as Father. We resist any perversion of our heritage that devalues our dignity of being made in God's likeness. On Halloween, English Catholics baked soul cakes and went door to door begging for these treats and in return promised to pray for faithful departed. Here we have the beginnings of '*trick or treat*'. Over the next month, we will remember the faithful departed and reflect on the last things: death, judgement, purgatory, heaven, or hell.