The Parish of the Assumption

West Oxfordshire

Holy Trinity Chipping Norton

St Teresa's Charlbury

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The Assumption is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 1st November 2026 – All Saints' Day
Readings: Year A **Rev. 7:2-4, 9-14· Ps. 24(23) · 1 Jn. 3:1-3 · Matt. 5:1-12a**

Dear Friends,

This weekend is *"Allhallowtide"*, the remembrance by the Church Militant (us on earth) of the Church Triumphant (saints in Heaven) and the Church Suffering (souls in Purgatory). This November "Triduum" begins with the evening before All Saints' Day and of course this is the most prominent in popular culture, known as "Halloween". There is a story to be told here. The Church, in her great wisdom, came across the Celtic feast of *Samhain* which was celebrated the last day of Autumn (31st October), and baptised it into *All Hallows Eve*… the night before All Saints'. The Celts, living in their wet dark forests, were rather transfixed by their fear that on this final night of Autumn, the boundaries between the living and the dead were blurred allowing all sorts of evil spirits and mischief makers to do damage. Dressing up in animal skins was held to ward off evil intent.

Transferring All Saints to 1st November and linking the night beforehand to an anticipation of glory, the Church tried to divert the focus onto light and triumph rather darkness and defeat. Contemporary evidence would indicate this is still "a work in progress".

If 1st November is Triumph then 2nd November is Suffering as attention shifts to those souls—probably the majority—who are passing through the cleansing fires of Purgatory. Perhaps no one has captured this like St John Henry Newman in his magnificent work: *The Dream of Gerontius*, the beautiful words set to Sir Edward Elgar's music. Gerontius (Greek for "old man") is an Everyman who gradually slips from this world into Purgatory on his way to Paradise. It is a remarkable and moving achievement and there are some memorable lines. It opens:

> *"Jesu, Maria, I am close to death…"*

We have the hymns: *"Firmly I believe and truly"* and *"Praise to the Holiest in the Height"* and then the soul departs from the body with the words:

> *"Take me away, and in the lowest deep there let me be…"*

I cannot recommend this more!

During this month of November, Catholics remember their departed loved ones, and at the back of both churches are envelopes to request a Mass. Please do fill those in as there cannot be a more precious thing to do for those whom the Lord has taken to Himself.

P.S. Masses this week:
Monday All Souls: 9.15am Holy Trinity Requiem Mass, 7pm St Teresa's.
Tuesday: 9.15am Holy Trinity: School Mass (*All Saints'*).
All other Masses/Rosary for Peace as usual.

Next Sunday is Remembrance Day and the Sunday Masses at both churches will be Requiems for those who have died in war.

> *"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old..."*

Second Collection: The Johnson Association. This is the society that exists to support our retired clergy. Please give generously for those who have given their lives to serving others.

God bless everyone,
Fr Clive

Masses & Rosary:

	Holy Trinity	**St Teresa's**
Monday	9.15am *All Souls' Requiem Mass*	7pm *All Souls' Requiem Mass*
Tuesday	9.15am Mass *St Carlo's Coffee Club*	
Wednesday		9.15am Mass *Adoration & Benediction*
Thursday	9.15am Mass *Adoration & Benediction*	
Friday	9.15am Rosary for Peace	9.15am Mass
Saturday	6pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday	11am Mass	9.15am Mass

After Sunday Mass, there will be a reception at Holy Trinity where we will be celebrating this great feast, alongside toasting Fr Clive's 70th birthday. All parishioners are welcome to come along and enjoy the festivities.

Holy Trinity's T4U Shoebox Appeal returns once again. There are a number of options as to what you can put in your shoebox, depending on whether you are sending it to a boy, girl, or a home including the usual stuff like toothpaste, gloves, scarves, toys, along with candles, cooking utensils, tea towels, etc. Please feel free to pick up a leaflet at the back of church, next to the prayer petition's box.

St Teresa's parishioner and Roofbreaker, Elena Piras, was recently featured in a BBC article, which can be read using this link if reading digitally, or by following the QR below. She is currently crowdfunding for her next album which you can donate to here, or again scan the QR below. Lastly, it's worth reiterating her role as the Parish's Roofbreaker. In her own words:

> "My role is to help people to access the services offered in the Parish of the Assumption, which include the facilities, Mass itself and the various activities that take place, aiming to involve people with disabilities and improve their experience. Jesus accepted everyone in his

church, including people with disabilities, without prejudice, making them equal contributors to his work of evangelisation."

St Teresa's "Way Forward" Meeting - **Thurs 12th November** - **7.30 - 8.45pm** - **Morris Room, Charlbury Corner House**. If you are interested in contributing further to the St Teresa's community in Charlbury, as well as to the wider parish, please come along to our next Way Forward meeting, where we will continue to discuss upcoming events as well as potential activities for the future. Representatives will then meet with Fr Clive to talk through how best to implement these ideas. For any queries about the meeting please contact **Brek Taylor-Tamblyn** on **07779 579482** by call or WhatsApp.

From Johnny Hulme: My dear Mother Joanna Hulme celebrates her 100th Birthday on Tuesday November 10th, 9:15 morning Mass on the day will be a celebration of her life so far! I would love as many of you as possible to join us at Mass, we will have coffee and cake afterwards.

From Suze Mathews:

ACN XMAS CARD SALES AT ST TERESA'S AND HOLY TRINITY

I will be selling ACN Xmas cards and small gifts at both Holy Trinity and St Teresa's in November:

St Teresa's: After 0915 Mass Sundays 1, 8 and 22 November
Holy Trinity: After Mass Saturday 21 Nov and after 11am Mass Sunday 22

Buying your Christmas cards and small gifts from Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is a great way to support all those Christians world-wide who have lost their homes, their churches and in some instances their freedom to practice their faith.

ACN RED WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2026 - HOLY MASS at ST TERESA'S 09.15am

Every year ACN highlights the worldwide persecution of Christians by encouraging us to wear red—the colour of martyrs—on Red Wednesday. St Teresa's makes a special effort to show our of support ACN and their work; so please, if you can, come to Holy Mass on Wednesday 18th November at 9.15 and wear red.

ACN have also recently released their *Persecuted and Forgotten? 2024-2026* report, which you can read online by following this link (if reading digitally) or scanning the QR to the right. Well worth a read.

In November, let us pray with the Holy Father for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of our Parish, in particular Hilda and Anne Clifton of St Teresa's. In addition to your own daily prayers please remember: All those who mourn the loss of loved ones. The repose of the souls of those who have died. People whose anniversaries occur at this time. For the Middle-East, Ukraine, Europe.

T**he Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times.** Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are **Tina Short** (sg.holytrinity.chippingnorton@rcaob.org.uk) and **Sharnalee Foster** (sg.stteresaoflisieux.charlbury@rcaob.org.uk). Alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.