



All Saints, Evesham



All Saints, Rome



Dedicated to all the Saints

Have you ever wondered how so many churches came to be dedicated to all the saints ?

The **dedication** of churches to **All Saints** began in the **fourth century** with the first known mention in the writings of Ephrem Syrus of a **feast** dedicated to all the saints by St. Chrysostom of Constantinople. He made the feast the **first Sunday after Pentecost** and it is still held on this Sunday in the Orthodox churches.

The **Western church** did not establish a **feast for all the saints** until early in the seventh century. In **609** on **13 May** (the date of an ancient pagan festival when the malevolent, restless spirits of the dead were appeased) **Pope Boniface IV** consecrated the Roman temple - the **Pantheon** (not far from All Saints) to **Christian usage** and dedicated it to the **Blessed Virgin** and **all the martyrs**, where previously all the gods of the Romans were honoured.

In the **8th century** **Gregory III** dedicated a chapel in **St. Peter's basilica** on **1st November** to **All The Saints**. In **835** **Gregory IV** ordered the Feast of All Saints (and all the martyrs) to be observed on this date. In the ninth century the **Byzantine Emperor Leo VI** built a **chapel** in memory of his devoutly Christian wife, Theophano. Forbidden from dedicating it to her he chose '**All Saints**' so she would be esteemed as one of the righteous each year on the feast day.

So our church dedication here in Rome has a long and honourable history and we share it with thousands of others worldwide. For example, members of **All Saints' Church, Woodford Green** (UK), were challenged to go on a poverty diet for five days in March so that they could begin to understand the plight of the world's poor and become more compassionate. They donated what they saved to the charity Samaritan's Purse who work with the world's poorest people. **All Saints' High Wycombe** (UK) has a **Quiet Garden** tucked away in one corner which provide a haven for anyone wanting to get away from the busy city centre. Parishioners of All Saints' Catherington, Portsmouth, created and stitched their own designs for an altar frontal. All Saints', on the tiny Scilly isle of Bryher, (inhabitants:83) enjoys marvellous sea views.

If you like the 'murder in the monastery' type of mystery Liz Howell has written *The Flower Arranger at All Saints* which will be available to borrow in church soon! Do you have **any news** from other All Saints' churches round the world? Please do let allthesaints@allsaints know. We'll be **celebrating the festival** here at All Saints' Rome as usual at the beginning of November - do join us. (Watch out for more details nearer the time.)



Flowers for Pentecost

May and June The liturgical church calendar is so-o-o busy at this time of the year. You wait weeks for a festival then a whole bunch cluster together. The **liturgical colours** and drapes are dizzyingly changed in rapid succession as the '**Resurrection cycle**' begins with the glorious gold of **Easter**. Forty white days later - no sooner is it **Ascension Day** (gold again), then there's 9 days of prayer

to **flame-red Pentecost**. Back to 'ordinary time' a week later for a white or golden **Trinity Sunday** closely followed four days later by **Corpus Christi**, a day of thanksgiving for the institution of Holy Communion. Then all is quiet and green on the big festival front until **All Saints' Day** on 1st November, which is where we came in!

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WITH ALL THE SAINTS



A NEW BOILER BLOOMS AMONGST THE RUINS

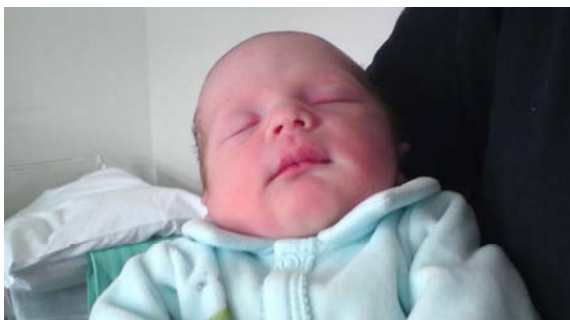
David Greenwood recalls: With the sun shining down through the rose-covered, massive trunks of the Roman pines, 65 members of All Saints gathered for tea at the **Villa Wolkonsky**, the residence of the British Ambassador. It was the former home of **Princess Zenaide Wolkonsky**, the daughter of the then Russian ambassador who later settled in Rome. She developed the site in 1830. Currently it comprises of 11 acres of buildings and gardens on the Esquiline Hill, within the Aurelian Walls. Sheltered amongst 200 different species of plants we gathered under the arches of an ancient aqueduct to select from crustless sandwiches, iced cakes, home made lemonade, tea and coffee.

Mrs. Nicola Chaplin, wife of HM Ambassador to the Italian Republic and San Marino, welcomed us to her home and helped **Fr. Jonathan** pull winning ticket numbers from a sack of garden party prizes. 2 out of every 3 prizes went to one table in particular with Margie Richardson's mother, over from Australia, winning 3 times! (*glad you're not bothered, David! - ed*)

Terry, the head gardener, led two groups round the gardens for a detailed explanation of the grounds. It was a fund raising event for church fabric like none other. **Amazingly gracious and welcoming. Amazingly delicious. Amazingly beautiful.** Every facet was a great success due especially to the exceptional hard work of Jo Trippa, Ambra Garofalo and Allegra Serrao. **Many, many thanks** also to Nickie and Edward Chaplin.

TINY SAINTS

Congratulations to Anona, Christopher and Maximilian Bisping and grandparents Thelma and Neville as they welcomed **Felix Arthur** after some trauma safely into the world on **20th May** - the feast of San Bernadino of Siena.



(Do submit photos of **your** special children - not just ed's privilege!)

WHEN THE SAINTS ... COMING EVENTS

Pot Luck lunches: Communal meals embody the idea of sharing - enjoying what others provide, emphasising the mutual blessings that fellowship, generosity, conversation and eating together brings. We share resources and our trust in God. Our grateful thanks to **Valerie Spicer** for her gracious and imaginative organisation the first Sunday of each month. The next one is **SUNDAY 6th JUNE** - if you can help call Val on **06 996336**.

CONFIRMATIONS: **Saturday 12th June at 6.30**, aperitivi for confirmands and congregation to meet Bishop Richard and Ann Garrard. **Sunday 13th, 10.30**, Confirmations followed by lunch, **2pm PCC, 5pm Evensong** with the **New Chamber Singers**.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO ST. ALBAN'S, UK: Friday 18th - Monday 21st June. Fr. Jonathan is organising a pilgrimage from Rome to the shrine of St. Alban, Britain's first Christian martyr. If you're interested in joining this please speak directly with Fr. Jonathan.

BOOK LAUNCH with aperitifs and music in the church garden, **4pm Saturday 26th June**, Alex Richardson presents her latest book; *Passionate Patron: the Life of Alexander Hardcastle and the Agrigento*.

The Susan Kolman Walk for Breast Cancer



Last month Calle Barnes, Cynthia Greenwood and other All Saints members joined the Susan Kolman walk. Folks here are 'Donna en Rossa' - breast cancer beaters.

AWAY DAY in **Genazzano, 3rd July**. Book this date and join us for lunch and the afternoon relaxing amongst the olive groves of rural Italy in nearby Genazzano. (More details in church soon.)

New English Orchestra The NEO is performing in Rome **23rd - 28th August**. Free concerts at **Pantheon on 25th** and **San Giovanni in Laterano on 28th, 11am, 2 and 4pm**. This Christian ensemble is superb-don't miss them

*Alleluia, not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
alleluia, he is near us,
faith believes nor questions how;
though the cloud from sight received him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
'I am with you evermore'?*