

Magazine article October

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” (2 Cor. 5:17)

Have you ever wondered why October is the tenth month? ‘Octo’ is like octopus which both contain the Latin word for eight. So why is the eighth month the tenth month? October comes from the number eight (*ôctō* in Latin, like octagon, a shape with eight sides). It was the eighth month in the old Roman calendar but kept its name after January and February were inserted into the calendar

In Christian symbolism, October is viewed as the tenth month, connecting it to the biblical meaning of the number ten as a symbol of divine order, completeness, and responsibility. It also marks a season of transition. Just as autumn brings a visible shifting in nature, Christians often view October as a time to evaluate personal spiritual growth, finish the year strong, and prepare for new beginnings.

Although October is usually associated with Halloween, pumpkins and spooky monsters, October is truly a season of change and a time of ending. Perhaps it’s time for a change in your life or to start to adjust to changes that have come upon you.

These might have been significant or painful changes that you experienced such as illness or loss of a loved one. October therefore is a month holding special events to help manage these changes. Week commencing the 9th of October is Baby Loss Awareness Week, when the NHS and charities host events across the country to help people

mark the loss of a baby. I will also be hosting a special memorial service at St Hilda's Ampleforth on 12th October at 7.00 p.m. for anyone to attend.

Similarly, week commencing 25th October is "Pastoral and Spiritual Care Week", when again NHS, charities, and chaplaincy teams and others will be promoting this care to all.

As you enter October may you be at peace in your spiritual journey and please get in touch if you need accompaniment for any reason. Every peace to you.

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