

Monday 12 January

Pope John Paul II on his vocation

"I am often asked, especially by young people, why I became a priest. Maybe some of you would like to ask the same question. Let me try briefly to reply. I must begin by saying that it is impossible to explain entirely. For it remains a mystery, even to myself. How does one explain the ways of God? Yet, I know that, at a certain point in my life, I became convinced that Christ was saying to me what He had said to thousands before me: 'Come follow me!' There was a clear sense that what I heard in my heart was no human voice, nor was it just an idea of my own. Christ was calling me to serve Him as a priest.

"And you can probably tell that I am deeply grateful to God for my vocation to the priesthood. Nothing means more to me or gives me greater joy than to celebrate Mass each day and to serve God's people in the Church. That has been true ever since the day of my ordination as a priest. Nothing has ever changed this, not even becoming a Pope." (Los Angeles, September 14, 1987)

Today we pray for Vocations;

Lord,

Shine your light upon us so that we may see our true vocation. Give us the grace to hear your word and be an example to others of your love for us.

We pray for all in Priesthood, Consecrated life, Marriage and Single life, and for all who are listening to your call, that they may answer you in their vocation. Amen

Tuesday 13 January

Today we celebrate the Feast of St Mungo who is also known as Kentigern. While Mungo is closely associated with Glasgow, he is a major historical character for the whole of Scotland, Wales and in particular the West of Scotland. There are a number of stories or legends about Mungo; the fish, the tree, the bell and the bird. Each of these tells a story about a miracle of Mungo but the actual truth behind the stories is hard to discover. One definite fact is that the origin of the motto of Glasgow came from a sermon of St Mungo when he urged the people to pray 'that Glasgow would flourish by the preaching of thy word and the praising of thy name'.

Mungo teaches us to have faith and trust in God. On many occasions, Mungo trusted God. Mungo's faith would have been often challenged and he faced many dangers in his work of preaching and praising God. Indeed, it seems that life became so dangerous that Mungo had to leave Glasgow for a time when he went to work with St David in Wales. It is believed that when he returned to Glasgow he met St Columba of Iona. All this places Mungo at the very centre of growth of Christianity in Scotland not just Glasgow. Let us pray that we, like St Mungo put our faith and trust in God at all times.

O my God, I believe in you and all that your Holy Church teaches, because you have said it and your work is true. You are the Son of the living God. You are my Lord and my God. Lord I believe, increase my faith.

Amen

Wednesday 14 January

Let us give thanks today for the many gifts and talents that God has given us. May we make the best use of them to enrich our lives and the lives of those around us.

Let us pray-

God of love, we give you thanks for the boundless mercies of our daily life. Make us more grateful for your many gifts:

For the blessing of health

For the comforts of home and family life,

For the joys of friendship

For the beauty of the world around us

Teach us day by day to count our blessings and to receive them as from our Father's hand; and fill our hearts with gratitude and our lips with praise, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

God our Father, we thank you for all the bright things in life. Help us to see them, and to count them, and to remember them, that our lives may flow in never ending praise through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now let us pray together

Our Father...

Thursday 15 January

Let us remember today that Love is a great gift from God.

Love can take many hearts and make them one, uniting them in the love of God: it makes them open, friendly, peaceful, one in mind and heart; it makes them capable of learning the will of God.

St. Paul reminds us that:

Love is patient; love is kind. Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs, it is not snobbish. Love is never rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not prone to anger; neither does it brood over injuries. Love does not rejoice in what is wrong but rejoices with the truth. There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure.

Blessed are you, Creator of heaven and earth,

--you made the world and offer it life.

Remember us as we begin our work today,

--that we work in harmony with others.

May we do what is useful for our brothers and sisters,

--and together build a world that is pleasing to you.

To us and all whom we meet today,

--give your joy and peace.

Now let us say together:

Our Father...

Friday 16 January

Today let us pray for Peace.

Lord Jesus, the prophet called you the Prince of Peace. In your mercy, bring peace to our troubled world. Let warring nations and factions find harmony and reconciliation. Bring peace to our country, and to our city streets, to our homes and to our school. Help me always to remember that if peace is to come, then I must be the one who is to bring it through my words, my actions and my attitude. Let your peace come to the world that I live in; and let it come through me.

Prayer to St Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace:

Where there is hatred let me sow love,
Where there is injury let me sow pardon,
Where there is doubt let me sow faith,
Where there is despair let me sow hope,
Where there is darkness let me sow light,
Where there is sadness let me sow joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may try not to be comforted but to comfort, not to be understood but to understand, not to be loved but to love. Because it is in giving that we receive, it is in forgiving that we are forgiven, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen