

Monday 23 March

Today we commemorate Saint Turibius. In the 16th century, Turibius travelled from his home in Spain to become the Archbishop of Peru in South America. He travelled the unforgiving countryside on foot spreading the word of the Lord. He baptised the native people, built schools and hospitals, and established the first seminary for the teaching of clergy in South America.

Let us ask Saint Turibius to pray for those who give so generously of their lives to the vocations to spread God's word. May his great life be a fine example to us as we work to answer our own vocation in life.

Our Father....

Tuesday 24 March

What car would Jesus drive?

Pope Francis has challenged us to think of how expensive purchases can possibly bring happiness while great poverty exists. Speaking to trainee priests and nuns, he said "A car is necessary to do a lot of work, but please, choose a more humble one. If you like the fancy one, just think about how many children are dying of hunger in the world."

As we continue with Lent, let us consider all those who have little, and remember that this is a time not just of giving up but also of giving to those less fortunate.

We pray today for an end to all poverty and ask this in your name

Our father....

Wednesday 25 March

Today we celebrate the Annunciation of the Lord. On this day, the Angel Gabriel visited the Virgin Mary to tell her it was God's will that she would give birth to his son, Jesus. "The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you" he told her. "I am the Lord's servant," Mary replied; "may it happen to me as you have said." This is a great feast for us. It shows the faith that Mary had in God and the faith that we should work for. Mary was unsure about all this but was sure that God would take care of her.

We ask Our Lady to pray with us for God to strengthen our faith.

Hail Mary...

Thursday 26 March

Marianne Williamson wrote the following poem, although you may know it better as the speech from Coach Carter:

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.
Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.
It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us.
We ask ourselves who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?
Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God.
Your playing small does not serve the world.
There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.
We are all meant to shine, as children do.
We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.
It's not just in some of us;
It's in everyone.

Sometimes people can be embarrassed to let shine the talents they have been blessed with. Today, Lord, we ask for the courage to realise the glory of God that is within us all

Our father...

Friday 27 March

Yesterday, we heard a poem about embracing our talents and not being embarrassed by just how talented we truly are.

Matthew wrote something very similar two thousand years earlier about embracing our faith.

No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl; instead he puts it on a lampstand, where it gives light for everyone in the house.

Lord, today we ask for the strength to rejoice in worshipping You and pray for those around the world who bravely praise You in the face of persecution.

Our father...