



Prayers for week ahead

WEEK BEGINNING 18TH SEPTEMBER

Monday 18th September St Joseph of Cupertino



DOMINUS EST

PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO

O GREAT ST. JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO WHO WHILE ON EARTH DID OBTAIN FROM GOD THE GRACE TO BE ASKED AT YOUR EXAMINATION ONLY THE QUESTIONS YOU KNEW, OBTAIN FOR ME A LIKE FAVOUR IN THE EXAMINATIONS FOR WHICH I AM NOW PREPARING. IN RETURN I PROMISE TO MAKE YOU KNOWN AND CAUSE YOU TO BE INVOKED.

THROUGH CHRIST
OUR LORD.

ST. JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO,
PRAY FOR US.

AMEN.



On September 18, the Church celebrates the life of St. Joseph of Cupertino, a mystic who was perhaps most famous for his ability to fly. His father, a poor carpenter, died before his birth and his mother, who was unable to pay the debts, lost her home and gave birth to Joseph in a stable at Cupertino, Italy on June 17, 1603. Joseph began having mystical visions when he was seven, and was often so lost to the world around him that the other children made fun of him giving him the nickname, "open-mouthed" for his gaping manner. He had an irascible temper and read very poorly, giving others the impression that he was good for nothing. Aside from that, he was so continually drawn into ecstasy that it was impossible for him to be attentive to the tasks at hand. Thus, when he secured a job, he lost it very quickly. He finally managed to obtain a post taking care of a stable in a Franciscan convent near Cupertino. Upon realising his holiness and aptitude for penance, humility, and obedience, it was decided that he could begin studying for the priesthood. Joseph was a very poor student, however during his final examination, the examiner happened to ask him a question on the one topic he knew well. He passed and was admitted into the priesthood. It was also soon recognized that though he knew little by way of worldly knowledge and had little capacity to learn, Joseph was infused with a divine knowledge that made him capable of solving some of the most intricate theological quandaries. He died on September 18, 1663 and was canonized in 1767 by Pope Clement XIII. He is the patron of air travellers and students preparing for exams.

Tuesday 19th September St Januarius, Bishop and Martyr



St. Januarius was born in Italy and was bishop of Benevento during the Emperor Diocletian persecution. Bishop Januarius went to visit two deacons and two laymen in prison. He was then also imprisoned along with his deacon and lector. They were thrown to the wild beasts, but when the animals did not attack them, they were beheaded. What is believed to be Januarius' blood is kept in Naples, as a relic. It liquifies and bubbles when exposed in the cathedral. Scientists have not been able to explain this miracle to date. St. Januarius lived and died around 305 A.D

Heavenly God, you have granted us your Saint Januarius, that we venerate the memory of this Martyr Saint, give us, we pray, the same courage to live for the glory of your Holy Name, that we may have the joy of his company to sing your praises for all eternity.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen

Wednesday 20th September Sts Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang and companions.



- The evangelisation of Korea began during the 17th century through a group of lay persons. A strong vital Christian community flourished there under lay leadership until missionaries arrived from the Paris Foreign Mission Society. During the terrible persecutions that occurred in the 19th century (in 1839, 1866, and 1867), one hundred and three members of the Christian community gave their lives as martyrs. Outstanding among these witnesses to the faith were the first Korean priest and pastor, Andrew Kim Taegon, and the lay apostle, Paul Chong Hasang. Among the other martyrs were a few bishops and priests, but for the most part lay people, men and women, married and unmarried, children, young people, and the elderly. All suffered greatly for the Faith and consecrated the rich beginnings of the Church of Korea with their blood as martyrs. Pope John Paul II, during his trip to Korea, canonised these martyrs on May 6, 1984, and inserted their feast into the Calendar of the Universal Church.
- *Today, let us pray to the Lord for peace in the Korean Peninsula, through the intercession of Sts. Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang and companions.*

Thursday 21st September

St Matthew the evangelist

- Saint Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist Little is known about St. Matthew, except that he was the son of Alpheus, and he was likely born in Galilee. He worked as a tax collector, which was a hated profession during the time of Christ. According to the Gospel, Matthew was working at a collection booth in Capernaum when Christ came to him and asked, "Follow me." With this simple call, Matthew became a disciple of Christ. From Matthew we know of the many doings of Christ and the message Christ spread of salvation for all people who come to God through Him. The Gospel account of Matthew tells the same story as that found in the other three Gospels, so scholars are certain of its authenticity. His book is the first of the four Gospels in the New Testament.
- *O Glorious St. Matthew, in your Gospel you portray Jesus as the longed-for Messiah who fulfilled the Prophets of the Old Covenant and as the new Lawgiver who founded a Church of the New Covenant. Obtain for us the grace to see Jesus living in his Church and to follow his teachings in our lives on earth so that we may live forever with him in heaven. Amen*



Friday 22nd September

- **Luke 9:1-6**
- Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. He said to them, 'Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money - not even an extra tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there, and leave from there. Wherever they do not welcome you, as you are leaving that town shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.' They departed and went through the villages, bringing the good news and curing diseases everywhere.
- *What is the dust I need to shake off? What is it that tarnishes me and dulls my shine? I pray that I may keep my focus on the good news and not allow myself to be slowed down by attention to other messages, no matter how compelling.*

 verbum dei

*"And he sent them out
to proclaim the kingdom
of God and to heal."*

cf. Luke 9:2

Saturday 23rd September

St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)

- St. Padre Pio was born Francesco Forgione, on May 25, 1887, in Pietrelcina, Italy. His parents were peasant farmers. He had an older brother and three younger sisters, as well as two other siblings who died in infancy. As a child, he was very religious and by the age of five he reportedly made the decision to dedicate his life to God. St. Padre Pio was an Italian priest who was known for his piety and charity, as well as the gift of the stigmata, which has never been explained.
- Today let us try and live our lives by following his advice:

“Pray, wait, and do not worry. Worrying is useless. God is merciful and will listen to your prayer... Prayer is the best weapon we have; it is the key to the heart of God. You should speak to Jesus, not with your lips but with your heart.”

