



Prayers for the Week Ahead

WEEK BEGINNING 26TH SEPTEMBER

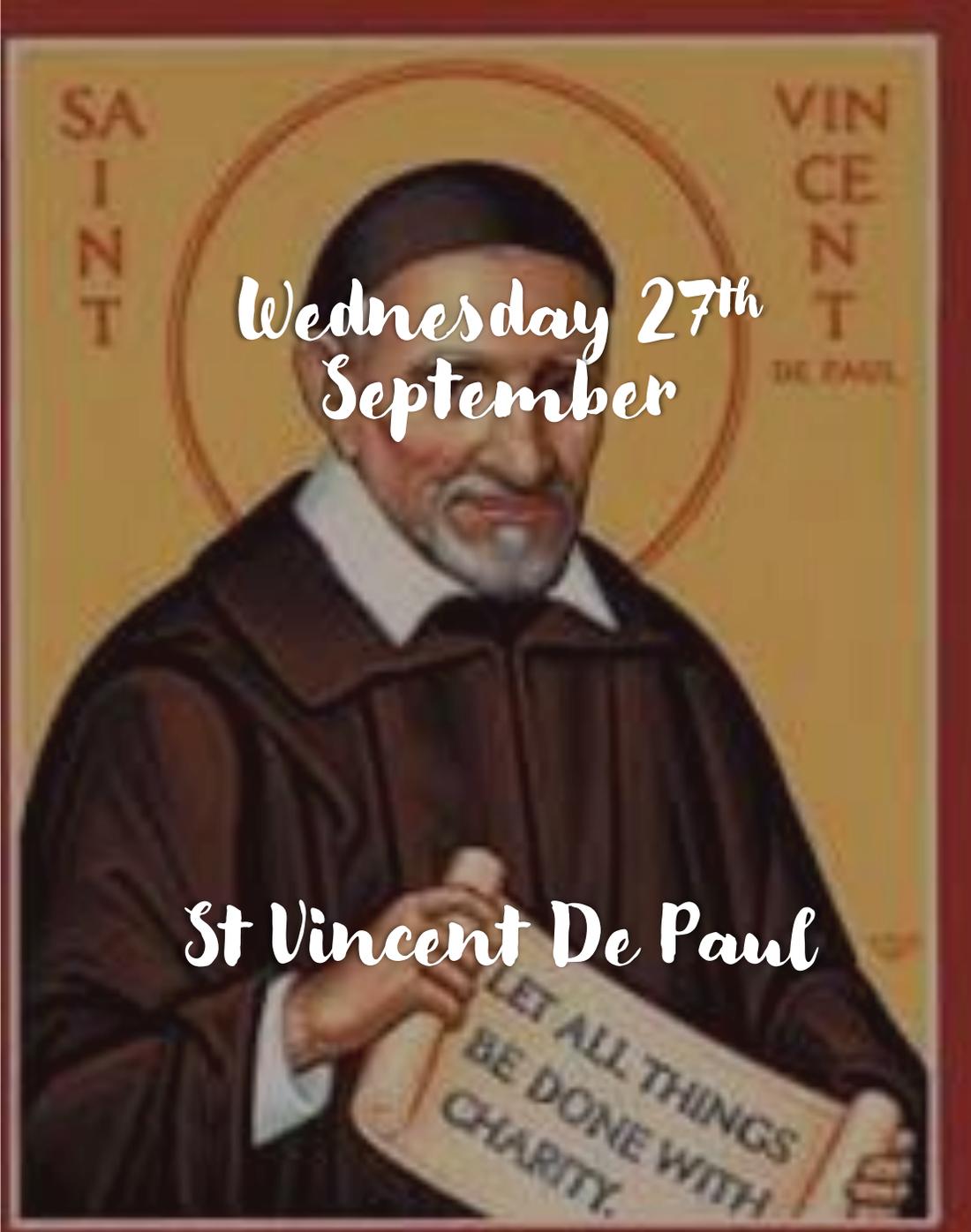


Tuesday
26th September

St Cosmas and
Damian, Martyrs

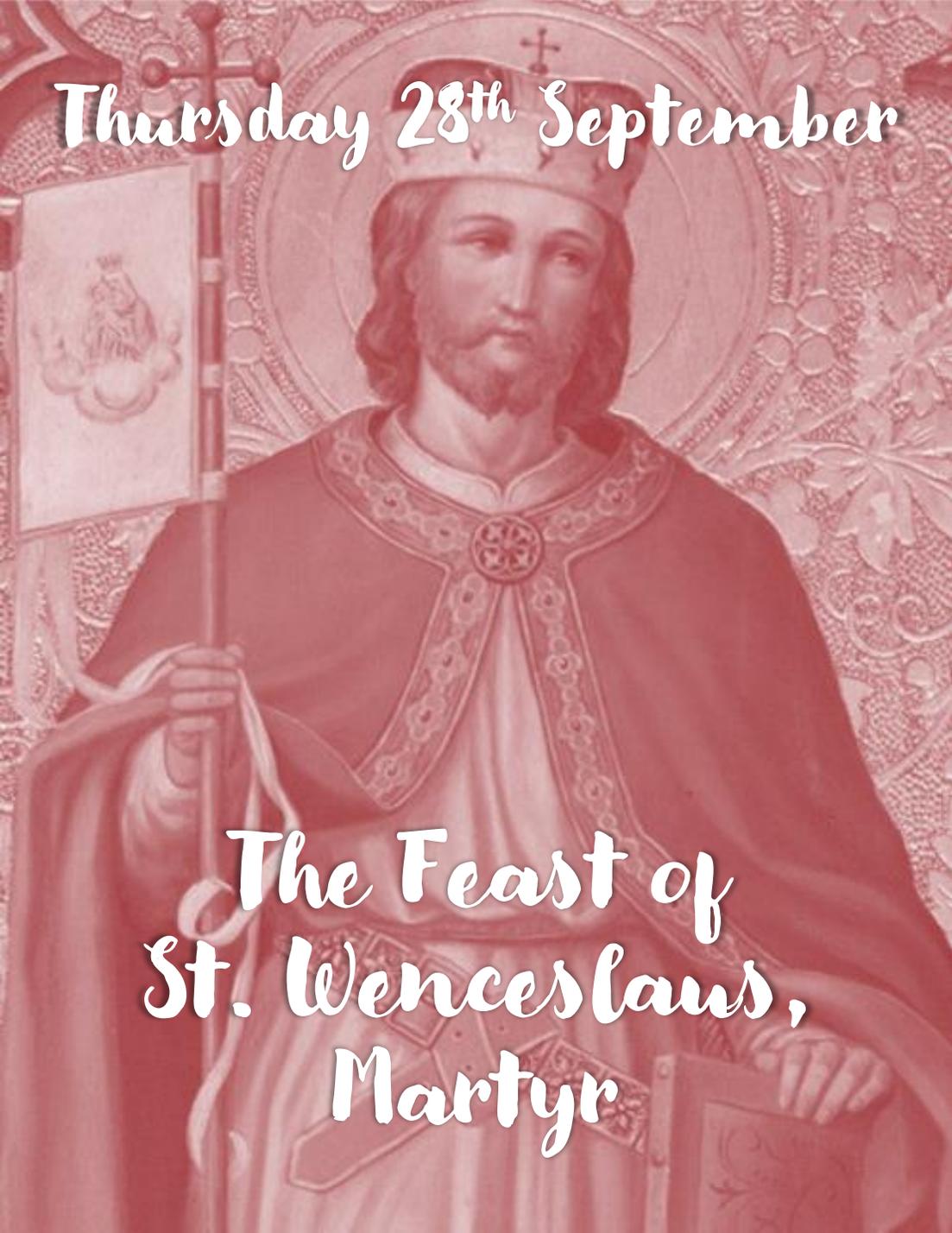
Sts. Cosmas and Damian were brothers, born in Arabia, who had become eminent for their skill in the science of medicine. Being Christians, they were filled with the spirit of charity and never took money for their services. At Egaea in Cilicia, where they lived, they enjoyed the highest esteem of the people. When the persecution under Diocletian broke out, their very prominence rendered them marked objects of persecution. Being apprehended by order of Lysias, governor of Cilicia, they underwent various torments about the year 283. They are patron saints of pharmacists.

Oh glorious martyrs of Christ, Saints Cosmas and Damian, you gave your lives for the love of God, benefiting your fellow man and crowning your martyrdom with an open and loyal profession of your faith. You taught us to love God about all things, and to love our fellow man as ourselves, professing always and without fear, the religion of Jesus. Augmenting among the faithful populace many miracles, you are glorious indeed. Through your intercession, which brings about deliverance of these miracles, we pray to you for your aid in all things. May your patronage never be far from us in the illness of our body and soul. Oh great protectors, Saints Cosmas and Damian, assist us with your love and free us from all evils. Amen.



St. Vincent de Paul was born to a poor peasant family in the French village of Pouy on April 24, 1581. His first formal education was provided by the Franciscans. He did so well, he was hired to tutor the children of a nearby wealthy family. He used the monies he earned teaching to continue his formal studies at the University of Toulouse where he studied theology. Vincent spent his life preaching missions to and providing relief to the poor. He even established hospitals for them. This work became his passion. He later extended his concern and ministry to convicts. The need to evangelise and assist these souls was so great and the demands beyond his own ability to meet that he founded the Ladies of Charity, a lay institute of woman, to help, as well as a religious institute of priests - the Congregation of Priests of the Mission, commonly referred to now as the Vincentians. The Vincentians remain with us today with nearly 4,000 members in 86 countries. In addition to his order of Vincentian priests, St. Vincent cofounded the Daughters of Charity along with St. Louise de Marillac. There are more than 18,000 Daughters today serving the needs of the poor in 94 countries. He was eighty years old when he died in Paris on September 27, 1660. He had "become the symbol of the successful reform of the French Church". St. Vincent is sometimes referred to as "The Apostle of Charity" and "The Father of the Poor".

Heavenly Father, inspire all Charitable Workers, especially those who minister, to both the spiritually and the materially poor. O Lord, give us the grace that You bestowed upon, your servant St. Vincent de Paul, to relinquish the temptation of material things, in our holy effort to minister to the poor. Amen.



Thursday 28th September

The Feast of
St. Wenceslaus,
Martyr

St. Wenceslaus, was born near Prague, and was the son of Duke Wratislav. He was taught Christianity by his grandmother, St. Ludmila. The Magyars, along with Drahomira, an anti-Christian faction murdered the Duke and St. Lumila, and took over the government. Wenceslaus was declared the new ruler after a coup in 922. He encouraged Christianity. Boleslaus, his brother, no longer successor to the throne, after Wenceslaus' son was born, joined a group of noble Czech dissenters. They invited Wenceslaus to a religious festival, trapped and killed him on the way to Mass.

O God, who taught the Martyr Saint Wenceslas to place the heavenly Kingdom before an earthly one, grant through his prayers that, denying ourselves, we may hold fast to you with all our heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.



Friday 29th September

Sts. Michael, Gabriel
and Raphael,
Archangels.

The Catholic Church confirms the existence of angels, and that they are active in our lives.

The Catechism states, "The existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls 'angels' is a truth of faith," (Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 328).

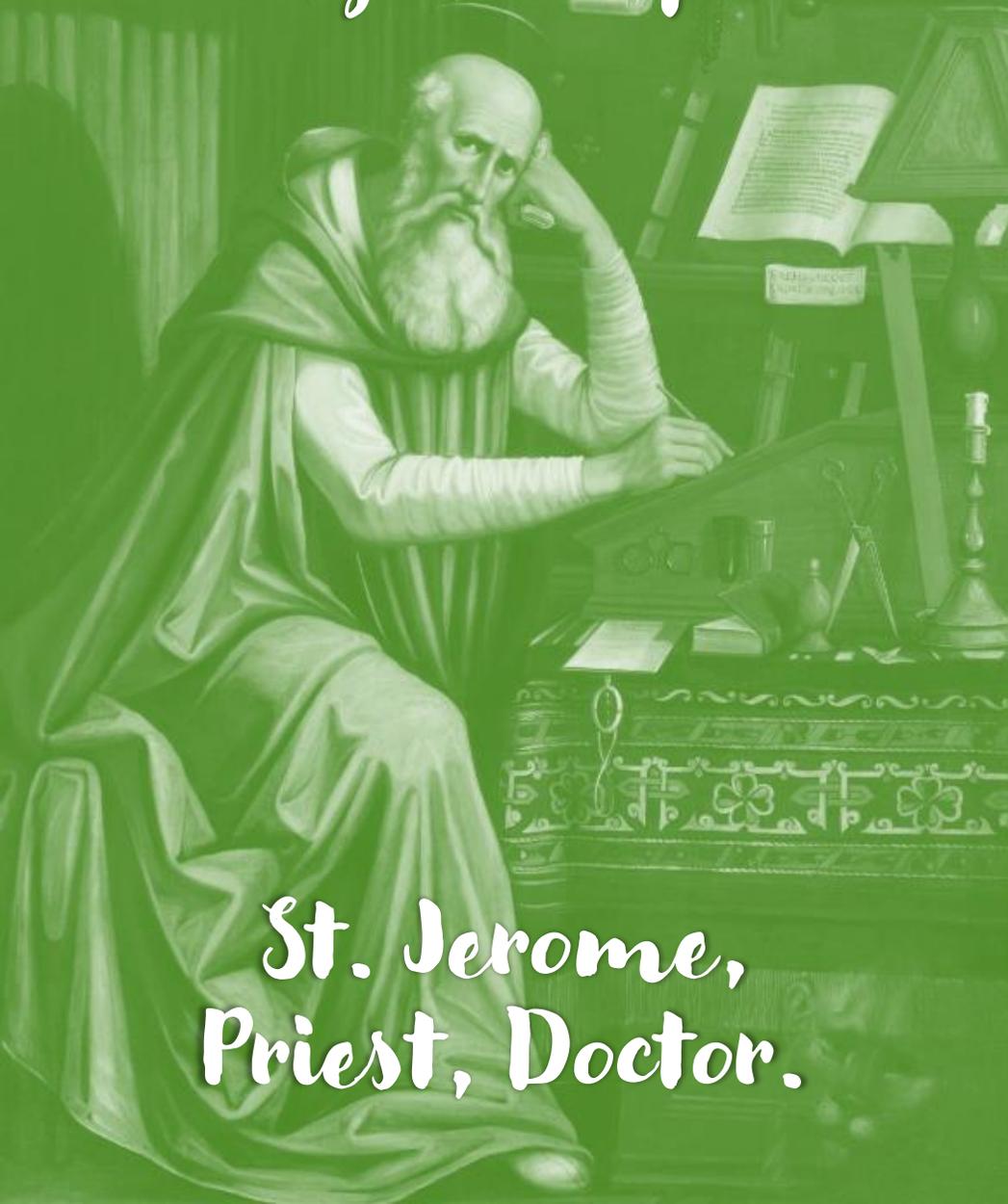
The word, "angel," comes from the Greek word, "aggelos," which means, "messenger." The Bible recognises, "nine choirs" of angels. Each choir has a name and a purpose. The Bible also mentions archangels. Archangels are recognised as leaders, and they are entrusted by God with special duties. The Bible and the Church recognises seven archangels, although just three are known by name in the Bible; Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael.

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen.

Saturday 30th September



St. Jerome,
Priest, Doctor.

St. Jerome, (born c. 347, Stridon, Dalmatia–died 419/420, Bethlehem, Palestine), biblical translator and monastic leader, traditionally regarded as the most learned of the Latin Fathers.

He lived for a time as a hermit, became a priest, served as secretary to Pope Damasus I, and about 389 established a monastery at Bethlehem. His numerous biblical, ascetical, monastic, and theological works profoundly influenced the early Middle Ages. He is known particularly for his Latin translation of the Bible, the Vulgate, and is considered a Doctor of the Church.

A Prayer of Saint Jerome for Christ's Mercy

O Lord, show Your mercy to me and gladden my heart. I am like the man on the way to Jericho who was overtaken by robbers, wounded and left for dead. O Good Samaritan, come to my aid. I am like the sheep that went astray. O Good Shepherd, seek me out and bring me home in accord with Your will. Let me dwell in Your house all the days of my life and praise You for ever and ever with those who are there.

Amen.

A portrait of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, a young woman with a serene expression, wearing a dark brown Carmelite habit with a white veil. The background is dark and slightly blurred.

Sunday 1st October

*St. Thérèse of the Child
Jesus,
Virgin, Doctor.*

St. Thérèse of Lisieux, also popularly known as The Little Flower of Jesus, The Holy Face, and St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus is a patron saint for missionaries, aviators, and florists.

On 2 January 1873, Marie Françoise-Thérèse Martin was born in France. She grew up in a loving and spiritual environment, which helped her realise her life's real purpose.

In the early years, she suffered many setbacks like her mother's death and her frail health, but she found her faith and always considered these experiences' positive things. She wanted to be cloistered at a very young age of 15, and after getting permission, she joined her sister's Carmelite community. After spending nine years there, she died on 30 September 1897 due to tuberculosis.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux's letters and article compilation 'Story of a Soul,' was published posthumously as her autobiography and are widely regarded by the Catholic community.



O Glorious St. Thérèse,
whom Almighty God has raised up to aid
and inspire the human family,
I implore your miraculous intercession.
You are so powerful in obtaining every need
of body and spirit from the Heart of God.
Holy Mother Church proclaims you "Prodigy of Miracles ...
the greatest saint of Modern Times."
Now I fervently beseech you to answer my petition

(mention in silence here)

and to carry out your promises of spending
heaven doing good on earth ...
of letting fall from Heaven a Shower of Roses.
Little Flower, give me your childlike faith
to see the Face of God
in the people and experiences of my life
and to love God with full confidence.

St Thérèse, my Carmelite Sister,
I will fulfil your plea "to be made known everywhere"
and I will continue to lead others to Jesus through you.

Amen