



Prayers for the Week Ahead

WEEK BEGINNING 30TH OCTOBER

Monday 30th October Blessed Benvenuta Bojani



Benvenuta was the youngest of seven daughters. She refused to play any childhood games that smacked of worldliness or vanity; by age twelve she was voluntarily wearing hair shirts and a rope belt. As she grew, the rope began to cut into her and it had to be removed, but was too embedded to be untied. She prayed over it, and it fell to her feet.

She began a Dominican tertiary as a very young woman. She lived her entire life at home, practicing extreme austerities. Confined to her bed for five years with a serious illness, she had to be carried to daily Mass. During a Mass on the eve of the feast of Saint Dominic de Guzman, the saint appeared to her, and later in the liturgy, she was miraculously healed.

Benvenuta was a visionary who had visits from both angels and demons and it was believed she could banish the demons by mentioning the name of Our Lady. However, hard life or not, sickness or not, visions and demonic oppression or not, she was known to be always cheerful and confident in God.

Lord, you gave Blessed Benvenuta the gifts of penance, prayer and humility. Through self-denial and contemplation on heavenly things may we too live in the Spirit and find rest and glory in you, the one God. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever, Amen

Tuesday 31st October All Hallow's Eve

THE TRIDUUM OF HALLOWTIDE

All Hallows' Eve

Violet Vestments

*The souls of the just are
in the hand of God,
and the torment of malice
shall not touch them.*

All Saints Day

White Vestments

*Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they shall see God:
blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called
children of God.*

All Souls Day

Black Vestments

*May eternal light shine upon
them forever, O Lord,
with Thy saints forever,
for Thou art kind.*

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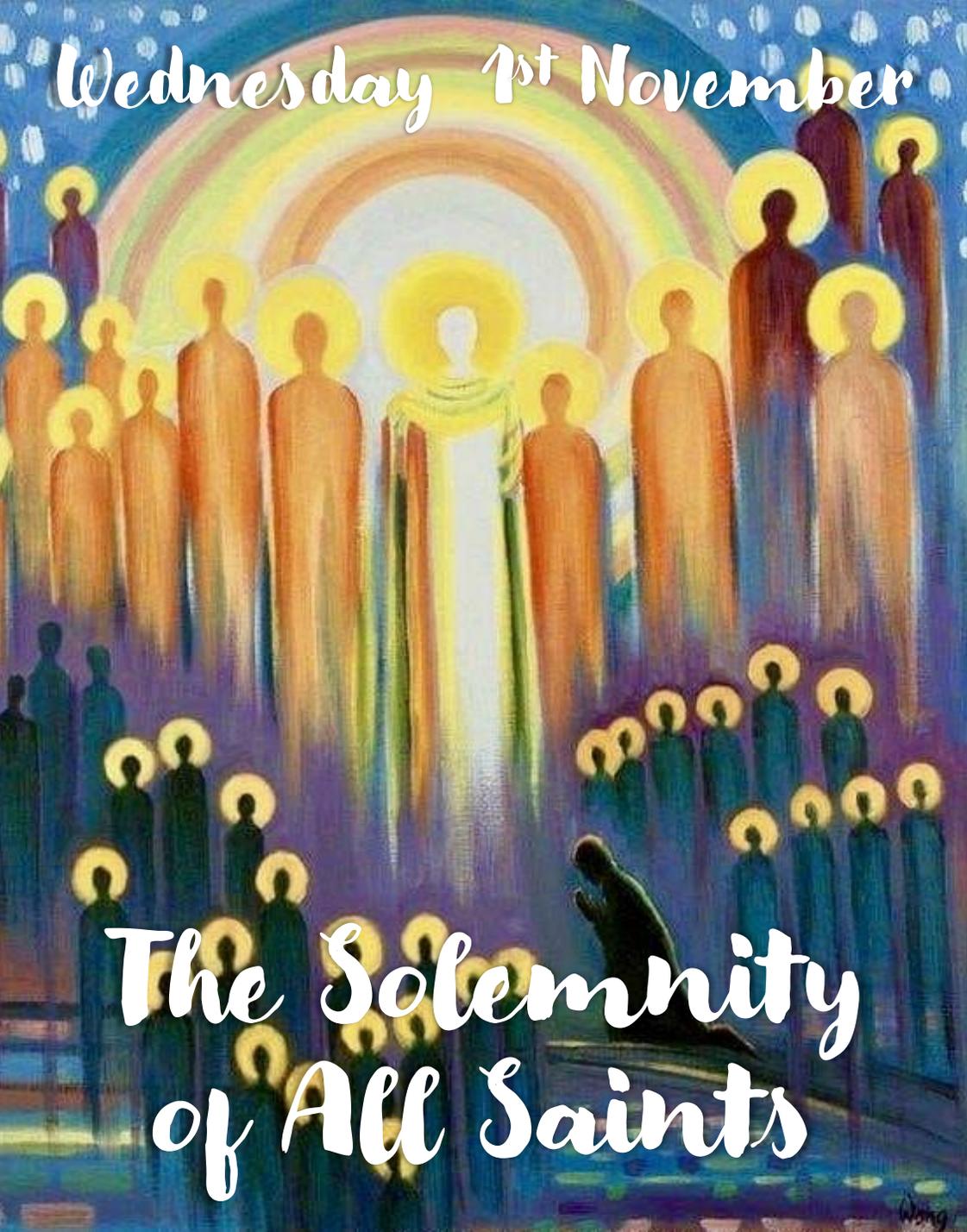
In the modern world, and especially in English speaking countries, Halloween has become one of the most important holidays of the year, with millions of children and adults dressing up as their favourite heroes, superstars, ghouls and goblins.

While some people have connected Halloween to earlier pagan celebrations of the new year, Halloween actually has significant Catholic roots. The name itself comes from All Hallow's Eve - that is, the Vigil of All Saints' Day, when Catholics remember those who have gone before us to enter our heavenly home.

Immediately afterwards, on November 2, the Church commemorates all the faithful departed still detained in Purgatory, and prays in suffrage for them.

The word Halloween refers to the Feast of All Saints. The word itself is taken an older English term, "hallows," meaning "holy"; and "e'en", a truncation of the word evening, in reference to the Vigil of the feast. "So really, Halloween is the feast of the celebration of the feast of All Hallows'". "So it's a day when Catholics celebrate the triumph of the Church in heaven, and the lives of the saints on earth".

**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
~Amen~**

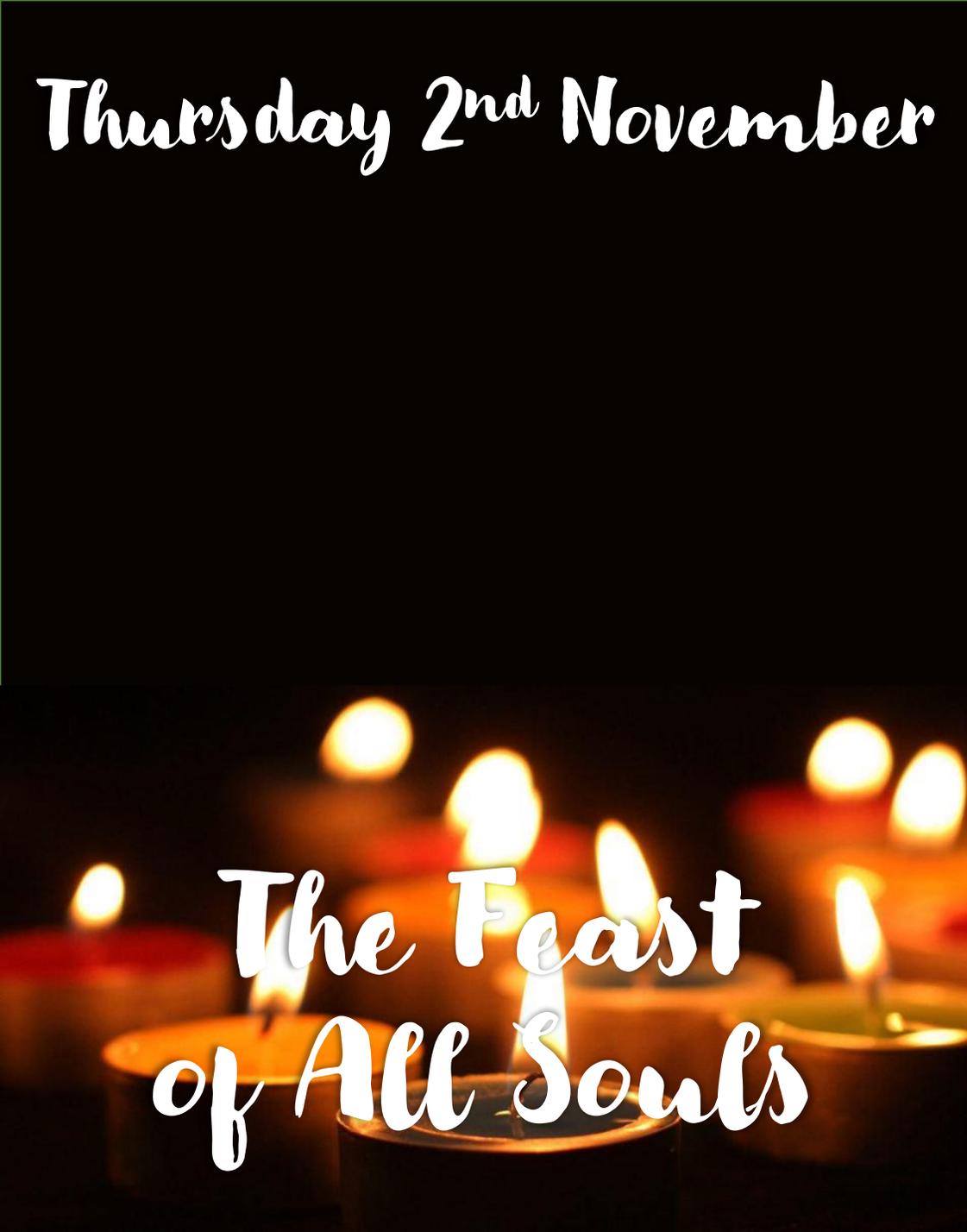


Wednesday 1st November

The Solemnity of All Saints

All Saints' is a solemnity celebrated on 1 November, in honour of all the saints, known and unknown. The day commemorates all those who have attained the beatific vision in Heaven. It is a national holiday in many historically Catholic countries. In the Roman Catholic Church, the next day, All Souls' Day, specifically commemorates the departed faithful who have not yet been purified and reached heaven. Catholics celebrate All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day in the fundamental belief that there is a prayerful spiritual communion between those in the state of grace who have died and are either being purified in purgatory or are in heaven (the 'church penitent' and the 'church triumphant', respectively), and the 'church militant' who are the living.

Dear God, thank you for the example of the Saints. I desire to join in their company, worshipping you forever in Heaven. Please help me follow their footsteps, and yours, Jesus Christ. Please help me to conform myself to Your image, seeking Your will in all things, as the Saints did. Please help me to devote myself, and all that I do, to Your glory, and to the service of my neighbours. Amen.

A background image of several lit candles in glass holders, with their flames glowing warmly. The candles are arranged in a row, and the light from the flames creates a soft, warm atmosphere. The background is dark, making the light from the candles stand out.

Thursday 2nd November

**The Feast
of All Souls**

All Souls Day is a holy day set aside for honouring the dead. The soul of a person who dies can go to one of three places. The first is heaven, where a person who dies in a state of perfect grace and communion with God goes. The second is hell, where those who die in a state of mortal sin are naturally condemned by their choice. The intermediate option is purgatory, which is thought to be where most people, free of mortal sin, but still in a state of lesser (venial) sin, must go.

Purgatory is necessary so that souls can be cleansed and perfected before they enter into heaven. There is scriptural basis for this belief. The primary reference is in 2 Maccabees, 12:26 and 12:32. "Turning to supplication, they prayed that the sinful deed might be fully blotted out... Thus made atonement for the dead that they might be free from sin."

We remember our dead and pray especially for them during the month of November.

Prayer for the Holy Souls

Dear Lord,

***For all the faithful who have died we pray,
but in particular for those dear to us,
parents, relatives and friends.***

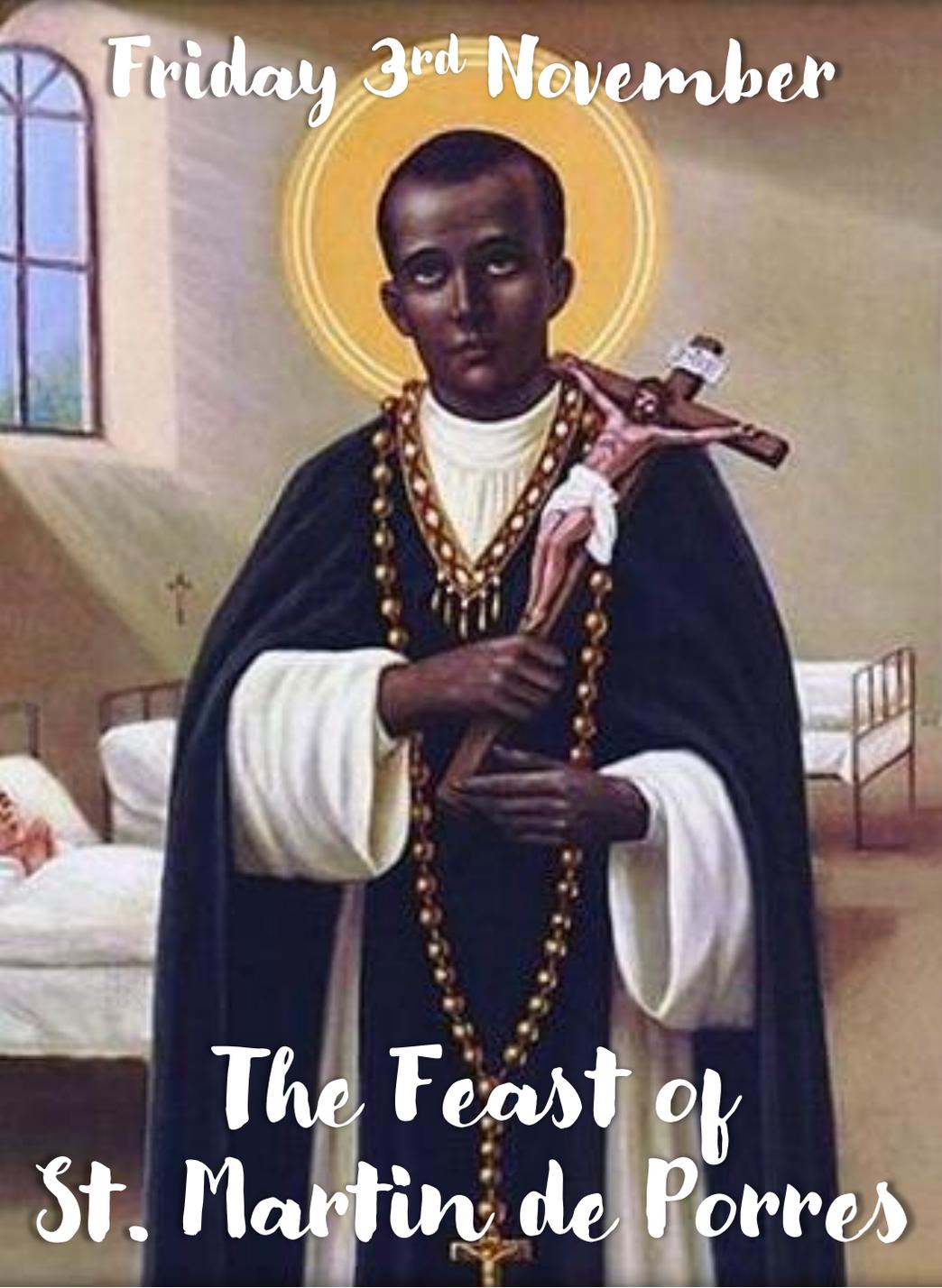
***nor do we forget all who did good to us while on earth,
who helped us by their prayers, sacrifice and example.
We pray also for any who may have done us harm,
and stand in special need of Your forgiveness.***

***May the merits and prayers of our Virgin Mother,
Mary, and those of all the Angels and Saints,
speak for us and assist them now.***

This we ask in Christ's name.

Amen.

Friday 3rd November



The Feast of
St. Martin de Porres

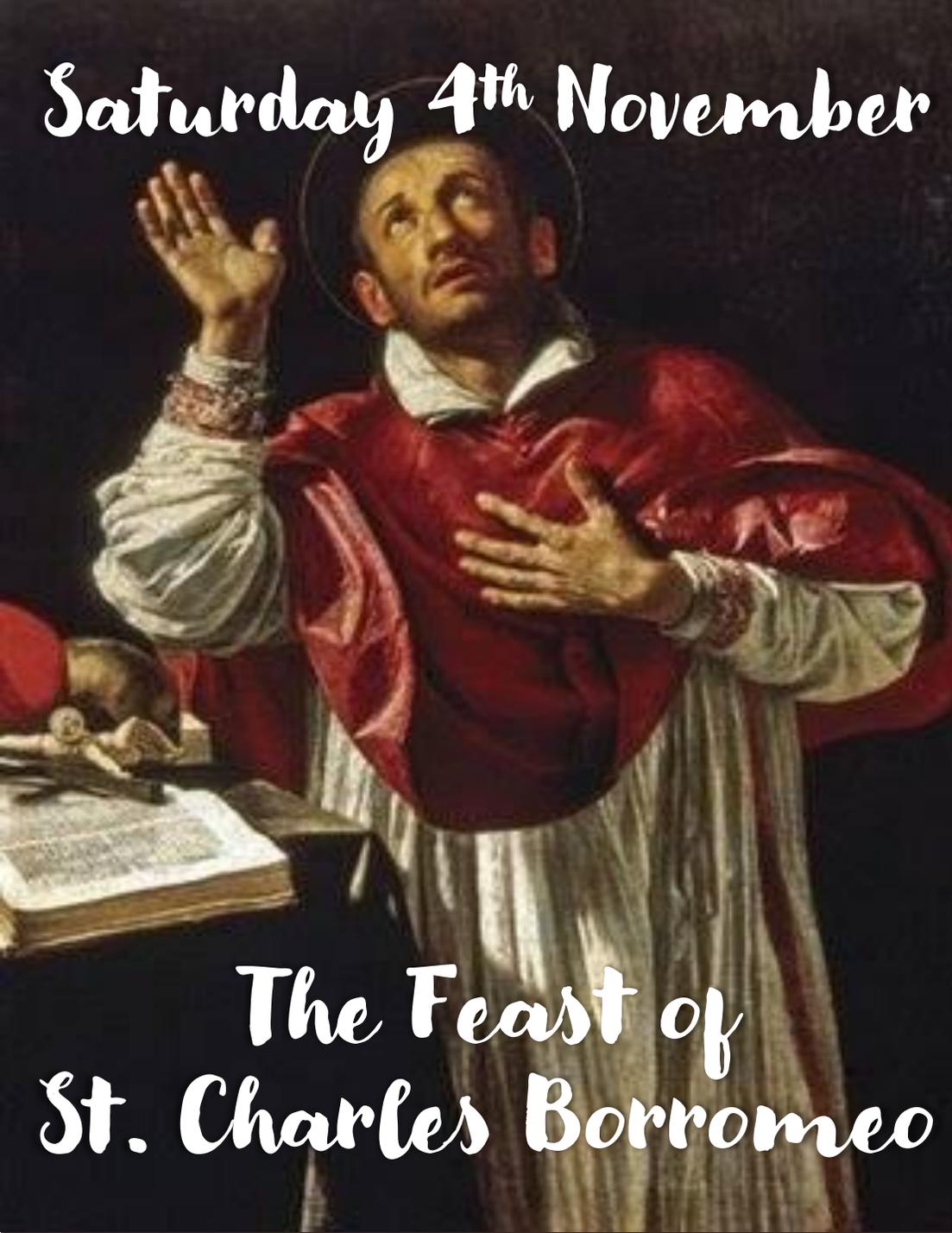
Martín de Porres Velázquez OP (9 December 1579 - 3 November 1639) was a Peruvian lay brother of the Dominican Order who was beatified in 1837 by Pope Gregory XVI and canonised in 1962 by Pope John XXIII. He is the patron saint of people of mixed-race, barbers, innkeepers, public health workers, and all those seeking racial harmony. He was noted for his work on behalf of the poor, establishing an orphanage and a children's hospital. He maintained an austere lifestyle, which included fasting and abstaining from meat. Among the many miracles attributed to him were those of levitation, bilocation, miraculous knowledge, instantaneous cures, and an ability to communicate with animals.

A Prayer to St. Martin de Porres

***To you Saint Martin de Porres
we prayerfully lift up our hearts
filled with serene confidence and devotion.
Mindful of your unbounded
and helpful charity to all levels of society
and also of your meekness and humility of heart,
we offer our petitions to you.***

***Pour out upon our families
the precious gifts of your solicitous and generous intercession;
show to the people of every race and every colour
the paths of unity and of justice;
implore from our Father in heaven the coming of His kingdom,
so that through mutual benevolence in God
men may increase the fruits of grace
and merit the rewards of eternal life.
Amen.***

Saturday 4th November



**The Feast of
St. Charles Borromeo**

St. Charles Borromeo was the Archbishop of Milan from 1564 to 1584 and a cardinal of the Catholic Church. He was a leading figure of the Counter-Reformation combat against the Protestant Reformation together with Ignatius of Loyola and Philip Neri. In that role he was responsible for significant reforms in the Catholic Church, including the founding of seminaries for the education of priests. He is the Patron Saint of bishops, catechists and seminarians.

Prayer of St. Charles Borromeo

Almighty God, you have generously made known to human beings the mysteries of your life through Jesus Christ your Son in the Holy Spirit.

Enlighten my mind to know these mysteries which your Church treasures and teaches.

Move my heart to love them and my will to live in accord with them. Give me the ability to teach this Faith to others without pride, without ostentation, and without personal gain.

Let me realise that I am simply your instrument for bringing others to the knowledge of the wonderful things you have done for all your creatures.

Help me to be faithful to this task that you have entrusted to me.

Amen.