



Prayers for the Week Ahead

WEEK BEGINNING 13TH NOVEMBER



Monday 13th November

St Brice of Tours

Brice was an orphan rescued by Saint Martin of Tours, and raised by Martin's clerics. Though ostensibly a spiritual student of Saint Martin, Brice became so wild, wicked, proud, ungrateful, and disorderly that some thought him possessed by a demon! He became a priest, but was a vain, ambitious one with contempt for Martin. Many advised Martin to kick him out, but Saint Martin said that if Jesus could deal with Judas, he could deal with Brice.

On Martin's death in 397, Brice was designated to succeed him as bishop of Tours, France. However, the people of the diocese revolted, substituted a priest named Justinian, and Brice left town to avoid a stoning.

Justinian held the see for over 30 years, during which Brice came to his senses, and began to lead a pious and admirable life. Formal ecclesiastical investigations cleared him of wrong doing, and he had the support of Pope Saint Zosimus. When Justinian died c.430, Brice returned to Tours to claim his seat. The locals, however, remembered him and his past, and ran him out of town again, taking a priest names Armentius as bishop.

When Armentius died in 437, Brice returned to Tours again to claim his proper place, this time preceded by the news of having led a better life during his 40 years of exile. He was allowed to stay, governed his diocese until his death, and his conversion had been so true and obvious that even his parishioners immediately proclaimed him a saint.

Heavenly Father, help me to see the times when I have been vain, proud or ungrateful. Help me to put others before myself and to consider the needs of others.
Amen

Tuesday 14th November

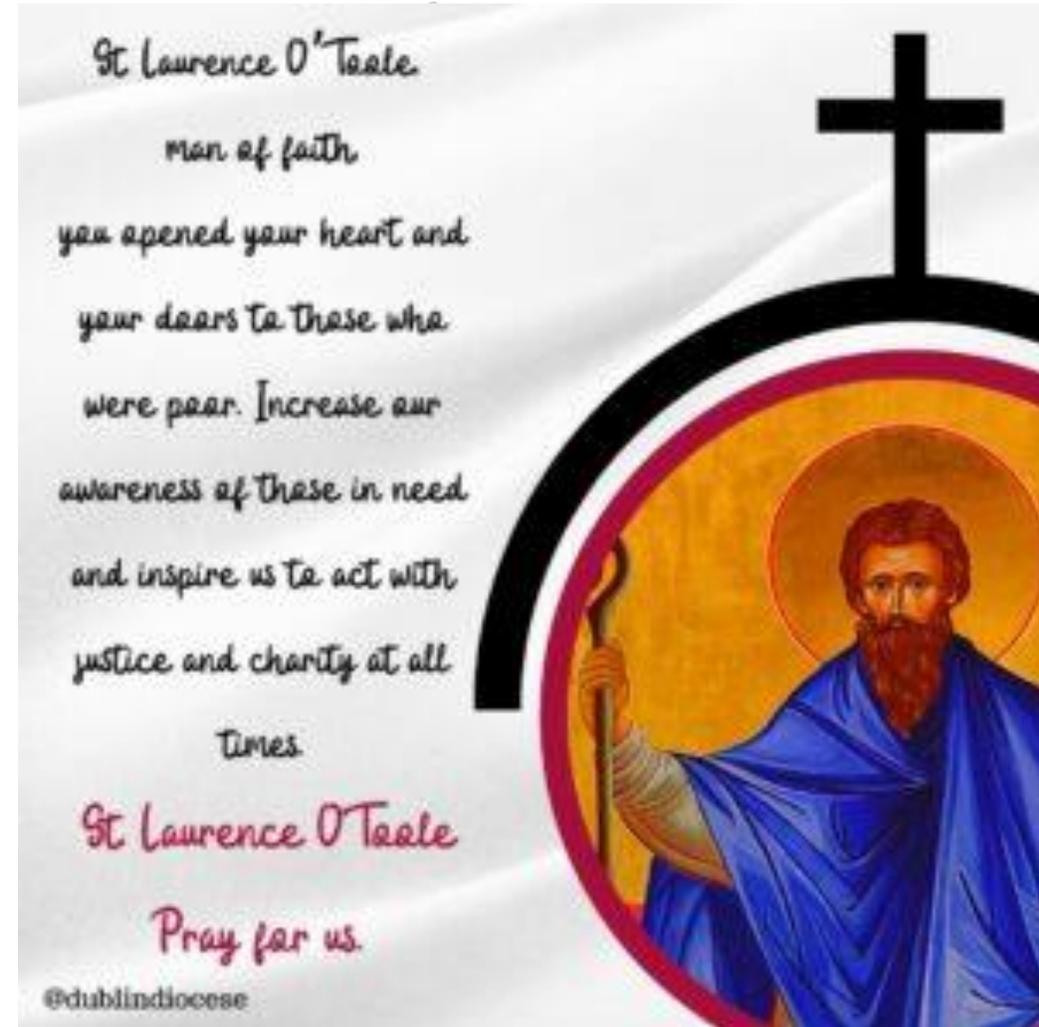
St Lawrence O'Toole

St Lawrence O'Toole was the son of the chief of Hy Murray. He was taken as a hostage by Dermot Mac Murehad, King of Leinster in 1138 when he was ten years old. Dermot later married Lawrence's sister Mor. At age twelve, in 1140, he was released to the Bishop of Glendalough, Ireland who raised and educated him at the monastic school there.

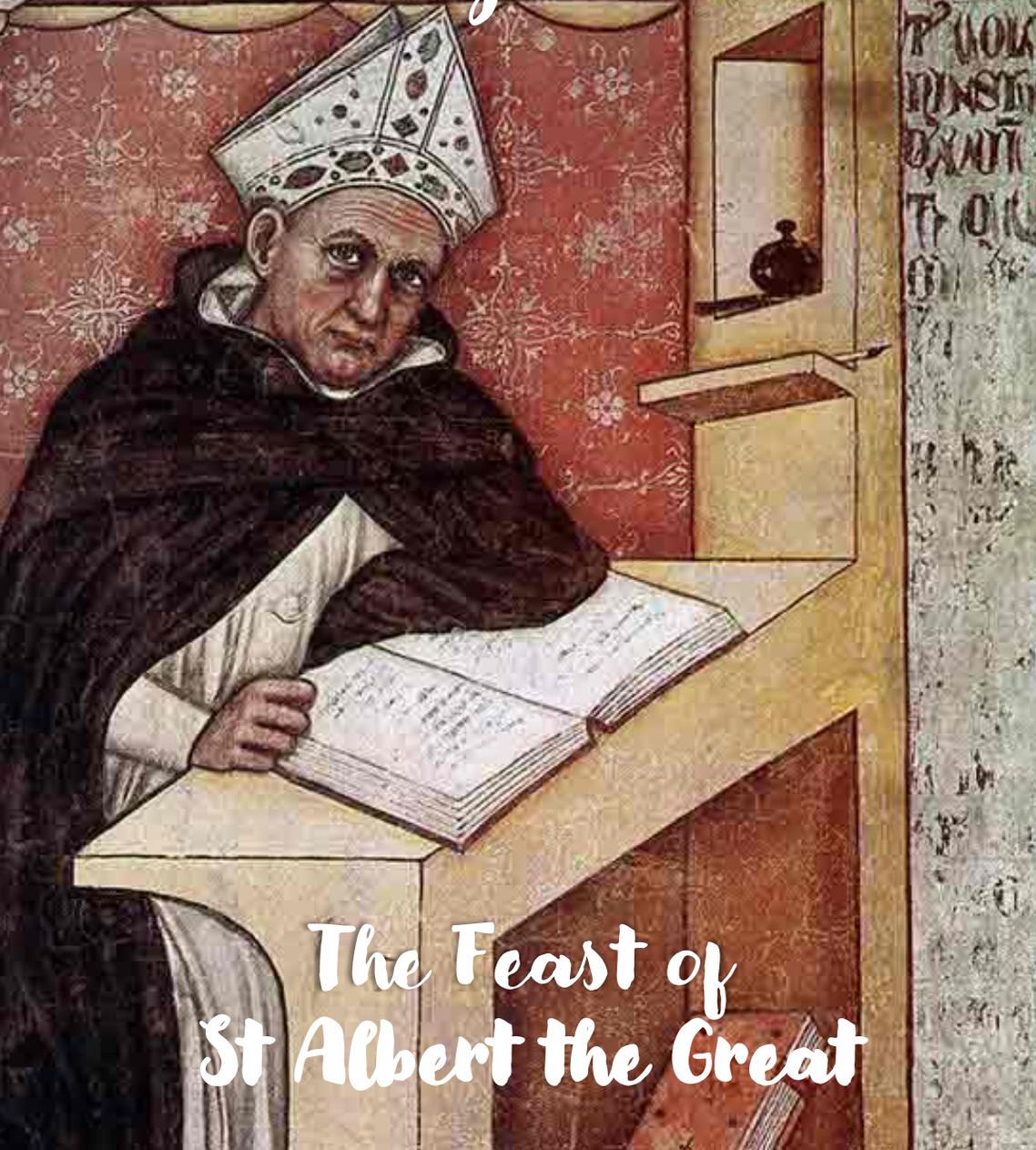
In 1153, he became Monk at Glendalough, and then abbot. He was appointed as the bishop of Glendalough in 1160 but declined citing his unworthiness. In 1161, he was compelled to become the archbishopric of Dublin, Ireland, which he accepted and became the first native-born Irishman to hold the see. St Lawrence O'Toole reformed much of the administration and clerical life in his diocese. and worked to restore and rebuild Christ Church Cathedral.

As the archbishop, he accepted the imposition onto Ireland of the English form of liturgy in 1172. St Lawrence O'Toole was noted for his personal austerity and piety. He wore a hair shirt under his ecclesiastical robes, never ate meat, made an annual 40-day retreat in Saint Kevin's cave, fasted every Friday, and never drank wine. St Lawrence O'Toole acted as peacemaker and mediator at the second siege of Dublin by the Normans in 1170 AD. St Lawrence O'Toole Negotiated the 1175 Treaty of Windsor which ended combat between Irish king Rory O'Connor and vassal of king Henry II of England.

He attended the General **Lateran** Council in Rome, Italy in 1179 and also became Papal legate to Ireland.



Wednesday 15th November



The Feast of
St Albert the Great

St Albert the Great - The saint and doctor of the Church was born sometime around the year 1200. From a wealthy family and well educated, he attended the University of Padua where he learned about Aristotle and his writings. This instruction in philosophy would become the foundation of his later work. Sometime around the year 1223 or so, Albert experienced an encounter with the Blessed Virgin Mary. This encounter moved him so much that he chose to become a member of the Dominican Order. He thereafter studied theology. He excelled in his studies and later became a lecturer for the Dominicans at Cologne. In 1245, Albert became a master of theology under Gueruc of Saint-Quentin. He was the first German Dominican to achieve the title. He later went on to teach theology at the University of Paris, and became the Chair of Theology at the College of St. James. One of his students was the famous Thomas Aquinas who would also become a doctor of the Church and a saint.

Prayer of St. Albert the Great

Almighty God, who made the Bishop Saint Albert great by his joining of human wisdom to divine faith, grant, we pray, that we may so adhere to the truths he taught, that through progress in learning we may come to a deeper knowledge and love of you. 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.

A stained glass window depicting St. Margaret of Scotland. The central figure is a woman with long blonde braids, wearing a blue gown and a gold crown. She holds a book in her left hand and a scepter in her right. Above her is a shield with a white cross on a blue background, flanked by two white birds. Two other figures, possibly attendants or saints, are shown in smaller panels on either side of the central figure. The background is a mix of green and blue.

Thursday 16th November

The Feast
St. Margaret of
Scotland

Margaret was born into royalty in Hungary around 1045. Her father was Edward Atheling, heir to the English throne, and her mother was Princess Agatha of Hungary. Her family returned to England when she was 10 years old, but the Norman Conquest forced them into exile. By this time, her father had died, and her mother fled with the children. They boarded a ship which crashed onto the coast of Scotland, where they remained.

In 1070, at the age of 25, Margaret married the king of Scotland, Malcolm Canmore. As queen, Margaret's faith had a strong influence on her husband's reign. She softened his temper and led him to practice virtue. She dignified the court, providing an example of purity and reverence that led others to follow in her path. She and the king prayed together and fed the hungry, offering a powerful witness of faith to the people they served.

Margaret worked tirelessly to bring justice and relief to the poor of Scotland. She also built churches and encouraged practices of religious devotion. Margaret died in 1093, she was canonized in 1250 by Pope Innocent IV and named patron of Scotland in 1673.

St. Margaret of Scotland

O God, who made Saint Margaret of Scotland wonderful in her outstanding charity towards the poor, grant that through her intercession and example we may reflect among all humanity the image of your divine goodness.

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 17th November



The Feast of
Saint Elizabeth of
Hungary

Saint Elizabeth of Hungary - In her short life, Elizabeth manifested such great love for the poor and suffering that she has become the patroness of Catholic charities and of the Secular Franciscan Order. The daughter of the King of Hungary, Elizabeth chose a life of penance and modesty when a life of leisure and luxury could easily have been hers. This choice endeared her in the hearts of the common people throughout Europe.

Under the spiritual direction of a Franciscan friar, she led a life of prayer, sacrifice, and service to the poor and sick. Seeking to become one with the poor, she wore simple clothing. Daily she would take bread to hundreds of the poorest in the land who came to her gate.

In 1228, Elizabeth joined the Secular Franciscan Order, spending the remaining few years of her life caring for the poor in a hospital which she founded in honour of Saint Francis of Assisi. Elizabeth's health declined, and she died before her 24th birthday in 1231. Her great popularity resulted in her canonization four years later.

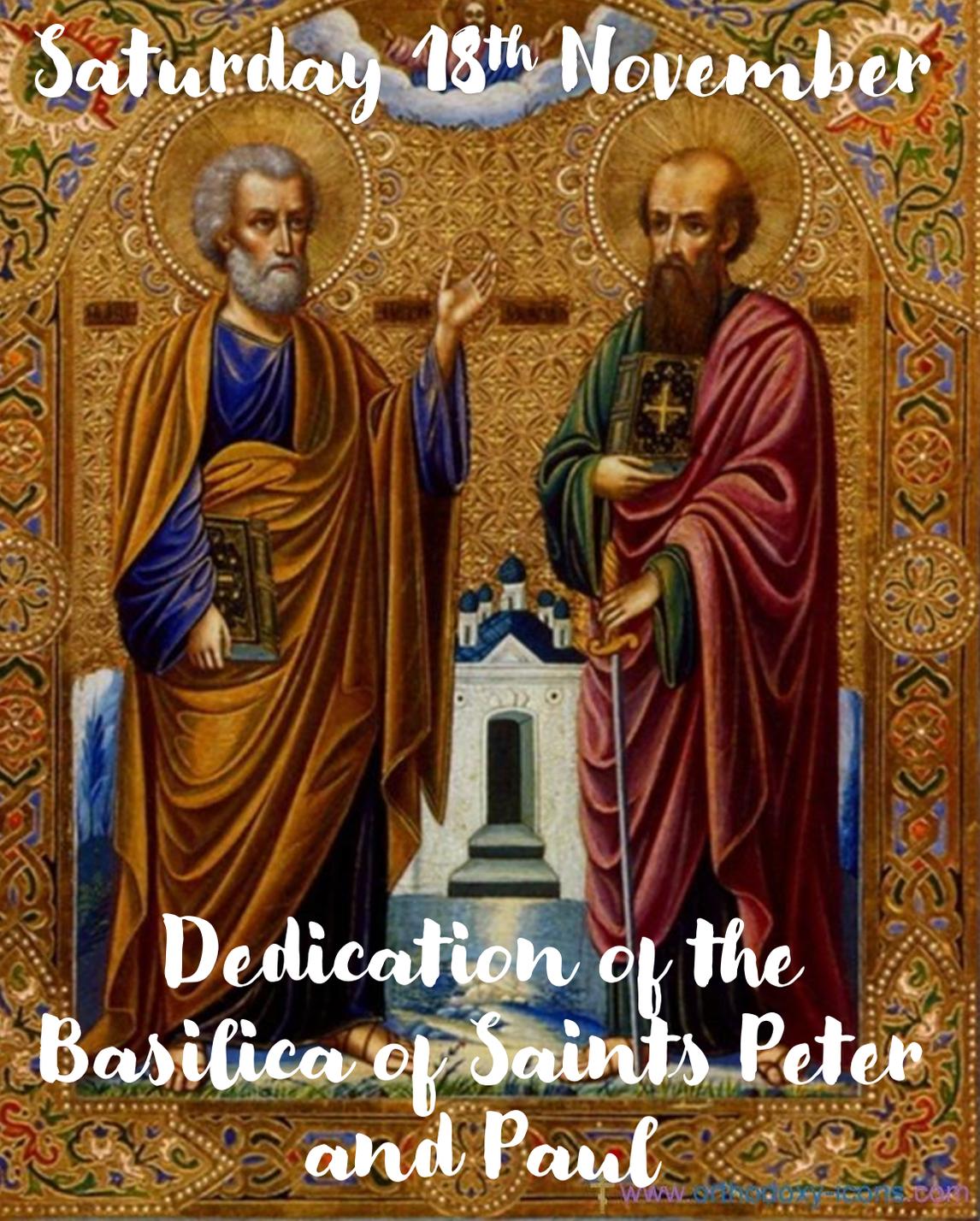
Prayer of St. Elizabeth of Hungary

Almighty God, by whose grace your servant Elizabeth of Hungary recognized and honoured Jesus in the poor of this world:

Grant that we, following her example, may with love and gladness serve those in any need or trouble, in the name and for the sake of through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Saturday 18th November



Dedication of the
Basilica of Saints Peter
and Paul

Dedication of the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul - The anniversaries of dedication of these two basilicas were celebrated as early as the twelfth century.

Saint Peter's Basilica was originally built in 323 by the emperor Constantine. The basilica was constructed over the tomb of Peter the Apostle, the Church's first Pope. After standing for more than a thousand years, Pope Julius II ordered the building to be torn down due to structural concerns. The construction of the new church spanned over 200 years before its completion. It was dedicated on Nov. 18, 1626.

St. Paul's Basilica in the Ostian Way was also built over his tomb and was rebuilt in the nineteenth century. It was originally located outside the original walls of Rome and was also originally built by the emperor Constantine but it was destroyed by fire in 1823. Donations from around the world made the reconstruction possible. Pope Pius IX consecrated the Basilica in 1854.

Prayer

*Defend your Church, O Lord,
by the protection of the holy Apostles,
that, as she received from them
the beginnings of her knowledge of things divine,
so through them she may receive,
even to the end of the world,
an increase in heavenly grace.
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.