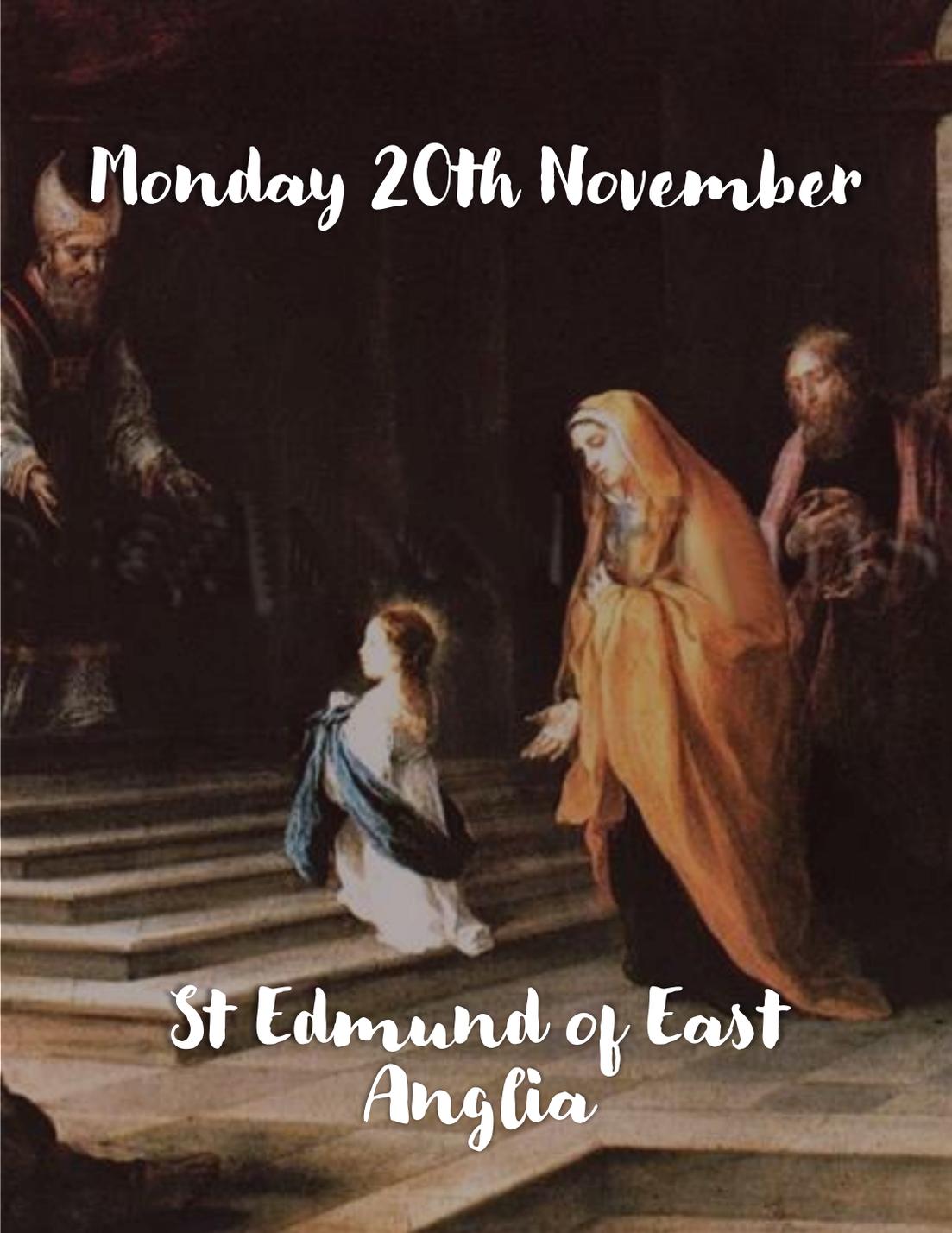




Prayers for the Week Ahead

WEEK BEGINNING 20TH NOVEMBER



Monday 20th November

St Edmund of East
Anglia

St Edmund of East Anglia was born around the year 841 AD and he ascended to the throne as the King of East Anglia when he was just 14 years old. He received his coronation on Christmas Day in 855 AD, a ceremony presided over by Bishop Saint Humbert of Elmham.

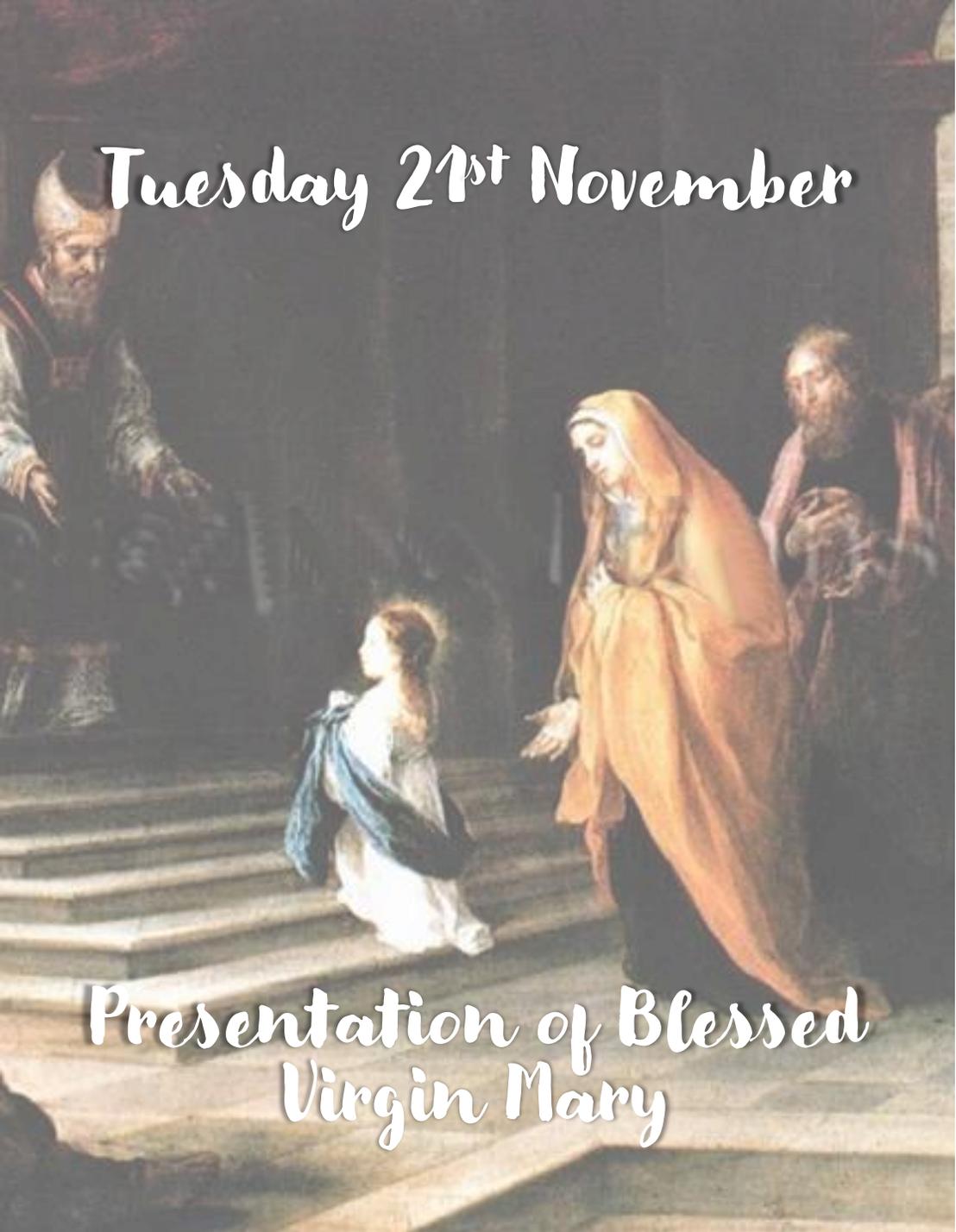
Edmund was a remarkable ruler who held deep concerns for the welfare and justice of his people, as well as his own spiritual growth.

Tragically, during one of the many armed conflicts with invading Danish forces, he was captured. In a cruel demand, he was ordered to surrender his Christian subjects to the pagan invaders, but he staunchly refused, standing firm in his faith. Ultimately, he met his end as a martyr.

Saint Edmund met his death through a brutal ordeal that involved being beaten, whipped, and shot with arrows, to the extent that he appeared to be covered in them, resembling a hedgehog.

His execution occurred in Hoxne, Suffolk, England, on November 20, 869 AD. He was buried in Hoxne, and his relics underwent several relocations over the centuries.

Heavenly Father, We pray that our hearts will be illuminated with the grace of the Holy Spirit and that we may be ever obedient to God's commandments. Amen



Tuesday 21st November

*Presentation of Blessed
Virgin Mary*

The Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, celebrated annually on November 21st, commemorates the presentation of the Blessed Virgin as a child by her parents in the Temple in Jerusalem. Before Mary's birth, her parents received a heavenly message that they would bear a child. In thanksgiving for the God's gift of Mary's birth, they brought her to the Temple to consecrate their only daughter to The Lord.

Hail Mary...

*Wednesday 22nd
November*



Saint Cecilia

St Cecilia is the patron saint of music and musicians. She was from a wealthy family but promised herself to a life of serving God. Cecilia helped those in need and was true to her own faith even in the most challenging of circumstances. Even as she was facing certain death for practising her beliefs she worked tirelessly to spread the word of God. Tomorrow, Christians around the country will raise awareness of people still facing persecution today for their religious beliefs. Let us pray to our Father to give us the courage of St. Cecilia, to stay true to our beliefs and to work tirelessly for the benefit of others.

Our Father...

Thursday 23rd
November

Saint Clement I,
Pope

St. Clement I was Bishop of Rome in the late first century AD. He is listed by Irenaeus and Tertullian as the bishop of Rome, holding office from 88 AD to his death in 99 AD. He is the first Apostolic Father of the Church.

Few details are known about Clement's life. Clement was said to have been consecrated by Peter the Apostle, and he is known to have been a leading member of the church in Rome in the late 1st century.

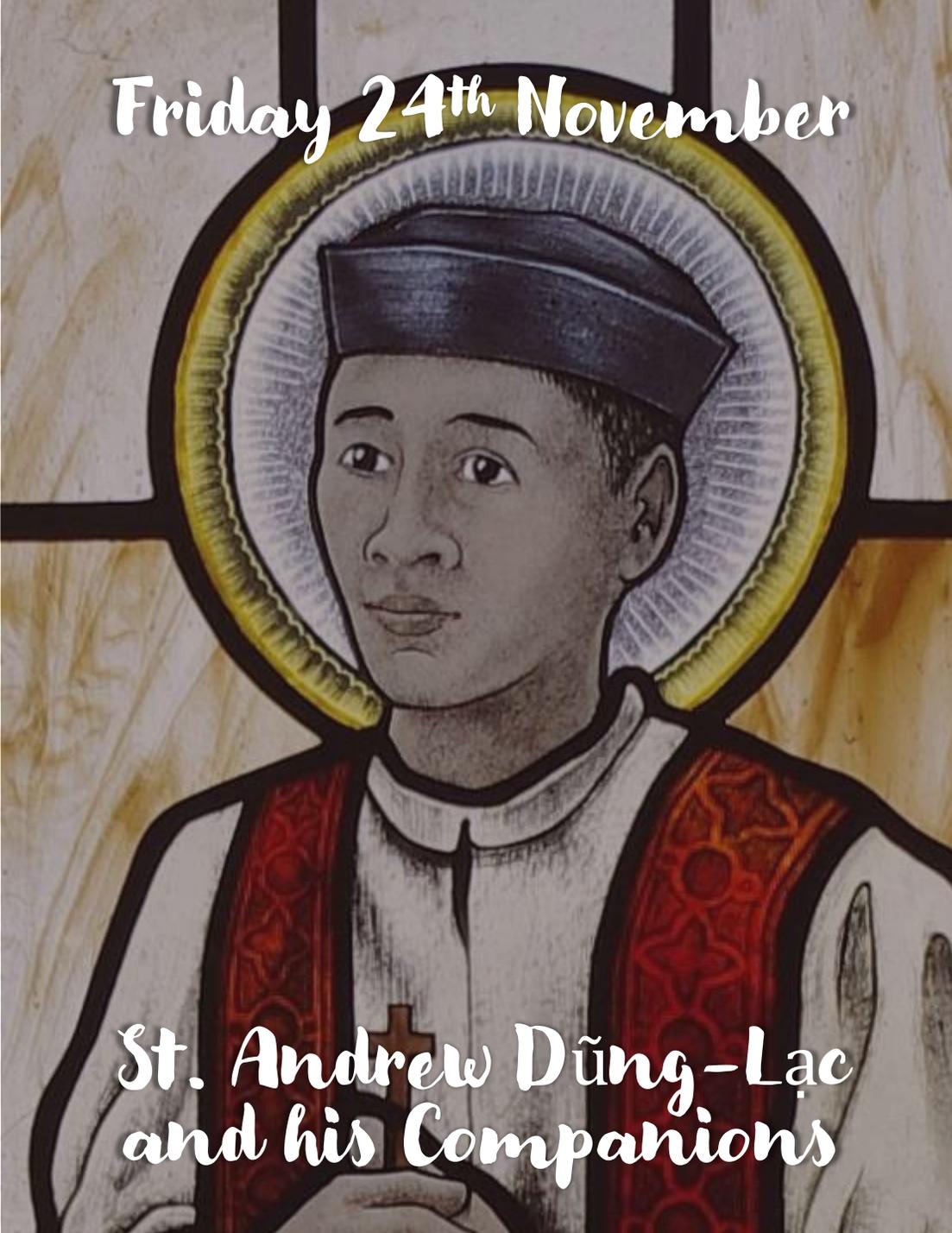
Clement was banished from Rome to the Chersonesus during the reign of the Emperor Trajan and was set to work in a stone quarry. Finding on his arrival that the prisoners were suffering from lack of water, he knelt in prayer. Looking up, he saw a lamb on a hill, went to where the lamb had stood and struck the ground with his pickaxe, releasing a gushing stream of clear water.

Prayer for the Holy Father

Lord, source of eternal life and truth, give to Your shepherd, the Pope, a spirit of courage and right judgment, a spirit of knowledge and love. By governing with fidelity those entrusted to his care may he, as successor to the apostle Peter and vicar of Christ, build Your church into a sacrament of unity, love, and peace for all the world.

***We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen.***

Friday 24th November



St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc
and his Companions

Andrew Dung-Lac, a Catholic convert ordained to the priesthood, was one of 117 people martyred in Vietnam between 1820 and 1862. Members of the companions group gave their lives for Christ in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, and received beatification during four different occasions between 1900 and 1951. All were canonized during the papacy of Saint John Paul II.

Christianity came to Vietnam through the Portuguese. Jesuits opened the first permanent mission at Da Nang in 1615. They ministered to Japanese Catholics who had been driven from Japan.

Severe persecutions were launched at least three times in the 19th century. During the six decades after 1820, between 100,000 and 300,000 Catholics were killed or subjected to great hardship. Foreign missionaries martyred in the first wave included priests of the Paris Mission Society, and Spanish Dominican priests and tertiaries. Let us continue to pray for people across the world who continue to be persecuted for their religious beliefs.

Our Father...

Friday 25th November



St. Catherine of Alexandria

The young saint was born around 287 in Alexandria, Egypt. At that time, Alexandria was one of the finest cities in the world, and a centre of learning and culture as well as faith.

Christian tradition states she was of noble birth, possibly a princess. As a member of the nobility, she was also educated and was an avid scholar. Around the age of fourteen, she experienced a moving vision of Mary and the infant Jesus, and she decided to become a Christian. She was very intelligent and gifted. When the emperor Maxentius began persecuting Christians, Catherine visited him to denounce his cruelty.

Rather than order her execution, Maxentius summoned fifty orators and philosophers to debate her. However, Catherine was moved by the power of the Holy Spirit and spoke eloquently in defence of her faith. Her words were so moving that several converted to Christianity and were immediately executed. Unable to defeat her rhetorically or to intimidate her into giving up her belief, the emperor ordered her to be tortured and imprisoned.

Prayer to St. Catherine

Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for the tradition and example of Saint Catherine of Alexandria.

Give us grace to pursue her love of purity, to strive for her strength and courage, to adhere to her abhorrence of the world's temptations and sinful desires, and to follow her faithfulness. Empower us to break the wheel of worldly suffering and allow your wisdom to radiate through our lives, so that your glory may shine ever more brightly. Bring those who seek your presence to share in the ministry and worship of this parish, and help us to welcome those who come in your name.

All this we pray through Jesus Christ, our servant leader, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit.

Amen