



Prayers for week ahead

WEEK BEGINNING 8TH JANUARY

Monday 8th January St George Chozebites

George Chozebites, alternatively known as, George of Choziba or George the Chozibite, was born in Cyprus. Very little information is known about his life but it is said that he was orphaned at a very young age and was raised by one of his uncles in a monastery.

It was believed that he had an older brother, who was said to have joined a religious institution in the Jordan Valley, The larva of Calamon, where George's application was rejected and was admitted in another institution, the Coenobium of Chizoba where he later became superior.

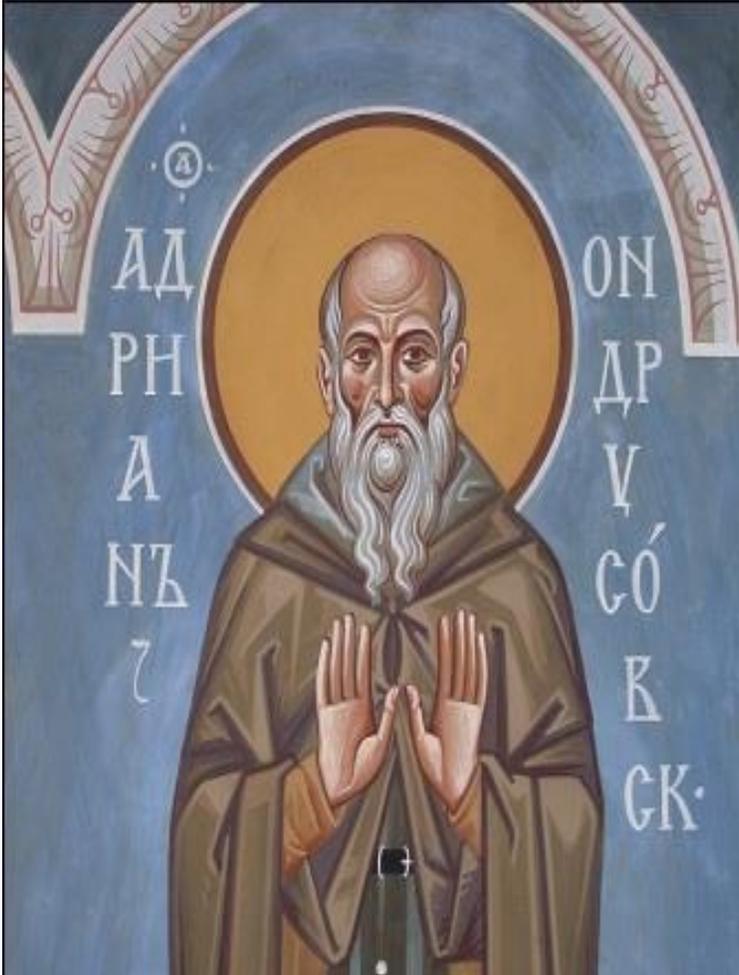
George's holiness and prayerful habits made him known as a force of good as he was said to have been observing weekly all-night vigils from Saturday evenings to Sunday afternoons. According to an archaeologist, his painting is in one of 36 saints painted on plastered walls of a burial cave in the Mar Saba monastery

Prayer

O God, who didst grant to St. George strength and constancy in the various torments which he sustained for our holy faith; we beseech Thee to preserve, through his intercession, our faith from wavering and doubt, so that we may serve Thee with a sincere heart faithfully unto death. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Tuesday 9th January St Aidan of Canterbury



Adrian was born between 630 and 637 AD in North Africa,. Not much of his childhood history or family background has come to light but it is evident that he was an intellectual as it is said that he was fluent in Greek and Latin.

He declined the position of archbishop twice, offered to him by Pope Vitalian and instead, first recommended the honour to a monk in the nearby monastery, who modestly declined and then to his friend Theodore of Tarsus, who then accepted the offer. He was however instructed to accompany Theodore to Rome, then made his way to England. There, he was made abbot of Saint Peter's and Paul's abbey at Canterbury. Under his direction, the monastery gained influence and respect as he was famous for being fluent in Greek and Latin, an excellent instructor and administrator as well as being greatly affiliated with the Bible.

PRAYER

Grant us, O Lord, that amid the uncertainties of this world we may cling with all our heart to the things of heaven, for through the Abbot blessed Adrian you have given us a model of evangelical perfection.

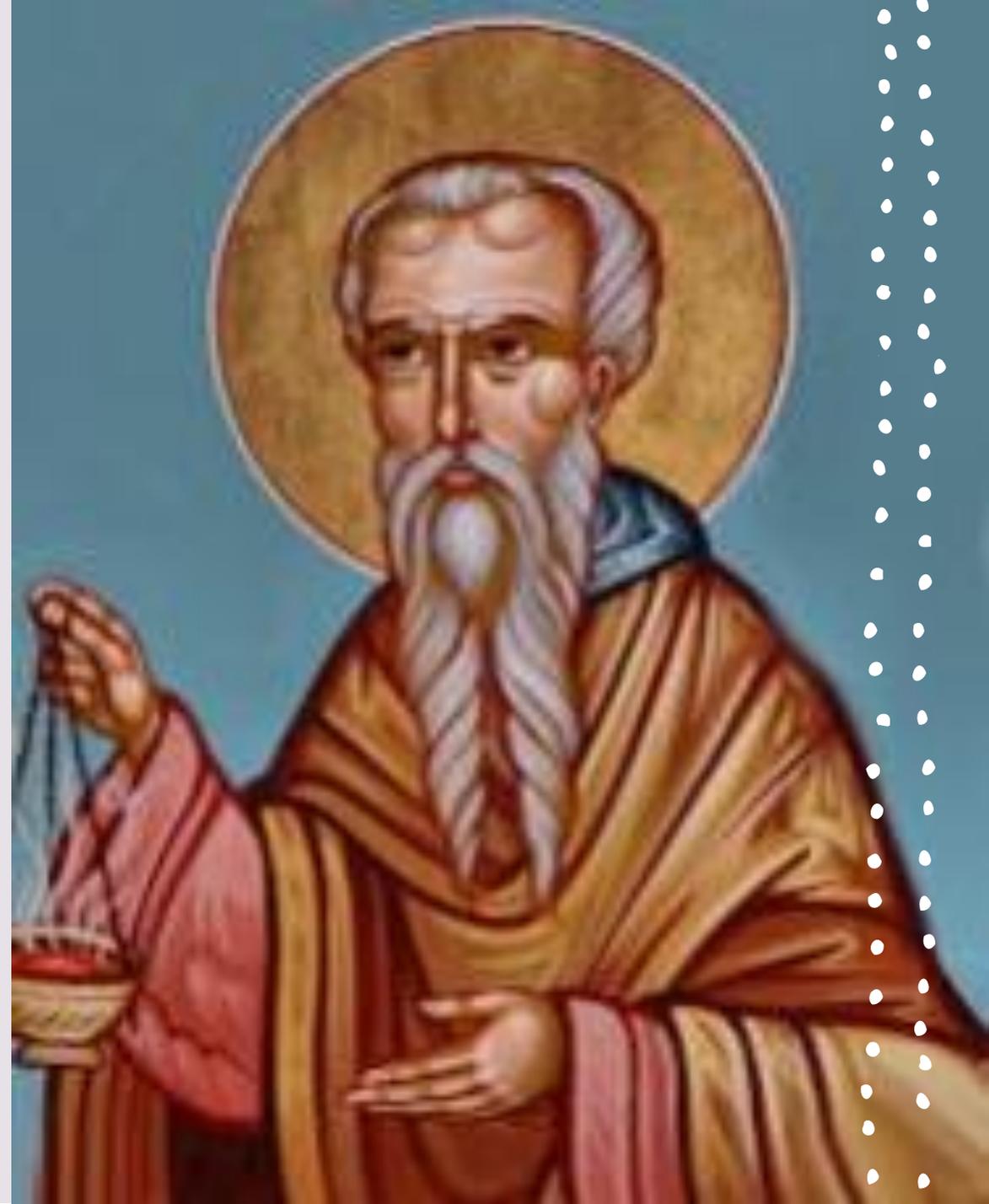
Heavenly Father, help me to learn from St Aidan. May I always show humility and put others before myself. Amen

Wednesday 10th January St William of Bourges

- William was a member of the family of the Counts of Nevers. His father Baldwin planned a military life for him but he was drawn to religious life from an early age. William became a priest, canon of Soissons, and canon of Paris. He was noted for his austerities, his devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, and for the time spent praying at the altar. Internal dissension in the Order caused him to leave Grandmont for the recently formed Cistercians, taking the habit at Pontigny. He became Abbot at Fontaine-Jean in Sens, and at Chaalis near Senlis, France in 1187.

- William reluctantly became archbishop of Bourges, France in 1200, accepting the position only after receiving orders from the general of his order, and from Pope Innocent III. He lived an even more austere life, defended clerical rights against the state, cared personally for the poor, sick, imprisoned and debauched, and converted many in his diocese to orthodox Christianity. Witnesses claim he performed 18 miracles during his life, and another 18 after his death.

- *St William, you teach us to be humble but also to accept that which God offers to us. Help me today to accept all that life gives. Help me to learn from the challenges and to see God in all situations.*



Thursday 11th January St Tommaso da Cori



- St Tommaso spent his youth as a shepherd. He studied philosophy and theology in Viterbo, Italy. He joined the Observant Franciscans in 1675. He then became a parish priest, assigned to Civitella, Italy. Tommaso was known for his simple life, his strict observance of the Franciscan way, and his gifts of healing. His preaching, confessions and spiritual retreats, incarnated the evangelical counsel of the total gift of self to God and his fellow men.
- *St Tommaso, help me to try to live simply. Help me to listen today to God's word and to live my life as if I were him. Help me to treat others as I would like to be treated. Help me to hear other people when they ask for help.*

Friday 12th January St Martin of Leon



- St Martin was educated in the monastery of Saint Marcellus at Leon, Spain. He made pilgrimages to Rome, Italy, and to Constantinople and later became a priest. When his monastery was secularized, he entered the collegiate church of Saint Isidore at Leon. Martin wrote commentaries on the Epistles and Revelations, and discourses on varied subjects. He was known during his lifetime for his holiness and ascetical writings.
- *Heavenly Father, help me to learn from St Martin of Leon. Help me to hear your voice in all that I do. When things don't work out the way I plan them to, help me to accept your will. Help me to be more accepting of others and to treat all people with respect and dignity.*



*Saturday 13th
January
St Kentigern*

St Kentigern, also known as Mungo ('Dear One'), was born in Culross, Fife, Scotland. The Christian king of Strathclyde welcomed the saint and arranged his consecration as bishop around 540. His holy example and his preaching drew together a large community known as 'Clasgu' ('dear family'), which ultimately grew into the town and city of Glasgow.

A strong anti-Christian movement forced him to Wales, staying for a time with Saint David at Menevia. But after founding a large monastery at Llanelwy, later called St Asaph's, he returned with some of his Welsh disciples to Galloway and Cumberland and then Glasgow in 581, where he was visited by Saint Columba. Kentigern is buried where the beautiful cathedral dedicated in his honour now stands.

PRAYER:

O God, who through your bishop Saint Kentigern,
made the light of the true faith shine forth in splendour:
grant, we pray, that by faithfully following
the teaching of him whose feast we now celebrate,
we may obtain the glory of eternal light.

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.