



Prayers for the Week Ahead

WEEK BEGINNING 10TH JUNE

Sunday 9th June



St. Columba

Saint Columba (Irish: Colm Cille, 'church dove'; 7 December 521 – 9 June 597) was an Irish abbot and missionary credited with spreading Christianity in what is today Scotland at the start of the Hiberno-Scottish mission. He founded the important abbey on Iona, which became a dominant religious and political institution in the region for centuries. He is the Patron Saint of Derry. He was highly regarded by both the Gaels of Dál Riata and the Picts, and is remembered today as a Christian saint and one of the Twelve Apostles of Ireland.

Prayer of St. Columba

Be a bright flame before me,
O God a guiding star above me.
Be a smooth path below me,
a kindly shepherd behind me
today, tonight, and for ever.
Alone with none but you, my God
I journey on my way;
what need I fear when you are near,
O Lord of night and day?
More secure am I within your hand
than if a multitude did round me stand.

Amen

Monday 10th June



St. Olivia of Palermo

From her early years, St. Olivia she devoted herself to the Lord. At the same time, declining honours and riches and loved to give charity to the poor. When she was thirteen, Olivia comforted prisoners and urged the Christians to remain steadfast in their faith. The Vandals were impressed by the strength of her spirit, seeing that nothing could prevail against her faith. So in deference to her noble house, they sent her to Tunis.

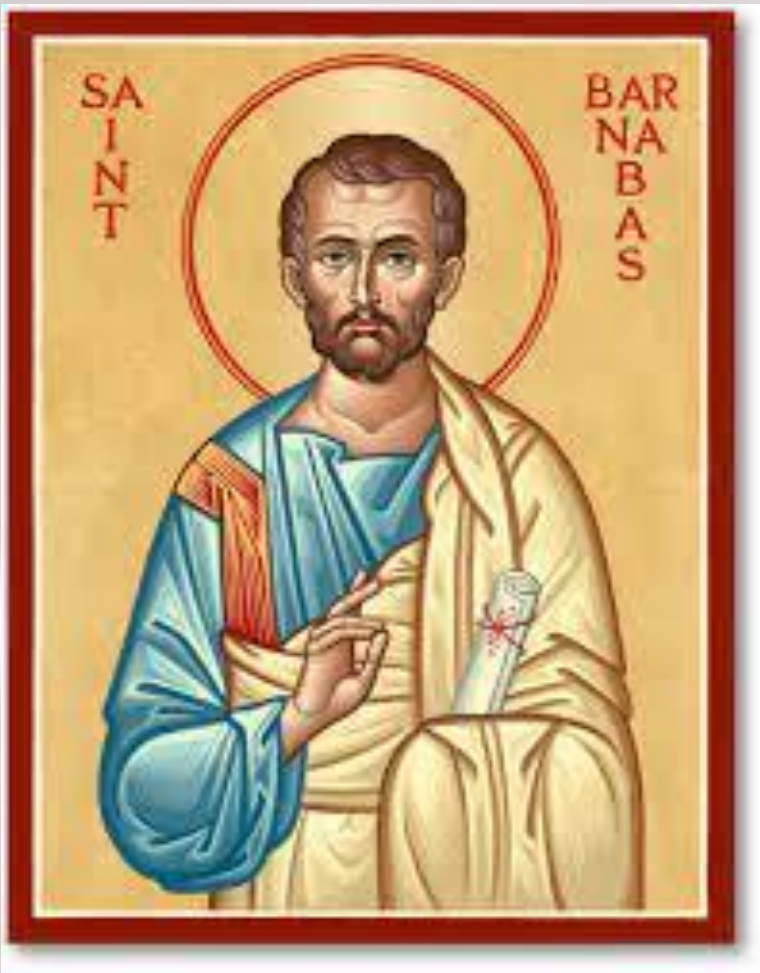
In Tunis, Olivia worked miracles and began to convert people to Christianity. The governor, therefore, ordered that she be relegated to a lonely place as a hermitess, where there were wild animals, hoping that the beasts would devour her or that she would die of hunger. However, the wild animals lived peacefully around her. After miraculously curing many of the sick and suffering in the region, Olivia converted many people to the Christian faith. When the governor heard about these things, he had her arrested and imprisoned. She was scourged and was stripped and submerged into a cauldron of boiling oil, but these tortures did not cause her any harm, nor did they make her renounce her faith. Finally, she was beheaded and her soul "flew to the sky in the form of a dove"

Prayer:

St. Olivia, you were a constant evangeliser of the Gospel. Pray for the success of the New Evangelisation, so that we may draw many more souls back to the Church and back to God. Pray that we may persevere in our faith as you did. St. Olivia, you were willing to die for the sake of Christ. Pray that we may follow wherever God wishes to lead us.

Amen.

Tuesday 11th June



St. Barnabas

Barnabas was one of the very earliest followers of Jesus and a leader of the early church. His story is told in the Acts of the Apostles and he is also mentioned in some of Paul's letters. Originally called Joseph, he was given his new name of Barnabas by those who knew him well, it means 'son of encouragement'. We first hear of Barnabas in the New Testament due to his simple act of stewardship and sharing. He sold land he owned and donates the proceeds to the church to be used to support the poor. Barnabas became one of the leaders of the Church and was asked to help grow a new congregation in Antioch. With Paul's help Barnabas grew in faith and ministry.

A PRAYER

Bountiful God, giver of all gifts who poured your Spirit upon your servant Barnabas

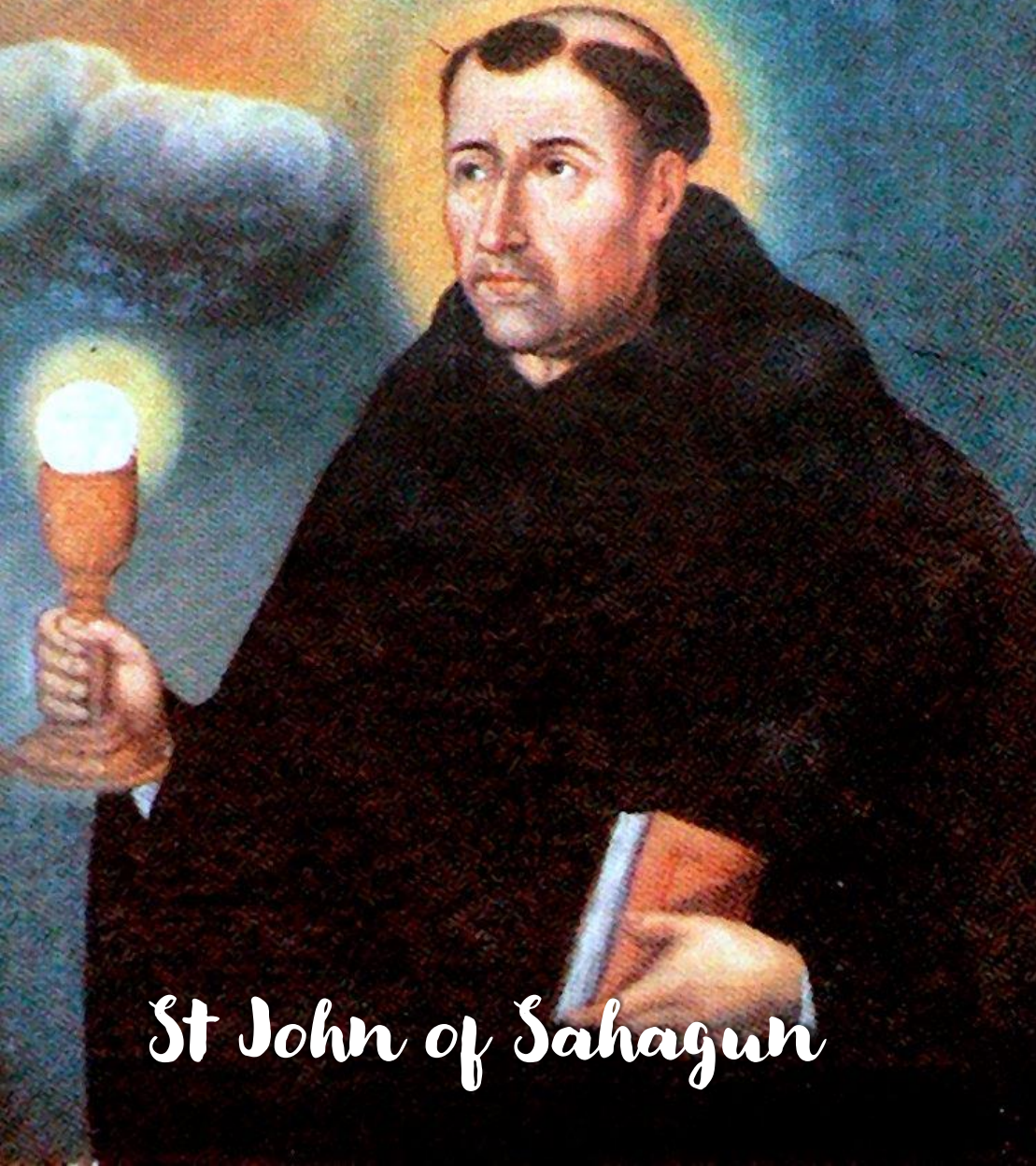
and gave him grace to encourage others;

Help us, by his example, to be generous in our judgements

and unselfish on our service; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

Wednesday 12th June



St John of Sahagun

John González was born in 1430 of a well-to-do family in Sahagún de Campos, Spain. He studied under the Benedictines in his native city, showing great promise. In 1454 he was ordained priest by the bishop of Burgos and held the office of chaplain at the church of Saint Gadea. John died on June 11, 1479 at the age of 49, was beatified in 1601 and canonized in 1691 by Innocent XII. It was thought by some of his contemporaries that he had actually been poisoned in retaliation for his condemnation of the immoral lifestyle of a public figure. His remains are venerated in the cathedral of Salamanca where he is honoured as patron of both the city and the diocese.

Heavenly Father, Saint John's life bears witness to the necessity of being attentive always to the call of God and generous in responding, regardless of where the summons might lead. There can be no limits placed on one's availability when a person experiences within the force of God's love - whether in one's state of life or in the carrying out of one's responsibilities even at a high price. Help me today to carry out all my responsibilities to the best of my ability.

Amen

Thursday 13th
June



St. Anthony of Padua is one of the most famous disciples of St. Francis of Assisi. Anthony's wealthy family wanted him to be a great nobleman, but instead God called him to the life of a poor Franciscan priest. He was a famous preacher and worker of miracles in his day, and throughout the eight centuries since his death he has so generously come to the assistance of the faithful who invoke him, that he is known throughout the world. We often turn to St. Anthony when we have lost things, but he is also someone to turn to when we need a miracle in our lives.

Prayer:

Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints. St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for his creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I ask you to obtain for me the favours that I seek (mention your request here). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle, even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was full of sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Infant Jesus, who loved to be held in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. Amen

St Anthony of Padua

Friday 14th June



St Methodius

St. Methodius or Methodios was one of the early patriarchs of Constantinople. He was born in Syracuse, Sicily, sometime around the 790 AD. Methodios was the heir to a wealthy family. He was sent to Constantinople, the capital of the empire, to receive a top-notch education and hopefully land a position in the emperor's court. But Methodios was drawn, not to the splendour of the court of the empire, but to the monastic vocation. He became a monk and eventually was appointed the abbot of his monastery. During the ninth century, the iconoclast controversies raged throughout the Christian communities in the East. Due to the influence of the quickly spreading Islam, the question of whether or not Christians were allowed to make and venerate icons swiftly became a fiercely debated topic. Iconoclasts insisted that images of God were pagan and should be forbidden. Iconophiles, who were led by many saints, including St. John Damascene, continued to profess the Christian belief that since God became man it was right for Christians to make images to praise him and remember him.

Through the intercession of St Methodius, may God grant that we of many ancestries, may continue the work of Christ through His Church, in our lives, our families and all peoples and may we have strength to overcome all hatred and to conquer all evil with good. Amen.