



Prayers for the Week Ahead

WEEK BEGINNING 11TH NOVEMBER

Monday 11th November



*St Martin of Tours,
Bishop*

Martin was a conscientious objector who wanted to be a monk. He was born of pagan parents in what is now Hungary, and raised in Italy. He was forced at the age of 15 to serve in the army. Martin became a Christian catechumen and was baptised when he was 18. It was then that he lived more like a monk than a soldier. At 23, he refused a war bonus and told his commander: "I have served you as a soldier; now let me serve Christ. Give the bounty to those who are going to fight. But I am a soldier of Christ and it is not lawful for me to fight." After great difficulties, he was discharged and went to be a disciple of Hilary of Poitiers.

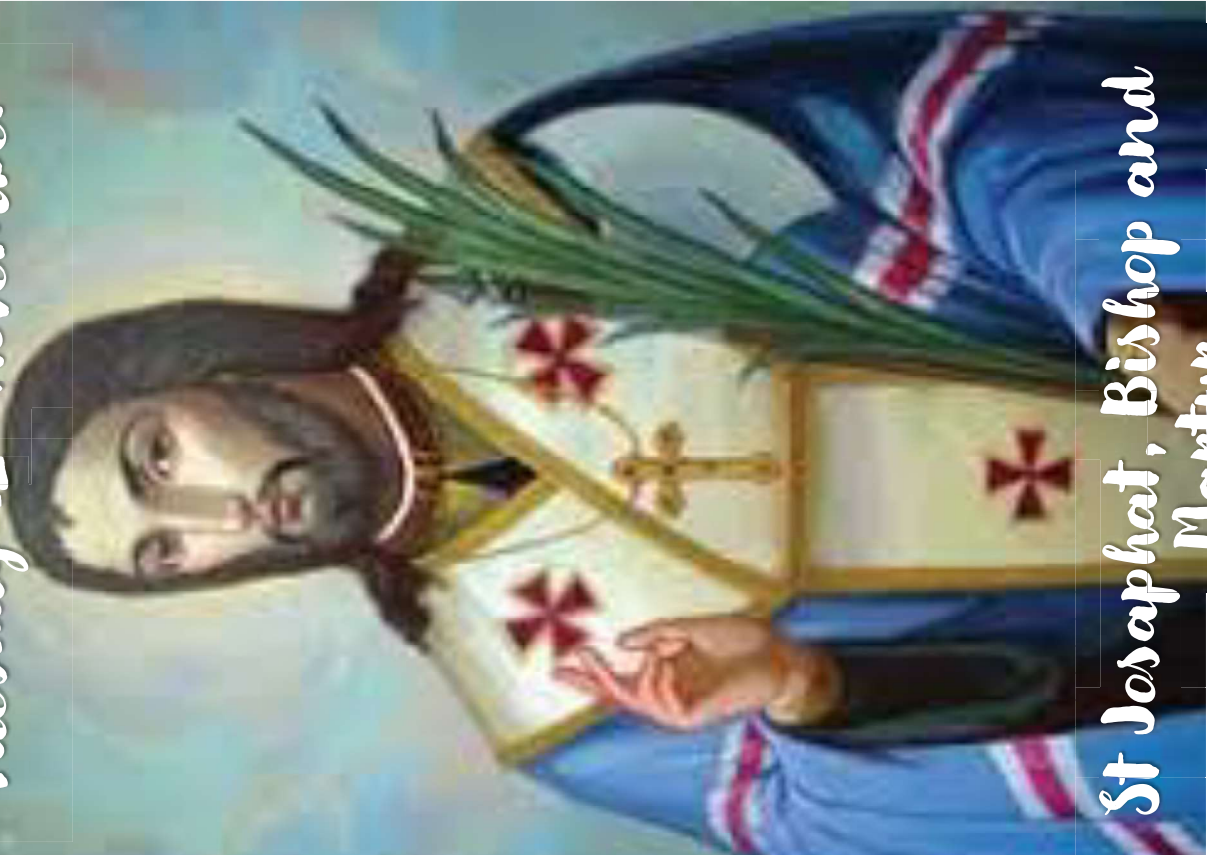
He was ordained an exorcist and worked with great zeal against the Arians. Martin became a monk, living first at Milan and later on a small island. When Hilary was restored to his see following his exile, Martin returned to France and established what may have been the first French monastery near Poitiers. He lived there for 10 years, forming his disciples and preaching throughout the countryside. The people of Tours demanded that he become their bishop. Martin was drawn to that city by a ruse—the need of a sick person—and was brought to the church, where he reluctantly allowed himself to be consecrated bishop. Some of the consecrating bishops thought his rumpled appearance and unkempt hair indicated that he was not dignified enough for the office.

Along with Saint Ambrose, Martin rejected Bishop Ithacius's principle of putting heretics to death—as well as the intrusion of the emperor into such matters. He prevailed upon the emperor to spare the life of the heretic Priscillian. For his efforts, Martin was accused of the same heresy, and Priscillian was executed after all. Martin then pleaded for a cessation of persecution of Priscillian's followers in Spain. He still felt he could cooperate with Ithacius in other areas, but afterwards his conscience troubled him about this decision.

As death approached, Martin's followers begged him not to leave them. He prayed, "Lord, your people still need me, I do not refuse the work. Your will be done."

Our Father...

Tuesday 12th November



*St Josaphat, Bishop and
Martyr*

At his birth in the town of Volodymyr, in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, modern Ukraine, our saint was given the name John Kuncevyč. He was baptized into the Orthodox Church, not the Catholic Church, and his parents were faith-filled Orthodox Christians. In youth, he received a good education and learned the faith well. He was often more interested in praying than playing games. He served at church services, loved the Slavic religious traditions, embraced a life of penance and mortification from an early age, and loved the Divine Office, which he diligently prayed.

As a young man, in order to assist his family financially, he worked as a merchant in a nearby city. In 1604, eight years after his local diocese reunited with Rome, John entered religious life as a monk at the Monastery of Holy Trinity of the Order of Saint Basil the Great in Volodymyr. Upon entering, he was given the religious name Josaphat. After five years in the monastery, Brother Josaphat was ordained a Catholic priest in the Eastern Rite and remained at the monastery for the next eight years, becoming prior of his and several other monasteries in the region.

Father Josaphat's ministry was so impactful that, in 1617, he was ordained as the Bishop of Vitebsk and, one year later, was elevated to the Archbishopric of Polotsk. This was an important step because tensions remained high, and the faithful, monks, and clergy remained divided about the reunification with Rome. Some feared that they would lose their liturgical traditions to more latinized ones, and others disagreed for theological reasons. Archbishop Josaphat was convinced that full unification with Rome, while retaining the beloved religious traditions, was the will of God. He zealously devoted the next six years of his forty-three years of life to the cause.

Saint Josaphat, God drew you to Himself from an early age, and you responded to His grace. As you grew in faith, God also drew you to the mission of Church unity. Please pray for me, and pray for the Church and world, that all will become one in Christ and that I will do my part to help bring the Church to unity about. Saint Josaphat, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.



*Wednesday 13th
November*

St Brice of Tours

Brice was an orphan rescued by Saint Martin of Tours, and raised by Martin's clerk. 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 in 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 named 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

Wednesday 14th November

Lawrence O'Toole

Lawrence O'Toole was the son of the chief of Hy Murray. He was taken as a hostage by God Mac Murehad, King of Leinster in 1138 when he was ten years old. Dermot later freed 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 1163, 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 elected 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 the administration and clerical life in his diocese, and worked to restore and rebuild Christ Church Cathedral.

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

Lawrence O'Toole attended the General **Lateran** Council in Rome, Italy in 1179 and also became Papal Legate to Ireland.

St Lawrence O'Toole

Man of faith

you opened your heart and

your doors to those who

were poor. Increase our

awareness of those in need

and inspire us to act with

justice and charity at all

times

St Lawrence O'Toole

Pray for us

@dublindioocese



Monday 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 Gueric 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 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.