



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.

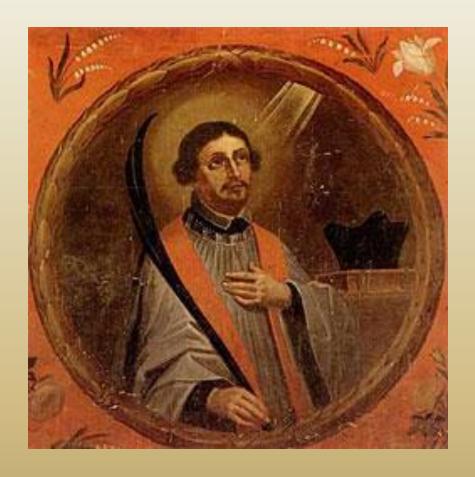
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity

of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Tuesday 14th January



St. Felix of Nova

Felix was the son of Hermias, a Syrian who had been a Roman soldier. He was born on his father's estate at Nola near Naples, Italy. On the death of his father, Felix distributed his inheritance to the poor, was ordained by <u>Bishop</u> St. Maximus of Nola, and became his assistant. When Maximus fled to the desert at the beginning of Decius' persecution of the Christians in 250, Felix was seized in his stead and imprisoned. He was reputedly released from prison by an angel, who directed him to the ailing Maximus, whom he brought back to Nola. Even after Decius' death in 251, Felix was a hunted man but kept well hidden until the persecution ended. When Maximus died, the people unanimously selected Felix as their Bishop, but he declined the honor in favor of Quintus, a senior priest. Felix spent the rest of his life on a small piece of land sharing what he had with the poor, and died there on January 14. His tomb soon became famous for the miracles reported there, and when St. Paulinus became bishop of Nola almost a century later (410), he wrote about his predecessor, the source of our information about him, adding legendary material that had grown up about Felix in the intervening century.

Dear Lord, we thank You for giving us St. Felix as an example of holiness. Help us to imitate the love of You that he showed in courageously holding fast to his faith amidst persecution. Amen

Wednesday 15th January



Blessed Nikolaus Gross

Nikolaus was a miner and a father of seven. He was a member of the Christian miners' labour union at age 19, and secretary at 22. He became a member of the Zentrum Christian Party at age 20 and he worked on Westdeutschen Arbeiterzeitung, (West German Workers' Newspaper), the newspaper of the Catholic Workers' Movement, at age 22, and became its director at age 24.

Nikolaus was a non-violent opponent of Nazism from its beginnings. He worked with distinguished Catholic intellectuals who opposed the regime. From Cologne, Germany he exposed the lies and harmful effects of Nazi propaganda, and he worked for the revolt of consciences against Hitler. Declared an enemy of the state, his newspaper was shut down in 1938, but at great risk, he continued to publish an underground edition.

Nikolaus tried to organize resistance among Catholic workers in preparation for the planned assassination of Hitler on 20 July 1944. Though neither he nor the members of his group were implicated in the assassination attempt, Nikolaus was arrested on 12 August 1944 for treason, and sentenced to death by a People's Court on 15 January 1945. Martyr.

Prayer

O God, who were pleased to give light to your Church by adorning blessed Nikolaus with the victory of martyrdom, graciously grant that, as he imitated the Lord's Passion, so we may, by following in his footsteps, be worthy to attain eternal joys. Amen Thursday 16th January



Pope St. Marcellus I

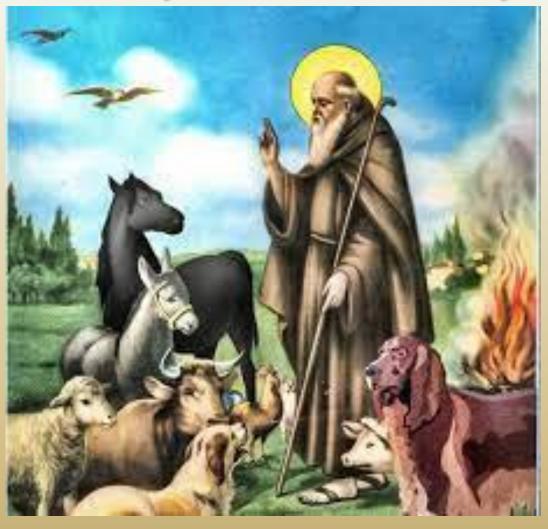
Pope Saint Marcellus I is the Patron Saint of Stablemen. Nothing of his life before the papacy has survived the centuries. He was Pope at the end of the persecutions of Diocletian. The persecutions had so disrupted the Church that there had been a gap of over a year with no Pope. He Faced reconstituting the clergy which had been decimated and whose remnant had practiced their vocation covertly and with the expectation of martyrdom. He worked to recover and welcome back those who had denied the faith to keep from being murdered. When a group of the apostacized, known as the Lapsi, refused to do penance, Marcellus refused to allow their return to the Church. This group had some political pull, and some caused such civil disruption that Emperor Maxentius exiled the Pope in order to settle the matter. Legend says that Marcellus was forced to work as a stable slave as punishment, but this appears to be fiction. He is considered a martyr as he died of the terrible conditions he suffered in exile. He became Pope around May-June 308. He died in 309 AD. Initially he was buried in the cemetery of Saint Priscilla in Rome, Italy. The relics were later translated to beneath the altar of San Marcello al Corso church in Rome where they remain today.

A prayer to Pope St. Marcellus

St. Marcellus, in obedience to your conscience, you laid down your life to be faithful to Christ and to His Way of Peace. Through your intercession and example, may all Christians come to know and practice the self-sacrificial, nonviolent love of Jesus toward all people.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Friday 17th January



St. Anthony Abbot

Saint Anthony, Anthony of Egypt, Anthony the Abbot, Anthony of the Desert, Anthony the Anchorite, Anthony the Hermit, and Anthony of Thebes. For his importance among the Desert Fathers and to all later Christian monasticism, he is also known as the Father of All Monks. His feast day is celebrated on 17 January among the Orthodox and Catholic churches and on Tobi 22 in the Coptic calendar.

A prayer to St Anthony Abbot

Dear God, St Anthony the Abbot accepted your call to renounce the world and to love you above all things. He faithfully served you in the solitude of the desert by fasting, prayer, humility and good works. In the Sign of the Cross, he triumphed over the devil. Through his intercession, may we learn to love you better; with all our hearts, all our souls, all our minds, all our strength and to love our neighbours as we love ourselves. St Antony the Abbot, great and powerful saint, intercede for us. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Thursday 18th January



St. Margaret of Hungary

Margaret was the daughter of the king and queen of Hungary and a granddaughter of the Byzantine emperor. In fulfilment a vow-in which her parent's had pledged their next child to God if Hungary could be spared an invasion by the Tartars-she was placed in the monastery of the Dominican nuns in Veszprem at the age of 3. When she was 10 years-old, Margaret transferred to another monastery near Buda, where she lived the rest of her life. Although her father later tried arrange a marriage for Margaret to the king of Bohemia, she refused the offer and chose to stay in religious life. She finally professed vows as a religious when she was 18. Margaret was an exemplary nun who was known for her penitential spirit and innate kindness. Saint Margaret of Hungary died on January 18, 1271. Honoured as a powerful intercessor and miracle worker, she was canonized in 1943.

A prayer to St Margaret of Hungary

O God, who called your handmaid blessed Margaret of Hungary to seek you before all else, grant that, serving you, through her example and intercession, with a pure and humble heart, we may come at last to your eternal glory. 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 19th January



St. Wulstan

Saint Wulfstan, also spelled Wulstan, (born c. 1008, Long Itchington, near Warwick, Eng.-died Jan. 19/20, 1095, Worcester), canonized 1203; feast day January 19; bishop of Worcester from 1062, the last surviving English holder of a bishopric after the Norman Conquest (1066). He ended the capture and sale of slaves at Bristol, rebuilt the cathedral at Worcester, helped compile Domesday Book (the record of William I the Conqueror's survey of England), and was noted for his preaching and personal asceticism. Educated at Benedictine abbeys, he joined the Benedictine monastery at Worcester. He was respected as bishop for his able administration, and he frequently served as adviser to King William II Rufus of England.

A prayer to St Wulstan

St. Wulstan,

We gather here today as one community under your love and protection.

Thank you for your example of faith and kindness,

Help us to be kind and helpful to everyone in our school.

Guide us in our work. play and everything we do.

St Wulstan pray for us,

Amen.