



# Prayers for the Week

WEEK BEGINNING 25<sup>TH</sup> AU



St. Louis became King of France (as Louis IX) and was known for his justice, his care for his children, to whom he gave an excellent education, his love for the poor, his piety, his penitence and for his love for the poor and his desire for peace and economic stability but also for his love for the poor. He was a friend of St Thomas Aquinas. He was a friend of St Francis of Assisi, which later became the Franciscan Order (OFS).

Louis was trusted by his fellow-rulers in the West. He undertook two unsuccessful crusades. In the second of these he died, near Carthage, in the year 1270.

### **Prayer to St. Louis**

St. Louis King of France, your father died and your mother ensured that you were brought up to serve God. As you grew to maturity, you could serve God through your office as King. May I do all I can to serve God worthily in the same way as you were.

St. Louis King of France, pray for us!

Amen.

# Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August



## Saints Liberatus, Boniface and Companions

We celebrate today the memory of a group of Christians who died during the Christian persecutions of the late 4th century. Their life under the inspiration of Saint Augustine was a witness to their death together rather than deny their faith. In 484, some 34 years after the death of Saint Augustine, a decree ordering the closure of all Christian churches was issued, forcing monks to the Moors.

The seven members of the monastery of Saint Peter in the Moors were taken prisoners. They were the Abbot Rusticus and the lay monks Rogatus, Septimus, and others. Where efforts were made, in vain, to have them released, only 15 years old was particularly prominent. He refused life, but refused, preferring to accept death. He was burned alive. When it proved impossible to save him, he was clubbed to death.

### Reflection

Saint Peter wrote: Let it not be as a murderer who kills the goods that any of you suffer; but if it is for the sake of the Lord, glorify God in that name.



Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>  
August



St Monica

The circumstances of St. Monica's life could have been daunting: a pagan father, a law, and a despairing parent, yet she did not lose faith. She was a Christian, her parents gave her in marriage to a man from her hometown of Tagaste in North Africa. Monica's husband and mother-in-law to Christianity. Her husband was a pagan, but he had at least three children who survived into adulthood. At the time of his father's death, Augustine was a young man, distressed to learn that her son had accepted a life of living an immoral life. For a while, she refused to see him. One night she had a vision that assured her Augustine would be saved. She stayed close to her son, praying and supporting him more than Augustine wanted. At Easter 387, St. Monica died. Her friends. Soon after, his party left for Africa. Monica's life was near the end. She told Augustine, "I do not know what there is now left for me, but I know that being now fulfilled." She became ill shortly after and died.

## Reflection

Today, with Google searches, online shopping, and instant gratification for things that take time. Likewise, we want instant results. Long years of prayer, coupled with a strong, well-tempered husband, her cantankerous mother-in-law,

# Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August



St Augustine

This famous son of St. Monica was born into a wicked living and in false beliefs. Though he who ever lived and though he had been a monk and his pride darkened his mind so that he did not see Divine Truth anymore. Through the preaching of St. Ambrose, Augustine came to know the one true religion. He was baptised and became a famous Catholic writer. He became a monk and in his room he had the following sentence written: "Do not speak evil of anyone." St. Augustine lived in great poverty and supported the poor with his fervour right up until his death. "Too late for me but with his holy life he certainly made a great conversion."

## Prayer to St Augustine

Glorious Saint Augustine I boldly ask for your boundless wisdom and compassion to guide me to the fulfilling the will of God that I may share in the Kingdom with you and all the saints.



# Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August



*The Beheading of St John the Baptist*

The beheading of John the Baptist or the beheading of John the Baptist is commemorated as a holy day by the New Testament, Herod Antipas. Herod Antipas, the ruler of the Roman Empire, had imprisoned John the Baptist. John the Baptist reproved Herod for divorcing his first wife and marrying his in-law (his brother's wife) as his second wife. Herod ordered him to be killed by beheading.

## **Prayer to St John the Baptist**

O Martyr invincible, who, for the sake of Christ, with firmness and constancy you suffered death at the cost of your own life, and you who lived a dissolute life; by your prayers obtain for us the order that we may overcome all our sins and have faith in loyal obedience to the teachings of Christ. Amen.