



Prayers for week ahead

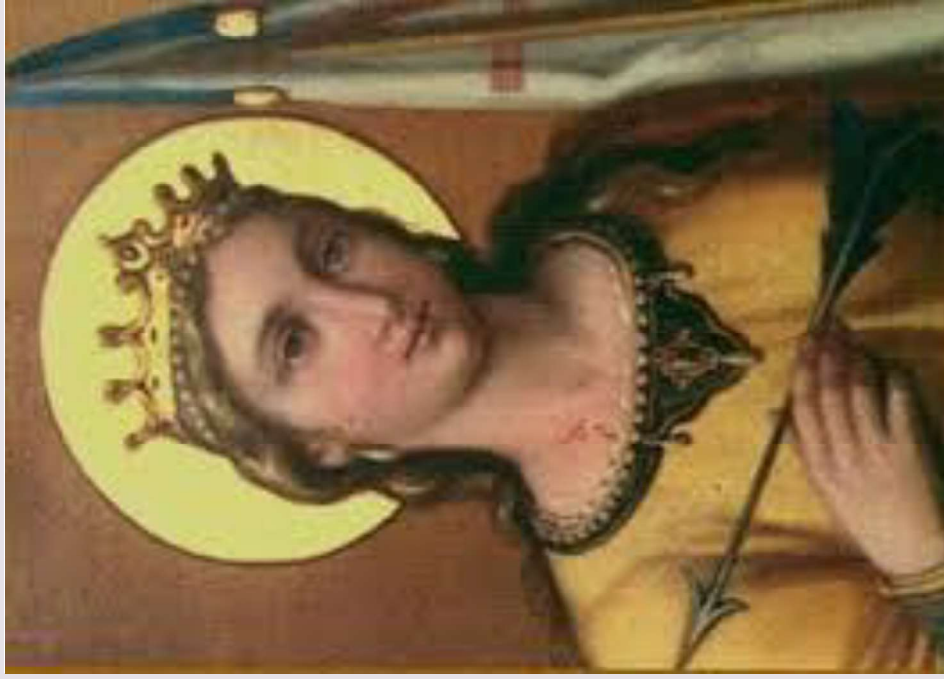
WEEK BEGINNING 21ST OCTOBER

Tuesday 21st October

Saint Ursula

Ursula was a legendary princess, the daughter of a Christian British king and Saint Daria. She travelled Europe in company of either 11 or 11,000 fellow maidens; the 11,000 number probably resulted from a misreading of the term "11M" which indicated 11 Martyrs, but which a copyist took for a Roman numeral. Ursula and her company were tortured to death to get them to renounce their faith, and old paintings of them show many of the women being killed in various painful ways. She is the namesake for the Ursuline Order and she founded the education of young Catholic girls and women.

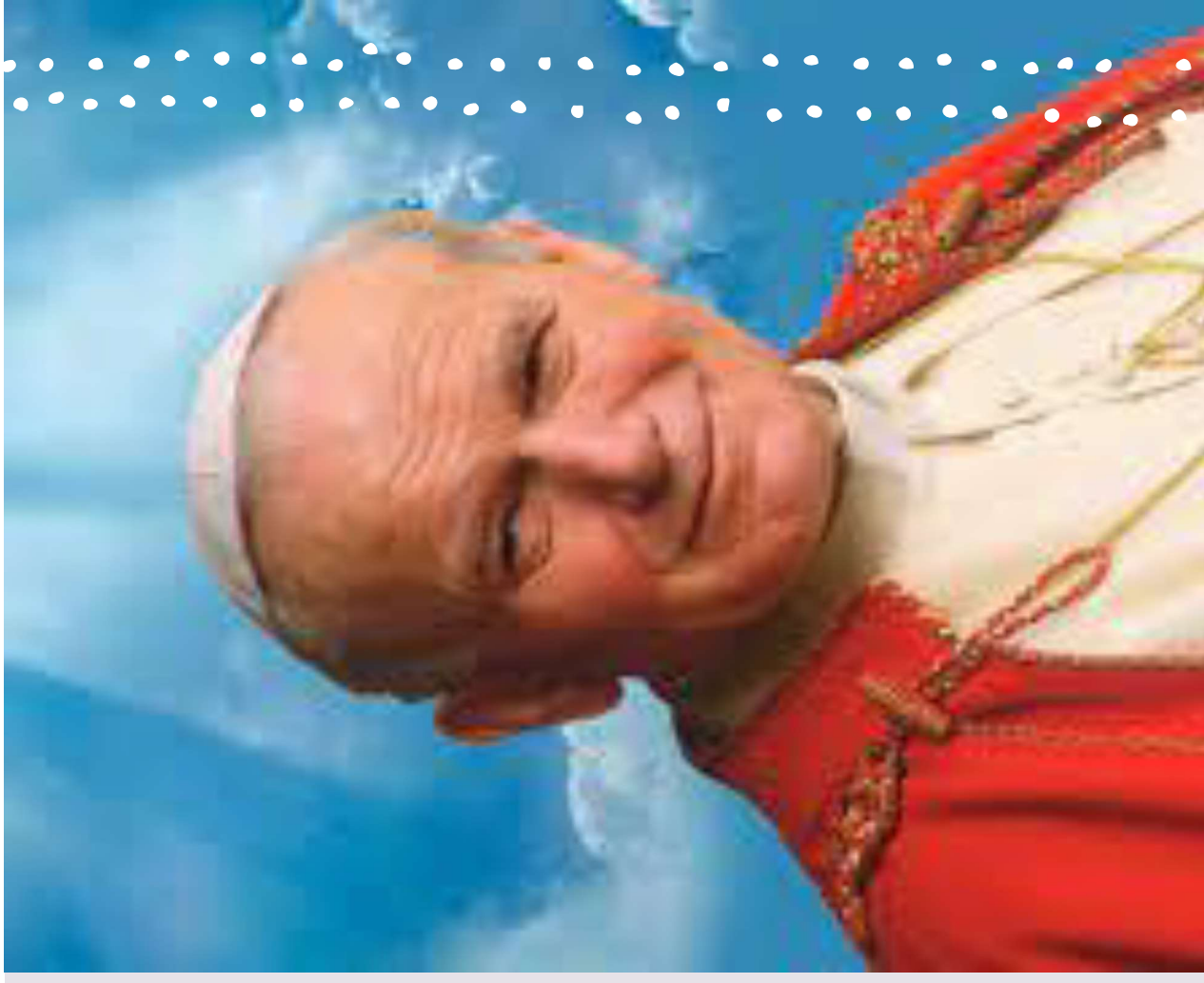
Hail Mary...



Wednesday 22nd October

St John Paul II

- Pope John Paul II was ordained in 1946, became the bishop of Ombi in 1958, and became the archbishop of Krakow in 1964. He was made a cardinal by Pope Paul VI in 1967, and in 1978 became the first non-Italian pope in more than 400 years. He was a vocal advocate for human rights and used his influence to effect political change. He died in Italy in 2005. It was announced in July 2013 that he would be declared a saint in April of the following year. A vocal advocate for human rights, John Paul often spoke out about suffering in the world.
- St. John Paul, from the window of heaven, grant us your blessing! Bless the Church that you loved and served and guided, courageously leading her along the paths of the world in order to bring Jesus to everyone and everyone to Jesus. Bless the young, who were your great passion. Help them dream again, help them look up to the heavens again to find the light that illuminates the paths of life here on earth. Amen



Thursday 23rd October

St John of Capistrano



John was born in Capistrano, Italy, in 1385, and studied law. After practicing as a lawyer in the courts of Naples, he was appointed the governor of Perugia. During a war with a neighbouring city, he was imprisoned. During his imprisonment, John began to study theology, and when he was released in 1416, he forswore his secular profession and entered a Franciscan community at Perugia.

When John was well into old age, at the age of seventy, the Holy Roman Empire was facing the daunting military power of the Ottoman Empire. Both Rome and Vienna were under threat of siege. Thus, John was commissioned by Pope Callixtus III to incite in his enthralled audiences' interest in a crusade to oppose the invasion. Extending his leadership beyond simply the pastoral sphere, John also served as a leader in the defense of Belgrade and marched at the head of 70,000 soldiers who won a decisive victory in Belgrade in 1456. John died only three months later.

St. John of Capistrano is the patron saint of military chaplains and of those who work as judges and in various legal professions. Some of his relics rest in the reliquary chapel in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Hail Mary...



Friday 24th October

St Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop

- St. Anthony Mary Claret was a spiritual man at a young age. He was devoted to the Church, and received a call to the religious life. He was ordained and founded the Congregation of the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, better known as the Claretians. He had a profound compassion for the poor, and continued to assist the poor throughout his entire life. He at one point, was appointed the Archbishop of Cuba, and then returned to Spain. His heart was found incorrupt. Many pilgrims visit his grave, and he is one of the few saints known to have been given the privilege of literally carrying the Blessed Sacrament in his heart. His life shows us that one man can make a difference; by using the talents that God gives us.
- Hail Mary...