

Prayers for the Week Ahead

WEEK BEGINNING 27TH OCTOBER

Monday 27th October

St Emilina of Boulancourt



Emilina joined the Cistercian Abbey of Boulancourt at Longeville, France when she was still very young. She was noted for her deep prayer life, fasts, and austere, sometimes severe self-imposed penances such as wearing a pointed chain under her habit, walking barefooted throughout the year and fasting from food and liquids three days a week.

Word of her devotion soon spread, and pilgrims came to consult her about holiness and prayer. She had the gift of prophesy, and sometimes prophesied about visitors before they arrived. She never sought honour or glory for herself from her gifts, but dealt with visitors humbly and patiently, always concerned with their conversion and relationship with God

Hail Mary...

Tuesday 28th October St Jude Thaddaeus



Jude was the son of Cleophas, who died a martyr, and Mary who stood at the foot of the Cross, and who anointed Christ's body after death. He was the brother of Saint James the Lesser and a nephew of Mary and Joseph so Jude was a blood relative of Jesus Christ, and it is reported to look a lot like him. Jude may have been a fisherman and he was an apostle.

Jude wrote the canonical Epistle named for him and he preached in Syria, Mesopotamia, and Persia with Saint Simon. He was a healer and exorcist and he could exorcise pagan idols, which caused the demons to flee and the statues to crumble.

His patronage of lost or impossible causes traditionally derives from confusion by many early Christians between Jude and the traitor Judas Iscariot as they did not understand the difference between the names. They never prayed for Jude's help, and devotion to him became something of a lost cause.

Hail Mary...

Wednesday 29th October

St Gaetano Errico



Gaetano was the second of nine children born to Pasquale, a pasta factory manager, and Marie Marseglia Errico, who worked weaving plush. He was a good child, pious, always ready to help his father at work, or his mother with his younger siblings. He felt a call to the priesthood at age fourteen. He was turned away by the Capuchins and Redemptorists due to his youth. He studied at a diocesan seminary in Naples, Italy from age sixteen, walking the five miles to class each day, and was ordained on 23 September 1815 in Naples.

He was a school teacher for twenty years. He became Parish priest at the church of Saint Cosmas and Damian. Gaetona was known for his devotion to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and ministry to the sick, his self-imposed austerties and penances. He made yearly retreats to the Redemptorist house in Pagani, Italy.

During his retreat in 1818, Saint Alphonsus Maria de Liguori appeared to him in a vision, and told him that God wanted Gaetano to build a new church, and to found a new religious congregation. While Gaetano initially received strong support from the local people, it faded in the face of fund-raising and work, and it wasn't until 9 December 1830 that he dedicated and blessed the church Our Lady of Sorrows at Secondigliano; it has since become one of Italy's most popular pilgrimage sites.

Nearby he built a small house for himself and a lay-brother who took care of the church; this was the beginning of the Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. The Missionaries received local approval on 14 March 1836, approval by the Congregation of Bishops on 30 June 1838, royal approval on 13 May 1840, and papal approval by Blessed Pope Pius IX on 7 August 1846. Gaetano served as first Superior General.

His beatification miracle occurred in southern Italy in January 1952 and involved a man with a perforated stomach wall. Just before emergency surgery, his wife slipped a relic of Father Gaetano under his pillow, and together they prayed for his intercession. His health began to improve immediately, and he was soon healed without medical intervention.

Hail Mary....

Thursday 30th October

Blessed Benvenuta Bojani



Benvenuta was the youngest of seven daughters. She refused to play any childhood games that smacked of worldliness or vanity; by age twelve she was voluntarily wearing hair shirts and a rope belt. As she grew, the rope began to cut into her and it had to be removed, but was too embedded to be untied. She prayed over it, and it fell to her feet.

She began a Dominican tertiary as a very young woman. She lived her entire life at home, practicing extreme austerities. Confined to her bed for five years with a serious illness, she had to be carried to daily Mass. During a Mass on the eve of the feast of Saint Dominic de Guzman, the saint appeared to her, and later in the liturgy, she was miraculously healed.

Benvenuta was a visionary who had visits from both angels and demons and it was believed she could banish the demons by mentioning the name of Our Lady. However, hard life or not, sickness or not, visions and demonic oppression or not, she was known to be always cheerful and confident in God.

Lord, you gave Blessed Benvenuta the gifts of penance, prayer and humility. Through self-denial and contemplation on heavenly things may we too live in the Spirit and find rest and glory in you, the one God. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever, Amen

Friday 31st October All Hallow's Eve

THE TRIDUUM OF HALLOWTIDE

All Hallows' Eve

Violet Vestments

*The souls of the just are
in the hand of God,
and the torment of malice
shall not touch them.*

All Saints Day

White Vestments

*Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they shall see God:
blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called
children of God.*

All Souls Day

Black Vestments

*May eternal light shine upon
them forever, O Lord,
with Thy saints forever,
for Thou art kind.*

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In the modern world, and especially in English speaking countries, Halloween has become one of the most important holidays of the year, with millions of children and adults dressing up as their favourite heroes, superstars, ghouls and goblins.

While some people have connected Halloween to earlier pagan celebrations of the new year, Halloween actually has significant Catholic roots. The name itself comes from All Hallow's Eve – that is, the Vigil of All Saints' Day, when Catholics remember those who have gone before us to enter our heavenly home.

Immediately afterwards, on November 2, the Church commemorates all the faithful departed still detained in Purgatory, and prays in suffrage for them.

The word Halloween refers to the Feast of All Saints. The word itself is taken an older English term, "hallows," meaning "holy"; and "e'en", a truncation of the word evening, in reference to the Vigil of the feast. "So really, Halloween is the feast of the celebration of the feast of All Hallows'". "So it's a day when Catholics celebrate the triumph of the Church in heaven, and the lives of the saints on earth".

**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
~Amen~**