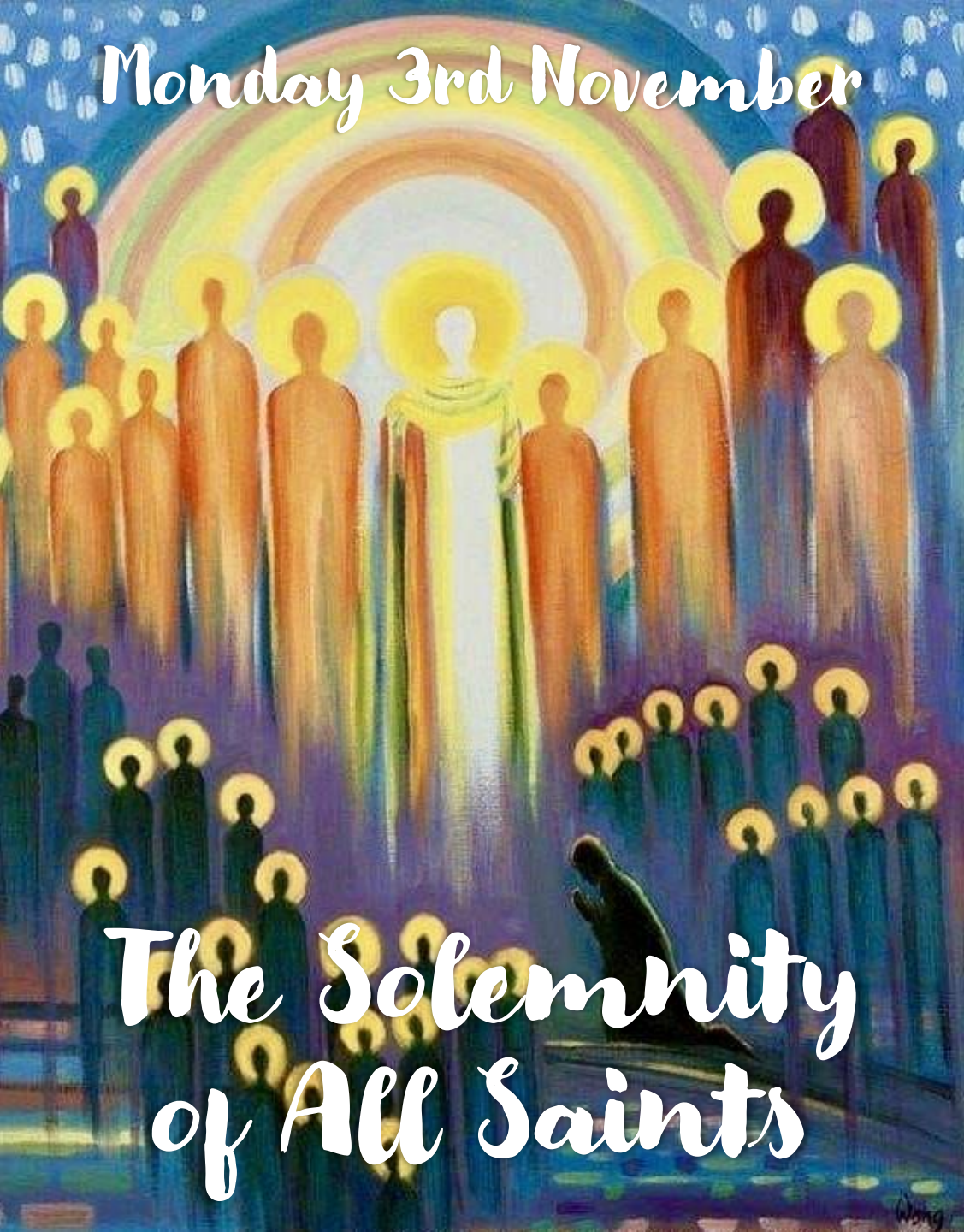


Prayers for the Week Ahead

WEEK BEGINNING 3RD NOVEMBER

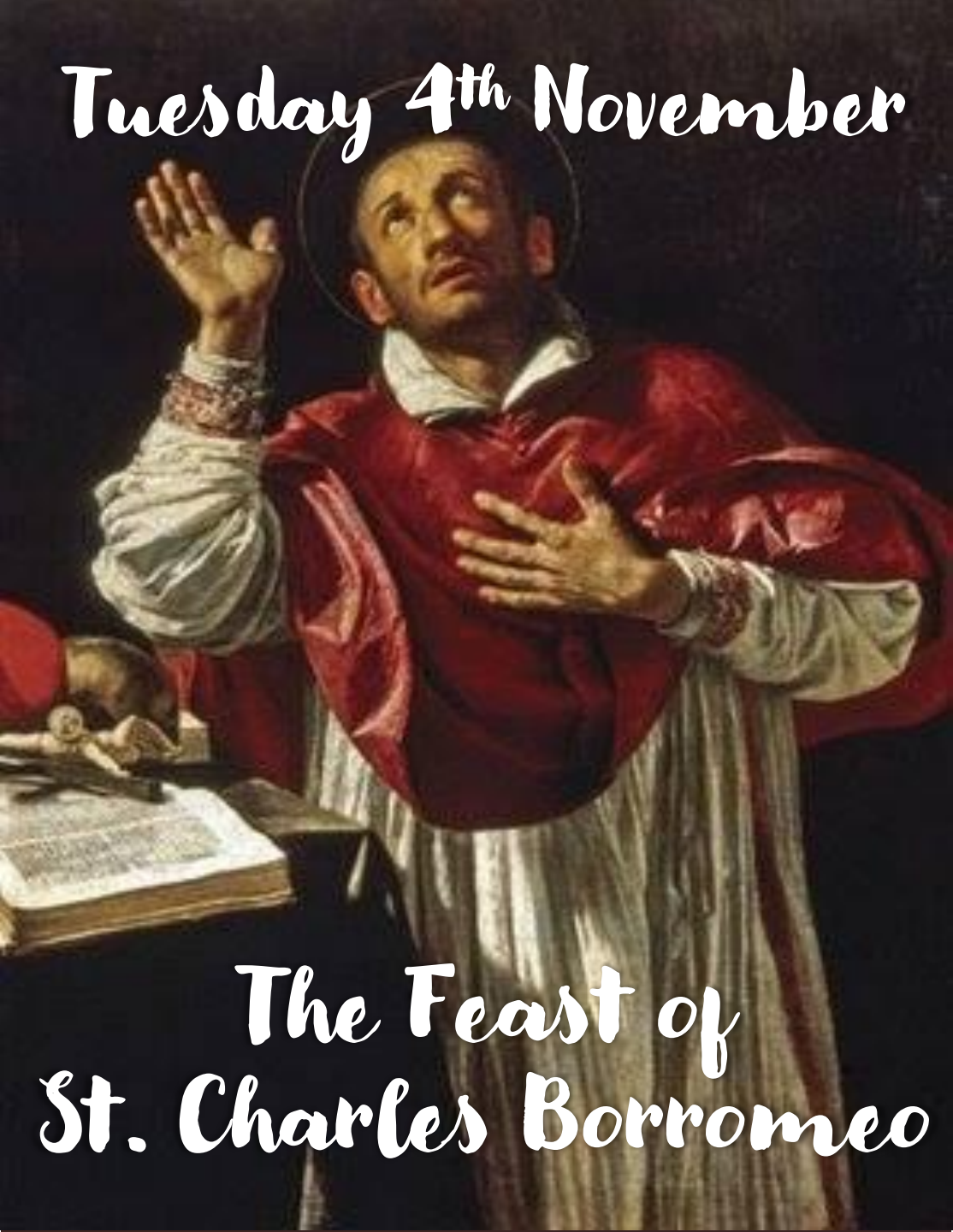


Monday 3rd November

The Solemnity of All Saints

All Saints' is a solemnity celebrated on 1 November, in honour of all the saints, known and unknown. The day commemorates all those who have attained the beatific vision in Heaven. It is a national holiday in many historically Catholic countries. In the Roman Catholic Church, the next day, All Souls' Day, specifically commemorates the departed faithful who have not yet been purified and reached heaven. Catholics celebrate All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day in the fundamental belief that there is a prayerful spiritual communion between those in the state of grace who have died and are either being purified in purgatory or are in heaven (the 'church penitent' and the 'church triumphant', respectively), and the 'church militant' who are the living.

Dear God, thank you for the example of the Saints. I desire to join in their company, worshipping you forever in Heaven. Please help me follow their footsteps, and yours, Jesus Christ. Please help me to conform myself to Your image, seeking Your will in all things, as the Saints did. Please help me to devote myself, and all that I do, to Your glory, and to the service of my neighbours. Amen.



Tuesday 4th November

The Feast of St. Charles Borromeo

St. Charles Borromeo was the Archbishop of Milan from 1564 to 1584 and a cardinal of the Catholic Church. He was a leading figure of the Counter-Reformation combat against the Protestant Reformation together with Ignatius of Loyola and Philip Neri. In that role he was responsible for significant reforms in the Catholic Church, including the founding of seminaries for the education of priests. He is the Patron Saint of bishops, catechists and seminarians.

Prayer of St. Charles Borromeo

Almighty God, you have generously made known to human beings the mysteries of your life through Jesus Christ your Son in the Holy Spirit.

Enlighten my mind to know these mysteries which your Church treasures and teaches.

Move my heart to love them and my will to live in accord with them. Give me the ability to teach this Faith to others without pride, without ostentation, and without personal gain.

Let me realise that I am simply your instrument for bringing others to the knowledge of the wonderful things you have done for all your creatures.

Help me to be faithful to this task that you have entrusted to me.

Amen.



Wednesday 5th
November

St Guido Maria Conforti

As a child Guido used to have conversations in his parish church with Christ crucified. He entered the seminary in Parma, Italy at age 17 and was ordained on 22 September 1888. He became a professor at the seminary and later vice-rector of the seminary. Guido was so successful that in later years he became vicar of Clergy in the diocese of Parma. He founded the *Xaverian Missionaries* on 3 December 1895 and they were assigned by Rome to evangelize China. Guido became the Archbishop of Ravenna, Italy on 9 June 1902, however he later resigned as archbishop due to poor health in October 1904. He became the Coadjutor bishop of Parma, Italy and titular archbishop of Stauropolis on 14 November 1904 and then archbishop of Parma, Italy on 12 December 1907. He visited his parishes regularly and worked for religious formation. Guido supported religious education for the laity and lay involvement with youth. In 1928 he travelled to China to visit the Xaverians working there.

Heavenly Father, help me to be kind and considerate of other people just as St Guido was. Help me to spread your message to others, even when it is difficult to do so.

Amen



Thursday 6th
November

St Leonard

According to unreliable sources, Leonard was a Frank courtier who was converted by St. Remigius, refused the offer of a See from his godfather, King Clovis I, and became a monk at Micy. He lived as a hermit at Limoges and was rewarded by the king with all the land he could ride around on a donkey in a day for his prayers, which were believed to have brought the Queen through a difficult delivery safely. He founded Noblac monastery on the land so granted him, and it grew into the town of Saint-Leonard. He remained there evangelizing the surrounding area until his death. He is invoked by women in labour and by prisoners of war because of the legend that Clovis promised to release every captive Leonard visited.

Living God, you have given us St. Leonard as an example of one who extended himself to relieve the difficulties of others; help us to know in our hearts the love you have for us all so we may reach out in genuine empathy to those in our community who feel lonely, isolated, or overwhelmed by grief or loss. Amen



Friday 7th November

St Didacus

Didacus is living proof that God “chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.” As a young man in Spain, Didacus joined the Secular Franciscan Order and lived for some time as a hermit. After Didacus became a Franciscan brother, he developed a reputation for great insight into God’s ways. His penances were heroic. He was so generous with the poor that the friars sometimes grew uneasy about his charity.

Didacus volunteered for the missions in the Canary Islands and laboured there energetically and profitably. He was also the superior of a friary there. In 1450, he was sent to Rome to attend the canonization of Saint Bernardine of Siena. When many of the friars gathered for that celebration fell ill, Didacus stayed in Rome for three months to nurse them. After he returned to Spain, he pursued a life of contemplation full-time. He showed the friars the wisdom of God’s ways.

As he was dying, Didacus looked at a crucifix and said: “O faithful wood, O precious nails! You have borne an exceedingly sweet burden, for you have been judged worthy to bear the Lord and King of heaven” (Marion A. Habig, OFM, *The Franciscan Book of Saints*, p. 834). San Diego, California, is named for this Franciscan, who was canonized in 1588.

Almighty and eternal God, in whose marvelous ordering of things the weak of this world are singled out to shame the strong, grant, we pray, that by imitating the humility of St. Didacus [Diego] here on earth, we may be raised up to eternal glory with him in heaven. Amen



Friday 8th November

The Feast of
Blessed John
Duns Scotus

John Duns OFM (c. 1265/66–1308), commonly called Duns Scotus, was a Scottish Catholic priest and Franciscan friar, university professor, philosopher, and theologian. He is one of the four most important philosopher-theologians of Western Europe in the High Middle Ages, together with Thomas Aquinas, Bonaventure, and William of Ockham. Scotus has had considerable influence on both Catholic and secular thought. As well as great philosophical thinking, Scotus also developed a complex argument for the existence of God, and argued for the Immaculate Conception of Mary.

Prayer to St. John Duns Scotus

*Blessed John Duns Scotus,
you strove to understand, explain, and defend
the truths of the holy Christian Faith in the light
of human reason.*

*For all truths, natural and supernatural,
are from one and the same Source:
the eternal God who is truth and light and love.*

*And so you proposed and expounded the perfect
purity and holiness of the Blessed Virgin Mary
in the first moment of her Immaculate Conception.*

*By her intercession and yours,
may the Most Holy Trinity
grant the conversion of sinners
and the favour of:*

[add your request]

Amen.