



Prayers for the Week Ahead

WEEK BEGINNING 8TH JUNE

Monday 8th June



St Medardus

St Medardus, the son of conquering Franks, lived in Gaul in the 6th century. He was one of the most famous bishops of his day. Some of his miracles in favour of thieves who had robbed him may have inspired story of Bishop Myriel in the novel *Les Misérables*.

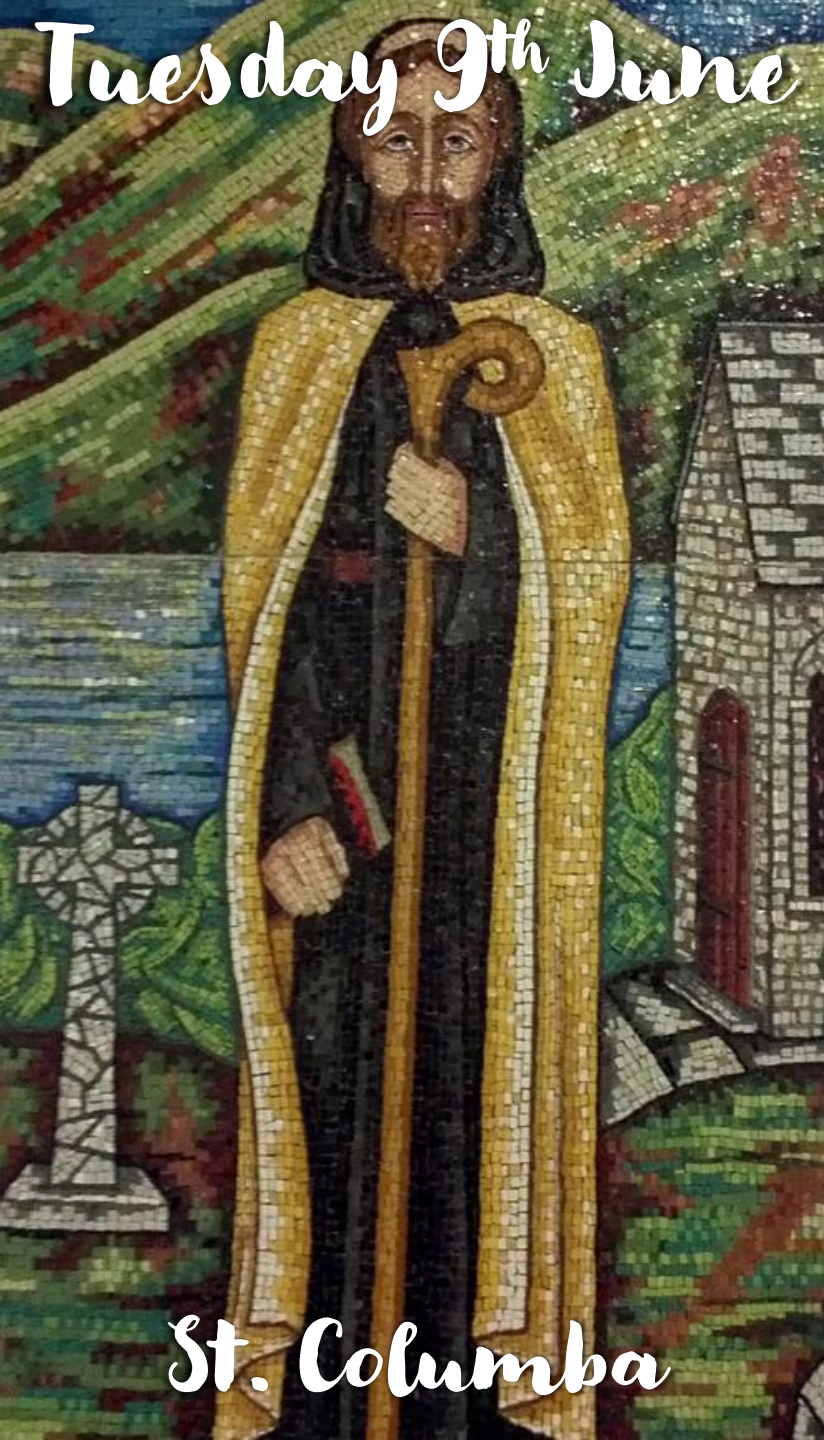
Medardus lived during the immediate aftermath of the fall of the Western Roman Empire. The last Western Roman emperor was deposed in 476. During 481-511, the Salian Frankish king Clovis I conquered and united several Germanic successor states to form the Kingdom of Francia, the predecessor of modern France and Germany.

St. Medardus was ordained at the age of 33. His piety and knowledge, considerable for that time, caused Bishop Alomer of Vermand to confer on him Holy Orders. At the death of Alomer in 530, Medardus was chosen to succeed him as bishop of Vermand. Despite his objections, but the people insisted, so he accepted the responsibilities.

Medardus was one of the most honoured bishops of his time. His memory has always been popularly venerated, first in the north of France, then in Cologne and extending to western Germany, and he became the hero of numerous legends. His cultus is mentioned by both Venantius Fortunatus and Gregory of Tours. His feast day is celebrated on June 8. It is believed that, as with Swithun, whatever the weather on his feast day, it will continue for the forty days following, unless the weather changes on the feast of Saint Barnabas (11 June).

Prayer:

Our Father



Saint Columba (Irish: Colm Cille, 'church dove'; 7 December 521 – 9 June 597) was an Irish abbot and missionary credited with spreading Christianity in what is today Scotland at the start of the Hiberno-Scottish mission. He founded the important abbey on Iona, which became a dominant religious and political institution in the region for centuries. He is the Patron Saint of Derry. He was highly regarded by both the Gaels of Dál Riata and the Picts, and is remembered today as a Christian saint and one of the Twelve Apostles of Ireland.

Prayer of St. Columba

Be a bright flame before me,
O God a guiding star above me.

Be a smooth path below me,
a kindly shepherd behind me
today, tonight, and for ever.

Alone with none but you, my God
I journey on my way;

what need I fear when you are near,
O Lord of night and day?

More secure am I within your hand
than if a multitude did round me stand.

Amen

Wednesday 10th
June



St. Olivia of Palermo

From her early years, St. Olivia she devoted herself to the Lord. At the same time, declining honours and riches and loved to give charity to the poor. When she was thirteen, Olivia comforted prisoners and urged the Christians to remain steadfast in their faith. The Vandals were impressed by the strength of her spirit, seeing that nothing could prevail against her faith. So in deference to her noble house, they sent her to Tunis.

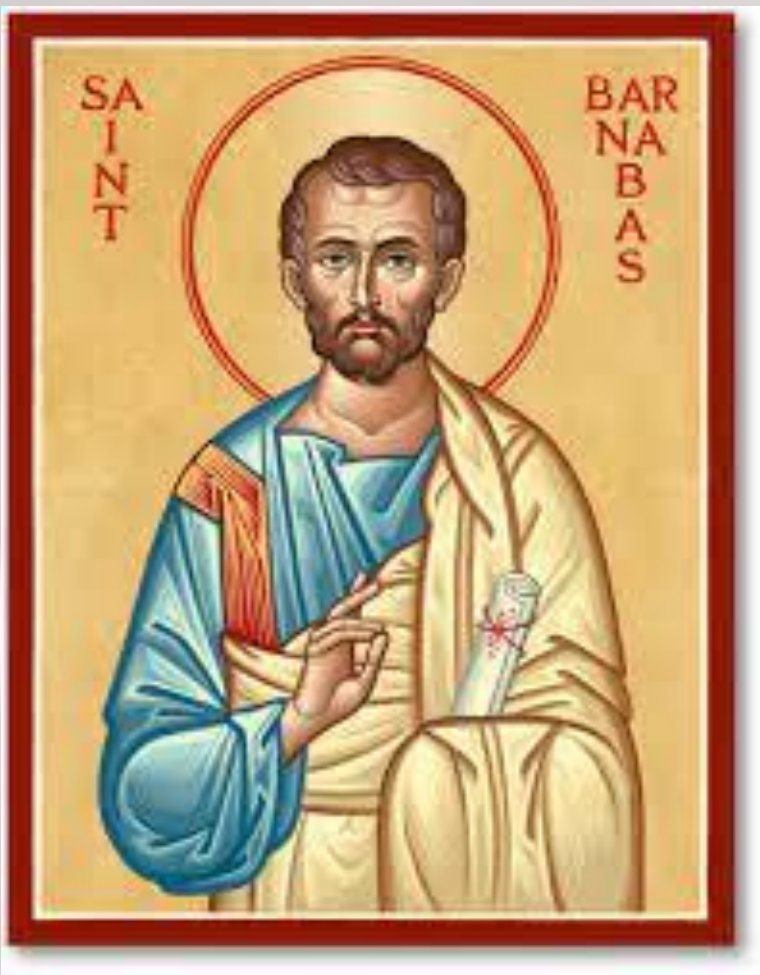
In Tunis, Olivia worked miracles and began to convert people to Christianity. The governor, therefore, ordered that she be relegated to a lonely place as a hermitess, where there were wild animals, hoping that the beasts would devour her or that she would die of hunger. However, the wild animals lived peacefully around her. After miraculously curing many of the sick and suffering in the region, Olivia converted many people to the Christian faith. When the governor heard about these things, he had her arrested and imprisoned. She was scourged and was stripped and submerged into a cauldron of boiling oil, but these tortures did not cause her any harm, nor did they make her renounce her faith. Finally, she was beheaded and her soul "flew to the sky in the form of a dove"

Prayer:

St. Olivia, you were a constant evangeliser of the Gospel. Pray for the success of the New Evangelisation, so that we may draw many more souls back to the Church and back to God. Pray that we may persevere in our faith as you did. St. Olivia, you were willing to die for the sake of Christ. Pray that we may follow wherever God wishes to lead us.

Amen.

Thursday 11th June



St. Barnabas

Barnabas was one of the very earliest followers of Jesus and a leader of the early church. His story is told in the Acts of the Apostles and he is also mentioned in some of Paul's letters. Originally called Joseph, he was given his new name of Barnabas by those who knew him well, it means 'son of encouragement'. We first hear of Barnabas in the New Testament due to his simple act of stewardship and sharing. He sold land he owned and donates the proceeds to the church to be used to support the poor. Barnabas became one of the leaders of the Church and was asked to help grow a new congregation in Antioch. With Paul's help Barnabas grew in faith and ministry.

A PRAYER

Bountiful God, giver of all gifts who poured your Spirit upon your servant Barnabas

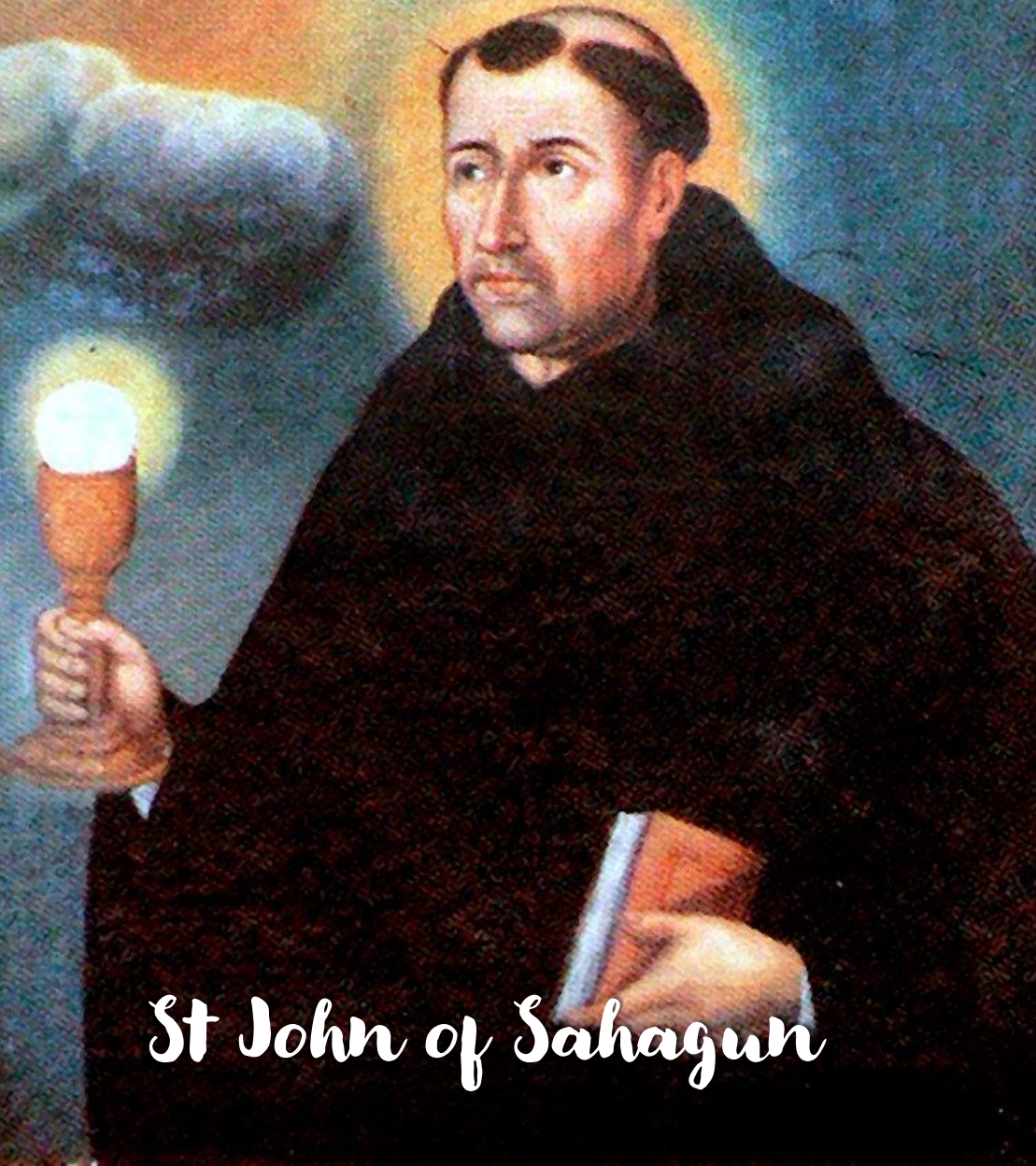
and gave him grace to encourage others;

Help us, by his example, to be generous in our judgements

and unselfish on our service; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

Friday 12th June



St John of Sahagun

John González was born in 1430 of a well-to-do family in Sahagún de Campos, Spain. He studied under the Benedictines in his native city, showing great promise. In 1454 he was ordained priest by the bishop of Burgos and held the office of chaplain at the church of Saint Gadea. John died on June 11, 1479 at the age of 49, was beatified in 1601 and canonized in 1691 by Innocent XII. It was thought by some of his contemporaries that he had actually been poisoned in retaliation for his condemnation of the immoral lifestyle of a public figure. His remains are venerated in the cathedral of Salamanca where he is honoured as patron of both the city and the diocese.

Heavenly Father, Saint John's life bears witness to the necessity of being attentive always to the call of God and generous in responding, regardless of where the summons might lead. There can be no limits placed on one's availability when a person experiences within the force of God's love - whether in one's state of life or in the carrying out of one's responsibilities even at a high price. Help me today to carry out all my responsibilities to the best of my ability.

Amen

Saturday 13th June



St. Anthony of Padua is one of the most famous disciples of St. Francis of Assisi. Anthony's wealthy family wanted him to be a great nobleman, but instead God called him to the life of a poor Franciscan priest. He was a famous preacher and worker of miracles in his day, and throughout the eight centuries since his death he has so generously come to the assistance of the faithful who invoke him, that he is known throughout the world. We often turn to St. Anthony when we have lost things, but he is also someone to turn to when we need a miracle in our lives.

Prayer:

Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints. St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for his creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I ask you to obtain for me the favours that I seek (mention your request here). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle, even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was full of sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Infant Jesus, who loved to be held in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. Amen

St Anthony of Padua