



Prayers for the Week Ahead

WEEK BEGINNING 28TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Monday 28th September



St Wenceslaus

St. Wenceslaus I, Duke of Bohemia, is remembered as a courageous witness to the Christian faith whose life was defined by a profound commitment to piety, justice, and the well-being of his people. Born around 907, he was raised by his grandmother, St. Ludmila, who instilled in him a deep love for the Gospel and the sacraments. Upon ascending to the throne, Wenceslaus sought to govern through the lens of Christian charity, tirelessly working to spread the faith, protect the poor, and foster peace within his kingdom. His reputation for holiness and his dedication to the Church made him a beloved patron of the Czech people, serving as a powerful example of how a leader can integrate faith into the responsibilities of public life.

Despite his gentle and virtuous nature, Wenceslaus faced intense opposition from pagan factions, including members of his own family who resisted the influence of Christianity and his alliance with the Holy Roman Empire. His earthly life ended in martyrdom in 929, when he was assassinated by his brother Boleslaus while on his way to Mass. Immediately recognized as a martyr for the faith, his legacy transformed into a powerful symbol of national and spiritual identity. Today, the Church venerates him as a saint who demonstrated that true power lies in humble service to God and the sacrificial love of one's neighbour, inspiring generations to remain steadfast in their commitment to Christ.

Tuesday 29th September

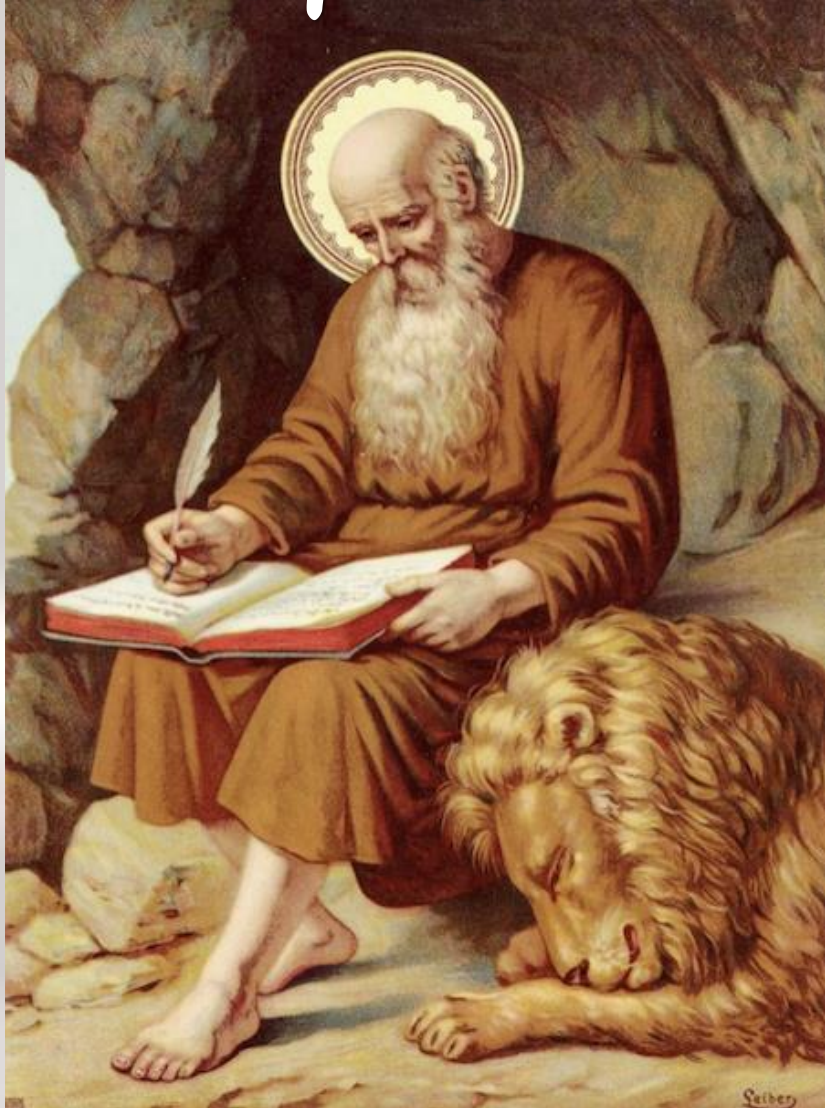


*St.s Michael, Gabriel and
Raphael, Archangels*

The Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael are revered in Catholic tradition as the highest of God's messengers, each embodying a unique aspect of God's interaction with humanity. St. Michael, whose name means "Who is like God?", is venerated as the Prince of the Heavenly Host and the defender of the Church, known for his battle against evil and his protection of the faithful. St. Gabriel, the "Strength of God," is the quintessential messenger, most famously chosen to announce the Incarnation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, serving as the bridge between Heaven and Earth in the unfolding story of salvation. St. Raphael, whose name signifies "God has healed," is celebrated as the companion and healer, most notably depicted in the Book of Tobit as a guide who restores sight and offers protection to those in need.

Together, these three Archangels exemplify how God continuously watches over, guides, and supports His creation. By honouring them, the Church recognizes the reality of the spiritual realm and the active, protective presence of angels in our daily lives. They serve as models of perfect obedience to the Divine Will and remind the faithful that they are never alone in their earthly journey. Through their intercession, Catholics are encouraged to emulate their zeal for God's truth, their readiness to serve His purposes, and their commitment to bringing His light, message, and healing touch to a world in need of grace.

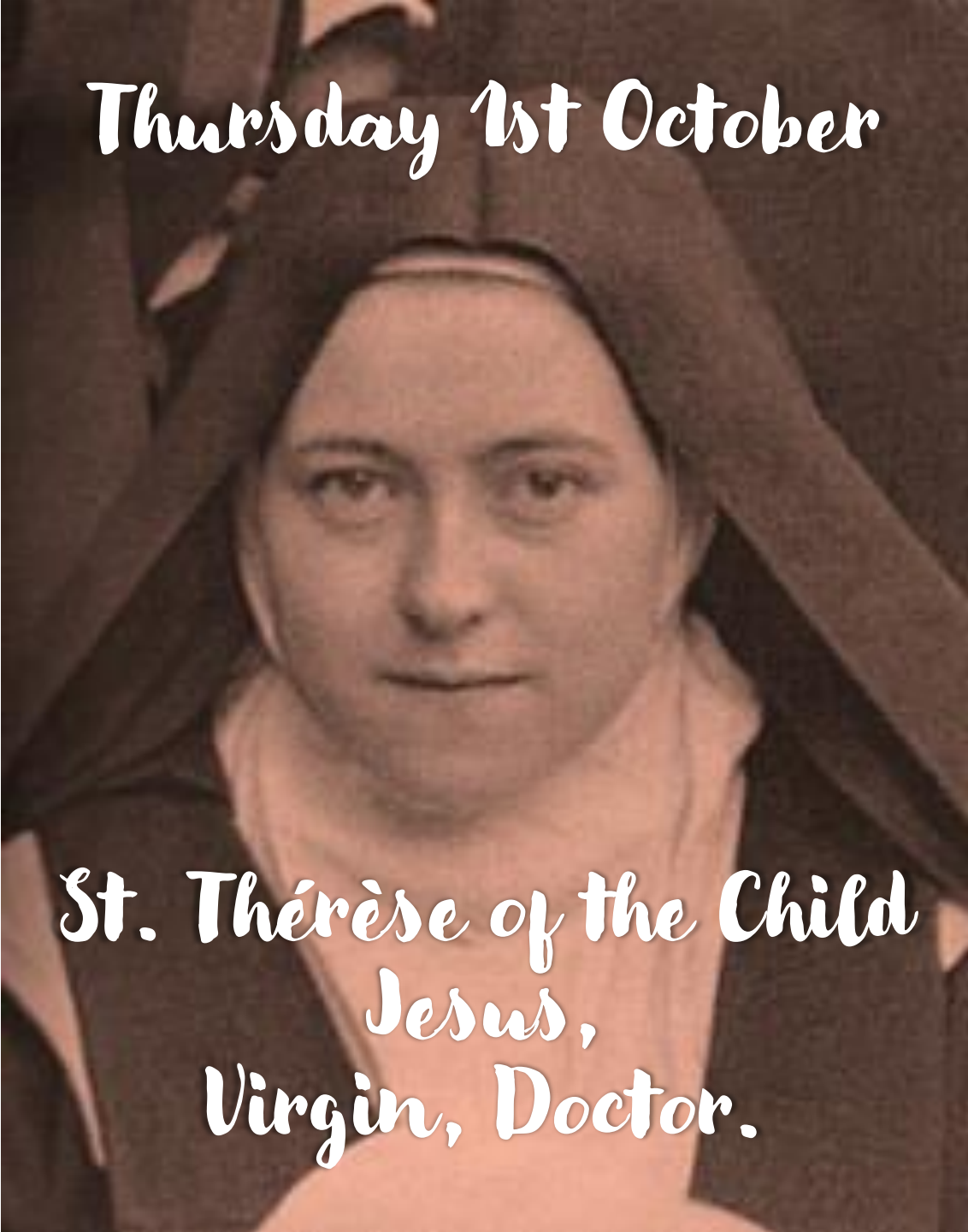
Wednesday 30th
September



St Jerome

St. Jerome, a Doctor of the Church and one of the most prolific scholars in Christian history, is best remembered for his monumental work in translating the Holy Scriptures into Latin, known as the Vulgate. Born around 347, he was a man of intense intellect and passionate temperament who sought to immerse himself fully in the Word of God. After spending years as an ascetic in the Syrian desert, he moved to Rome and later settled in Bethlehem, where he dedicated his life to prayer, penance, and the study of the Bible. His unwavering belief that "ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ" drove his efforts to make the sacred texts accessible, laying the foundation for biblical studies in the Western Church for centuries to come.

Though he was known for his sharp wit and occasionally combative nature in theological debates, Jerome's life was fundamentally a journey of profound humility and conversion. He transformed his intellectual gifts into an offering of service to the Church, demonstrating that deep scholarship and rigorous academic labour can be a powerful form of devotion. Today, St. Jerome serves as a patron for all those who study and teach the faith, reminding the faithful that true wisdom is found in constantly turning to the Word of God, contemplating its mysteries, and allowing it to shape one's soul through prayer and reflection.

A portrait of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, a young woman with dark hair, wearing a dark brown habit with a white collar. She is looking directly at the camera with a gentle expression.

Thursday 1st October

St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin, Doctor.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux, also popularly known as The Little Flower of Jesus, The Holy Face, and St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus is a patron saint for missionaries, aviators, and florists.

On 2 January 1873, Marie Françoise-Thérèse Martin was born in France. She grew up in a loving and spiritual environment, which helped her realise her life's real purpose.

In the early years, she suffered many setbacks like her mother's death and her frail health, but she found her faith and always considered these experiences' positive things. She wanted to be cloistered at a very young age of 15, and after getting permission, she joined her sister's Carmelite community. After spending nine years there, she died on 30 September 1897 due to tuberculosis.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux's letters and article compilation 'Story of a Soul,' was published posthumously as her autobiography and are widely regarded by the Catholic community.



O Glorious St. Thérèse,
whom Almighty God has raised up to aid
and inspire the human family,
I implore your miraculous intercession.
You are so powerful in obtaining every need
of body and spirit from the Heart of God.
Holy Mother Church proclaims you "Prodigy of Miracles ...
the greatest saint of Modern Times."
Now I fervently beseech you to answer my petition

(mention in silence here)

and to carry out your promises of spending
heaven doing good on earth ...
of letting fall from Heaven a Shower of Roses.
Little Flower, give me your childlike faith
to see the Face of God
in the people and experiences of my life
and to love God with full confidence.

St Thérèse, my Carmelite Sister,
I will fulfil your plea "to be made known everywhere"
and I will continue to lead others to Jesus through you.

Amen

Friday 2nd October



The Holy Guardian Angels

Perhaps no aspect of Catholic piety is as comforting to parents as the belief that an angel protects their little ones from dangers real and imagined. Yet guardian angels are not only for children. Their role is to represent individuals before God, to watch over them always, to aid their prayer, and to present their souls to God at death.

The concept of an angel assigned to guide and nurture each human being is a development of Catholic doctrine and piety based on Scripture but not directly drawn from it. Jesus' words in Matthew 18:10 best support the belief: "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father."

Devotion to the angels began to develop with the birth of the monastic tradition. Saint Benedict gave it impetus and Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, the great 12th-century reformer, was such an eloquent spokesman for the guardian angels that angelic devotion assumed its current form in his day. A feast in honour of the guardian angels was first observed in the 16th century. In 1615, Pope Paul V added it to the Roman calendar.

Hail Mary...