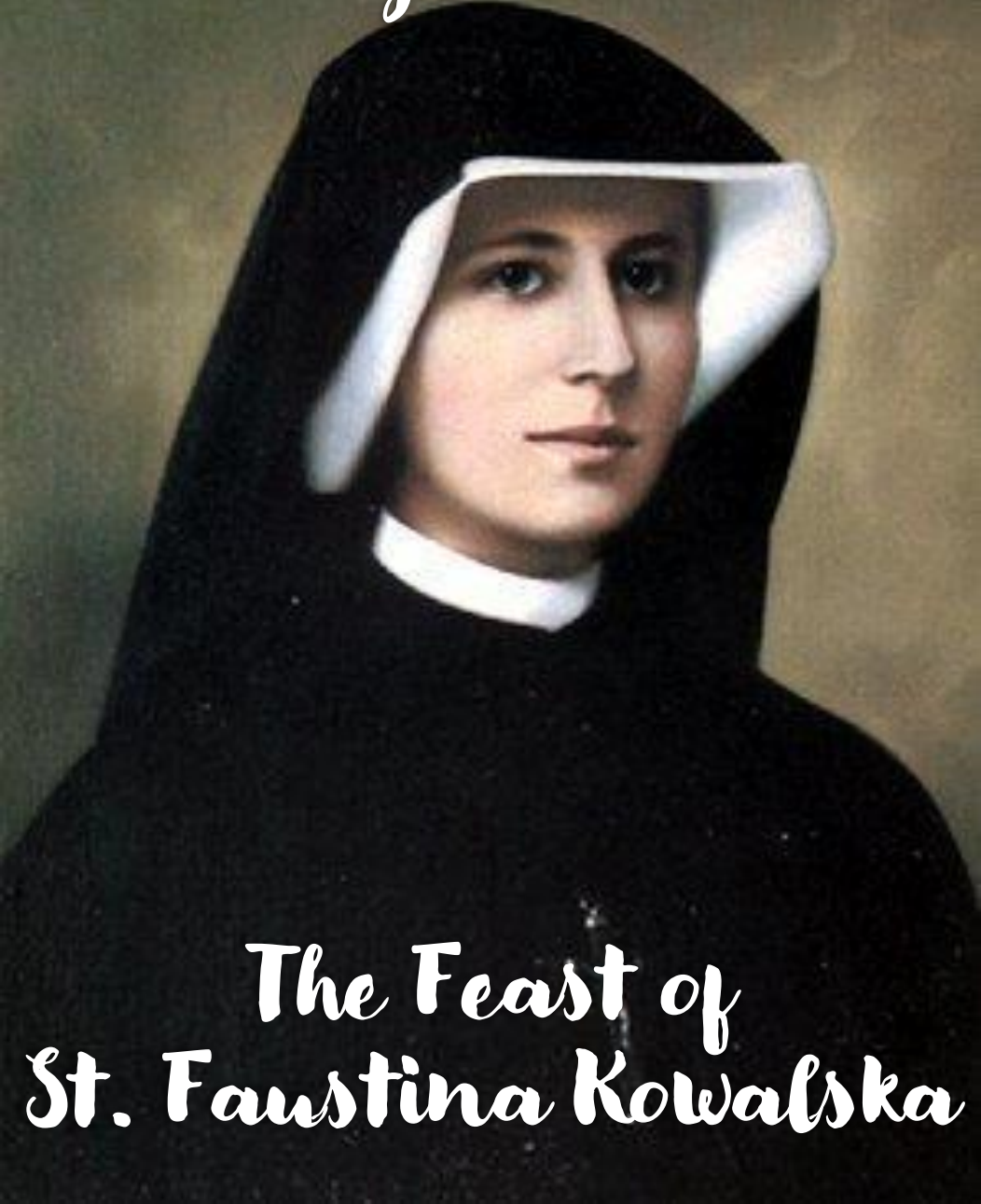


Prayers for the Week Ahead

WEEK BEGINNING 5TH OCTOBER

Monday 5th October



The Feast of St. Faustina Kowalska

Sister Faustina was a young, uneducated nun in a convent of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Poland during the 1930s. She came from a poor family that struggled during the years of World War I. She had only three years of simple education, so her's were the humblest tasks in the convent, usually in the kitchen or garden. However, she received extraordinary revelations – or messages – from our Lord Jesus. Jesus asked Sr. Faustina to record these experiences, which she compiled into notebooks. These notebooks are known today as the Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, and the words contained within are God's loving message of Divine Mercy.

Though the Divine Mercy message is not new to the teachings of the Church, Sr. Faustina's Diary sparked a great movement, and a strong and significant focus on the mercy of Christ. Saint John Paul II canonised Sr. Faustina in 2000 making her the "first saint of the new millennium." Speaking of Sr. Faustina and the importance of the message contained in her Diary, the Pope called her "the great apostle of Divine Mercy in our time."

Today, let us reflect upon St. Faustina's words, "'I want to be completely transformed into Your mercy and to be Your living reflection, O Lord.'" (No. 163)

How can we today be living reflections of God and his mercy?

Our Father...



Tuesday 6th October

The Feast of
St. Bruno

St. Bruno was born in Cologne and studied at the Cathedral in Rheims. He was ordained in 1055 and became professor of theology. He was one of the most remarkable scholars and teachers of his time. He and six companions built a monastery and founded the Carthusians Order in 1084. They embraced poverty, manual labour, prayer and transcribing manuscripts.

Their fame spread and Bruno became advisor to the Pope. After six years, he founded St. Mary's Monastery in Calabria. He passed away in 1101.

*God,
you called Bruno to serve you
in a life of solitude,
inspired by his example,
may our hearts be fixed on you
amidst the swift and varied changes of the world,
through Jesus, the Christ,
who is alive with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.*

Wednesday 7th October



The Feast of
Our Lady
of the Rosary

The feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7, also known as Our Lady of Victory, began as a celebration of the victory of the Battle of Lepanto – securing European Christendom against a Turkish invasion on October 7, 1571. It is an example of victory and the power of the Blessed Mother to shore us up. She nursed Jesus in a manger, stood at the foot of His Cross at the Crucifixion, and now comforts and strengthens us in our trials.

Pope St. Pius V attributed the victory at Lepanto – one of the most decisive in all of naval history according to historians – to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary through a campaign to pray the Rosary throughout Europe.

Pope Pius V called for prayer and action. He pleaded with every man, woman, and child to pray the Rosary. He also put together the Holy League – a coalition of Catholic powers which included Genoa, Spain, and the Papal States.

Today, let us reflect on the Blessed Virgin Mary's love for us and the power of the Rosary. Why not take some time to say a Rosary today?

Hail Mary...

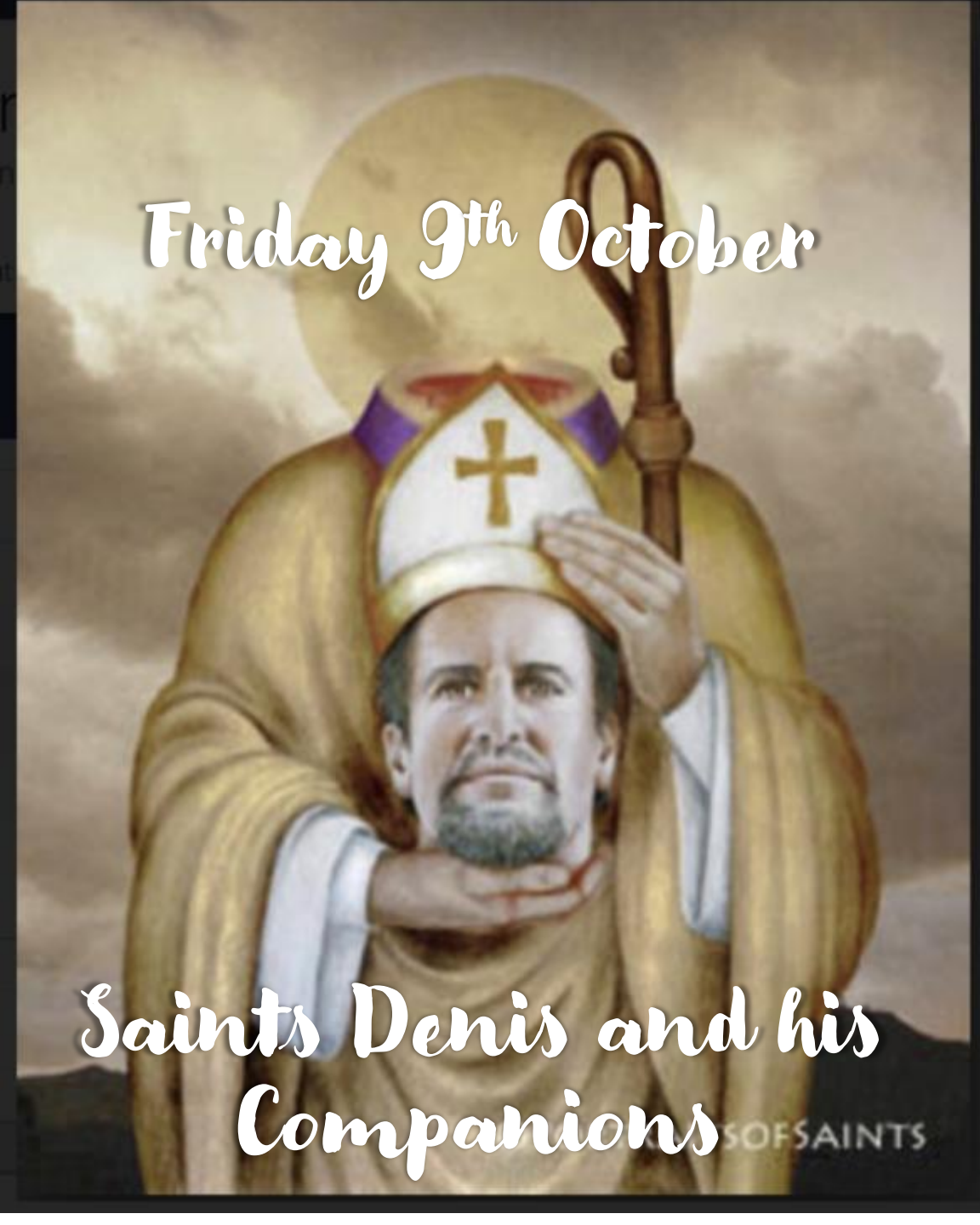
Thursday 8th October



Saint Pelagia

Pelagia, more often called Margaret, on account of the magnificence of the pearls for which she had so often sold herself, was an actress of Antioch, equally celebrated for her beauty, her wealth and the disorder of her life. During a synod at Antioch, she passed Bishop St. Nonnus of Edessa, who was struck with her beauty; the next day she went to hear him preach and was so moved by his sermon that she asked him to baptise her which he did. She gave her wealth to Nonnus to aid the poor and left Antioch dressed in men's clothing. She became a hermitess in a cave on Mount of Olivette in Jerusalem, where she lived in great austerity, performing penances and known as "the beardless monk" until her sex was discovered at her death. Though a young girl of fifteen did exist and suffer martyrdom at Antioch in the fourth century, the story heretold is a pious fiction, which gave rise to a whole set of similar stories under different names.

Hail Mary...



Friday 9th October

Saints Denis and his
Companions

Saint Denis was a legendary 3rd-century Christian martyr. According to his hagiographies, he was bishop of Paris in the third century and, together with his companions Rusticus and Eleutherius, was martyred for his faith by decapitation. Denis and his companions were so effective in converting people that the non-Christian priests became alarmed over their loss of followers. At their instigation, Roman Governor arrested the missionaries. After a long imprisonment, Denis and two of his clergy were executed by beheading on the highest hill in Paris (now Montmartre) After his head was cut off, Denis is said to have picked it up and walked several miles from the summit of the hill, preaching a sermon the entire way, making him one of many cephalophores in hagiology.

Hail Mary...