

FEASTS OF THE WEEK

Monday 8th August – Memoria: St Dominic, Priest.



Dominic Guzman was born at Calaruega, Castilla, Spain in 1170, the youngest of four children. He was educated by a learned Uncle and later at the great College of Palencia, precursor to the University of Salamanca. He first became an Augustinian Canon at the Cathedral in Osma. At the instigation of King Alphonsus IX of Castilla, Dominic accompanied his bishop on a mission to confront the Cathars and the Albigensian heresy in France. He worked to establish communities for women religious so that they could influence the wider populace in rejecting heretical tendencies.

During the last seven years of his life, Dominic was devoted to the establishment of what would become the Order of Preachers (Dominicans). He wanted to form Friars who would be both spiritually contemplative and intellectually competent in preaching the Gospel. Dominic knew and admired St Francis of Assisi. Dominic wanted to avoid some of the romantic ingredients displayed by the followers of Francis and he was undoubtedly more organised than Francis. Papal approval for his Friars was soon obtained by him choosing to adopt the flexible rule of his former and well established order, the Augustinians.

Between 1216 and 1220, Dominic preached extensively across Italy, France and Spain. In 1220 he convened the first General Chapter of the new order in Bologna. The following year, Dominic intended to embark upon a mission to preach in Hungary but died at Bologna on the 6th August 1221. The fruit of Dominic's labours can perhaps best be discerned in the works of two great Dominicans, St Albert the Great and St Thomas Aquinas. Dominic inspired many and was canonised by Pope Gregory IX 1234, a very short time after his death. His tomb is in Bologna, built by Nicolas Pisano and later embellished by Michelangelo.

Tuesday 9th August – Feast of St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein), Virgin and Martyr, Patron of Europe.

Born in 1891 and martyred by the Nazi Regime in 1942. Edith Stein was Jewish by birth and religious practice. She studied philosophy and became the academic assistant to the philosopher Edmund Husserl. She was an original thinker in her own right, lecturing on pedagogy and feminist issues. In 1922 she embraced the Catholic faith and in the following year entered the Carmelite Order at Cologne. It was here that she embraced her religious name of Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. She continued to publish both philosophical and religious books together with many academic articles. She wrote a significant work on the writings of St John of the Cross, the Spanish Carmelite Mystic and Poet of the sixteenth century. She wrote an autobiography entitled 'Life in a Jewish Family'. In the face of increasing persecution of Jews by the Nazi Regime in Germany, Sister Benedicta was moved from Cologne to a convent in The Netherlands. During the Second World War she was eventually identified as an ethnic Jew and arrested. She was sent to the extermination camp at Auschwitz where she was martyred. She forever declared that she died for Christ as an ethnic Jew. She was beatified and canonized by Pope St John Paul II.



Wednesday 10th August – Feast of St Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr.



Pope St Sixtus II ordained Lawrence to the diaconate in 257 AD. Despite his youth, Lawrence was appointed to lead the seven deacons of Rome. Lawrence was entrusted with care of the treasury, a role which included responsibility for distributing funds to the poor. It was at this time that the Emperor Valerian promulgated his edict of persecution against the Church, stating that all bishops, priests and deacons be executed immediately. Pope Sixtus was eventually arrested and executed the following year. Lawrence was also arrested. The Roman Prefect had been made aware that Lawrence had charge of the treasury. The Prefect commanded Lawrence to submit whatever 'treasures' the Church possessed. Lawrence famously pointed to the poor, declaring them to be the 'treasure'. The enraged Prefect ordered Lawrence to be killed at once. Later tradition depicts Lawrence as having been roasted alive on a gridiron. A number of Roman Senators who had witnessed Lawrence's martyrdom embraced the faith soon afterwards.

N.B. The central window within the north wall of the sanctuary depicts St Lawrence.

FEASTS OF THE WEEK (CONTINUED)

Thursday 11th August – Memoria of St Clare, Virgin.

St Clare is often termed the ‘spiritual daughter’ of St Francis. Like Francis, Clare was born in Assisi. She was born 1193 and from her childhood nurtured a deep faith and spiritual devotion. She listened to the teachings of St Francis and resolved to devote herself to his mission and call to conversion. She went to the Portiuncular Church – St Mary of the Angels – that had been restored by Francis and there received the penitential habit.



Francis first insisted that Clare take up residence in a Benedictine Convent. Clare’s sister, Agnes, soon joined her in adopting the religious life. Clare attracted a number of other women to her chosen way of life and Francis eventually placed Clare and her companions in a house of their own (alongside his own new Church of San Damiano). This constituted the foundation of the Second Order of Franciscans, the Poor Clares as we better know them. Clare went on to establish a number of other convents across northern Italy. This new order soon spread to Spain and what we now identify as Germany, Austria and Hungary.

Like Francis, Clare was born into a noble family. Following the death of her Father, Clare inherited a small fortune which she transferred in its entirety to the care of the poor. With complete identification with the spirit of Francis, Clare and her companions lived by complete reliance on donated alms. She was renowned for the austerity of her penitential life in conjunction with the magnitude of her enduring joy. She died on 11th August 1253 and was canonized just two years later by Pope Alexander IV.

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO THE GRAVE OF ST JOHN KEMBLE

This year’s Pilgrimage takes place on Sunday 21st August. People have prayed at the Grave of St John Kemble from the time of his martyrdom in 1679. Further details to follow in later newsletters. All enquiries to: The Pilgrimage Secretary, Mrs M Walsh, tel. 01600 713316.

PILGRIMAGE IN HONOUR OF ST DAVID LEWIS S.J.

The pilgrimage takes place on Sunday 28th August. See the poster at the back of church for more details.

RELICS OF ST BERNADETTE

The relics of St Bernadette will be in St David’s Cathedral for 24 hours from 11th September at 12pm. To register your attendance visit STBERNADETTE.ORG.UK/THE-TOUR/

MARCH FOR LIFE UK 2022

The U.K. 2022 March for Life will take place in London on Saturday 3rd September. Events commence at The Emmanuel Centre, Marsham Street, SW1P 3DW – from 10.30am to 1.30pm. A Mass will be celebrated at 11.00am in St George’s Cathedral, Southwark. The March commences from The Emmanuel Centre at 2.00pm and ends in Parliament Square at 4.30pm. 10,000,000 abortions have been performed in the United Kingdom since the Abortion Act of 1967. Please pray in defence of human life in the womb. For more information, please consult info@marchforlife.co.uk