

St. Francis of Assisi

MORNING PRAYERS

Monday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

This week we celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. He was born in Assisi in Italy in 1182, son of a wealthy silk merchant.

As a teenager, he was very popular with his age group; he was good company, he made people laugh, he was mischievous and he always had a song on his lips.

But even when he was young, Francis showed an instinctive sympathy towards the poor, and although he spent money lavishly, he gave lots away to anyone who wanted it, much to the disappointment and anger of his father, who beat him and locked him up in a cell.

Eventually, his father decided to disown Francis, and banish him from his house. But as an answer, in front of all the people of Assisi, Francis stripped off all his clothes and gave them to his father saying "*Until now I have called you my father on earth; henceforth I desire to say only our Father who art in heaven*". From then on he dressed in clothing fit only for a beggar, and took a vow to be married only to the one he called 'Lady Poverty'.

PRAYERS

St Francis used to say that his followers should always "*Preach the Gospel at all times... and when necessary, use words.*" ...which means to preach by how you live, not just in what you say.

So let us ask God to give us the courage to live holy lives.

Lord, hear us... **Lord graciously hear us.**

St Francis of Assisi: **Pray for us.**

St. Philip: **Pray for us.**

House Saint: **Pray for us.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

St. Francis of Assisi

Tuesday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

Just as the many young people of Assisi had followed Francis as their leader when he was a teenager, so now many of them were inspired to copy Francis, give away everything they owned, and join him where he was living in the woods below Assisi.

Francis encouraged them to go about the countryside in pairs, speaking simply to people about the Lord, working alongside poor people in the fields, and begging for food.

Wherever they went, they would greet everyone with the words '*Pace e Bene*', which means 'Peace and Goodwill'.

As well as simplicity and joy, courtesy was a feature of the Franciscan way of life. St Francis said to his brothers:-

"Whoever may come to us, whether as a friend or a foe, a thief or a robber, let him be kindly received".

On one occasion, three notorious criminals who were starving in the forests came upon Francis, and he gave them all that he had to eat. They were so affected that they left their former way of life and became Franciscan brothers.

PRAYERS

We pray for our Holy Father Pope Francis; May he inspire us by his teaching and his proclamation of the faith in the spirit of St Francis.

Lord, hear us... **Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for the poor and homeless; May we learn to be generous with those who have so much less than us.

Lord, hear us... **Lord graciously hear us.**

St. Francis of Assisi: **Pray for us.**

St. Philip: **Pray for us.** *House Saint:* **Pray for us.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

St. Francis of Assisi

Wednesday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

Francis was famous for his love of animals and nature. He treated all animals and creatures almost with reverence, remembering that they had God as their Creator.

On one occasion, he was called to a place where a very aggressive wolf had been killing sheep, and had even killed a man. Having tamed the fierce wolf, Francis persuaded the local people to feed the animal whom he called "Brother Wolf", and it became the town pet.

He called everything in nature either his 'Brother' or 'Sister'. When he was dying, and in great pain, Francis stripped off his rough cloak and covered himself only in a cloth around his waist, so that he could meet 'Brother Death' with nothing in the world, except 'Lady Poverty'.

Above all, Francis had a love of the Mass, although he never became a priest. He once said to his companions:

"Every day God the Son humbles himself, just as he did when he came from his heavenly throne into the Virgin's womb; every day he comes to us, and lets us see him in lowliness, when he descends from his place by the Father, into the hands of the priest at the altar."

PRAYERS

We ask St. Francis to pray for us, that we might acquire devotion to the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Lord hear us... **Lord graciously hear us.**

Let us pray that we might learn to treat the world in which we live with greater reverence.

Lord hear us... **Lord graciously hear us.**

St. Francis of Assisi: **Pray for us.**

St. Philip: **Pray for us.** *House Saint: Pray for us.*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

St. Francis of Assisi

Thursday

ROSARY REFLECTION

St Francis loved Christmas. He invented the Christmas Crib as a way to generate devotion to Christ's birth.

In his little chapel in the woods, he used real cows and sheep and animals surrounding the crib on Christmas Eve. So let us say

THIRD JOYFUL MYSTERY: THE BIRTH OF JESUS

“Mary gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”

1x Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day...

10x Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and Blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary...

1x Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was... In the name ...

Friday

FRIDAY PRAYER

Remember that you can go to the chapel for confession this lunchtime if you wish to receive God's loving forgiveness .

St. Francis was most famous for his preaching on the gift of peace.

We can finish the week by saying together

St Francis' Prayer for Peace:-

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen