

Charity

MORNING PRAYER

Monday

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

REFLECTION

The word 'Charity' is the best definition of love, because it describes the practice of love; love isn't theoretical; it shows itself in practice.

St John Henry Newman said 'it was charity that brought Christ down, and it will be by charity that we reach into the next world'.

The early Christian Martyr Saint Lawrence gives us a perfect example of charity.

Lawrence was a Deacon in the Church. That meant he had to care for those in need. But the Church was being persecuted by the Romans, and they ordered Lawrence to give them all of the Church's treasures.

But instead he did his duty as Deacon and distributed all the funds of the Church to the poor.

Only then did he go back to the Roman authorities, taking some poor people with him instead of treasure. He said:

'If you want the treasures of the Church, then here they are!'

St Lawrence died for his faith, and like the Roman martyr St Valentine, he shows us what real love is like. It is charity.

PRAYERS

Let us pray for ourselves as members of the Body of Christ, that we be inspired to undertake works of charity for the good of those in need of our love.

Lord, hear us...

Let us pray for those in our Church who are suffering and are deprived of love.

Lord, hear 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. In the name....

Charity

Tuesday

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

REFLECTION

Charity is a virtue, like Faith and Hope. All these three virtues are given to you at your baptism, when God makes his home in you.

Of these three, Charity is the virtue which leads you to making friends with God.

Charity has been called the 'mother of all virtues', because it is charity which inspires you to practice all the other virtues.

Giotto depicts Charity as a figure who is engrossed in God, and in receiving all the gifts which God provides. But the figure of Charity doesn't use these gifts for himself.

He passes them onwards, so that they can bear fruit in other people's lives.

Lastly, notice how the figure of Charity tramples bags of money underfoot. The money bags are worthless, other than as acting as a stepping stone towards being more charitable.

PRAYERS

Let us pray for those near to us in unhappy relationships, that their love for each other be purified with the virtue of Charity.

Lord, hear us...

Let us ask God to help us grow in friendship with him.

Our Father...

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

In the name of the Father...

Charity

Wednesday

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

REFLECTION

There are two vices which are most obviously opposed to the virtue of Charity.

The first is envy, which is the one illustrated in this picture. Envy alienates me from my friends, so that I begin to think of them as my enemies.

Envy comes from a self-centred attitude to life, where I put myself and my own interests before those of others.

For such a person, Life is all about building up possessions to use as a barrier from being dependent on other people.

And I become miserable and lonely.

The other vice opposed to Charity is 'spiritual sloth'.

This is when I can't be bothered to lift a finger to help anyone, which means that I can't be bothered to do God's work.

PRAYERS

Let us ask Mary, Refuge of sinners, to pray for us.
Hail Mary...

St. Philip: **Pray for us.** *House Saint:* **Pray for us.**
In the name of the Father...

Charity
Thursday
THE 8.20 MASS TOMORROW
IS OFFERED FOR FOR OUR FAMILIES
ROSARY REFLECTION

Today let us offer up the Rosary for those whom we love.

**THE FIFTH MYSTERY OF LIGHT:
THE INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST**

*While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing
it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,
'Take, eat; this is my body.'*

*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 they 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.

We pray together Saint Patrick's Breastplate

**Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.**