

Coloma Catholic Life.

Liturgical Year

Liturgical Year

4th Week in Ordinary Time. Liturgical Colour – Green

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for February

Listen to the Migrants' Cries

We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

Pope Francis Tweet

"The Gospel for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord shows us the amazement of Mary, Joseph, Simeon and Anna at what was happening before their eyes. The ability to be amazed makes our encounter with the Lord fruitful."

Gospel reflection for Sunday 2nd February: Luke 2:22-40



In yesterday's Gospel, we heard the story of when Mary and Joseph brought the child Jesus to be presented to God in the temple. This shows Mary and Joseph's obedience to what the Lord God instructed Moses in the book of Exodus 13:11-16. As God's beloved children, we are called to adhere to God's injunctions for He said, 'if you love me, keep my commandments.'

Pope St. John Paul II declared this day as the World Day for Consecrated Life. Let us pray that all consecrated persons be endowed with the grace to be faithful to their vows. In many churches the congregation will use lighted candles as part of the entrance procession. The lighted candles represent Christ, who is the light of the world. Let us pray that this light continues to enlighten our minds and never depart from us.

At last all powerful Master, give leave to your servant to go in peace. For mine eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared for all nations.

Upcoming Events



26th February

Ash Wednesday – Service & distribution of ashes during the day. Lent begins.

3rd March – Periods 5 & 6
Reconciliation for Year 7

10th March – Periods 5 & 6
Reconciliation for Year 8

17th March – Periods 5 & 6
Reconciliation for Year 9

24th March – Periods 5 & 6
Reconciliation for Year 10

1st April - Periods 5 & 6
Reconciliation for Year 11

Years 12 & 13 are warmly invited to attend any of the above to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

10th April - Good Friday

11th – 18th April - Year 12
Pilgrimage to Lourdes



The God Who Speaks – Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

The focus for February is Follow the Lion's tale .

St Jerome (Born: c.347 AD, Died: 420 AD) is renowned and praised for his many Commentaries on Scriptures and for his masterpiece, the translation of the Latin Vulgate.

Legends about St Jerome include the account that once pulled a thorn from a lion's paw whilst he was living in the wilderness. In gratitude the lion is said to have faithfully guarded and assisted him.



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The Catholic Bishops' Conference have created a group study resource for adults (based on the article by Fr. Jerome Ituah, OCD) and several activity sheets for children to share St Jerome's love of Scripture further.

🐾 [Look out for our lion's at a Scripture Tour near you!](#) 🐾

[St Jerome resource for adults](#) **Download**

[St Jerome resources for children](#) **Download**



Report from the website of the Archdiocese of Southwark

Many Congratulations Bishop Tripp!

Bishop Howard Tripp celebrating the 40th Anniversary of his Episcopal Ordination with Archbishop John and fellow clergy



The Diocese would like to offer its warmest congratulations to The Right Reverend Bishop Howard Tripp, who celebrated the 40th Anniversary of his Episcopal Ordination on Thursday 30th January 2020.

Bishop Howard was appointed as an Auxiliary Bishop of Southwark by Pope St John Paul II on 20th December 1979 and given the titular see of Newport. He was ordained alongside Bishop John Jukes OFM Conv in a ceremony at St. George's Cathedral, Southwark on 30th January 1980 by Archbishop Michael Bowen, assisted by Bishop Anthony Emery; the Bishop of Portsmouth and Bishop Charles Henderson; Auxiliary Bishop of Southwark.

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Bishop Tripp in Lourdes during the 2011 Catholic Association Pilgrimage

Bishop Howard was appointed as the Area Bishop for the South West Area of the Diocese and from that date until his retirement in 2006 he worked tirelessly, visiting the parishes, schools and the religious communities in his area. He also was a member of the Bishops Conference of England and Wales and was Chairman of the Committee for Public Life. During his time he also served as the Liaison Bishop for Prisons and was the ecclesiastical advisor to the Catholic Union and the Knights of St Columba. Following his retirement as Auxiliary Bishop, which came at the age of 86 years, Bishop Howard took on pastoral work in the parish of Saint John Fisher, Merton, where he continued until a few years ago. He 2012 also chaired the Clergy Support Fund Campaign in Croydon, which was initiated for the care of sick and retired priests within the Diocese.

The Archdiocese gives thanks to God for such a faithful servant, who in this 40th Year of his Episcopal Ordination and the 68th year of his priesthood still is a true shepherd, a faithful pastor, and a good friend.

Ad Multos Annos Bishop Howard.



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Saints of the Week

3rd February St Blaise, Bishop and Martyr



St Blaise was the Bishop of Sebastea (today, Sivas, Turkey) and a doctor. The first known record of his life comes from the medical writings of Aëtius Amidenus, where he is recorded as helping with patients suffering from objects stuck in their throat. Many of the miraculous aspects of St. Blaise's life are written of 400 years after his martyrdom in the "Acts of St. Blaise." He is believed to have begun as a healer but, eventually, he became a "physician of souls." He lived a life of a hermit in a cave, where he remained in prayer. People often turned to him for healing miracles. He suffered imprisonment for being a Christian, when Bishop of Sebastea and was eventually tortured and executed in about 316AD.

The ritual of the blessing of throats

In many places on his feast day people gather in churches for the blessing of throats. The blessing is a sign of the people's faith in God's protection and love for the sick.

Using two crossed and unlighted candles, the priest (or other minister) touches the throat of each person, saying: *Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from all ailments of the throat and from every other evil: + In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Usually the blessing takes place during Mass. It follows the homily and the prayer of the faithful. If done outside of Mass, a brief celebration of the word of God with the scripture readings suggested in the Lectionary is recommended before the blessing is given.

5th February St Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

St Agatha of Sicily was born at Catania, Sicily of noble birth. She rejected the advances of Quintianus, Governor of Sicily and, as a result, was charged with being a Christian and brought before the tribunal. When asked about her origin she declared, "I am noble-born, of a distinguished family, as all my relatives will attest." When asked why she lived the life of a Christian she replied, "I am a handmaid of Christ, and that is why I bear the outward appearance of a slave; yet this is the highest nobility, to be a slave to Christ." Agatha was tortured greatly but refused to renounce her faith. She was sent to prison where she offered her dying prayer, "O Lord Jesus Christ, good Master, I give You thanks that You granted me victory over the executioners' tortures. Grant now that I may happily dwell in Your never-ending glory." St Agatha's grave is venerated at Catania in Sicily. Her name is included among the saints in the Roman Canon (The First Eucharistic Prayer).



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6th February St Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

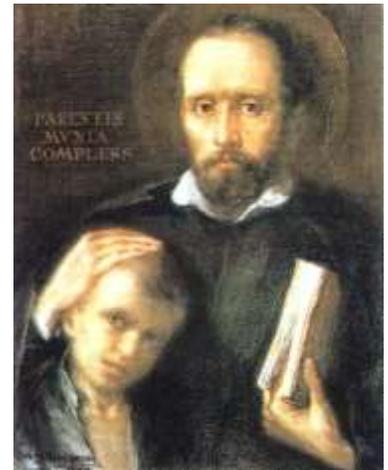


In 1593 Franciscan missionaries came to Japan and zealously gave themselves to the work of charity and evangelisation, but suspicion against them grew after a Spanish ship carrying artillery was seized off the Japanese coast. This gave Toyotomi Hideyoshi an excuse to persecute the Church and sentenced 26 Catholics to death by crucifixion. The group comprised three Japanese Jesuits, six foreign Franciscans and several lay Catholics including children. They were marched 600 miles to the city of Nagasaki. On the journey they suffered public torture, an attempt to frighten others in to denying their faith. One of the

group, St Paul Miki, was a Japanese Jesuit brother training for the priesthood. As he hung on the cross he preached to the crowds: "The only reason for my being killed is that I have taught the doctrine of Christ, I thank God it is for this reason that I die. I believe that I am telling the truth before I die. After Christ's example, I forgive my persecutors. I do not hate them. I ask God to have pity on all, and I hope my blood will fall on my fellow men as a fruitful rain." St. Paul Miki and his 25 companions were stabbed to death with lances on Feb. 5, 1597, at the site that became known as "Martyrs' Hill." Pope Pius IX canonized the Martyrs of Nagasaki in 1862.

Saturday 8th February St Jerome Emilian

Jerome was a careless and irreligious soldier for the city-state of Venice, who was captured in a skirmish at an outpost town and chained in a dungeon. In prison Jerome had a lot of time to think, and he gradually learned how to pray. When he escaped, he returned to Venice where he took charge of the education of his nephews—and began his own studies for the priesthood. In the years after his ordination, events again called Jerome to a decision and a new lifestyle. Plague and famine swept northern Italy. Jerome began caring for the sick and feeding the hungry at his own expense. While serving the sick and the poor, he soon resolved to devote himself and his property solely to others, particularly to abandoned children. He founded three orphanages, a shelter for penitent prostitutes and a hospital. Around 1532, Jerome and two other priests established a congregation, the Clerks Regular of Somasca, dedicated to the care of orphans and the education of youth. Jerome died in 1537 from a disease he caught while tending the sick. He was canonized in 1767. In 1928, Pius XI named him the patron of orphans and abandoned children.



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St Josephine Bakhita, Virgin



Saint Josephine Margaret Bakhita was born around 1869 in the village of Olgossa in the Darfur region of Sudan. She was a member of the Daju people, and her uncle was a tribal chief. Due to her family lineage, she grew up happy and relatively prosperous, saying that as a child, she did not know suffering. Sometime in February 1877, Josephine was kidnapped by Arab slave traders. Although she was just a child, she was forced to walk barefoot over 600 miles to a slave market in El Obeid. She was

bought and sold at least twice during the gruelling journey. For the next 12 years she would be bought, sold and given away over a dozen times. She spent so much time in captivity that she forgot her original name. As a slave, her experiences varied from fair treatment to cruel. Her first owner, a wealthy Arab, gave her to his daughters as a maid. The assignment was easy until she offended her owner's son, possibly for the crime of breaking a vase. As punishment, she was beaten so severely she was incapacitated for a month. After that, she was sold. One of her owners was a Turkish general who gave her to his wife and mother-in-law who both beat her daily. Josephine wrote that as soon as one wound would heal; they would inflict another. She told about how the general's wife ordered her to be scarred. As her mistress watched, ready with a whip, another woman drew patterns on her skin with flour, then cut into her flesh with a blade. She rubbed the wounds with salt to make the scars permanent. She would suffer a total of 114 scars from this abuse. In 1883, the Turkish general sold her to the Italian Vice Consul, Callisto Legani. He was a much kinder master and he did not beat her. When it was time for him to return to Italy, she begged to be taken with him, and he agreed. After a long and dangerous journey across Sudan, the Red Sea, and the Mediterranean, they arrived in Italy. She was given away to another family as a gift and she served them as a nanny. Her new family also had dealings in Sudan. When her mistress decided to travel to Sudan without Josephine, she placed her in the custody of the Canossian Daughters of Charity in Venice.

While she was in the custody of the sisters, she came to learn about God. According to Josephine, she had always known about God, who created all things, but she did not know who He was. The sisters answered her questions. She was deeply moved by her time with the sisters and discerned a call to follow Christ. When her mistress returned from Sudan, Josephine refused to leave. Her mistress spent three days trying to persuade her to leave the sisters, but Josephine remained steadfast. This caused the superior of the institute for baptismal candidates among the sisters to complain to Italian authorities on Josephine's behalf. The case went to court, and the court found that slavery had been outlawed in Sudan before Josephine was born, so she could not be lawfully made slave. She was declared free. For the first time in her life, Josephine was free and could choose what to do with her life. She chose to remain with the Canossian Daughters. She was baptized on January 9, 1890 and took the name Josephine Margaret and Fortunata. (Fortunata is the Latin translation for her Arabic name, Bakhita). She also received the sacraments of her first holy communion and confirmation on the same day. These three sacraments are the sacraments of initiation into the Church and were always given together in the early Church. The Archbishop who gave her the sacraments was none other than Giuseppe Sarto, the Cardinal Patriarch of Venice, who would later become Pope Pius X. Josephine became a novice with the Canossian Daughters of Charity religious order on December 7, 1893 and took her final vows on December 8, 1896. She was eventually assigned to a convent in Schio, Vicenza.

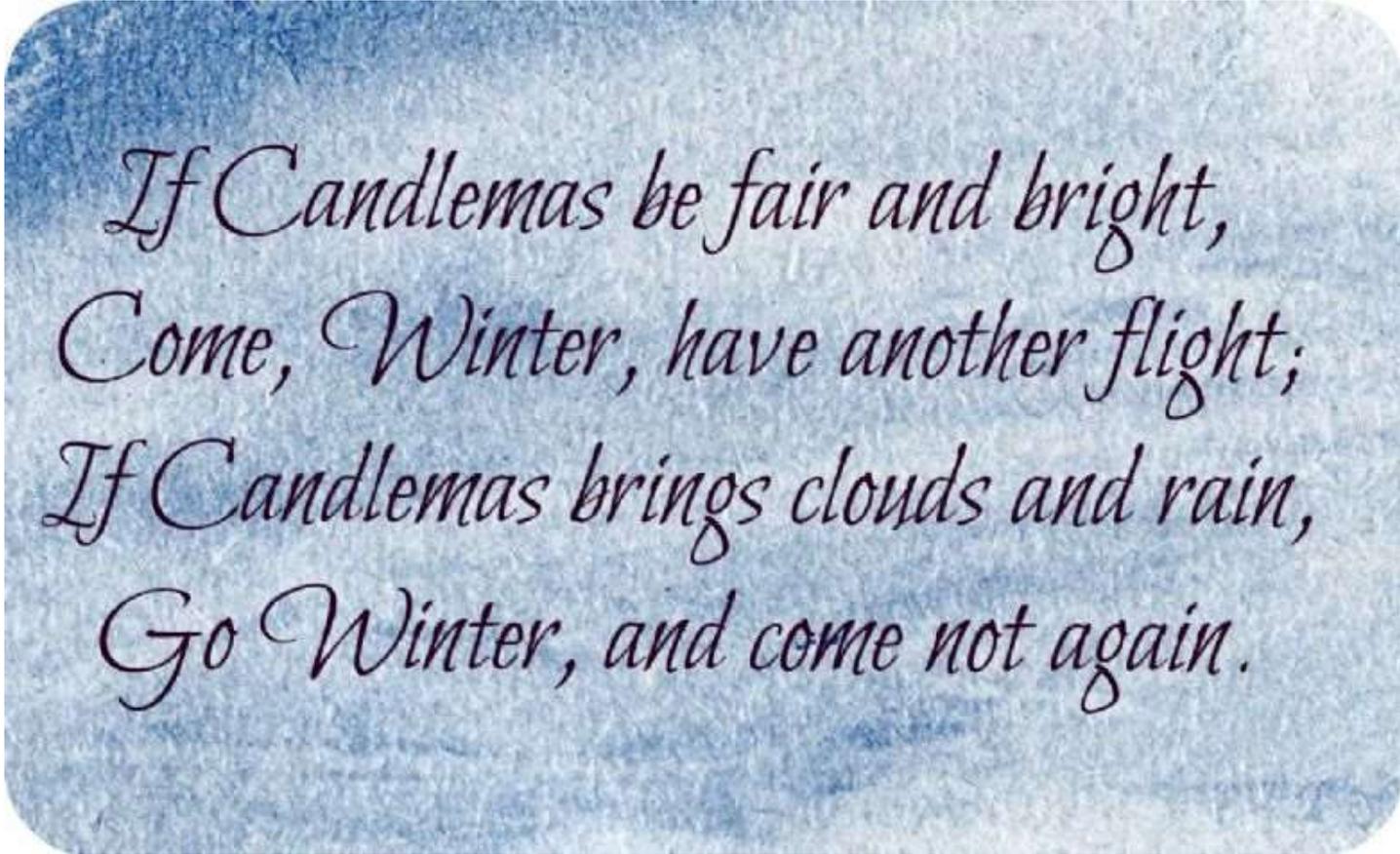
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For the next 42 years of her life, she worked as a cook and a doorkeeper at the convent. She also travelled and visited other convents telling her story to other sisters and preparing them for work in Africa. She was known for her gentle voice and smile. She was gentle and charismatic and was often referred to lovingly as the "little brown sister" or honourably as the "black mother." When speaking of her enslavement, she often professed she would thank her kidnappers. For had she not been kidnapped, she might never have come to know Jesus Christ and entered His Church.

During World War II, the people of the village of Schio regarded her as their protector and, although bombs fell on their village, not one citizen died. In her later years, she began to suffer physical pain and was forced to use a wheelchair, but she always remained cheerful. If anyone asked her how she was, she would reply, "As the master desires." On the evening of February 8, 1947, Josephine spoke her last words, "Our Lady, Our Lady!" she then died. Her body lay on display for three days afterwards. In 1958, the process of canonization began for Josephine under Pope John XXIII. On December 1st, 1978, Pope John Paul II declared her venerable. Sadly, the news of her beatification in 1992 was censored in Sudan. But just nine months later, Pope John Paul II visited Sudan and honoured her publicly. He canonized her on October 1, 2000.

Saint Josephine Bakhita is the patron saint of Sudan.



*If Candlemas be fair and bright,
Come, Winter, have another flight;
If Candlemas brings clouds and rain,
Go Winter, and come not again.*

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