



Hello everyone,

This week is truly a blessed week! At the team morning prayer, Bishop David Thomson has been educating us on the many saints and religious figures whose feasts days are celebrated this week, picking out some of the more unusual facts about them including:

Monday 10th – St Laurence – Made a deacon in Rome in 257 he defied the authorities and was martyred in 258. He is the patron saint of cooks, chefs, treasurers and comedians.

Tuesday 11th – St Clare of Assisi – Born in 1194, she was one of the first followers of St Francis of Assisi she founded the Poor Clares, becoming the first known woman to have written the guidelines for a monastic community. She is the patron saint of television.

- **John Henry Newman** who was first ordained an Anglican priest in 1824 and then ordained a Catholic priest in 1846 after converting to Catholicism. He was officially canonised (made a saint) in the Roman Catholic church less than a year ago.

Thursday 13th – Jeremy Taylor – Born in 1613 he became a chaplain to Charles I and was imprisoned by Cromwell's government. He is sometimes known as the 'Shakespeare of Divines'.

- **Florence Nightingale** – Born in 1820 she is best known as a nurse and social reformer but she was also the first female member of the Royal Statistical Society, joining in 1858.
- **Octavia Hill** – Born in 1838 she was a social reformer who was particularly concerned about improving the state of housing for the poor. She was also a founder of the National Trust and founded an early Cadet Battalion.

Friday 14th – Maximilian Kolbe – A Franciscan friar who remained at his monastery in Poland after the outbreak of WWII. He operated the friary as a hospital, providing shelter for Jewish refugees. He was arrested by the Gestapo and eventually transferred to Auschwitz where he volunteered to take the place of another inmate when 10 men were selected to be starved to death. He is patron saint of amateur-radio operators, and (for the recovery of) drug addicts.

Saturday 15th – The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Who presumably needs no introduction. She was a young Jewish girl living in Nazareth when a messenger from the Lord announced that she was to be the bearer of the Son of God. Catholic and Eastern Christian traditions hold that on her death God raised her body directly into heaven (the Assumption). She is the patron saint of fishmongers and harness makers.

If you have time this week perhaps you could find out about why these saints have these unusual patronages. We give thanks for these men and women, and the example they gave, praying that we too might lead lives devoted to God and the care of others.

Don't forget you can ask for a chat, or prayer, by phoning 01432 273086. As always, if you need any practical help, please phone the office or ask your Pastoral Coordinator, who has been phoning you during these weeks.

We hope these resources (including a sermon by the Reverend Sean Cathie) help you feel connected as we worship as a scattered Church. If you are planning on attending church, this coming week services take place at St Michael's, Breinton at 9.30am on Sunday, and at St Nicholas' on Wednesday at 11am.

And as more of the restrictions ease during lockdown, please do stay safe and well!

God Bless,

Ruth and Jo (Please note that Jo is on annual leave from 12th - 19th August, and Ruth from 24th - 29th August.)