

## *October Feasts and Important Dates*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Feast/Liturgical Occasion</b>	<b>Gospel for Sunday</b>
<b>1 October</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<b>Matthew 21:28-32</b>
<b>2 October</b>	<b>The Holy Guardian Angels</b>	
<b>4 October</b>	<b>St Francis of Assisi</b>	
<b>5 October</b>	<b>St. Faustina</b>	
<b>7 October</b>	<b>Our Lady of the Rosary</b>	
<b>8 October</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<b>Matthew 21:33-43</b>
<b>15 October</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<b>Matthew 22:1-14</b>
<b>17 October</b>	<b>St Ignatius of Antioch</b>	
<b>18 October</b>	<b>St Luke, Evangelist</b>	
<b>22 October</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<b>Matthew 22:15-21</b>
<b>28 October</b>	<b>Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles</b>	
<b>29 October</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<b>Matthew 22:34-40</b>

*During the month of October, we remember especially  
to pray the Rosary  
and  
to pray for the Missions and Missionaries.*

- *Are there any people from your parish working as missionaries abroad?*
- *Who are they and where are they working as missionaries?*
- *How are they working as missionaries?*
- *How might you help them?*

### **01 October: St. Teresa of Lisieux of the Child Jesus**

*Not celebrated this year as the feast falls on a Sunday, but you may find the following information helpful.*

St. Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897) was a French Catholic who became a Carmelite nun at an early age. During her short life as a Carmelite, she devoted herself to what she came to call her *"little way"* to holiness. She led a simple and quiet life of prayer. Her heart was filled with love and trust in God. When Therese died, she was only twenty-four years old.



What is the lesson we can learn from Saint Therese? She lived her life in childlike simplicity... By surrendering herself completely to the love of God, she learned

***"To do all things, no matter how big or small, with great love"***

St. Therese of Lisieux is one of the patron saints of the missions, not because she ever went anywhere, but because of her special love of the missions and because she prayed a lot for missionaries. This is reminder to all of us who feel we can do nothing, that it is the little things that keep God's kingdom growing.

### **02 October: The Guardian Angels**

The feast day of the Guardian Angels is a day that seeks to recognize the protective roles that guardian angels have in our lives. The Church's belief in guardian angels is based on Jesus' teaching. St. Matthew records Jesus as saying: "See that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father" (Mt 18:10).

A guardian angel is an angel that has been assigned to guard a particular person, especially with respect to helping that person avoid dangers and live their lives as God would wish.

### **03 October: Blessed Columba Marmion, Abbot**



Blessed Columba Marmion was an Irish monk who was a priest of Dublin diocese. He became a Benedictine monk and eventually abbot in Belgium. Beatified by Pope John Paul II on

September 3, 2000, Blessed Marmion was one of the most popular and influential Catholic writers of the 20th century. His books are considered spiritual classics.

**04 October: St. Francis of Assisi**

St. Francis of Assisi loved nature and treated all living things with respect because they were God's creation. He called the sun and moon his brother and sister, Brother Sun and Sister Moon. He saw the fingerprint of God in every leaf.

He grew up in the town of Assisi in the Italian hills. Francis loved life and had lots of friends. His father and mother were proud to have a son who was liked by everyone. Yet for Francis, this was not enough. He wanted to give his life to a noble cause. When he was twenty years old, he decided to join the army. That did not satisfy him either, so he turned in a very different direction. He started to get involved in works of charity. He visited hospitals, took care of those who had no one to care for them, and gave money and clothing to beggars.

He founded an order called the Franciscans. The Franciscan order is one of the largest orders in the Roman Catholic Church. Saint Francis was known for his love of nature, particularly his love of animals.

Pope Francis' encyclical letter '*Laudato Si'*: *On Care for our Common Home* is named after that same canticle or song in praise of creation composed by Saint Francis. As we reflect on *Laudato Si* and our call to care for God's creation, we can remember the life and the words of Saint Francis of Assisi. We can also remember that serving God does not necessarily mean doing great deeds. We can serve God by being thankful for the good things he has given to us. Like St. Francis, we should look for ways to use our talents in the service of God and one another. Francis realized that the best gift we can give to God is the gift of ourselves



***Prayer of St. Francis***

***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.***

***O divine Master, 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.*

### **05 October: St. Faustina**

*St. Faustina prayed: “Jesus, I trust in you”*



### **07 October: Our Lady of the Rosary**

The month of October is a powerful time to draw close to Our Blessed Mother by praying the Rosary. The Rosary is a summary of the most important events in the life of Jesus.



*May Mary draw us ever nearer to her beloved Son, Jesus.*

*Our Lady of the Rosary, Pray for us!*

### **15 October St Teresa of Avila**

*Not celebrated this year as the feast falls on a Sunday, but you may find the following information helpful.*

St Teresa of Avila was born in Spain. When she was fourteen she was sent to a convent school and was ill much of her early life. Later, she became a Carmelite nun and she helped restore the strict rule of life for the nuns, but she led them with love and good humour. She is best known for her book The Interior Castle.



## 18 October St Luke

St. Luke, the writer of the Gospel has been identified with St. Paul's "*Luke, the beloved physician*" (Colossians 4:14).

## 22 October: **Mission Sunday: "*Hearts on fire, feet on the move*"**

Mission Sunday is the one Sunday in the year when the Mass is celebrated exclusively for missionary activity. The theme which Pope Francis chose for the 2023 celebration is "Hearts on fire, feet on the move," which he said was inspired by the story of Jesus and the disciples on the road to Emmaus after the resurrection.

St. Therese, patroness of the Missions, would be quick to tell us this is the work of the Missionary and we are all Missionaries because we have been baptized and told to go out to all to bring the light of Christ wherever there is darkness.

## 28 October St Simon and St Jude

