



October 2025

Feasts and Important Dates

Date	Feast/Liturgical Occasion	Gospel for Sunday
1 October	St. Therese of the Child Jesus, virgin and doctor of the Church	
2 October	The Guardian Angels	
3 October	Bl. Columba Marmion	
4 October	St. Francis of Assisi	
5 October	27 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Luke 17:5-10
6 October	St. Bruno	
7 October	Our Lady of the Rosary	
9 October	St. John Henry Newman St. Denis and Companions St. John Leonardi	
11 October	St. John XXIII St. Canice	
12 October	28 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Luke 17: 11-19
15 October	St. Teresa of Avila	
16 October	St. Margaret Mary St. Gall	
17 October	St. Ignatius of Antioch	
18 October	St. Luke, Evangelist	
19 October	29 th Sunday in Ordinary Time Mission Sunday	Luke 18: 1-8
22 October	St. John Paul II	
23 October	St. John of Capistrano	
24 October	St. Anthony Mary Claret	
25 October	Bl. Thaddeus MacCarthy	
26 October	30 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Luke 18: 9-14
27 October	St. Otteran	
28 October	Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles	
29 October	St. Colman	
31 October	Bl. Dominic Collins	

During the month of October, we remember especially to pray the Rosary.

A Challenge for October

Our Lady of the Rosary

“Through the Rosary, Mary leads us closer to Jesus.”

Pray **one decade a day** for a week – See Guidelines A Decade a Day for October

1 October: St. Teresa of Lisieux of the Child Jesus

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. Thérèse's 'Little Way' is the path of childlike trust and love. She believed holiness is not found in extraordinary deeds but in doing small things with great love. Her spirituality invites us to embrace simplicity, humility, and confidence in God's merciful 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 done with love that make a difference and that, like Saint Therese, we can pray for the missions and missionaries.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.***

5 October: St. Faustina

Let us pray, as St. Faustina prayed:

"Jesus, I trust in you"



7 October: Our Lady of the Rosary

The month of October is a great 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.***

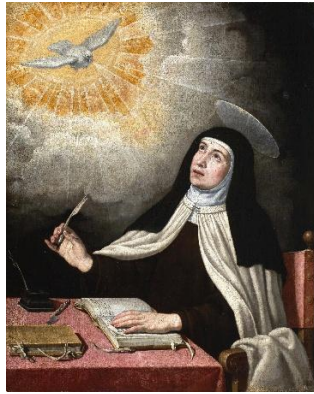
Our Lady of the Rosary, Pray for us!

15 October St Teresa of Avila

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*.

A Prayer of St. Teresa of Avila

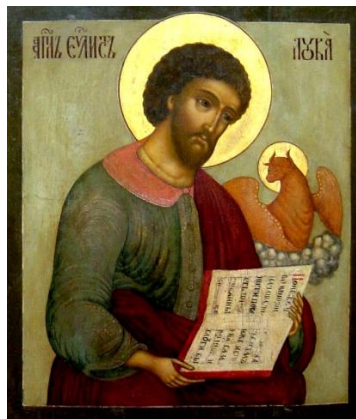
*Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things are passing;
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things.
Whoever has God lacks nothing;
God alone suffices.*



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).

He was born in Antioch (modern-day Syria/Turkey) and was a physician (doctor) by profession. He became a close friend and companion of St. Paul on his missionary journeys and was the writer of two books in the Bible: The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles.



19 October: Mission Sunday

Mission Sunday is the one Sunday in the year when the Mass is celebrated exclusively for missionary activity. Pope Francis said in his message for World Mission Sunday: "Every Christian is called to be a missionary and witness to Christ"

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

Both St. Simon and St. Jude were Apostles of Jesus - part of the group of Twelve. They are often celebrated together because tradition says they preached and were martyred around the same time, possibly in Persia (modern-day Iran).

St. Simon was known as Simon the Zealot. The title “Zealot” could mean he belonged to a strict Jewish group, or simply that he was very passionate and zealous for God. After Pentecost, he travelled to preach the Gospel in distant lands (tradition says Egypt, Persia, and beyond).

St. Jude was also called Thaddeus. He is the author of the short Letter of Jude in the New Testament. He is known as the patron saint of hopeless or desperate cases, because many people through history have found powerful help through his prayers.

Like all Apostles, they were chosen by Jesus to spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth. They are remembered for their courage in facing hardships and their loyalty to Christ. Tradition says they were martyred together for their faith. Simon reminds us to be zealous for God, to live our faith with energy and passion. Jude reminds us to never give up hope, even in difficult or desperate situations.



World Mission Sunday

Sunday, 19 October 2025

- *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?*



Always celebrated on the second to last Sunday of October, this year it will be marked on October 19th. World Mission Sunday is a special day that unites Catholics worldwide in prayer, solidarity, and support for the Church's mission efforts.

"Missionaries of Hope Among all Peoples".

This year's theme, chosen by the late Pope Francis, is inspired by the Jubilee of Hope: "Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples."

It is an invitation to bring Christ's light and hope to the world, especially to communities where the Church is young, growing, and often struggling. We are being asked to join in this universal mission to spread the gospel and share the love of Christ.

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
FOR WORLD MISSION DAY 2025**

19 October 2025

Missionaries of Hope Among all Peoples

Dear brothers and sisters!

For World Mission Day in the Jubilee Year 2025, the central message of which is hope (cf. Bull *Spes Non Confundit*, 1), I have chosen the motto: “Missionaries of Hope Among all Peoples”. It reminds individual Christians and the entire Church, the community of the baptized, of our fundamental vocation to be, in the footsteps of Christ, messengers and builders of hope. I trust that it will be for everyone a time of grace with the faithful God who has given us new birth in the risen Christ “to a living hope” (cf. *1 Pet* 1:3-4). Here, I would like to mention some relevant aspects of our Christian missionary identity, so that we can let ourselves be guided by the Spirit of God and burn with holy zeal for a new evangelizing season in the Church, which is sent to revive hope in a world over which dark shadows loom (cf. *Fratelli Tutti*, 9-55).

1. In the footsteps of Christ our hope

Celebrating the first Ordinary Jubilee of the Third Millennium after that of the Holy Year of 2000, we keep our gaze fixed on Christ, the centre of history, “the same yesterday and today and forever” (*Heb* 13:8). In the synagogue of Nazareth, Jesus declared that Scripture was fulfilled in the “today” of his presence in history. He thus revealed that he is the One sent by the Father with the anointing of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God and to inaugurate “the year of the Lord’s favour” for all humanity (cf. *Lk* 4:16-21).

In this mystic “today”, which will last until the end of the world, Christ is the fullness of salvation for all, and in a particular way for those whose only hope is God. In his earthly life, “he went about doing good and healing all” from evil and the Evil One (cf. *Acts* 10:38), restoring hope in God to the needy and the people. He experienced all our human frailties, save that of sin, even those critical moments that might lead to despair, as in the agony in the garden of Gethsemane and on the cross. Jesus commended everything to God the Father, obediently trusting in his saving plan for humanity, a plan of peace for a future full of hope (cf. *Jer* 29:11). In this way, he became the divine Missionary of hope, the supreme model of all those down the centuries who carry out their own God-given mission, even amid extreme trials.

Through his disciples, sent to all peoples and mystically accompanied by him, the Lord Jesus continues his ministry of hope for humanity. He still bends over all those who are poor, afflicted, despairing and oppressed, and pours “upon their wounds the balm of consolation and the wine of hope” (*Preface “Jesus the Good Samaritan”*). Obedient to her Lord and Master, and in the same spirit of service, the Church, the community of Christ’s missionary disciples, prolongs that mission, offering her life for all in the midst of the nations. While facing persecutions, tribulations and difficulties, as well as her own imperfections and failures due to the weakness of her members, the Church is constantly impelled by the love of Christ to persevere, in union with him, on her missionary journey and to hear, like him and with him, the plea of suffering humanity and, indeed, the groaning of every creature that awaits definitive redemption. This is the Church that the Lord always and for ever calls to follow in his footsteps: “not a static Church, but a missionary Church that walks with her Lord through the streets of the world” (*Homily at the Concluding Mass of the Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops*, 27 October 2024).

May we too feel inspired to set out in the footsteps of the Lord Jesus to become, with him and in him, signs and messengers of hope for all, in every place and circumstance that God has granted us to live. May all the baptized, as missionary disciples of Christ, make his hope shine forth in every corner of the earth!

2. Christians, bearers and builders of hope among all peoples

In following Christ the Lord, Christians are called to hand on the Good News by sharing the concrete life situations of those whom they meet, and thus to be bearers and builders of hope. Indeed, “the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well. Nothing that is genuinely human fails to find an echo in their hearts” (*Gaudium et Spes* 1).

This celebrated statement of the *Second Vatican Council*, which expresses the sentiment and style of Christian communities in every age, continues to inspire their members and helps them to walk with their brothers and sisters in the world. Here I think especially of those of you who are missionaries *ad gentes*. Following the Lord’s call, you have gone forth to other nations to make known the love of God in Christ. For this, I thank you most heartily! Your lives are a clear response to the command of the risen Christ, who sent his disciples to evangelize all peoples (cf. *Mt* 28:18-20). In this way, you are signs of the universal vocation of the baptized to become, by the power of the Spirit and daily effort, missionaries among all peoples and witnesses to the great hope given us by the Lord Jesus.

The horizon of this hope transcends the passing things of this world and opens up to those divine realities in which we share even now. Indeed, as *Saint Paul VI* observed, salvation in Christ, which the Church offers to all as a gift of God’s mercy, is not only “immanent, meeting material or even spiritual needs... completely caught up in temporal desires, hopes, affairs, and struggles. Rather, it exceeds all such limits in order to reach fulfilment in a communion with the one Absolute, which is God. It is a salvation both transcendent and eschatological, which indeed has its beginning in this life, but is fulfilled in eternity” (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 27).

Impelled by this great hope, Christian communities can be harbingers of a new humanity in a world that, in the most “developed” areas, shows serious symptoms of human crisis: a widespread sense of bewilderment, loneliness and indifference to the needs of the elderly, and a reluctance to make an effort to assist our neighbours in need. In the most technologically advanced nations, “proximity” is disappearing: we are all interconnected, but not related. Obsession with efficiency and an attachment to material things and ambitions are making us self-centred and incapable of altruism. The Gospel, experienced in the life of a community, can restore us to a whole, healthy, redeemed humanity.

For this reason, I once more invite all of us to carry out the works mentioned in the *Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee* (Nos. 7-15), with particular attention to the poorest and weakest, the sick, the elderly and those excluded from materialistic and consumerist society. And to do so with God’s “style”: with closeness, compassion and tenderness, cultivating a personal relationship with our brothers and sisters in their specific situation (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 127-128). Often they are the ones who teach us how to live in hope. Through personal

contact, we will also convey the love of the compassionate heart of the Lord. We will come to realize that “the heart of Christ... is the very core of the initial preaching of the Gospel” (*Dilexit Nos*, 32). By drawing from this source, we can offer with simplicity the hope we have received from God (cf. *1 Pet* 1:21) and bring to others the same consolation with which we have been consoled by God (cf. *2 Cor* 1:3-4). In the human and divine heart of Jesus, God wants to speak to the heart of every man and woman, drawing all of us to his love. “We have been sent to continue this mission: to be signs of the heart of Christ and the love of the Father, embracing the whole world” (*Address to Participants in the General Assembly of the Pontifical Mission Societies*, 3 June 2023).

3. *Renewing the mission of hope*

Faced with the urgency of the mission of hope today, Christ’s disciples are called first to discover how to become “artisans” of hope and restorers of an often distracted and unhappy humanity.

To this end, we need to be renewed in the Easter spirituality experienced at every Eucharistic celebration and especially during the Easter Triduum, the centre and culmination of the liturgical year. We have been baptized into the redemptive death and resurrection of Christ, into the Passover of the Lord that marks the eternal springtime of history. Consequently, we are a “springtime people”, brimming with hope to be shared with all, since in Christ “we believe and know that death and hate are not the final word” pronounced on human existence (cf. *Catechesis*, 23 August 2017). From the paschal mysteries, made present in liturgical celebrations and in the sacraments, we constantly draw upon the power of the Holy Spirit in order to work with zeal, determination and patience in the vast field of global evangelization. “Christ, risen and glorified, is the wellspring of our hope, and he will not deprive us of the help we need to carry out the mission which he has entrusted to us” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 275). In him, we live and bear witness to that sacred hope which is “a gift from God and a task for Christians” (*Hope is a Light in the Night*, Vatican City 2024, 7).

Missionaries of hope are men and women of prayer, for “the person who hopes is a person who prays”, in the words of Venerable Cardinal François-Xavier Van Thuan, who was himself sustained in hope throughout his lengthy imprisonment thanks to the strength he received from faithful prayer and the Eucharist (cf. *The Road of Hope*, Boston, 2001, 963). Let us not forget that prayer is the primary missionary activity and at the same time “the first strength of hope” (*Catechesis*, 20 May 2020).

So let us renew the mission of hope, starting from prayer, especially prayer based on the word of God and particularly the Psalms, that great symphony of prayer whose composer is the Holy Spirit (cf. *Catechesis*, 19 June 2024). The Psalms train us to hope amid adversity, to discern the signs of hope around us, and to have the constant “missionary” desire that God be praised by all peoples (cf. *Ps* 41:12; 67:4). By praying, we keep alive the spark of hope lit by God within us, so that it can become a great fire, which enlightens and warms everyone around us, also by those concrete actions and gestures that prayer itself inspires.

To conclude, evangelization is always a communitarian process, like Christian hope itself (cf. Benedict XVI, *Spe Salvi*, 14). That process does not end with the initial preaching of the Gospel and with Baptism, but continues with the building up of Christian communities through the accompaniment of each of the baptized along the path of the Gospel. In modern society, membership in the Church is never something achieved once for all. That is why the missionary activity of handing down and shaping a mature faith in Christ is “paradigmatic for all the Church’s activity” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 15), a work that requires communion of prayer and action. Here I would emphasize once more the importance of this missionary synodality of the Church, as well as the service rendered by the Pontifical Mission Societies in promoting the missionary responsibility of the baptized and supporting new Particular Churches. I urge all of you, children, young people, adults and the elderly, to participate actively in the common evangelizing mission of the Church by your witness of life and prayer, by your sacrifices and by your generosity. Thank you for this!

Dear sisters and brothers, let us turn to Mary, Mother of Jesus Christ our hope. To her we entrust our prayer for this Jubilee and for the years yet to come: “May the light of Christian hope illumine every man and woman, as a message of God’s love addressed to all! And may the Church bear faithful witness to this message in every part of the world!” (Bull *Spes Non Confundit*, 6).

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 January 2025, Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle

FRANCIS