

November 2025

Feasts and Important Dates

Date	Feast/Liturgical Occasion	Gospel for Sunday
1 November	All Saints, Day of Obligation	Matthew 5:1-12
2 November	All Souls – The Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed	Luke 7:11-17
3 November	St. Malachy	
4 November	St Charles Borromeo, Bishop	
5 November	St Martin de Porres	
6 November	All the Saints of Ireland	
9 November	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	John 2:13-22
10 November	St. Leo the Great	
11 November	St Martin de Tours, Bishop	
14 November	St Laurence O'Toole	
16 November	33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Luke 21:5-19
21 November	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Matthew 12:46-50
22 November	St Cecilia	
23 November	St Columbanus, Abbot and Missionary	
23 November	Feast of Christ the King	John 18:33-37
25 November	St. Colman	
27 November	St. Fergal	
30 November	1 st Sunday of Advent	Matthew 24:37-44

1 November: All Saints

All Saints' Day celebrates all the Christian saints. Saints are holy people who are very close to God. When we think of the saints in heaven, we think of saints who are special to us. Many people are named after special saints.

2 November: All Souls

All Souls' Day is a day that falls on 2 November to commemorate and pray for the souls of baptized Christians who have died. It is also called "The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed" or the "Feast of All Souls".

Throughout the month of November and on the feast of All Souls (2 November), we remember family and friends who have returned home to heaven. We also remember those who have no one to pray for them.

We pray that God will give eternal rest to all those who have died.

Let us pray:

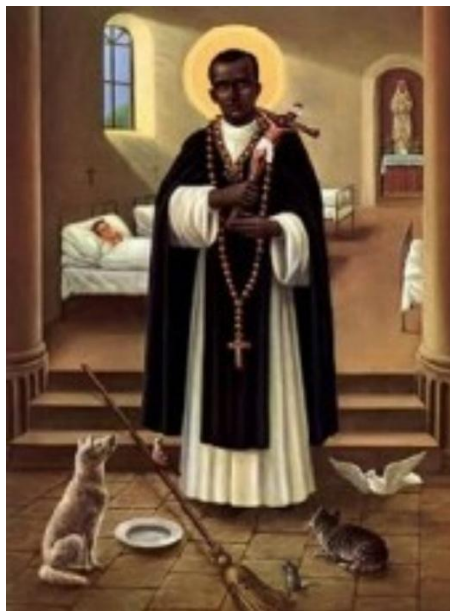
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen.

5 November: Saint Martin de Porres

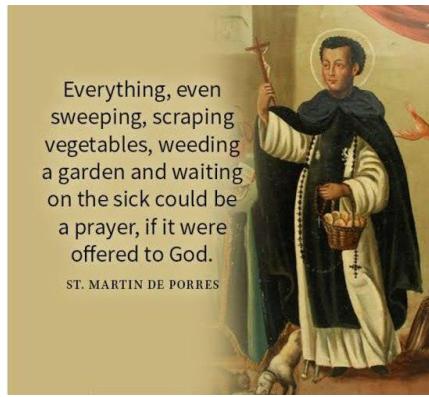
St. Martin de Porres (1579–1639) was a Peruvian lay brother of the Dominican Order, renowned for his deep humility, compassion, and miraculous deeds. Born in Lima to a Spanish nobleman and a freed woman of African and possibly Indigenous descent, he faced societal prejudice due to his mixed heritage. His father abandoned the family early, and Martin was raised in poverty by his mother, who supported them through laundry work. At 12, he apprenticed with a barber-surgeon, learning medical skills and developing a deep spiritual life marked by prayer and penance.

At 15, Martin joined the Dominican Convent of the Rosary in Lima, initially as a servant. Despite racial barriers, he was eventually accepted as a full member due to his exemplary service and piety. He served in the infirmary, caring for the sick and poor, and was known for his kindness to animals, often depicted with a dog, cat, bird, and mouse eating together from the same dish. Miracles attributed to him include levitation, bilocation, and instantaneous cures. He established an orphanage and a children's hospital, embodying his commitment to social justice and racial harmony.

Martin was canonized in 1962 by Pope John XXIII. His feast day is celebrated on November 3. He is the patron saint of social justice, racial harmony, mixed-race people, barbers, innkeepers, public health workers, and animals.



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14 November: Saint Laurence O'Toole

Saint Laurence O'Toole (1128-1180) (Lorcán Ó Tuathail)



Who is St. Laurence O'Toole?

St. Laurence O'Toole is the Patron Saint of the Archdiocese of Dublin. The Church celebrates the feast day of St Laurence O'Toole on the 14 November.

The Early Life of Laurence O'Toole

St. Laurence O' Toole was born in Castledermot, Co. Kildare in 1128. His father's name was Murtagh and his mother's name was Inian Ivrien. Laurence's mother had a great influence on him and he tried to imitate her

prayer life and the love she had for her neighbour. From an early age, Laurence loved to pray and meditate on God's Word. He was a bright student, taught by the bards.

When he was ten years old, Laurence was sent as a hostage to the King of Leinster, Dermot MacMurrough. Laurence was badly treated and his master kept him in chains. For two years, he lived in poverty, and he was very hungry. Though he suffered, he remained patient and silent.

Eventually the King released Laurence, and he sent him to Glendalough monastery. When his father came to Glendalough to take him home Laurence said, 'For many months I have intended to become a priest.' Murtagh left his son in Glendalough to pursue his vocation.

Life in Glendalough

Laurence joined the community of monks there. He endured the hardship of life in the monastery but he enjoyed the life of prayer and community of the monks. He was only twenty-five years of age when he became Abbot of Glendalough. This was a big responsibility for Laurence. The monks saw Laurence as a kindly father.

Laurence built new churches and encouraged learning in the monastery, even bringing monks from the Continent. In the time of famine, Laurence looked after the poor. He sold many of the monastery's treasures to buy food for those who were starving.

Archbishop Laurence O'Toole

Laurence became the first Archbishop of Dublin in 1162. As an Archbishop, he continued to care for poor. Laurence never forgot the life of prayer in Glendalough. He rose early in the morning, sang the psalms, and read Scripture in Christ Church Cathedral with the monks. He often stayed there, praying fervently when the other monks had left the Cathedral. He often walked around the graveyard of Christ Church. He watched and prayed over Dublin city. He was eager to reform the Church. His priests were required to live by stricter rules. Laurence went to the Augustinian monastery, ate with the monks, and observed silence with them and prayed the Divine Office with them. He preached about error and laxity. He brought the poor people to share at his table, and he served them personally.

When Archbishop Laurence's nephew became Abbot of Glendalough, Laurence visited Glendalough and spent a few days of peace and solitude there. He stayed in a hermitage on the lake, which he could only reach by boat.

St. Laurence Lived a Frugal Life.

When Archbishop Laurence lived in Dublin, he lived a frugal life. He abstained from meat, and on Friday's he only ate bread and water. At night, he slept little. He knelt in the darkness praying. He continued his mission daily. He preached, lectured, instructed children, reformed monasteries, and convents, visited the sick and he pleaded for money for the poor and for the orphans. The Church in Dublin began to grow and develop because of Archbishop Laurence O'Toole's hard work. He loved music and he introduced Gregorian chant in the liturgy.

St. Laurence - Peacemaker

The Normans attacked Dublin in 1171. From that time on, Laurence worked for peace. He travelled to England working for peace. In those times, travel by sea was very dangerous. More than once, his ship was

caught in violent storms. Laurence and his fellow companions who travelled together, believed the power of prayer saved them.

In 1180, Laurence left for England for the last time to act as a peacemaker in a row between Henry II of England and the Irish kings. Laurence followed Henry to Normandy, France and became ill there. He died in the monastery at Eu on the 14 November, without having met the king.

Burial

St Laurence O' Toole was laid to rest in France. His relics remain in a crypt at Notre Dame Church at Eu. St. Laurence O' Toole Church, in Seville Place, Dublin, holds one large relic, dedicated to the saint. His tomb in Eu quickly became a place of pilgrimage and the story goes that many miracles took place there through the intercession of Laurence.

Laurence O' Toole was canonised in 1225, 800 years ago. This year, we are celebrating the 800th anniversary of his canonisation.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT LAURENCE O'TOOLE (1128 – 1180)?

Who is Laurence O'Toole?

1. Who is the Patron Saint of the Archdiocese of Dublin?
2. When does the Church celebrate the feast day of St Laurence O'Toole?

The Early Life of St, Laurence O'Toole

1. Where was Laurence O'Toole born?
2. What age was Laurence when he became a hostage to the King of Leinster, Dermot MacMurrough?
3. What kind of life had Laurence as a hostage?
4. Do you know any countries where there are hostages?
5. When the King released Laurence, where did he send him to stay?
6. Who is the current Archbishop of Dublin?

Life in Glendalough

1. Who is the Patron Saint of Glendalough?
2. Can you tell any facts about St Kevin of Glendalough?
3. What is a monk? Where do monks live?
4. Laurence joined the community of monks in Glendalough. I wonder was it easy for Laurence to live with other people, after his experience of living as a hostage?
5. As an Abbot, how did Laurence develop the Church in the Archdiocese of Dublin?

Archbishop Laurence O'Toole

1. When did Laurence O'Toole become Archbishop of Dublin?
2. When Laurence O'Toole became Archbishop of Dublin, he never forgot the life of prayer of the monks in Glendalough. How did Laurence begin each day?
3. I wonder what kind of relationship Laurence had with God.
4. In what Church in Dublin did Archbishop Laurence O'Toole pray with the monks?
5. I wonder who prays and watches over Dublin city today.
6. Where did Archbishop Laurence like to go for some peace and quiet when he lived in Dublin?
7. What is a hermitage?

St. Laurence O'Toole lived a frugal life.

1. Describe how Archbishop Laurence lived a frugal life.
2. How did he live out God's call to help the people of Dublin at the time?
3. How did St Laurence O'Toole share his love for music with the people?

St. Laurence – Peacemaker

1. Who were the Normans? Why did they attack Dublin?
2. Tell how Archbishop Laurence worked for peace.
3. Who were last people that Laurence worked with to build peace?
4. Where did St. Laurence O'Toole die?

Burial

1. Where is the body of St. Laurence O'Toole buried?
2. What is a crypt?
3. Can you name any place of pilgrimage in Ireland?
4. When was Laurence O'Toole canonised?

Laurence was a man of prayer. He rose early in the morning to pray the office (Morning Prayer) with the other monks and often stayed on afterwards, deep in prayer.

Let us pray:

***St. Laurence, may we, like you, believe in the power of prayer,
and be inspired to spend more time in prayer.***



21 November: The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mary was offered to God in the Temple when she was three years old. The feast highlights the holiness of Mary from the beginning of her life on earth that continued through her early childhood and beyond.



Before Mary's birth, her parents, Joachim and Anne, received a heavenly message that they would have a child. In thanksgiving for God's gift of Mary's birth, they brought her to the Temple to present their only daughter to the Lord.

The feast commemorates the faith of Mary's parents, Joachim and Anne, and the saintliness of Mary herself.

Let us pray:

Mary, pray for us.

St. Joachim and St. Anne, pray for us.

23 November: Christ the King

Let us pray:

Jesus, today we crown you King and ask you to be Lord of our lives. Amen.



30 November: First Sunday of Advent

The First Sunday of Advent in 2025 falls on Sunday, November 30, marking the beginning of the liturgical year in the Western Christian tradition. Advent is a season of preparation and anticipation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas and for His anticipated Second Coming.

Significance of the First Sunday of Advent

- Start of the Liturgical Year: Advent begins the new liturgical cycle, transitioning from Year B to Year A in the Roman Catholic Church, which focuses on the Gospel of Matthew for Sunday readings.

- Advent Wreath: The first candle, known as the Prophet's Candle or Candle of Hope, is lit. This candle symbolizes the hope of the people of Israel who awaited the Messiah and the hope of Christians today for Christ's return.

Symbolism of the Advent Wreath

- Shape: The circular shape of the wreath symbolizes God's eternal love and the unbroken cycle of the seasons.
- Evergreens: The use of evergreens, such as holly and fir, represents eternal life and the continuity of God's promises.
- Candles: The four candles represent the four Sundays of Advent, each symbolizing a different theme:
 - First Candle (Hope): Lit on the First Sunday of Advent.
 - Second Candle (Peace): Lit on the Second Sunday.
 - Third Candle (Joy): Lit on the Third Sunday.
 - Fourth Candle (Love): Lit on the Fourth Sunday.

