

Missionaries

Monday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

This is the greatest miracle ever performed by God:

That eleven very simple, very weak and *very* ordinary men were transformed into a unified group of hugely successful Missionaries. Transformed by the grace of God, the Apostles fearlessly travelled away from their homes and from their comfort zone, and preached the good news of Christ to the furthest corners of the Roman Empire.

In the case of Saint Paul, his journey of faith is even *more* remarkable; He started as a leading persecutor of the faith, setting out to destroy Christianity, but at the end of his life, he was to die for the faith, beheaded by the sword which he had once used to persecute the Church.

By the end of his life, Paul had traveled thousands of miles on foot, throughout Asia, and the Eastern and Central Mediterranean countries, spreading the Good News, and always driven by the love of God so as to spread that same love to those in need.

Saint Paul, above all the other Apostles, shows us that God doesn't care about who *you were*, but about who *you are becoming*!

PRAYERS

Let us pray for those who work as Missionaries, living far from their homes, learning to rely only on the grace of God in their work. May they be rewarded in heaven for their work on earth.

Lord, hear us...

Let us pray for those who are called upon to bear witness to their faith in times of persecution, especially the Christians in the Middle East.

May they find the courage which inspired Saint Paul and also the martyrs who shed their blood for England.

Lord hear us...

St Paul the Apostle: **Pray for us.**

St Philip: **Pray for us.**

In the name...

Missionaries

Tuesday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

When Jesus commissioned his Church on the Mountain of the Ascension, he gave the Apostles a solemn command to go out and spread the Good News.

Jesus solemnly promised that they could go on their mission, knowing that he would be with them until the end of time.

The Church has always been missionary in character, and those who devote themselves to missionary work are honoured above all others. St Philip honoured the missionaries who left Rome to bring the Church to England risking martyrdom.

The Church, from its centre in Rome, is constantly looking to find ways of going to bring the Good News to those on the margins.

In Saint Paul's time, the missionary journey was understood in geographical terms; to preach to all those who had never heard of Christ in *far away* places. But the missionary journey in our times is no longer necessarily geographical.

We can think of it as a missionary journey to the *marginalised*...

And the marginalised can be living very close to us; those who feel alienated and living in despair, with no light to guide them out of

PRAYERS

Let us pray for those who live near to us and yet are living on the margins of society: The homeless, the broken hearted, the unemployed, those in prison and those suffering sickness. May they find consolation in the Good News which Christ brings. Lord hear us...

Let us pray for those suffering from depression and mental afflictions which drive them to despair;

May they be given the gift of Hope.

Lord, hear us...

St Paul the Apostle : ***Pray for us.***

St Philip: ***Pray for us,***

In the name...

Missionaries

Wednesday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

Like so many others of his generation, Saint Philip Neri was inspired by the stories that were circulating in Rome about the all the missionaries who were being martyred for their faith, especially in countries like ours in those days.

Saint Philip was eager to offer himself as a Missionary to one of the Missionary Religious Orders like the Jesuits, but he was told '*Your mission is to be found near to you. Here is where you must spread the love of Christ.*'

In the same way, all of you too are called to become Missionaries! Jesus wants to push each of you never to stop at the surface of things, especially in your relationships with other people near to you.

You are called to go beyond the surface and *look into the hearts* of those who surround you. To celebrate what is good in them, and overlook their faults.

Missionaries come to realise that no one is excluded from the mercy of God, least of all those who seem far away from Him.

PRAYERS

Let us pray for each other, that God's Will be done in our lives, as we say

Our Father...

St Paul the Apostle: ***Pray for us.***

St Philip: ***Pray for us,***

In the name....

Missionaries

Thursday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Rosary intention for those working in the Missions.

THE SECOND GLORIOUS MYSTERY: THE ASCENSION

Jesus said "Go make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all I gave you. And know that I am with you always, even to the end of time"

1x Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day....

10x Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and Blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary...

1x Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was... In the name...

Friday

MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY PRAYER

This prayer is prayed by Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, every morning before they start their work amongst the marginalised.

Dear Lord, the Great Healer,
I kneel before You.
Since every perfect gift must come from You,
I pray, give skill to my hands,
clear vision to my mind,
kindness and meekness to my heart.
Give me singleness of purpose,
strength to lift up a part of the burden
of my suffering fellow men,
and a true realization of the privilege that is mine.
Take from my heart all guile and worldiness,
that with the simple faith of a child,
I may rely on You.
Amen.