

Monday in 29th Week in Ordinary Time – 20th October 2025:

The rich fool (in today's gospel) is only interested in his own problems, seeing Jesus as another teacher of the law, but one with authority and prestige. When we come to Church and pray for our needs, do we focus on our spiritual needs, the salvation of our soul, or do we get bogged down on our material concerns and worries? Jesus rejects the man's request to resolve his inheritance claim. The real inheritance that we have is a share in the divine life of our heavenly Father, who wishes us to take our place in heaven, our true home. God's Commandments may not be aimed at solving our many social and family problems but should still influence our actions in temporal affairs – justice, integrity, honesty and fairness are good virtues helping us to holiness.

Tuesday in 29th Week in Ordinary Time – 21st October 2025:

All that God made, he declared as good. Sin and death are not good and are not part of God's original plan. From the '*Fall of Humanity*', we experience a clash of two kingdoms – the kingdom of sin and death and the kingdom of righteousness and peace. The first Adam gave us the kingdom of sin and death, and Christ the new Adam has established the kingdom of righteousness and peace. Baptism wiped away our original sin, making us citizens of heaven, and yet, because sin has wounded our nature, we are still tempted to return to the kingdom of sin and death, but God's grace, if we allow it to do so, helps us master our disordered desires and live holy lives, full of truth and virtue – the life of a saint who, having been watchful for the Master's arrival has been found worthy to take their place at the wedding banquet of the Lamb.

The Optional Memorial of Pope Saint John Paul II – Wed. 22nd October 2025:

The pontificate of Saint John Paul II has profoundly impacted our Catholic lives and will do so for many years to come. The legacy of his twenty-six years lives on in his great gifts to the Church. He gave us the Catechism of the Catholic Church so that we might have a definitive answer for almost every question relating to faith and morals. And he updated Canon Law, so that we might live out the Catholic faith in conformity to what has gone before, whilst reflecting the complexity of our modern lives. His papal audiences exploring the '*Theology of the Body*' present to us an authentic anthropology of humanity and places our sexuality in its proper context, so that we might find true and authentic joy in our relationships, which should and always be properly ordered – to God and our destiny of being saints in our true of heaven.

The Optional Memorial of St John Capistrano – Thursday 23rd October 2025:

John was born at Capistrano, Italy in 1385, the son of a German knight in that city. He studied law at Perugia University and practiced as a lawyer in the courts of Naples, later appointed by the King of Naples as governor of Perugia. During a conflict with a neighbouring town, he was betrayed and imprisoned and upon his release he entered the Franciscan community at Perugia. Along with 'St. James of the March' he studied under St. Bernardine of Siena, who inspired him to institute the devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus and His Mother. John was a brilliant preacher, and he travelled throughout Italy, Germany, Bohemia, Austria, Hungary, Poland, and Russia preaching penance and establishing numerous communities of Franciscan renewal. When Mohammed II threatened Vienna and Rome, John, at the age of seventy, was commissioned by Pope Callistus III to preach and lead a crusade against the invading Turks. Marching at the head of seventy thousand Christians, he gained victory at the battle of Belgrade but died three months later at Hungary. He is patron of jurists.

The opt Memorial of St Antony Mary Claret, Bishop – Friday 24th October 2025:

Antony was born in Salient, Catalonia, Spain, in 1807. He was the son of a weaver but did not feel called to follow in his father's footsteps, desiring instead to be ordained as a Jesuit priest. Ill Health, however, prevented his entry into the order and so, he served as a secular (diocesan) priest. In 1849, he founded the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, known today as the '*Claretians*', and the Apostolic Training Institute of the Immaculate Conception or '*Claretian Nuns*'. From 1850 to 1857, Anthony served as Archbishop of Santiago de Cuba, Cuba. At the court of Queen Isabella II, he acted as her confessor and went into exile with her in 1868. In 1869 and 1870, Anthony participated in the First Vatican Council. It is said that St Anthony was blessed with the gift of prophecy and performed many miracles. He was opposed by the liberal forces of Spain and Cuba and endured many trials.

Saturday in 29th Week in Ordinary Time – 25th October 2025:

Our Lord tells us to produce plenty of fruit. God waits for this flourishing, and so he is slow to punish us, but we should repent of our sins before our '*growing season*' (our earthly life) comes to an end. We must always, by word and sacrament, look to feed, water and fertilise the soul, and make our prayer life and formation a priority, so that we are always ready and willing to take on the Mission to which the Lord calls us.