

THE CALENDAR.**16 January The First Franciscan Martyrs***Collect*

God of our salvation,
 we thank you for the first Franciscan martyrs
 who shared in the passion of your beloved Son.
 May we also persevere until death
 in bearing witness to you
 And share with them in the glory of eternity;
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God now and for ever.

Readings.

I Corinthians 4; 9-14
 Matthew 10;16-22

Post Communion

Eternal God,
 Who gave this holy meal
 in which we have celebrated the glory of the cross
 And the victory of the first Franciscan martyrs;
 by our communion with Christ
 in his saving death and resurrection,
 give us, with all your saints, the courage to conquer evil
 and so to share the fruit of the tree of life;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

28 April The Birthday of the Third Order*Collect*

O God of Love
 who inspired our first brothers and sisters
 to refound this our Order,
 grant that we may be true to their vision
 and spread the knowledge and love of Christ
 promote the way of love and unity with all creation
 and live joyfully a life of simplicity and humble service
 through Jesus Christ our Lord

Readings.

Acts 2.42-47
 Luke 10.29-37
 Or Luke 14.27-33

Post Communion

Almighty God,
 you have called us into the fellowship of the Third Order of the Society of S Francis.
 Grant that like St Francis we may ever faithfully walk with you,
 who are the Way, the Truth and the Life.
 and who lives and reigns now and for ever,

11 August Clare of Assisi*Collect.*

God of peace,
 who in the poverty of the blessed Clare
 gave us a clear light to shine in the darkness of this world:
 give us grace to follow in her footsteps
 that we may, at the last rejoice with her
 in your eternal glory;
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

Readings.

2 Corinthians 4.6-10
 John 15.4-10

Proper Preface.

And now we give you thanks
 as we honour Saint Clare, humble handmaid of Christ;
 the little seed of Saint Francis
 planted in the garden of poverty;
 in joyful obedience she was faithful to her calling;
 devoted in prayer and aflame with your love,
 inspiring us to follow her in purity of heart.
 therefore.....

Post Communion

Merciful God,
 who gave such grace to your servant Clare
 that she served you with singleness of heart
 and loved you above all things;
 help us, whose communion is with you
 has been renewed in this sacrament,
 to forsake all that holds us back from following Christ
 and to grow into his likeness from glory to glory;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord

The Day of Penitence,

(If kept on the feast of the Stigmata,
use the propers for that day, adding the penitential section
from the Third Order Litany in the Manual, Prayer no 22, in place
of the Confession)

If kept on the Friday preceding the feast of the Stigmata observe as follows
But see also the alternative material at the end of this Calendar.

Confession.

Use the penitential section from the Third Order Litany, in the Manual,
Prayer no 22 in place of the Confession.

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent.
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts,
that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings

2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10
Matthew 6.16-21

Post Communion

Almighty God,
you have given your only Son to be for us
both a sacrifice for sin
and also an example of Godly life;
give us grace
that we may always most thankfully receive
these his inestimable gifts
and also daily endeavour to follow
the blessed steps of his most holy life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

17 September The Stigmata of S Francis

Collect

Lord Jesus Christ,
Who when the world was growing cold
raised up blessed Francis bearing in his body the marks of your passion;
in flame our hearts by the fire of your love

and mercifully grant to us, your people
 true penitence and grace to bear the Cross for love of you,
 for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

Readings

Galatians 6.14-18
 Luke 9.23-26

Proper Preface

And now we give you thanks
 because you raised up our holy father Francis
 to burn as a shining light in your Church;
 that inflamed with love for God and all creation
 and bearing in his body the marks of your Son's passion.
 he might bring to glory many sons and daughters;
 therefore...

Post Communion

Lord God,
you made your Church rich through the poverty of blessed Francis
: help us, like him not to trust in earthly things
but to seek your heavenly gifts;
. through Jesus Christ our Lord.

3 October The Transitus.

*(This may be said on the evening and replace the
 Cross Prayers in the Third Order Office)*

The Officiant

Francis poor and lowly enters heaven rich.
While saints and angels sing their songs of praise.

Psalm 142

Officiant

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 With arms outstretched, let us pray to the Lord

SILENCE

Let us pray

O God, who made your Church rich
 through the poverty of blessed Francis,
 help us , who remember his death,
 not to trust in earthly things
 but to seek your heavenly gifts'
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Then is given a solemn blessing and a bell is tolled 44 times
To mark the years of his life.*

To the prayers of the saints I commend you.
 May the most pure Virgin, Mother of God
 Patroness of all Franciscans, pray for you.
 May Saint Francis our father
 who bore the marks of the Lord Jesus, pray for you.
 May saint Anthony, illustrious preacher,, pray for you.
 May Saint Bonaventure, seraphic doctor, pray for you..
 May Saint Bernadine, lover of the Holy name of Jesus.
 pray for you,
 May Saint Clare, first born of the second order pray for you.
 May Saint Louis, Saint Elizabeth and the illustrious saints
 Oo the Third Order pray for you.
 May all the saints of God pray for you.
 May the holy angels befriend and watch around you to protect you.
 and I will pronounce upon you the blessing
 which our holy father, Francis
 gave to brother Leo, his companion.....

4 October S Francis of Assisi

Collect

O God, you ever delight to reveal yourself
 to the child-like and lowly of heart:
 grant that, following the example of blessed Francis,
 we may count the wisdom of this world as foolishness
 and know only Jesus and him crucified,
 who is alive and reigns with you
 , in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

Readings.

Galatians 6.14-18
 Luke 12.22-34

*Proper Preface
 Post Communion.*

As for the Stigmata.

29 November All Franciscan Saints

Collect

Everlasting God,
 you have adorned your Church
 with the splendours of the saintly followers
 of our holy father, Francis:
 grant that as we commemorate their holiness

we may come at last with all the pure of heart
 to share the vision of your eternal glory;
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings.

Revelation 7.2-4, 9-12
 Matthew 5.1-12 *or* Mark 10;17-21

Post Communion

Merciful God,
 who gave such grace to all Franciscan saints
 that they served you with singleness of heart
 and loved you above all things:
 help us, whose communion with you has been renewed in this sacrament,
 to forsake all that holds us back from walking with our holy father Francis
 on the Way that leads to Christ
 and to grow into his likeness from glory to glory.

1 December Requiem for Departed Franciscans

*This material may be used, as in other Provinces of the Third Order, as a corporate remembrance.
 Alternatively, suitably amended, it may be used, on any date, to commemorate the life and death of
 particular people,*

Sentence.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. ‘Blessed indeed ‘
 says the Spirit ‘ for they shall rest from their labours’

Collect

Living Lord Jesus Christ, you have conquered sin and death
 We pray to you for our Franciscan brothers and sisters who have died
 and gone before us marked with the sign of faith
 Grant to them, to Francis and to Clare and to all who sleep in you, your peace,
 and let light perpetual shine upon them.

Psalm 103; 8-22

Readings

Isaiah 25; 6-9
 I Corinthians 15; 50-56
 John 6; 37-40

Post Communion

Lord Jesus Christ
 You made your Church rich

through the poverty of blessed Francis.
 Help us all, like him, not to trust in earthly things
 but to seek your heavenly gifts
 through Jesus Christ our Lord

Post Communion

Deliver us from evil, do not abandon us to the grave, for you Lord are the God of the penitent and in us you will show forth your goodness. Unworthy though we are, you will save us in your mercy and we will praise you all the days of our life, for all the powers of heaven sing your praise, now and for ever.

Lord God, grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart;
 that so desiring we may seek and find you
 and so finding may love you
 and so loving may hate those sins
 from which you have delivered us,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord

The Day of Penitence. (Alternative Material)

This material is particularly suitable for private use, or for non eucharistic Corporate use. It may be set in the Third Order Office after the Cross prayers (The Third Order was originally described by Francis as an Order of Penitents and it has always been accepted that one of our duties is to turn to God in penitence for the sins of the world, offering prayers towards His healing work of reconciliation in the world.)

Create in me a clean heart O God
And renew a right spirit within me.

Grant Lord that being knit together in fellowship and prayer
 we may worship you after the example of Saint Francis.
Make us obedient, Lord.

Make us humble, Lord, so that we may acknowledge all created things
 as our brothers and sisters;
Make us humble, Lord.

Make us faithful, Lord, so that in all things we will trust you, rejoice in
 your faithfulness, and celebrate hospitality to all people.
Make us faithful, Lord.

Make us repentant Lord, so that we may be transformed and empowered
 by the energy of your love.
Make us repentant, Lord.

We have failed to love you with all our heart
 Lord have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

We have failed to love others as you love us.
 Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy.

We have failed to be faithful members of your Church
and good stewards of your spiritual gifts
Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

God is light and in Him is no darkness at all
If we walk in the light as God is the light
we have fellowship with one another
and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from sin.

Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading,

Alternatives, Hosea;6;1-6.11b. Psalm 103;1-12. Philippians2;5-11.

II Corinthians 5;1-15 (16-end). Luke15;11-end. Luke 18; 9-14.

Make us channels of your peace

Let there be love in all places where there is violence, hatred, cruelty and prejudice.
Teach us to love one another, Lord,

Make us channels of your peace.

Let there be pardon where there is injury, impatience, lack of respect, resentments.
Grant us pardon, O Lord.

Make us channels of your peace.

Let there be healing where there is discord, fear, narrowness of vision, difference of
opinion. Bring wholeness, Lord.

Make us channels of your peace

Let there be faithfulness where people doubt themselves, where there is no longer trust,
honesty and goodwill. Make us faithful, Lord.

Make us channels of your peace.

Let there be hope where poverty, oppression and crime foster despair and loss of dignity
and erode the face of the earth. Lord of all hopefulness

Make us channels of your peace.

Let there be light in the dark places of the world where evil lurks, where fear and death
torture minds and bodies. Shine in our darkness Lord and give us new life.

Make us channels of your peace.

Let there be joy where there is sadness, loneliness, and pain. Let the grace of compassion
renew us. Let us celebrate holy playfulness in laughter song and dance, so that true
prayer may emerge.

Make us channels of your peace.

A Canticle of Repentance, (based on the prayer of Manasseh)

Lord, almighty God of our fathers, maker of highest heaven and the manifold order of earth.
All things are filled with awe and tremble at your power, yet infinite and unsearchable is

your merciful promise.

Lord have mercy.

You are the Lord most high, full of compassion, patience and mercy. You are moved when your children suffer for their sins. In your goodness Lord you have promised forgiveness To those who sin against you. In your boundless mercy you have appointed repentance as the way of salvation.

Lord have mercy.

By reason of our offences we are not worthy to look up and behold the heights of heaven. Now therefore do we bow the knees of our hearts and ask for your forgiveness.

Lord have mercy.

We have sinned, Lord, we have sinned. We acknowledge our transgression. Spare us Lord We humbly pray. Do not be angry with us for ever

Lord have mercy.

Deliver us from evil. Do not abandon us to the grave, for you Lord are the God of the Penitent and in us you will show forth your goodness. Unworthy though we are, you will Save us in your mercy and we will praise you all the days of our life. For all the powers Of heaven sing your praises. Yours is the kingdom and the glory, now and for ever,

**Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.
as it was in the beginning
is now,
and shall be for ever, Amen.**

Lord our God,
give us grace to desire you with our whole heart
that so desiring we may seek and find you;
and so finding may love you;
and so loving may hate those sins
from which you have delivered us
through Jesus Christ our Lord.