



*Prayers for week ahead*

WEEK BEGINNING 16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

# Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August

## St Stephen of Hungary

- St Stephen was the monarch who led his country to embrace the Christian faith during the 11th century. Stephen established laws favouring Christianity over paganism, and sent an emissary to Rome with a request for the Pope to proclaim him as king. Pope Sylvester II accepted the request, sending him a crown and a gold processional cross, while also giving Stephen certain religious privileges. He showed great diligence as king, while devoting the rest of his time to his religious duties - including charity toward the poor and sick, as well as the worship of God.
- **Lord, help me today to be like St Stephen. To be diligent in my work and to help those today who need a friendly word of advice or care. Amen.**



Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August

*Matthew 19:23-30*



Yes, I tell you that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.

- Matthew 19:23-25 NIV -

- **In today's Gospel we hear these words:** Jesus said to his disciples, 'Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.'
- In the world of Jesus, everyone gets because everyone gives; and because everyone gives, everyone receives. It is not a selfish world; it is a reaching out to others world. And when everyone reaches out, everyone is benefiting. In such a world, I do not have to worry about a roof over my head, or about brothers and sisters, or property or security. It is where love and justice meet. For too many people in our world, there is neither love nor justice.
- Lord, help me to reflect on the areas of my life that I could give more, rather than wanting to receive. Amen

*So the LAST  
will be  
FIRST  
and the FIRST  
LAST.*

*Wednesday 18th  
August*

*Matthew 20:1-*

- **Matthew 20:1-16**
- God gives his love, all of his love, to every person without exception if they open themselves to this love. It does not matter whether that happens early or late in life as this love can never be earned, only accepted. The fact that the latecomers were only employed at the last hour does not make their needs any less than those who came earlier. How big is my need for God today?



Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>  
August  
St John Eudes

- St. John Eudes was a French missionary and the founder of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity, and was also the author of the liturgical worship of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

St. John was born at Ri, France on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 1601. At the age of fourteen he took a vow of chastity and since the time he was a child he tried to live in imitation of the Lord Jesus. When he was ordained a priest in 1625, at the age of 24, he was immediately thrust into the service of victims of the plague, whom he cared for at great risk to his own life. He also began preaching missions and was known as the greatest preacher of his age, preaching missions all over France, especially throughout Normandy.

- Lord, help me today to act like St John. Help me to be welcoming to all and to find moments to put others before myself. Amen.



Friday 20<sup>th</sup>  
August  
St Bernard of  
Clairvaux

- St. Bernard of Clairvaux was a French abbot who lived in the 1000s-1100s. He helped lead a reform of Benedictine monasticism. His work in this reform contributed to the start of the Cistercian religious order. St. Bernard of Clairvaux did a lot for the Church, and he was named a Doctor of the Church. He often prayed to Our Lady for help.

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.