



*Prayers for the Week Ahead*

WEEK BEGINNING 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER



Monday  
6<sup>th</sup> September

Luke 6:6-11

In the scriptures there is no occasion when anyone asked Jesus for healing on the sabbath. This always came as an initiative of Jesus himself with the implication of his lordship of the Sabbath. The poor man with the withered hand must have been delighted when Jesus looked round at all of them before focussing on him, telling him to stand forward, stretch out his hand and find himself healed. Instead of rejoicing with him the envious scribes and Pharisees were “filled with fury”. They had no answer when asked whether it was lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or destroy it. Instead, they began plotting his death.

*Jesus tells us that “he has come that we may have life and have it more abundantly”. Let us ask for this great gift for ourselves and all who are dear to us.*

*Amen.*

A group of people in traditional robes standing in a desert landscape at sunset. The scene is softly lit with warm, golden light, and the background shows a vast, open plain under a clear sky.

Tuesday  
7<sup>th</sup> September

Luke 6: 12-19

Jesus was about to make the important decision about the choice of the twelve apostles, something that would have repercussions for all humanity to the end of time and indeed into eternity. In preparation for this choice Jesus spent the whole night in prayer to God. We should opt for similar preparation when confronted with important decisions.

“When day came,” we are told about the wide variety of activities and events that focused on Jesus - anticipating the future history of the Church; the calling of apostles and disciples; the ongoing listening to the word of God and the healing of every kind of ailment.

*At the heart of it all was the Lord himself. The power that came out of Jesus on that occasion is as available to us today as it was all those years ago, may we always be confident in God’s sustaining love.*

*Amen.*



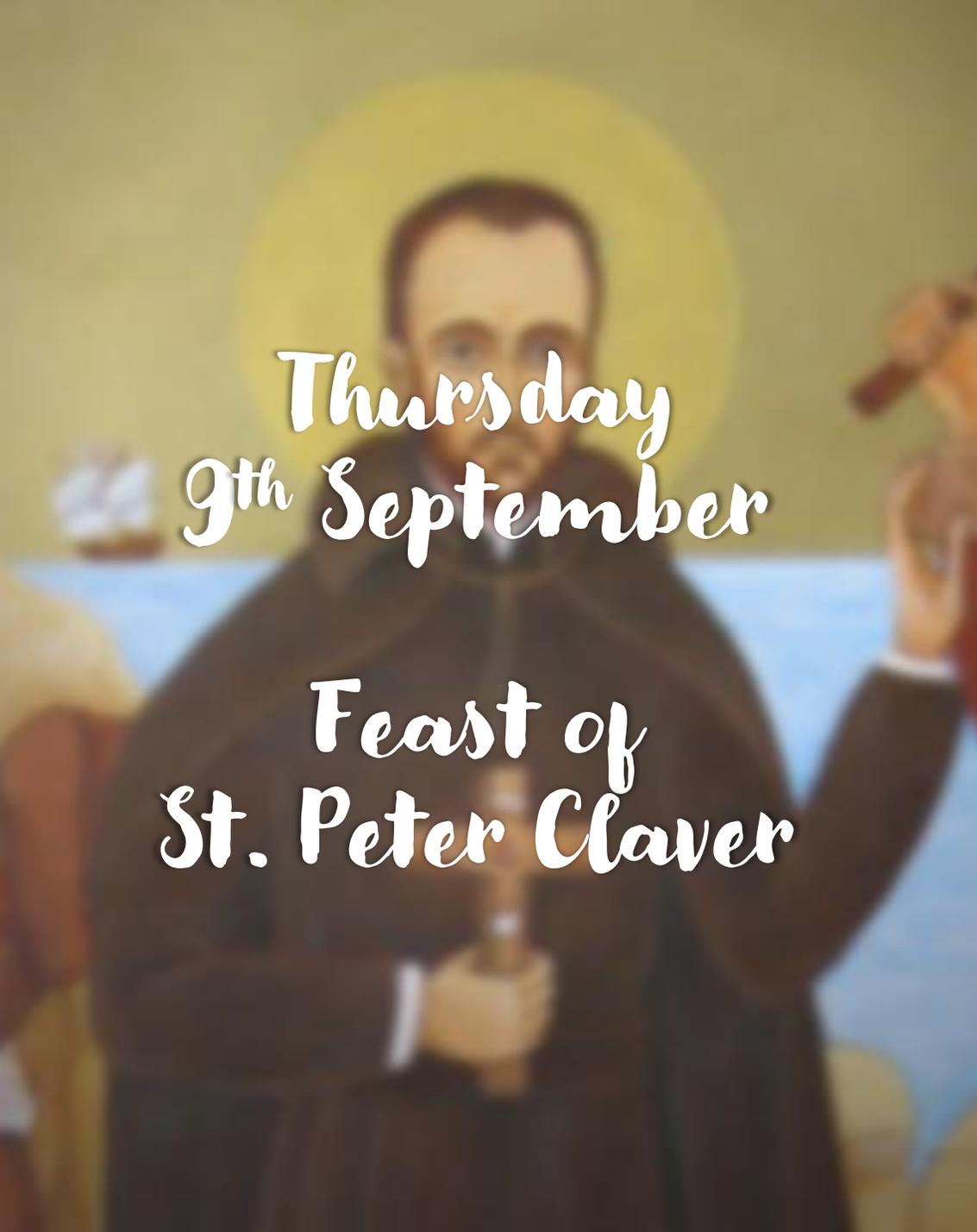
Wednesday  
8<sup>th</sup> September

Birthday of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary

Clearly there is no historical record of the birth of Mary. The Church does believe, however, that from the very moment of her conception she was totally free from sin and remained free of sin for her whole life. It was not acceptable that Jesus, the Son of God, should be conceived in a body tainted by sin. Her birth, then, is clearly something to celebrate. The Church, too, has given names to her parents - Joachim and Ann, whose feast is celebrated on 26 July.

*Father of mercy,  
give your people help and strength from heaven.  
The birth of the Virgin Mary's Son  
was the dawn of our salvation.  
May this celebration of her birthday  
bring us closer to lasting peace.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.*

*Amen.*



Thursday  
9<sup>th</sup> September

Feast of  
St. Peter Claver

St. Peter Claver, SJ, was a member of the Society of Jesus and is the patron of African missions and of interracial justice, due to his work with slaves in Colombia. He was born to a prosperous family in Verdu, Spain, and earned his first degree in Barcelona. He entered the Jesuits in 1601.

St. Peter Claver ministered in Cartagena, which was one of two ports where slaves from Africa arrived to be sold in South America. When a ship arrived, Peter first begged for fruits, biscuits, or sweets to bring to the slaves. He then went on board with translators to bring his gifts as well as his skills as a doctor and teacher. Claver entered the holds of the ships and would not leave until every person received a measure of care. Peter gave short instruction in the Catholic faith and baptised as many as he could. In this way he could prevail on the slave owners to give humane treatment to fellow Christians. Peter Claver baptised more than 300,000 slaves by 1651, when he was sickened by the plague, dying 7<sup>th</sup> September 1654.

*Today let us ask St. Peter Claver for something of his spirit of service to others and total forgetfulness of self.*

*Amen.*



Friday  
10th September

Lk. 6: 39-42

It is no wonder that none of us likes to be referred to as a hypocrite. One dictionary accurately describes hypocrisy as “gross insincerity”. The word “sincere” originated in workshops of sculptors in ancient Rome. If they wished to advertise that their statue contained no cracks and therefore was not held together with wax, they labelled it “sin cera”, the Latin form of “without wax”. A sincere person is one without cracks. This is not something we can take for granted. Sincerity is not a thought- its an answer to prayer.

It can be a common weakness to judge my neighbour while not recognising my own faults and need of God’s mercy. God sees each of us from the inside. He sees us with a generous and compassionate gaze and does not despise or condemn us for our shortcomings and failings.

*Today, let us pray for humility and for a deeper capacity to perceive God’s presence and action around us.*

*Amen.*