

St Francis of Assisi

It's been 800 years since St. Francis died, lying on the floor — at his own insistence — in a little hut in the valley below Assisi in central Italy. The message being taken to heart by Franciscans around the world on this anniversary is that living simply, using only what is needed and being in harmony with all creation is more important than ever in this 21st century.

A Prayer for this Anniversary Year by Pope Leo IV

Saint Francis, our brother, you who eight hundred years ago went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace, intercede for us before the Lord.

You recognised true peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano, teach us to seek in Him the source of all reconciliation that breaks down every wall.

You who, unarmed, crossed the lines of war and misunderstanding, give us the courage to build bridges where the world raises up boundaries.

In this time afflicted by conflict and division, intercede for us so that we may become peacemakers: unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that comes from Christ.

Amen



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St Francis of Assisi

4th October 2026

GATHERING HYMN:

'As the Deer Pants for the Water' (40)

COLLECT:

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

Amen

FIRST READING

Micah 6: 6-8

"With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God



SECOND READING

Galatians 6.14-18

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule -- peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GRADUAL HYMN: 'From Heaven You Came' (175)

We sing verse 4 after the Gospel Reading

GOSPEL

Luke 12: 22-34

Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you -- you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

OFFERTORY HYMN:

'Make Me a Channel of Your Peace' (435)

COMMUNION HYMNS:

'My Song is Love Unknown' (457)

'O Lord Hear My Prayer' (779)

'All Heaven Declares' (16)

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.

FINAL HYMN: 'I Danced in the Morning' (290)

