

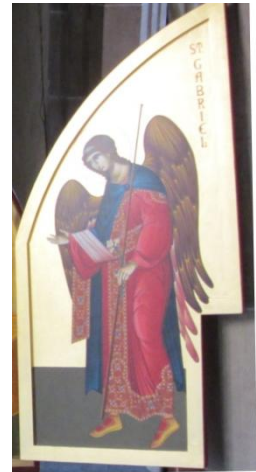
# Festivals and Saints' Days (w/c 28<sup>th</sup> September)

29<sup>th</sup> September

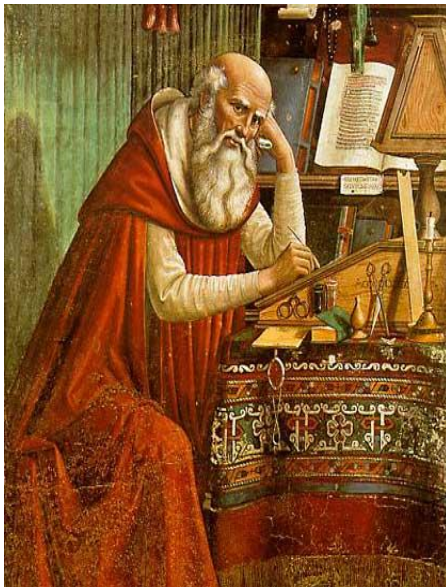
## Michaelmas



Properly known as the *Feast of S Michael and All Angels*, this is the principal festival of the holy angels. Angels are the messengers of God: most famously, the Angel Gabriel told Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus (Luke 1: 26 - 38). A number of angels are mentioned in the Christian Tradition, however, only two are mentioned in Holy Scripture, Gabriel and Michael (Apocalypse 12: 7 ); though references are also made to nameless angels (eg Matthew 28: 5; Luke 22: 43). Two of the angels named in tradition are quite well known - S Raphael and S Uriel. Jewish tradition speaks of orders of angels, amongst them angels and archangels, seraphim and cherubim. SS Michael and Gabriel are depicted in the side panels of the Sacrament Chapel triptych at S Matthew's.



30<sup>th</sup> September



## Saint Jerome - *doctor of the Church, priest*

Jerome was born around AD347 in a small town on the Dalmatia/Pannonia border. In his younger years, he was not a Christian, but he was baptized in AD360 or sometime thereafter. He found his way to Rome where he became a protégé of Pope Damasus I. He travelled around, being ordained priest by the Bishop of Antioch in AD378/9. Back in Rome, he undertook the work for which he is best remembered - a Latin translation of the Bible, which we call *The Vulgate*. In AD385, after the death of his papal patron, he left Rome for good, heading for the Middle East, where he continued his academic life, writing many theological works. During this time, he was not without violent opponents. Nonetheless, he died peacefully in Bethlehem on 30<sup>th</sup> September AD420.

4<sup>th</sup> October

## **Saint Francis of Assisi** - *religious*

Francis was born in 1181/2 into a wealthy family in France, though his father was from Assisi, whither he returned with his family. Francis was a spoilt young man; but came to forsake his self-indulgence. He came to embrace a life of poverty and had a mystical experience of Christ calling him whilst at prayer in the ruined Chapel of San Damiano, which he was subsequently to restore. In due course, he founded the Order of Friars Minor (the Franciscans). The Order was to be controversial for centuries as it advocated a poverty rather at odds with the character of the Church at that time. He died on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1226.

