

Festivals and Saints' Days (w/c 4th October)

4th 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 3rd October 1226.



10th October



Saint Paulinus - *bishop, missionary*

We do not know when Paulinus was born. He was part of a mission sent to England in AD604 by Pope Saint Gregory the Great. In about AD625 he was consecrated bishop and accompanied Aethulburg on her journey to marry Edwin of Northumbria, whom Paulinus converted to Christianity. Paulinus was energetic in his mission, including the Baptism of Hilda of Whitby. However, when Edwin died, he fled Northumbria and returned to Kent where he became Bishop of Rochester. He was later appointed the first Bishop of York, but too late for him to take up the appointment, since he died on 10th October, AD644.