

## Festivals and Saints' Days (w/c 7<sup>th</sup> August)

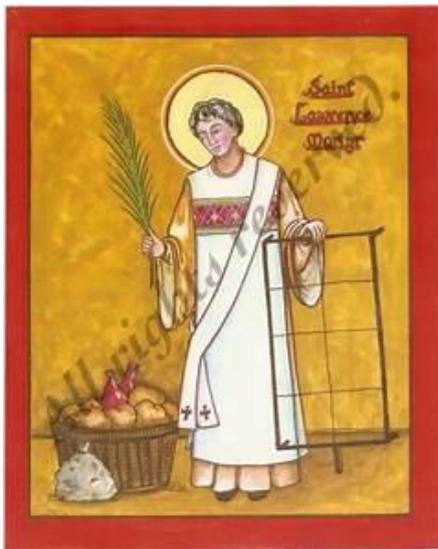
8<sup>th</sup> August

### **Saint Dominic** - *religious*

Dominic was born on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1160 in Spain. In 1191, when the country was ravaged by famine, he renounced all his possessions. In 1194, he became an Augustinian Canon at Osma Cathedral. In 1205, with others, he journeyed to the South of France to try, largely unsuccessfully, to convert the Cathars (an heretical group). In 1215, he established, with six others, a monastic house in Toulouse. He devised a new rule and this group became the *Order of Preachers* - or Dominicans as they are better known. He saw a rapid expansion of his new order before his death on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1221.



10<sup>th</sup> August



### **Saint Lawrence** - *martyr, deacon*

Lawrence is thought to have been born on 31<sup>st</sup> December, AD225 in Spain. He became the first amongst the seven deacons of Rome - hence the Archdeacon under Pope Sixtus II. After the death of the Pope, the Prefect of Rome demanded that the treasures of the Roman Church be handed over to the imperial treasury during a general persecution under the Emperor Valerian. When he presented himself to comply, he brought with him the poor and marginalised of the city, deeming them to be the treasures of the Church. For this act of defiance he was martyred on 10<sup>th</sup> August AD258 by being roasted on a gridiron.

11<sup>th</sup> August

### **Saint Clare of Assisi** - *religious*

Saint Clare was born on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1194. She was an early follower of Saint Francis of Assisi. She was for a time a member of a community governed by Saint Francis; but in 1216 he relinquished control and Clare became the Abbess of San Damiano. She constantly had to battle with the hierarchy to prevent them imposing a different rule on her abbey. The order, which she led, continues to this day - known as the Poor Clares. She supported Saint Francis in his work and cared for him in his final weeks. She died on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1253.

