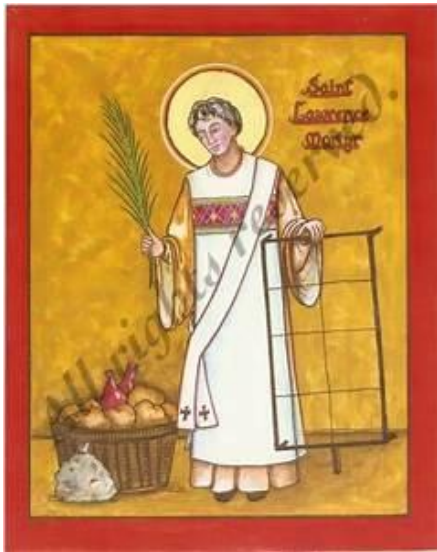


Festivals and Saints' Days (w/c 9th August)

10th August



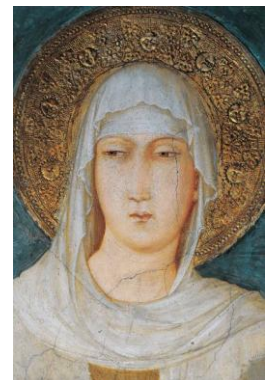
Saint Lawrence - *martyr, deacon*

Lawrence is thought to have been born on 31st 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 10th August AD258 by being roasted on a gridiron.

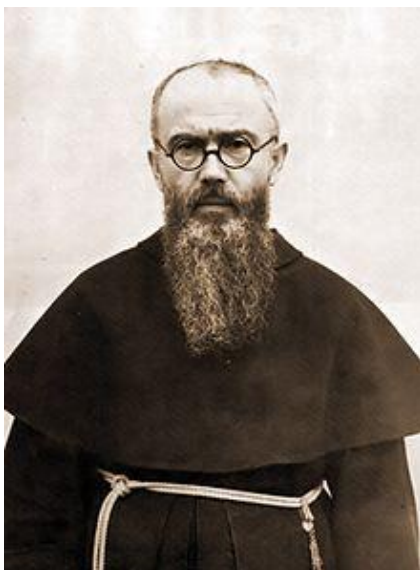
11th August

Saint Clare of Assisi - *religious*

Saint Clare was born on 16th 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 11th August 1253.



14th August



Saint Maximilian Kolbe - *martyr, priest*

Saint Maximilian was born on 8th January 1894 in Poland. He became a Franciscan Friar. He spent some time in Africa, but returned to Poland shortly before the Second World War. When the Nazis invaded, he refused to leave his monastery. On 17th February 1941, the monastery was shut down and Maximilian was arrested along with the other friars remaining in the monastery. He was brutally treated by the camp guards; and then, when a Polish soldier was chosen to be executed by starvation to deter further attempts at escape, Kolbe took his place to spare the man's wife and children the loss, which their father's murder would inflict. He took so long to die that, in the end, he was killed by lethal injection on 14th August 1941.

15th August



Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This is the Eastern Orthodox title for the festival called, by Roman Catholics, the *Assumption*. It is the day on which the Church remembers the death of Mary, the mother of Jesus. It is our belief that Mary was raised straight to Heaven. Some people believe that her body was taken as well as her soul. Being the mother of Jesus, Mary's role in God's plan and purpose is more exalted than that of any other Christian. None-the-less, she was just a human being; and the honour which we ascribe to her recognises the great things God accomplished through her.