

What is a confirmation name?

Perhaps a confirmation name is best thought of as a name that God – and only God – calls you by. It is not a name that other people call you by, like a baptismal name.

Ideally, a confirmation name should be the name of a saint whom you know something about, or who inspires you, or whose virtues you want to imitate. It is the name of a saint who will accompany you through life.

Lastly, it is a reminder of the day of your confirmation, when you were anointed with the oil of the Holy Spirit.

Some saints' names, with summaries of their lives, are given here. Many different saints share the same name, e.g. St. John the Evangelist and St. John Bosco. You may have one of these other names in mind when you choose your saint, and a selection of these is given at the end of the book.





CONFIRMATION SAINTS' NAMES FOR BOYS

Aidan

St. Aidan of Lindisfarne was an Irish monk and missionary, born around 590. He founded a monastic cathedral on the island of Lindisfarne, served as its first bishop, and travelled ceaselessly throughout the countryside, spreading the gospel to both the Anglo-Saxon nobility and to the socially disenfranchised. He is known as 'The Apostle of Northumbria'. Aidan died in 651. A modern biography of him is 'Flame of my heart – St. Aidan for Today', by David Adam. St. Aidan's feastday is 31st August.

Albert

St. Albert, known as 'St. Albert the Great', was born around 1200. He later joined the Dominicans, or the Order of Preachers, as they were known, and became Bishop of Ratisbon. He wrote several books on theology and philosophy, and died in 1280. A modern biography of him is 'Albert the Great: Champion of Faith and Reason', by Kevin Vost. St. Albert's feastday is 15th November.

Alphonsus

St. Alphonsus Liguori was born in 1696 in Naples. He at first became a lawyer, and after that entered the priesthood. He was a moral theologian, an opponent of the heresy of Jansenism, and founder of the Redemptorists. He wrote many works of devotion which are still popular in the Church. A modern biography of him is 'Saint Alphonsus Liguori', by Fr. D.F. Miller. St. Alphonsus' feastday is 1st August.

Andrew

St. Andrew was born in Bethsaida, the brother of St. Peter. He was at first a disciple of St. John the Baptist then, answering the call of Jesus, became his disciple. His feastday is 30th November.

Anthony

St. Anthony of Padua was born in Lisbon in 1195. He at first joined the Augustinians but two years later, finding that the monastery was not conducive to prayer and study, entered the Franciscan friary at Coimbra. After a life of preaching and teaching, he died in Padua in 1231. A modern biography of him is 'Anthony of Padua', by Jack Wintz. St. Anthony's feastday is 13th June.

Augustine

St. Augustine, the son of St. Monica, was born in 354, at Thagaste, in North Africa. After a wild, misspent time in his youth, he was converted by the prayers of his mother, eventually becoming Bishop of Hippo. His many writings have become known all over the world. A modern biography of him is 'The Life and Labors of St. Augustine', by Philip Schaff. St. Augustine's feastday is 28th August.

Barnabas

St. Barnabas was born in Cyprus and accompanied St. Paul on the first of his journeys, to Cyprus, and took part in the Council of Jerusalem. A great deal is written about him in 'The Acts of the Apostles', nearly as much as there is about St. Paul. He was martyred at Salamis in the year 61. His feastday is 11th June.

Bartholomew

St. Bartholomew was one of the twelve apostles. Possibly he can be identified as being the same person as the 'Nathaniel' referred to in the gospels. His feastday is 24th August.

Basil

St. Basil was bishop of Caesarea in 370. He was an influential theologian who supported the Nicene Creed and opposed the heresies of the early Christian church, fighting against both Arianism and the followers of Apollinaris of Laodicea. In addition to his work as a theologian, Basil was known for his care of the poor and underprivileged. Basil established guidelines for monastic life which focus on community life, liturgical prayer, and manual labour. He died in 379, at Caesarea. A biography of him is 'Saint Basil the Great', by Richard Travers Smith. St. Basil's feastday is 2nd January.

Bede

St. Bede was born in 673 near Monkwearmouth. At the age of seven he was sent to be educated at the monastery of Monkwearmouth. He was a linguist, and a translator of many early Christian writings. His main claim to fame is his 'Ecclesiastical History of the English People' which, among other things, gives a good description of many early English saints. His own life is described in a modern biography 'Aidan, Bede, and Cuthbert: Three Inspirational Saints', by David Adam. His feastday is 25th May.

Benedict

St. Benedict was born in Nursia, in Umbria, in around 480. He studied in Rome, turned his back on the world, and lived in solitude in Subiaco, later establishing a monastery at Monte Cassino, where he founded the Benedictine Order. He died in 547. A recommended modern biography on him is 'Seeking God: The Way of St. Benedict', by Esther de Vaal. St. Benedict's feastday is 11th July.

Bernard

St. Bernard of Clairvaux was born near Dijon in France, in 1090. He entered the Cistercian Order at the age of 22, and went on to become abbot of the monastery of Clairvaux. He travelled throughout France, Germany, and Italy, trying to reconcile the divisions that existed in the Church at that time. He wrote many books on the spiritual life and theology. A comprehensive modern biography of him is 'St. Bernard of Clairvaux', by Abbe Theodore Ratisbonne. St. Bernard's feastday is 20th August.

Bonaventure

St. Bonaventure was born in Bagnoregio, Italy, around 1221. He entered the Franciscan Order in 1243. He was a dogmatic theologian and a meditative thinker. He steered the Franciscans on a moderate and intellectual course, which made them the most prominent order in the Catholic Church until the coming of the Jesuits. Of interest might be 'A Retreat with St. Bonaventure', by Leonard J. Bowman. St. Bonaventure's feastday is 15th July.

Charles

St. Charles Borromeo was born in 1538. He became bishop, then cardinal, of Milan. He is the author of one of the earlier editions of the Catechism, known as the 'Roman Catechism', which was used until Pope John Paul II promulgated the present one. He was active in establishing seminaries and schools, and also in caring for the sick. A biography of him is 'The Life of St. Charles Borromeo', by Giovanni Pietro Giussano. St Charles died during the plague in 1596. His feastday is 4th November.

Christopher

St. Christopher Magallanes was one of the Cristero martyrs in Mexico. He wrote and preached against armed rebellion. He was noted for his care of the native peoples. But he was falsely accused of promoting the Cristeros guerillas. While heading to a farm to celebrate Mass, St. Christopher Magallanes was arrested on May 21, 1927. Three days later, without a trial, he was shot to death. Before he died, he gave his executioners his remaining possessions and offered them absolution. He was 48. He was canonized by Pope St. John Paul II. A relevant book is 'Saints of the Cristero War', by Jesse Russell and Ronald Cohn. St. Christopher Magallanes' feastday is 21st May.

Columba

St. Columba was born in Gartan, County Donegal, in 521. In 563, he travelled to Scotland with twelve companions in a wicker coracle covered with leather. He founded the important abbey on Iona, which became a dominant religious and political institution in the region for centuries. He was very energetic in his work as a missionary, and, in addition to founding several churches in the Hebrides, he worked to turn his monastery at Iona into a school for missionaries. He wrote several hymns and transcribed 300 books. Columba died on Iona and was buried in AD 597 by his monks in the abbey he created. A modern biography of him is 'Life of St Columba Apostle of Scotland', by Frances Alice Forbes. St. Columba's feastday is 9th June.

Cuthbert

St. Cuthbert was born in 635, near Melrose, Scotland. When he was sixteen Cuthbert entered the monastery at Melrose, and was later sent to the priory of Lindisfarne. For most of the time there was a constant tension between the Roman and Irish traditions, though he was eventually persuaded to accept the Roman reforms after the Synod of Whitby. Later he was moved by a desire for the contemplative life, and with his abbot's leave, he went to live on an island near Lindisfarne. In 684, he was elected Bishop of Hexham. Although he was reluctant to leave his island, he finally agreed to return and take up the duties of bishop, though as Bishop of Lindisfarne. In 686, however, he returned to his cell on Inner Farne Island where he eventually died on 20 March 687. A modern biography of him is 'St. Cuthbert's Way', by Ron Shaw and Roger Smith. St. Cuthbert's feastday is 4th September.

Cyril

St. Cyril was born in Salonika in about 825. He is honoured as one of the patrons of Europe. Together with his brother, he translated the Bible into the Slavonic language, and was the inventor of the Cyrillic Script. A modern biography is 'Cyril and Methodius of Thessalonica', by Anthony-Emil Tachiaous. St. Cyril's feastday is 14th February.

David

St. David was born around the year 500, at Caerfai in Pembrokeshire. After his studies he became a missionary, and travelled throughout Wales and Britain. He founded 12 monasteries including Glastonbury and one at Menevia (now called St. David's), which he made his bishop's seat. He was named Archbishop of Wales at the Synod of Brevi, Cardiganshire in 550. He became renowned as a teacher and preacher, founding monastic settlements and churches in Wales, Dumnonia, and Brittany. St David's Cathedral stands on the site of the monastery he founded in the Glyn Rhosyn valley of Pembrokeshire. He died on 1 March 589 A.D., at Menevia. A modern biography is 'St. David of Dewisland', by Nona Rees and Terry John. St. David's feastday is 1st March.

Denis

St. Denis was born in the third century, and became bishop of Paris, where he was martyred in 251 – on the hill which to this day bears the title ‘Montmartre’ – the hill of the martyrs. Of interest might be ‘The Story of Old France’ – which includes St. Denis – by H.A.Guerber. St. Denis’ feastday is 9th October.

Dominic

St. Dominic was born in Calaruega, Spain, in 1170. He was sent to Toulouse, to combat the Albigensian heresy, and founded the Dominican Order, otherwise called the Order of Preachers. He died in 1221. A modern biography is ‘The Life of St. Dominic’, by Augustus Drane. St. Dominic’s feastday is 8th August .

Edmund

St. Edmund of Abingdon was educated at Paris and Oxford, became a teacher, and finally, around 1219 joined the Augustinian Canons and was ordained. In 1233 he was appointed as Archbishop of Canterbury. While on a journey to Rome in 1240, he fell ill and died, near the Abbey of Pontigny, in France. A modern biography of him is ‘St. Edmund of Abingdon’, by John Crozier. His feastday is 16th November.

Edward

St. Edward the Confessor was born between 1003 and 1005, at Islip in Oxfordshire. For much of his early life, Edward lived in exile in France. While there, one of his chief delights was serving at Mass and attending the church offices. He succeeded to the throne of England in 1042. Not being an ambitious king, Edward's sole aim was the welfare of his people, he often gave alms to the poor and money for religious purposes, which came from his own personal wealth, and not from taxes. The ‘good St. Edward's laws’, were fondly remembered by succeeding generations, so much so that their enactment was repeatedly demanded when people felt themselves oppressed. Edward’s main claim to fame was the building of Westminster Abbey. A modern biography of him is ‘Edward the Confessor’, by Frank Barlow. St. Edward’s feastday is 13th October.

Francis

St. Francis was born in Assisi in 1181, the son of a wealthy merchant. He turned his back on the riches that would have been his, so as to follow Christ, and live a life of poverty. Others came to join him, and, from these humble beginnings grew the Franciscan Order, which spread rapidly during Francis’ own lifetime. His sense of the harmony and joy in God’s creation, and the crib he made of stone figures, is thought to have been the inspiration for Christmas carols. He died in 1226. A modern biography of him is ‘I, Francis’, by Carlo Carretto. St. Francis’ feastday is October 4th.

Francis Xavier

St. Francis Xavier was a Jesuit missionary, who preached the Christian Faith in Goa, India, in South East Asia, and in Japan. He died on his way to China, in 1552. A modern biography of him is 'The life of St. Francis Xavier', by Philip Fogarty, S.J. St. Francis Xavier's feastday is December 3rd.

Gabriel

St. Gabriel is one of the archangels, who announced to Mary that Jesus Christ would be born into the world, and that she was to be his mother. Mary's 'Yes', in answer to him, has always been seen as the beginning of our Redemption. Of interest might be 'The History of Angels as told by Archangel Gabriel', by Rodford Belcher. The feastday of St. Gabriel is kept on September 29th.

George

St. George was born in Lydda, Palestine, between 275 and 281. Tradition holds that he was a soldier in Palestine, who was martyred for his faith. He is patron saint of England. He died in 303. A short biography of him is included 'The Life of St. George', by Anita Ganeri. St. George's feastday is April 23rd.

Gregory

St. Gregory the Great was born around 540, and became a Prefect of Rome, then gave it all up to enter a monastery. He was sent on a papal mission to Constantinople, and was made pope in 590, and worked to organise music to be used in masses, and in other church services – and so 'Gregorian Chant' is named after him. He cared for the poor and the refugees, and protected them during the Barbarian invasions. He also sent missionaries to England, one of whom became St. Augustine of Canterbury. A biography of him is 'St Gregory the Great and his World', by R.A.Markus. St. Gregory the Great's feastday is September 3rd.

Henry

St. Henry was born in 973, became Duke of Bavaria, and was later crowned Holy Roman Emperor. He was ardent for the reform of the Church, took part in synods, founded monasteries, and appointed bishops of integrity. A biography of him is 'Henry II, Holy Roman Emperor', by Jesse Russell. St. Henry's feastday is July 13th.

Hilary

St. Hilary was born in 300, in Poitiers, where he became bishop. Sometimes referred to as the "Hammer of the Arians", he was so respected by the Christians of Poitiers that they unanimously elected him their bishop. At a time when Arianism threatened to overrun the Western Church; Hilary undertook to repel the disruption. The greater part of his life was spent combatting the heresy of Arianism, and persuading people not to give in to this perversion of the faith. He eventually died around the year 368, in Poitiers. A biography of him is 'St. Hilary of Poitiers', by John Gibson Casenove. His feastday is 13th January.

Hugh

St. Hugh of Lincoln was born around 1135 in the French village of Avalon. He joined the Augustinian monastery near Grenoble, though in 1159 he decided to enter the Carthusian abbey, La Grande Chartreuse. He later left for Witham in Somerset, became prior of what was the first Carthusian monastery in England. In 1186 he was consecrated as Bishop of Lincoln, The new bishop at once set to the work of reform. He attacked the iniquitous forest laws, made by the king, Henry II, and became conspicuous for his work among the poor. He died in the year 1200, in London. A modern biography of him is 'St. Hugh of Lincoln', by David Hugh Farmer. St. Hugh's feastday is 17th November.

Ignatius

St. Ignatius was born in Loyola in northern Spain. He became a soldier but, while convalescing, was converted with a deep love of Christ, and a desire to become a missionary. He studied in Paris and, together with some companions, formed the Society of Jesus – often referred to simply as the Jesuits. One of the aims the Society of Jesus was to educate young children. He died in 1556 in Rome. A modern biography of him is 'The Life and legacy of St. Ignatius of Loyola', edited by Charles Rivers. St. Ignatius' feastday is 31st July

James

St. James, known as 'St. James the Greater' and the brother of St. John the Evangelist. Beheaded by Herod Agrippa in about the year 42. His feastday is 25th July.

Jerome

St. Jerome lived for many years as a hermit in the Syrian desert, then went to live in Bethlehem., where he translated the Bible into Latin – at that time the language universally used by scholars. A modern biography of him is 'St. Jerome', by Reed James. St. Jerome's feastday is 30th September.

John

St. John was one the apostles chosen by Jesus, and one of the four Evangelists, the author of the St. John's Gospel, in which he often refers to himself as 'The Beloved Disciple', the Book of Revelation, and of three Letters. In his gospel he relates how, at the Last Supper, he leant against Jesus' breast, and paintings or sculptures of the Last Supper nearly always show this. This small, seemingly insignificant act, has been understood as St. John resting on the Sacred Heart of Jesus, thus giving rise to the widespread devotion to the Sacred Heart. His feastday is 27th December.

John Baptist

St. John Baptist De La Salle was born in Reims in 1651. He opened a school there for poor children in 1679, also establishing schools in Paris and Rouen. Founded a religious order whose main work was in the field of education. He died in Rouen in 1719. A modern biography of him is 'St. John Baptist De La Salle', by Lawrence O'Toole. St. John Baptist De La Salle's feastday is 7th April .

John Paul

St. John Paul II. He was born Karol Jozef Wojtyla. in Wadowice, Poland. During WWI, he helped his fellow Poles in Krakow while the town was occupied by the Nazis – and, after the war, by the Russians. He was ordained in 1946, finally being elected pope in 1978. During his time as pope, he visited 129 countries and, among other things, established the World Youth Days. He died in 2005. A modern biography of him is ‘John Paul II or the Saint of the Youth’, by Robert Akpata. St. John Paul’s feastday is 22nd October.

Joseph

St. Joseph was the husband of Mary, and the foster-father of Jesus. He is the patron of the Universal Church. His feastday is 19th March.

Jude

St. Jude was one of the apostles chosen by Jesus. He has become known as the ‘patron saint of lost causes’, and there is a shrine to him in Faversham, Kent. His feastday is 28th October.

Justin

St. Justin was born at the beginning of the second century. He was a philosopher who, at the age of 30, became a Christian. He lived and worked in Rome, and many writings of his, including the first description of Sunday Mass, and of the rite of baptism, survive to this day. He was martyred about the year 165, during the reign of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius. A biography of him is ‘St. Justin the Martyr’, by C.C. Martindale. His feastday is 1st June.

Laurence

St. Laurence was born around 225 in Aragon, Spain. Shortly before 257 went to Rome where he was ordained as a deacon of the Church. He was martyred in 258, and a shrine to him is at the Basilica di San Lorenzo fuori le Mura, in Rome. He was buried in the Via Tiburtina in the Catacomb of Cyriaca. He is mentioned in Eucharistic Prayer I. St. Laurence’s feastday is 10th August.

Leo

St. Leo, known as ‘St. Leo the Great’, was elected pope in 440. He defended the Church against the invasions of the Huns, and of the Vandals, when they sacked Rome. He consolidated the organisation of the Church. He was an able administrator, and convened the Council of Chalcedon, where he confirmed the doctrine of the Incarnation. He died around 461, though many of his sermons and letters still survive. A biography of him is ‘Leo the Great’, by Bronwen Neil. St. Leo the Great’s feastday is 10th November.

Louis

St. Louis was king of France in 1226, and the father of 11 children. He became a member of the Third Order of St. Francis. His life was governed by prayer, penance, love and service of the poor. He died while on his way to one of the Crusades in the Holy Land, in 1270. A biography of him is 'The Sanctity of St. Louis', by Larry Field (translator). St. Louis' feastday is 25th August.

Luke

St. Luke accompanied St. Paul on many of his journeys, and was in Rome with him in his captivity. He is the author of one of the four Gospels, and of the Acts of the Apostles. His feastday is 18th October.

Mark

St. Mark, together with St. Barnabas, accompanied St. Paul on his first journey, to Cyprus. He was with Sts. Peter and Paul in Rome. The Gospel he wrote – said to have been partly dictated by St. Peter – is concise, direct, and vivid. His feastday is 25th April.

Martin

St. Martin was born into a pagan family around 335. He became a Roman soldier, until his conversion and baptism. In 366 he joined St. Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, and founded the first monastery in France, at Liguge. He himself became Bishop of Tours in 372, doing much to spread monasticism in France. A biography of him is 'The Life of St. Martin of Tours', by Sulpitius Severus. His feastday is 11th November.

Matthew

St. Matthew was born at Capernaum, and became a tax-gatherer until he left everything to follow Jesus. He was an apostle, and the author of one of the Gospels, written in such a way that it could be understood by the Jews. His feastday is 21st September.

Matthias

St. Matthias was the apostle chosen after the Resurrection to replace Judas Iscariot. His feastday is 14th May.

Maximilian

St. Maximilian Kolbe was born in Poland in 1894. In 1907, Kolbe decided to join the Conventual Franciscans. During WW2, his monastery acted as a publishing house, issuing a number of anti-Nazi publications. On 17 February 1941, the monastery was shut down by the Nazi authorities. That day Kolbe and four others were arrested by the Gestapo and imprisoned. On 28 May, he was transferred to Auschwitz. While he was there, 10 men were selected to be starved to death, as a punishment to deter any escape attempts. One man exclaimed that he had a wife and children, and Kolbe took his place. He died in Auschwitz in 1941. A biography of him is 'Maximilian Kolbe: Saint of Auschwitz', by Elaine Murray Stone. St. Maximilian Kolbe's feastday is 14th August.

Michael

St. Michael is one of the archangels. He is mentioned in the Book of Revelation and in the Letter of St. Jude. A book about him is 'St. Michael: Devotions, Prayers, and Living Wisdom', by Mirabai Starr. The feast of the three archangels, Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, is celebrated on 29th September.

Nicholas

St. Nicholas was born in Patara, Asia Minor, around 280. He lost both of his parents as a young man and reportedly used his inheritance to help the poor and sick. He was later ordained a priest, finally becoming a bishop. In 325, he took part in the Council which has given us the Nicene Creed. He later served as Bishop of Myra, now called Demre, in Turkey. There have been many legends about his generosity, which have given rise to his association with Christmas. An overview of him is 'The Real St. Nicholas', by Louise Carus. Also of interest might be 'The Mother of St. Nicholas', by Grant Balfour, a short book about the town of Myra. St. Nicholas' feastday is 6th December.

Patrick

St. Patrick was born around 385. Was captured and enslaved by the English. He worked as a herdsman, escaped, decided to become a priest. He taught the Christian faith to the Irish, famously using the three leaves growing from the single stem of the shamrock – which could be found everywhere on the ground in Ireland – to explain the concept of Three Persons in One God. He died in about 461. A modern biography of him is 'St. Patrick of Ireland', by Philip Freeman. St. Patrick's feastday is March 17th.

Paul

St. Paul, sometimes called 'The Apostle' – even though he is not grouped together with the twelve apostles. He is the author of several letters, which make up most of the New Testament. His feastday, which he shares with St. Peter, is 29th June.

Peter

St. Peter, chief of the apostles chosen by Christ, and the first pope. His feastday is 29th June, shared with St. Paul.

Peter Damian.

St. Peter Damian was born at Ravenna, in 1007. In about 1035 he became a Benedictine monk, and was made prior of Fonte. He was made Bishop of Ostia in 1057, and went as papal legate to France and Germany, on the work of reform of the Church. He died in 1072. A modern biography of him is 'St. Peter Damian', by Owen J. Blum. St. Peter Damian's feastday is 21st February.

Philip

St. Philip, like St. Andrew, had been a disciple at first of St. John the Baptist, before answering the call of Jesus. His feastday, which he shares with St. James the Less – not to be confused with James the brother of St. John – is 3rd May.

Raphael

St. Raphael is one of the three main archangels, and is often associated with healing. A modern book about him is 'St. Raphael', by Angela Carol. St. Raphael's feastday is 29th September.

Raymond

St. Raymond Penyafort was born in Vilafranca, in Spain, around 1075. He entered Dominican Order in 1222 then in 1234 was appointed Archbishop of Tarragona – a position he resigned from – and in 1238 was elected Master-General of the Dominicans. He died aged 100, at Barcelona. There is a shrine to him at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Barcelona. A biography of him is 'Raymond of Penyafort', edited by Lambert M. Surhone. St. Raymond's feastday is 7th January.

Richard

St. Richard was born in Burford, Worcestershire, in 1197. He studied in Oxford, then Paris, and Bologna in Italy, finally returning to Oxford, where he became chancellor. In 1244 he was made Bishop of Chichester, although the king, Henry III, refused to accept him as bishop, preferring a different candidate of his own choosing. However, he was eventually forced to accept Richard as bishop. After dedicating St Edmund's Chapel at Dover, Richard died aged 56 at the Maison Dieu, Dover at midnight on 3 April 125. A modern biography of him is 'The Story of St. Richard of Chichester', by Rena Gardiner. St. Richard's feastday is 16th June.

Robert

St. Robert Bellarmine was born in at Montepulchiano, Tuscany in 1542. Around 1563, he joined the Jesuit Order, later being made rector of the Gregorian university in Rome, which had been founded by the Jesuits. In 1602 he was made Archbishop of Capua. He was interested by Galileo's work, and is known for his involvement in what became known as 'the Galileo case', with its theory that the earth circled the sun. He died in Rome in 1621. A modern biography of him is 'Robert Bellarmine: Patron Saint of Catechists', by J.B. Midgley. St Robert's feastday is 17th September.

Simon

St. Simon was one of the apostles chosen by Jesus. His feastday is 28th October.

Stephen

St. Stephen was one of the first deacons in the Church, described in 'The Acts of the Apostles', and he was the first martyr. He is the patron saint of altar servers. His feastday is 26th December.

Thomas

St. Thomas was one of the apostles chosen by Jesus. His feastday is 3rd July.

Timothy

St. Timothy accompanied St. Paul on one of his journeys, later becoming Bishop of Ephesus. His feastday is 26th January.

Vincent

St. Vincent de Paul was born in 1581, in the village of Pouy, in France. He was educated in Dax, then studied at Toulouse university. He was ordained priest in 1600, despite only being 19 years old – 24 was the rule at that time. For a while he was parish priest at Clichy, but from 1612 he began to serve the Gondi, an illustrious family in Paris. He was confessor and spiritual director to Madame de Gondi. It was the Countess de Gondi who persuaded her husband to endow and support a group of able and zealous missionaries who would work among poor tenant farmers and country people in general. In 1617, he organized wealthy women in his parish into a group that would to collect funds for missionary projects, found hospitals, and gather relief funds for the victims of war. In 1622 he founded order known as the Vincentians, who were to devote themselves entirely to the people in smaller towns and villages. He died in 1660. A modern biography of him is 'Life of St. Vincent de Paul', by Frances Alice Forbes. St. Vincent de Paul's feastday is 27th September.

Wilfrid

St. Wilfrid was born in Northumbria in about 633. At about the age of 20 he began studying under one of the monks at Lindisfarne. Around 654 he was made abbot of Ripon. A major source of controversy at the time was the division between the Celtic and the Roman ways of deciding when to celebrate Easter. Wilfrid's lasting legacy to the English Church is that he persuaded it to fall into line with Rome, and taught the clergy of the day to adopt the Roman method for calculating the date of Easter. After an eventful life, which included becoming Bishop of York, and also establishing the Church in Sussex, Wilfrid died in 709 at Oundle. A modern biography of him is 'Saint Wilfrid', by John Nankivell. St. Wilfrid's feastday is 12th October.



CONFIRMATION SAINTS' NAMES FOR GIRLS

Agatha

St. Agatha was born in Catania, Sicily, in 231. She was martyred at the age of 20, during the persecution of Christians by the Roman Emperor Decius. St. Agatha is mentioned in Eucharistic Prayer I, and her feastday is 5th February.

Agnes

St. Agnes was born in around 291, and was martyred in 304, during the persecution of the emperor Diocletian. She has become known as one of the patron saints of rape victims. St. Agnes is mentioned in Eucharistic Prayer I, and her feastday is 21st January.

Angela

St. Angela Merici was born in 1474 at Desenzano del Garda, Italy. She later joined the Third Order of St. Francis, and later converted her house into a small school, providing Christian education for young girls. On 25 November 1535, St Angela Merici chose twelve women and started the foundation which she called the 'Company of St Ursula', in a small house in Brescia, but soon developed into the Ursuline Order. On 18 March 1537, she was elected superior of the order. She died in Brescia in 1540. A modern biography of her is 'The First Ursuline: The Story of St. Angela Merici', by Mary Reidy. St. Angela Merici's feastday is 27th January.

Anne

St. Anne is traditionally held to be the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary. A large shrine to her is to be found in St. Anne d'Auray, Brittany. The shrine is The site of the reported apparition of St. Anne to a local peasant, in 1625. St. Anne's feastday is 26th July.

Bridget

St. Bridget was born in 1303 in Uppland, Sweden. She was married in 1316 and had eight children. In 1344, after the death of her husband, she became a member of the Third Order of St. Francis and devoted herself wholly to a life of prayer and caring for the poor and the sick. It was about this time that she developed the idea of establishing the religious community which was to become the Order of the Most Holy Saviour, or the Brigittines, She died in 1373, in Rome. A modern biography of her is 'St. Bridget of Sweden', by Francesca Maria Steele. St. Bridget's feastday is 23rd July.

Catherine

St. Catherine of Siena was born 1347 in Siena, Italy, the youngest of twenty-two children. At the age of sixteen, she joined the Dominican Third Order, and at twenty-one Catherine experienced what she described in her letters as a "Mystical Marriage" with Jesus, later a popular subject in art as the *Mystic marriage of Saint Catherine*. In June 1376 Catherine went to Avignon to persuade Pope Gregory XI to return to Rome, which he then did. St. Catherine died in 1380, in Rome. A modern biography of her is 'St. Catherine of Siena', by Frances Alice Forbes. St. Catherine of Siena's feastday is 29th April.

Cecilia

St. Cecilia was a young Christian woman who was martyred probably end of the second or the beginning of the third century, in Rome. St. Cecilia is mentioned in Eucharistic Prayer I, and her feastday is 22nd November.

Clare

St. Clare was born in Assisi in 1174. In the year 1210, she formed a community of women nearby at San Damiano, which became known later as The Poor Clares. In the beginning, however, St. Clare and her companions had no written rule to follow beyond a very short '*formula vitae*' given them by St. Francis. Later, the protector of the order, Cardinal Ugolino, the future Gregory IX, drew up a written rule for the Poor Clares. St. Clare, who in 1215 had, much against her will been made superior at San Damiano by St. Francis, continued to rule there as abbess until her death, in 1253, nearly forty years later. A modern biography of her is 'Clare of Assisi: A Heart Full of Love', by Ilia Delio. St. Clare's feastday is 11th August.

Elizabeth

St. Elizabeth of Portugal – sometimes known as Elizabeth of Aragon – was born in 1271 at Zaragoza, in Spain. In 1288 was married, to King Denis of Portugal. She was devoted to the poor and the sick, while taking an active interest in Portuguese politics, and found a role for herself as a peacemaker between different warring factions. In 1325 she joined the Third Order of St. Francis, continuing her work among the poor. During the great famine in 1293, she donated flour from her cellars to the starving in Coimbra, but was also known for distributing small gifts, paying the dowries of poor girls, educating the children of poor nobles, and was a benefactor of various hospitals

and of religious projects. She died in 1336. There is a biography of her 'St. Elizabeth of Portugal', by Vincent McNabb. St. Elizabeth of Portugal's feastday is 4th July.

Felicity

St. Felicity was born towards the end of the third century. She is said to have been a catechumen, still receiving instruction in the faith. However, at the time conversions to Christianity were forbidden, and Felicity, along with some of the others who were also catechumens, were thrown into prison. Her story is told in 'The Passion of St. Perpetua, St. Felicitas, and their Companions', which is one of the oldest and most notable early Christian texts. It survives in both Latin and Greek forms, and purports to contain the actual prison diary of the young mother and martyr Perpetua. Scholars generally believe that it is authentic. St. Felicity is mentioned in Eucharistic Prayer I, and her feastday is 7th March.

Frances

St. Frances of Rome was born in 1384, in Rome. At the age of 12 she was given in marriage to Lorenzo Ponziani, commander of the papal troops of Rome. Frances spent many years visiting the poor and taking care of the sick, inspiring other wealthy women of the city to do the same. During a time of flood and famine, she turned part of the family's country estate into a hospital and distributed food and clothing to the poor. In 1425, she founded the Olivetan Oblates of Mary, later called the Oblates of St. Frances of Rome. However, the confraternity was neither cloistered nor bound by formal vows, so they could follow her pattern of combining a life of prayer with answering the needs of their society. She died in 1440, in Rome. A biography of her is 'The Life of St. Frances of Rome, and Others', by Georgiana Fullerton. St. Frances feastday is 9th March.

Gertrude

St. Gertrude the Great was born in 1256, at Einsleben in Germany. In 1266 she joined the nearby community of nuns at Helfta. In 1281, at the age of twenty-five, she experienced the first of a series of visions that continued throughout her life, and which changed the course of her life. Her priorities shifted away from secular knowledge and toward the study of Scripture and theology. Gertrude devoted herself strongly to personal prayer and meditation. Her many writings include the Herald of Divine Love which is notable, especially in Book Two, because of its vivid descriptions of Gertrude's visions. These describe the long-standing but, at the time, ill-defined devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She died in Helfta around 1302. A modern biography of her is 'St. Gertrude the Great', by Dolan Gilbert. St. Gertrude the Great's feastday is 16th November.

Jane

St. Jane Frances de Chantal was born in Dijon, France, in 1572. She married the Baron de Chantal when she was 21 and then, three years after her husband's death, met Saint Francis de Sales, the bishop of Geneva. Later, with his support, and after providing for her children, she left for Annecy, to start the Congregation of the Visitation. During its first eight years, the new order also was unusual in its public outreach, in contrast to most female religious who remained cloistered and adopted strict ascetic practices. The usual opposition to women in active ministry arose and Francis de Sales was obliged to make it a cloistered community following the Rule of St. Augustine. She died at the Visitation Convent in Moulins, in 1641. A modern biography of her is 'Saint Jeanne de Chantal', by Andre Ravier. St. Jane's feastday is 12th August.

Josephine

St. Josephine Bakhita was born in Darfur, Sudan, around 1869. In 1887 she was kidnapped and sold into slavery. For the next 11 years she was ill-treated, bought and sold by several owners, but in 1888 ended up being sheltered in a convent run by the Canossian sisters, in Venice. In 1896 she became a novice, before being fully professed as a Canossian nun. In addition to her duties in the convent, she was in frequent contact with the local community. Her gentleness, calming voice, and ever-present smile became well known. She spent 42 years among them, and was greatly loved everyone. Her special charisma and reputation for sanctity were noticed by her order; and soon she had become famous throughout Italy. During the Second World War she shared the fears and hopes of the town people, who considered her a saint and felt protected by her mere presence. She died in 1947. A modern biography of her is 'From Slave to Saint', by Roberto Italo Zanini. St. Josephine Bakhita's feastday is 8th February.

Lucy

St. Lucy was born in Syracuse, around 283, and was martyred in 304. St. Lucy is mentioned in Eucharistic Prayer I, and her feastday is 13th December.

Margaret

St. Margaret of Scotland was born in exile in Hungary, in 1045. She and her family returned to England in 1057, but fled to the Kingdom of Scotland following the Norman conquest of England of 1066. Around 1070 Margaret married Malcolm III of Scotland, becoming his queen consort. She was a pious woman, and among many charitable works she established a ferry across the Firth of Forth for pilgrims travelling to Dunfermline Abbey, which gave the towns of South Queensferry and North Queensferry their names. She instigated religious reform, striving to make the worship and practices of the Church in Scotland conform to those of Rome. She was a strong, pure, noble character, who had very great influence over her husband, and through him over Scottish history. Margaret died in 1093. A modern biography of her is 'St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland', by Alan J. Wilson. St. Margaret of Scotland's feastday is 16th November.

Margaret Mary

St. Margaret Mary was born in 1647 in L'Hauteceur, France. At the age of 23, she entered the Visitation convent in Paray-Le-Monial. On 27th December 1673, she received the first of many visions of the Sacred Heart, and fifteen years later a chapel to the Sacred heart was built at the convent. The chapel is still there, and it is now an internationally famous shrine. St Margaret Mary died in 1690. A modern biography of her is 'The Life of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque 1647-1690', by Emile Bougaud. St. Margaret Mary's feastday is 16th October.

Maria Goretti

St. Maria Goretti was born in 1890 in Corinaldo, Italy. When she was nine, the family had to share a house with another family, the Serenellis. Maria took over household duties from her mother, while her mother and the rest of her family worked in the fields. One afternoon, Alessandro, the son of the Serenelli family, made sexual advances to Maria, but when she refused to submit to him, he stabbed her fourteen times. She was taken to hospital, but died after forgiving him. She was beatified in 1947, and canonized in 1950. Her mother attended both ceremonies. A modern biography of her is 'St. Maria Goretti, in Garments all Red', by Godfrey Poage. St. Maria Goretti's feastday is 6th July.

Martha

St. Martha of Bethany is mentioned three times in the gospels: twice in St. John's gospel and once in St. Luke's. St. Luke's gospel tells how Jesus visited Martha and her sister at their home in Bethany, while St. John's gospel relates how Jesus raised to life Martha's brother. St. Martha's feastday is 29th June.

Mary

Mary, the mother of Jesus, who lives to intercede for us. Her feastday is her birthday, 8th September.

Mary Magdalen

St. Mary Magdalen is best remembered as having stood for three hours, in darkness, at the foot of the cross. She was also the first to tell the world the news of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Her feastday is 22nd July.

Monica

St. Monica – the mother of St. Augustine – was born in 331 at Thagaste, in what is now Algeria. Her son tells, in his 'Confessions of St. Augustine' us how it was his mother's prayers, over the course of 17 years, which converted him from his wayward, hedonistic lifestyle. Shortly before her death, St. Monica had the joy of seeing her son, whom she had been praying for, baptised in the church of St. John the Baptist, in Milan. She died at Ostia in 387. A modern biography of her is 'St. Monica and the Power of Persistent Prayer', by Mike Aquilina and Mark Sullivan. St. Monica's feastday is on 27th August.

Perpetua

St. Perpetua, according to 'The Passion of St. Perpetua, St. Felicitas, and their Companions' – scholars generally agree it is an authentic document – was born around 180. She was martyred, along with St. Felicity, in 203. An interesting book, written by a modern scholar, would be 'Perpetua's Passion: The Death and Memory of a Young Roman Woman', by Joyce E. Salisbury. St. Perpetua is mentioned in Eucharistic Prayer I, and her feastday is 7th March.

Rita

St. Rita was born in Roccaporena, Italy, in 1381. Her parents arranged for her to be married when she was twelve. At the age of 36, after her husband and her children had died, she entered the convent of St. Mary Magdalen in Cascia. She spent the rest of her life there, living by the Augustinian Rule, saying often that she wished to relieve the suffering of Christ by sharing his pain. Jesus answered her prayer, and a thorn from his crown of thorns pierced her forehead. All paintings and images of St. Rita show this mark on her forehead. A modern biography of her is 'The Precious Pearl: The Story of St. Rita of Cascia', by Michael Di Gregorio, OSA. Saint Rita's feastday is 22nd May.

Rose

St. Rose of Lima was born in 1586, in Lima, Peru. While she was still young, she read about St. Catherine of Siena, and became determined to take her as her model. She became a member of the Third Order of St. Dominic, and her days were filled with acts of charity and industry, while her nights were devoted to prayer and penance. So deep was her desire to live the life of Christ that she spent most of her time at home in solitude. During the last few years of her life, Rose set up a room in the house where she cared for homeless children, the elderly and the sick. This may have been the beginning of social services in Peru. There were many miracles after she died, in 1617. A modern biography of her is 'St. Rose of Lima: Patroness of the Americas', by Mary Alphonsus. St. Rose of Lima's feastday is 23rd August.

Scholastica

St. Scholastica, the sister of St. Benedict, was born in Nursia, Italy, in 480. Benedictine tradition holds that Scholastica lived in a convent at Plumbariola about five miles from Monte Cassino. An amusing tale is told of how, when she asked her brother to listen to her and he didn't, she then turned to God, who did listen to her. The full story is to be found in the 'Dialogues of Gregory the Great' (Book 2, Chapter 33). She died in 543, near Monte Cassino. A short book about her is 'St. Scholastica: Graced Woman of Hope', by Judy Ritter. St. Scholastica's feastday is 10th February.

Teresa

St. Teresa of Avila was born in 1515, in Gotarrendura, Spain. When she was 20, she entered the convent of the Incarnation in Avila, and was professed as a Carmelite nun. Here she began to receive visions and private revelations. One of these visions – called the ‘transverberation of the heart’ – was of an angel who pierced Teresa’s heart with a golden lance, filling her with a tremendous love of God. However, the convent life had become too relaxed, so she left it to found a more austere convent. She then travelled the length and breadth of Spain, founding more convents – as well as friaries for men. These friars and nuns were later called Discalced Carmelites, to signify that they had embraced a life of poverty. She died in 1582, at Alba de Tormes. Probably her autobiography is the most comprehensive book about her: ‘The Life of St. Teresa of Avila By Herself’. Otherwise a modern biography is ‘Teresa of Avila: An Extraordinary Life’, by Shirley du Boulay. St. Teresa of Avila’s feastday is 15th October.

Teresa Benedicta

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross was born in 1891 in Breslau, Germany, into a Jewish family, with the name Edith Stein. In 1916 she received a doctorate of philosophy from the University of Göttingen. She became interested in Catholicism, and was baptised in 1922. Edith Stein entered the Discalced Carmelite monastery in Cologne in 1933, and took the name Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. To avoid the growing Nazi threat, her Order transferred her to the Discalced Carmelite monastery in Echt, Holland. However, even there, she was not safe and, because of the persecution of Jews by the Nazis – which included her, because of her Jewish connections – was arrested at the monastery and deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp, where she met her death, in 1942. A modern biography is ‘Saint Edith Stein’, by Mary Lea Hill. St. Teresa Benedicta’s feastday is 9th August.

Therese

St. Therese of Lisieux was born in 1873 in Alencon, France. At the age of 16 she entered the Carmelite convent in Lisieux. At her own request, she remained a novice, and endeavoured to live a life of simplicity and humility. Her spirituality was based on her desire to find what she called a ‘little way’ to heaven. This ‘Little Way’ became universally known and loved, and is described in her autobiography ‘Story of a Soul’. Her legacy to the world includes letters, poems, religious plays and prayers. She died of tuberculosis in 1895. A good modern biography of her is ‘Holy Daring: The Fearless Trust of St. Therese of Lisieux’, by John Udrys. St. Therese’s feastday is 1st October.



OTHER ST. AUGUSTINES, ST. JOHNS, ETC.

ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY was born in Rome, in the 6th century. He later became a monk, and was soon made abbot of the monastery. The pope at the time, Gregory I (The Great), was anxious to establish Christianity in England, and chose Augustine for this work. As a result, Augustine set out in 597 to England, the ruled by King Ethelbert, and once there established a small monastery in the royal capital of Canterbury, then a barbarous and half-ruined metropolis, built by the Kentish folk upon the site of the old Roman military town of Durovernum. Having converted King Ethelbert to Christianity, and laid the foundations for future missionary endeavour in England, Augustine died in 604 in Canterbury. A modern biography of him is 'St. Augustine of Canterbury', by Michael Green. St. Augustine of Canterbury's feastday is 27th May.

SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES was born into the aristocratic de Sales family, in Thorens, France, in 1567. Although his father wanted him to be a magistrate, he felt called to the priesthood. He was ordained in 1593, and nine years later was made Bishop of Geneva. He became noted for his deep faith and his gentle approach to the religious divisions in his land. He is known also for his writings on the topic of spiritual direction and spiritual formation, particularly the 'Introduction to the Devout Life' and the 'Treatise on the Love of God.' He died in 1622. A biography of him is 'Saintmaker: The Remarkable Life of Francis De Sales', by Michael de la Bedoyere. St. Francis de Sales' feastday is January 24th.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, who prepared the way for the Lord. There is a good modern account of his life, 'The Life and Prayers of St. John the Baptist', by Wyatt North. St. John the Baptist is remembered twice during the year, on 24th June and 29th August, although the important date – a solemnity – is 24th June.

ST. JOHN VIANNEY – The Cure d'Ars, as he is often known – was born at Dardilly, France, on 8th May 1786. He was ordained in 1815, and threw himself into his work as a parish priest, spending long hours in the confessional. So well-known did he become, that soon 20,000 pilgrims a year came to visit him in Ars, so that he could

hear their confessions. An extension to the railway line had to be built, to carry them all. A good modern biography of him is 'The Curé d'Ars: Jean-Baptiste Vianney', by Francois Trochu. St. John Vianney is the patron saint of parish priests, and his feastday is 4th August.

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS was born Juan de Yepes y Álvarez in Fontiveros, Spain, in 1542. After working in a hospital, he was ordained in 1567 as a Carmelite priest, and helped St. Teresa of Avila in her task of reforming the Carmelite Order. Due to the great opposition, however, from those Carmelites who were against the reform, he was obstructed in his work, and tortured and imprisoned. During his imprisonment, he wrote several poems, including 'The Spiritual Canticle'. He eventually escaped, and continued to help the reform. He died in 1591. A biography of him is 'The Life and Prayers of St. John of the Cross', by Wyatt North. St. John of the Cross' feastday is 14th December.

ST. JOHN XXIII was born Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, in the village of Sotto il Monte, Italy, in 1881. He was ordained in 1904, and during WWI served as a stretcher-bearer and chaplain. After fulfilling many roles in the Church, including being papal nuncio to France, he was elected pope in 1958. During his short pontificate, he convened the Second Vatican Council. This detailed overview of the Catholic Church consisted of a series of discussions, with bishops from all over the world taking part in them. The conclusions they reached were recorded in a series of documents, now simply referred to as the 'documents of Vatican II'. 'Good Pope John', as he became known, died in 1963, before the Council was finished. A modern biography of him is 'The Good Pope', by Greg Tobin. St. John XXIII's feastday is 11th October.

ST. LOUIS MARIE DE MONTFORT was born in Montfort-sur-Meu, France, in 1673. During his studies in philosophy and theology, he formed a strong devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He was eventually ordained priest in 1700 and, during his life as a priest wrote several books intended to promote devotion to the Rosary, including 'True Devotion to Mary', and 'The Secret of the Rosary'. In 1716, worn out by his work, both preaching devotion to Our Lady, and working among the poor he died, aged 43, at Saint Laurent-sur-Sevres. A modern biography of him is 'St. Louis de Montfort: Our Lady's Slave', by Mary Fabyan Windeatt. St. Louis Marie de Montfort's' feastday is 27th April.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS was born in Roccasecca, Sicily. He joined the Dominicans about 1242, studied theology and was appointed regent of the newly-formed Studium Generale in Paris. In 1250 he was ordained priest. He later wrote a 'summa', the name given to a compendium of Catholic philosophy, theology, and canon law. The most famous of these is still his own 'Summa Theologica' which he began in 1265, although he spent eight years writing it. He died in 1273. A biography of him is 'St. Thomas Aquinas', by G.K. Chesterton. St. Thomas Aquinas' feastday is 28th January.

SAINT ANNE LINE was born at Dunmow, Essex, around 1566. When she and her brother announced their intention of becoming Catholics both were disowned and disinherited. Anne married Roger Line, a convert like herself, though he soon died, in 1594. After her husband's death in 1594, she was placed in charge of a newly-established refuge for priests. On Candlemas Day, 1601, Father Francis Page, S.J. was about to celebrate Mass in her apartments, when priest-catchers broke into the rooms. Father Page quickly unvested, and mingled with the others, but the altar prepared for the ceremony was all the evidence needed for the Anne's arrest. She was tried at the Old Bailey 26 Feb., 1601, and found guilty for harbouring a priest, though this could not be proved. She was sentenced, and hanged at Tyburn. Her fate was shared by two priests, Mark Barkworth, O.S.B., and Roger Filcock, S.J., who were executed at the same time. There is no book about her, but a DVD is available at Mary's Dowry Productions <http://www.marysdowryproductions.org/shop/dvds>. St. Anne Line's feastday is 30th August.

SAINT CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA, sometimes known as Saint Catherine of the Wheel, was born in Alexandria, Egypt, around 282. Due to the lack of documentary evidence, tradition must suffice. Brought up as a pagan, she became an ardent Christian in her teenage years and attempted to convince the Roman Emperor Maxentius of the moral error in persecuting Christians. Despite her success in convincing his followers, the emperor himself had Catherine scourged and imprisoned, during which time over 200 people came to see her, including Maxentius' wife, Valeria Maximilla; all converted to Christianity but were subsequently martyred. The furious emperor condemned Catherine to death on the spiked breaking wheel, but, at her touch, it shattered. Maxentius finally had her beheaded. An account of her life is 'A Story of Saint Catherine of Alexandria' by Brother Flavius, CSC. St. Catherine of Alexandria's feastday is 25th November.

SAINT ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY was born in Sarospatak, Hungary, in 1207. In 1221 she was married to Louis IV of Hungary. Shortly afterwards, she learnt, from some visiting Franciscan friars, of the ideals of St. Francis of Assisi, and began working to help the poor, and continued to do so until her death in

SAINT ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY was born in Sarospatak, Hungary, in 1207. In 1221 she was married to Louis IV of Hungary. Shortly afterwards, she learnt, from some visiting Franciscan friars, of the ideals of St. Francis of Assisi, and began working to help the poor, and continued to do so until her death in 1231. There is a biography of her: 'The Greatest of These is Love: The Life of St. Elizabeth of Hungary', by Lori Pieper, OSF. St. Elizabeth of Hungary's feastday is 17th November.

ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW was born Margaret Middleton in York, in 1556. At the age of 15, she was married to a butcher, John Clitherow, and lived at No. 10, The Shambles. In those days when Catholics were being persecuted for their faith, she often sheltered priests, and mass was regularly said in her home. In 1586, however, she was discovered, arrested, and called before the York assizes for the crime of

harbouring Roman Catholic priests. She was then tortured and put to death. A modern biography of her is 'Saint Margaret Clitherow', by Katherine Longley. St. Margaret Clitherow's feastday is 30th August.

Biographies of most of these saints – books or, sometimes, DVDs – can be ordered in shops, or bought online.

Of the apostles like Simon and Thomas, there is little to be read about them. However, with Peter, Paul, John, James, Matthew and Jude, we have what they themselves wrote, in the New Testament. As for what they did, we can only assume that they accomplished a great deal, even if they did not receive the credit for it!

For the early martyrs such as Agnes, Lucy, and George, it is again difficult to say much. All we really know about them is that they, and other young people like them, were not afraid to stand up for their faith. If necessary, they were prepared to pay with their lives, which many of them did.

**Come
Holy
Spirit**