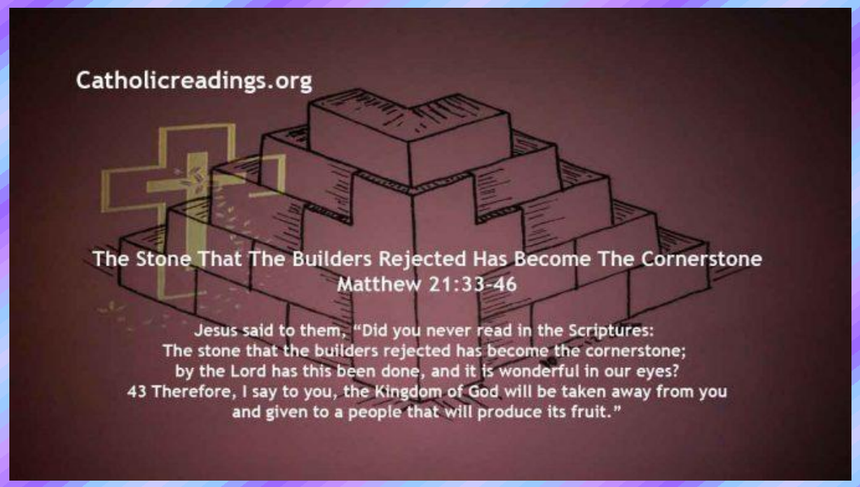


Saint Joseph's, Saint Anne's & Holy Family And Saint Patrick's
27th Of September, Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
Served By the Discalced Carmelites
Parish Priest: Fr. Louis Aroon OCD email: louisaroon2015@gmail.com
Assistant Priest: Fr. Ligori Alexander OCD email: ligorialex@gmail.com
Tel: 0191 534 2346
Sr. Alphonsus (Parish Sister at St. Patrick's, Ryhope) Tel: 0191 521 0340
Rev. Bernard Finan SDS (Retired and resident priest at St. Patrick's)

4th Of October 2026, Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A	
1st Reading	Isaiah 5:1-7
Responsorial Psalm	Psalms 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20
2nd Reading	Philippians 4:6-9
Alleluia	John 15:16
Gospel	Matthew 21:33-43

1st Reading – Isaiah 5:1-7

1 I will sing to my beloved the canticle of my paternal cousin, about his vineyard. A vineyard was made for my beloved, at the horn in the son of oil.
2 And he fenced it in, and he picked the stones out of it, and he planted it with the best vines, and he built a tower in the middle of it, and he set up a winepress within it. And he expected it to produce grapes, but it produced wild vines.
3 Now then, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah: judge between me and my vineyard.
4 What more should I have done for my vineyard that I did not do for it? Should I not have expected it to produce grapes, though it produced wild vines?
5 And now, I will reveal to you what I will do to my vineyard. I will take away its fence, and it will be plundered. I will pull down its wall, and it will be trampled.
6 And I will make it desolate. It will not be pruned, and it will not be dug. And briers and thorns will rise up. And I will command the clouds not to rain upon it.
7 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel. And the man of Judah is his delightful seedling. And I expected that he would do judgment, and behold iniquity, and that he would do justice, and behold an outcry.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalms 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20

R. (Is 5:7a) The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

9 A vine from Egypt you transplanted; you drove away the nations and planted it.
12 It put forth its foliage to the Sea, its shoots as far as the River.

R. The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

13 Why have you broken down its walls, so that every passer-by plucks its fruit,
14 The boar from the forest lays it waste, and the beasts of the field feed upon it?

R. The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

15 Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see;
take care of this vine,
16 and protect what your right hand has planted the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

R. The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

19 Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name.
20 O LORD, God of hosts, restore us; if your face shine upon us, then we shall be saved.

R. The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

2nd Reading – Philippians 4:6-9

Brothers and sisters:
6 Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.
7 Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
9 Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Alleluia – CF. John 15:16

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
16 I have chosen you from the world, says the Lord, to go and bear fruit that will remain.
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Matthew 21:33-43

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people:
33 "Hear another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey.
34 When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce.
35 But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat, another they killed, and a third they stoned.
36 Again he sent other servants, more numerous than the first ones, but they treated them in the same way.
37 Finally, he sent his son to them, thinking, 'They will respect my son.'
38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance.'
39 They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.
40 What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?"
41 They answered him, "He will put those wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the proper times."
42 Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes?
43 Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit."

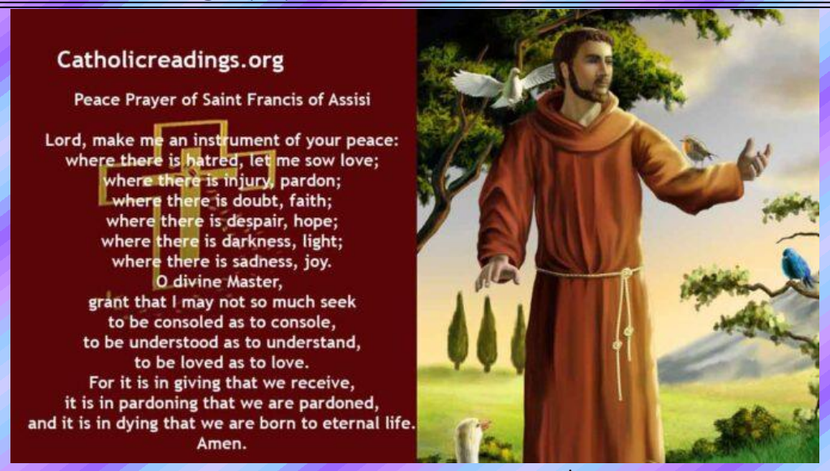
Catholic Mass Readings Homily – The 4th Of October 2026, Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Today's The 4th Of October 2026 Catholic Sunday Readings Homily Theme: The Stone That The Builders Rejected Has Become The Cornerstone – Matthew 21:33-46, Mark 12:1-12

Saint of The Day

St Francis of Assisi was an Italian Catholic friar and deacon who founded the men's Order of Friars Minor (the Franciscans), the women's Order of St. Clare (The Poor Clares), and the Third Order of St Francis. He was born, and given the name Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone, in 1181 or 1182 AD in Assisi, Perugia, Umbria, Italy. He died on The 3rd Of October 1226 in Assisi, Umbria, Italy at the age of 44.
We celebrate his feast day on The 4th Of October every year in the Catholic Church.

St Francis of Assisi Biography



St Francis of Assisi – Feast Day – The 4th Of October 2026

Date of Birth	1181 or 1182 AD
Place of Birth	Assisi, Perugia, Umbria, Italy
Profession	Italian Roman Catholic friar, deacon and founder of the men's Order of Friars Minor (the Franciscans), the women's Order of St. Clare (The Poor Clares), and the Third Order of St Francis
Place of Work	Assisi, Italy
Date of Death	The 3rd Of October 1226 (aged 44 years)
Place of Death	Assisi, Perugia, Umbria, Italy
Feast Day	The 4th Of October
Canonization	By Pope Gregory IX on The 16th Of July 1228 in Assisi, Italy

St Francis of Assisi Biography	
Patron Saint of	• Animals • The environment • Italy • Merchants • Stowaways • Cub Scouts • San Francisco, California • Ecology

St Francis of Assisi Life History

St Francis of Assisi's father was called Pietro di Bernardone de Moriconi, successful fine clothes, and silk merchant. His mother was called Pica de Bourlemont. When Francis was born in Assisi, his father had gone to France on business. His mother baptized him as Giovanni (John) but when his father arrived from France, he began calling him Francesco, which means 'the Free man'. This was because Pietro loved France and what the country had done for his commercial success. St Francis's family was well-to-do and they lived just like the typical wealthy families did. Francis was very handsome, witty, brave, very fond of troubadour (composer and performer of Old Occitan lyric poetry), and loved fine clothes. In 1202, when he was around twenty years old, Francis joined a military expedition in the Assisi militia in a battle against the neighbouring city of Perugia. During the war, Francis was captured and taken as a prisoner for almost a year before his ransom was paid. After this, Francis started reflecting on his life but still went back to his carefree life. In 1205, during another military expedition, he prematurely left the war and returned to Assisi when, in a vision, he heard a voice telling him, "Follow the master rather than the man". From this time, he spent most of his time privately and in prayers. He lost interest in worldly life and also avoided accompanying his friends to sports, feasts, and parties. A friend noticed this and asked him whether he was thinking of marrying, and he answered, "Yes, to a fairer bride that none of you have ever seen". He meant he was marrying his poverty. Francis started becoming disillusioned by the spoils of this world when he was still young. One incident happened when he was sent by his father to sell clothes and velvet. As he went about

his business, a beggar approached him and begged for money. When he was done selling his merchandise he came back to the beggar and gave him all the money he had made. This infuriated his father a lot and his friends could not understand that level of charity. From that day, Francis started making frequent charitable visits to Churches, hospitals, and leper houses. At one time, Francis went on a pilgrimage to Rome to seek spiritual fulfilment and began begging at St. Peter's Basilica. While praying, Francis had a vision of Jesus Christ in the chapel of San Damiano saying to him, "Francis, go and repair My house which, as you can see, is falling into ruins." He returned to Assisi, went to the family store, took and sold clothes worth a lot of money. He also sold his father's horse and donated everything to the church of San Damiano without his father's permission. His father was very angry about it for he said that was theft. Francis ran away and hid in a cave near San Damiano for about a month but after much suffering and hunger, he returned home. His father beat him thoroughly and locked him in a room, however, his mother released him. Francis sought shelter with the priest at San Damiano but his father soon caught up with him and instituted a legal proceeding to force Francis to return the money and also forego his inheritance. Francis returned the money; however, he removed his clothing, piece by piece until he was naked before everyone. Bishop Guido of Assisi, who was among those present at the proceeding covered him with his own cloak. He renounced his father and his patrimony and was left destitute and disinherited. He spent several months begging around for food and stones in the town of Assisi. He carried those stones to the Chapel of San Damiano where he rebuilt it over a period of two years. He also helped rebuild the San Pietro Chapel in Spina and the Chapel of St. Mary of the Angels. One morning in February 1208, during Mass in the chapel of St. Mary of the Angels, Francis was greatly inspired by the day's gospel about the Commissioning of the Twelve".

He was carried away by the message that, "go and proclaim that the Kingdom of God is at hand". He went around the countryside preaching to the people about penance, peace, and brotherly love. Within one year, Francis had eleven followers. They lived a very simple and austere life and continued to preach to the people through their words, actions, and lifestyle. St Francis, in 1209, composed a simple rule for his followers called the Regula Primitiva (Primitive Rule). The rule was "To follow the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and to walk in his footsteps". Together with his first eleven followers, Francis went to Rome to seek permission to found a new religious order from Pope Innocent III. They found Bishop Guido of Assisi and Giovanni di San Paolo, the Cardinal Bishop of Sabina. The cardinal heard Francis and his entourage had to present and arranged for them to meet Pope Innocent III. The pope agreed to informally admit the group until they commanded a larger number when they would return to Rome for official admittance. The twelve were tonsured. On The 16th Of April 1210, the Order of Friars Minor also known as the Franciscan Order or the Seraphic Order was officially founded. They began preaching in Umbria and then to the rest of Italy. After Francis was ordained a deacon he chose not to be ordained a priest.

The Poor Clares

In 1211, after Francis preached in the church of San Rufino in Assisi a young woman, Clare of Assisi was inspired and wanted to live like Francis. She secretly left home and joined Francis and established the Order of Poor Ladies. Francis housed them at San Damiano in a few small huts or cells and the place became the first monastery of the Poor Clares, Second Franciscan Order.

The Third Order

To cater for those who could not manage to leave home, Francis formed the Third Order of Brothers and Sisters of Penance, (the Secular Franciscan Order). This group was composed of the laity who observed the principles of Franciscan life in their daily lives. St Francis willed to preach the Gospel all over the world and therefore planned to travel out of Italy. In 1212, he planned to travel to Jerusalem, but a storm cut short his journey on the Dalmatian coast, and returned to Italy. In 1213, Francis planned to go to Morocco but while in Spain he fell ill and terminated his journey. In 1219, Francis and another friar hoped to convert the Sultan of Egypt. They went to Egypt at a time when there was a ceasefire of war between the Muslims and Christians. The sultan received them graciously and Francis preached to the Muslims. They returned to Assisi unharmed. From this time, the Franciscans were allowed to stay in the Holy Land and were recognized as

"Custodians of the Holy Land" on behalf of the Catholic Church. The Franciscan Order grew rapidly compared to other Orders and therefore Francis wrote a more detailed rule "Rule Without a Papal Bull" which reinforced the devotion to poverty and the apostolic life. He wrote the "Second Rule" or "Rule With a Bull" which on the 29th Of November 1223 was approved by Pope Honorius III. This rule called upon the friars to observe the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, living in obedience, chastity, and without anything of our own." St Francis had a great love for animals and the environment. He preached that God created the world good and beautiful but human sins make it suffer and therefore it needs redemption. Francis thanks God for Brother Sun, Sister Moon, Brother Wind, Water, Fire, and Earth.
One day while Francis was traveling with some companions, they came to a place where were trees on both sides of the road filled with birds. He told his companions to wait as he preached to "my sisters the birds." Fascinated by his voice, many birds surrounded him and none flew away. This is why in art, he is portrayed with birds in his hands. There is a legend that says there was a wolf that terrorized the animals and people in the City of Gubbio. St Francis went to the mountains and when he found the wolf he made the sign of the cross and implored the wolf to hurt no one else.
He went around the streets of Gubbio and made a pact between the residents and the wolf. He said that because the wolf preyed upon the city because of hunger, the residents should feed it regularly and the wolf would stop devouring the residents and their animals. The menace stopped.
On September 13 1224, St Francis had a vision before the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross and he received the stigmata. Brother Leo, who was accompanying Francis said, "Suddenly he saw a vision of a seraph, a six-winged angel on a cross. This angel gave him the gift of the five wounds of Christ."

St Francis of Assisi Death

Francis started to suffer from these stigmata and trachoma and unsuccessfully sought treatment in different cities. Finally, he was brought back to his hut where he spent the rest of his time dictating his spiritual testament. Francis died on The 3rd Of October 1226, Saturday evening singing Voce mea ad Dominum (My Voice to the Lord) in Psalm 141, "Prayer for Deliverance from the Wicked".

Canonization

Pope Gregory IX canonized Saint Francis of Assisi on July 16 1228.

Relics

After the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi was constructed, the body of Francis was buried under the Lower Basilica on May 25 1230.
Brother Elias ordered that this tomb be hidden to protect it from invading Muslims. This tomb was rediscovered in 1818.
Saint Francis of Assisi Feast Day
The feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi is celebrated on the 4th Of October every year in the Catholic Church. During the feast, it is popular for people to bring their pets and other animals to church for blessing.

St Francis of Assisi is the Patron Saint of
Because of St Francis' love for the fauna and flora, Pope John Paul II, on The 29th Of November 1979 declared St Francis the patron saint of

- The Franciscan Order
- Ecology
- Tapestry workers
- Stowaways
- Peace
- Needleworkers
- Merchants
- Many Catholic Dioceses
- Families
- Ecology
- Cub Scouts
- Catholic Action
- Animals
- Santa Fe, New Mexico
- San Pawl il-Bahar, Malta
- San Francisco, California

- San Francisco de Malabon, Philippines
- Salina, Kansas
- Quibdó, Colombia
- Naga City, Cebu, Philippines
- Metuchen, New Jersey
- Lancaster, England
- Kottapuram, India
- Italy
- Freising, Germany
- Colorado

The Complete List of Writings of St Francis. Rules, Testament and Admonitions

- Testament (1226)
- Rule for Hermitages
- Regula non bullata, (1221)
- Regula bullata, (1223)
- Last Will written for Saint Clare
- Form of Life given to Saint Clare
- Admonitions

Letters

- Second version of the Letter to the Faithful, (Epistula ad Fideles II)
- Second Letter to the Custodians, (Epistula ad Custodes II)
- Letter to the Rulers of the Peoples, (Epistula ad populorum rectores)
- Letter to the entire Order, (Epistula toti Ordini missa)
- Letter to the Clergy, (Epistula ad Clericos)
- Letter to Brother Leo, (Epistula ad fratrem Leonem)
- Letter to Brother Anthony, (Epistula ad fratrem Antonium)
- Letter to a Minister, (Epistula ad Ministrum)
- First version of the Letter to the Faithful, (Epistula ad Fideles I)
- First Letter to the Custodians, (Epistula ad Custodes I)

Prayers

- Salutation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, (Salutatio Beatae Mariae Virginis)

- Salutation of the Virtues, (Salutatio Virtutum)
- Prayer inspired by the Our Father, (Expositio in Pater Noster)
- Prayer before the Crucifix, (Oratio ante crucifixum dicta)
- Praises to be said at all the Hours, (Laudes ad omnes horas dicendae)
- Parchment given to Brother Leo, (Chartula fratris Leonis data)
- Office of the Passion, (Officium Passionis Domini)
- Exhortation to the Praise of God, (Exhortatio ad laudem Dei)
- Canticle of Brother Sun, (Canticum Fratris Solis)

Dictated Writings

- True and Perfect Joy, (De vera et perfecta laetitia)
- Testament written in Siena
- Letter written to Lady Jacopa
- Letter written for the citizens of Bologna
- Letter sent to the Brothers in France
- Blessing sent to Saint Clare and her Sisters
- Blessing given to Brother Bernard

Peace Prayer of St Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

Other Saints Of The Day

Blessed Enrique Morant Pellicer
Blessed José Canet Ginet
Saint Ammon the Great
Saint Petronius of Bologna
Saint Quintius of Tours

Saint Damaris of Athens
St Damaris was born in Athens, Greece and was one of the people who heard St Paul the Apostle speak at the Areopagus in Athens, Greece (Acts 17:34) and converted to Christianity. She was married to St Dionysius the Areopagite.

Saint Aurea of Paris
St Aurea of Paris was born in Syria but migrated to France. She became a nun and served as the abbess of St Martial in Paris, France for 33 years. She died of plague in 666 AD together with 160 others. She was buried in the church of St Paul outside the city walls of Paris, France.

Martyrs of Alexandria
The Martyrs of Alexandria are a group of Christians, men and women, young and old, murdered together in Alexandria, Egypt for their faith.

Blessed Alfonso Tabela
Blessed Alfonso Tabela was a Mercedarian friar born in Portugal. He freed 50 children who had been enslaved by Muslims in Algiers. He died in 1550 AD in Lisbon, Portugal.

Saint Callisthene
St Callisthene was the daughter of Saint Adauctus. Following her father's martyrdom, she devoted her life to charity. In the 4th century, she died of natural causes after having lived through the persecutions of Emperor Maximinus.

Saint Crispus of Corinth
St Crispus of Corinth was also known as Crispus of Aegina or Crispo. He was a convert having been baptized by Saint Paul the Apostle. He was the leader of the synagogue in Corinth, Greece and became the first bishop of the island of Aegina. He died as a martyr.

Saint Peter of Damascus

St Peter of Damascus was the Bishop of Damascus, Syria when the region was conquered by Muslims. After he continued to preach Christianity, he was imprisoned, tortured, blinded, crucified and beheaded and died as a martyr in 750 AD in Syria Martyr.

Saint Caius of Corinth
St Caius of Corinth was also known as Caius of Thessalonica or Gaius. He was a convert from Corinth, Greece having been baptized by Saint Paul the Apostle. He was the first bishop of Thessalonica. He died as a martyr.

Blessed Julian Majali
Blessed Julian Majali was a Benedictine monk at San Martino delle Scale monastery in Sicily. Highly regarded by kings and popes. He was an abbot and a hermit in 1464 AD. He died in 1470 AD.

Saint Adauctus
St Adauctus was a layman and the father of Saint Callisthene born in Ephesus. He was martyred in 312 AD during the persecutions of Emperor Maximinus.

Saint Lucius of Alexandria
St Lucius of Alexandria was martyred in 257 AD at Alexandria, Egypt during the persecutions of Valerian.

Saint Berenice
St Berenice was the daughter of Saint Domnina and sister of Saint Prosdoce. She was martyred in 303 AD in Syria during the persecutions of Diocletian.

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Saint Prosdoce
St Prosdoce was the daughter of Saint Domnina and sister of Saint Berenice. She was martyred in 303 AD in Syria during the persecutions of Diocletian.

Saint Diogenes of Milan
St Diogenes of Milan was also known as Theotecnus. She died as a martyr in Milan, Lombardy, Italy.

Saint Domnina
St Domnina was the mother of Saint Berenice and St Prosdoce. She was martyred in 303 AD in Syria during the persecutions of Diocletian.

Saint Hierotheus

St Hierotheus was a friend and teacher of Saint Dionysius the Aeropagite.
Martyrs of the Spanish Civil War
These are the names of some of the thousands of people who were murdered from 1934 to 1939, during the anti-Catholic persecutions of the Spanish Civil War.

Their names are;

- Blessed Tomás Barrios Pérez
- Blessed Publio Fernández González
- Blessed Martina Vázquez Gordo
- Blessed Juan José Orayen Aizcorbe
- Blessed Juan de Francisco Pío
- Blessed José Miguel Peñarroya Dolz
- Blessed José Gafo Muñiz
- Blessed José Aloy Doménech
- Blessed Fulgencio Martínez García
- Blessed Francisco Martínez Granero
- Blessed Dionisio Ibáñez López
- Blessed Avelí Martínez de Arenzana Candela
- Blessed Alfredo Pellicer Muñoz

More Saints of the Day for The 4th Of October 2026

- Robert Picavet
- Finan of Teach Oirthir
- Dionysius Exiguus

Weekend Mass Times:

Saturday Night Mass Times	
Saint Josephs	5:30pm

Sunday Mass Times	
Saint Joseph's	9:30am
Saint Anne's & Holy Family	11:00 am
Saint Patrick's Ryhope	9:30 am

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