



# 2016 Columban Art Calendar

## Art Guide



2016 Columban Art Calendar

# Front Cover

## Madonna and Child with Saint John the Baptist (detail of the Madonna and Child) by Sandro Botticelli (1444-1510)

Five hundred years after his death in 1510, the Florentine artist Botticelli continues to delight our gaze with his moving paintings of the Virgin and Child. His Madonnas reveal a haunting beauty of almost unearthly grace and gentle melancholy. Dating from Botticelli's early years, this painting depicts the mother and child in a moment of tender intimacy. Amongst the great Renaissance masters, Botticelli remains unrivalled in expressing the humanity of Christ. The child's adoring gaze and pudgy hand that seeks comfort evoke the innocence and vulnerability of childhood, which would have been felt acutely at a time of high infant mortality. Our identification with the mother and child rests on our emotional response to the charming scene before us. As we register the delicate flush of the Virgin's cheek or the muted golden tones of her hair beneath a translucent veil, Botticelli's appeal to our senses draws us ever closer to the figures created by his artistry. Even the setting of a rose-bower reminds us of the sweetness of the Virgin, whose titles included that of *rosa mystica*. Botticelli's enchanting vision of the Virgin and Child invites us to enter an ethereal world where the delicate fragrance of roses evokes the mystery at the heart of the incarnation.



Madonna of the Shadow, detail of Saints John the Evangelist, Thomas Aquinas, Lawrence and Peter Martyr, from the first floor corridor (fresco), Angelico, Fra (Guido di Pietro) (c.1387-1455); © Museo di San Marco dell'Angelico, Florence, Italy/The Bridgeman Art Library

# JANUARY 2016

Readings: Sunday Cycle C  
: Weekday Cycle 2

| SUNDAY                                                      | MONDAY                                                                | TUESDAY                                 | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                         | THURSDAY                                                                                                                    | FRIDAY                                                                                                                | SATURDAY                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>31</b><br>Green<br><br>4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME       | NOTES:                                                                |                                         | DECEMBER 2015<br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5<br>6 7 8 9 10 11 12<br>13 14 15 16 17 18 19<br>20 21 22 23 24 25 26<br>27 28 29 30 31 | FEBRUARY 2016<br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6<br>7 8 9 10 11 12 13<br>14 15 16 17 18 19 20<br>21 22 23 24 25 26 27<br>28 29 | <b>1</b><br>White Solemnity<br><br>MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, Octave of the Nativity of the Lord<br>Day of Penance | <b>2</b><br>White Memorial<br><br>Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen |
| <b>3</b><br>White Solemnity<br><br>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD | <b>4</b><br>White                                                     | <b>5</b><br>White                       | <b>6</b><br>White                                                                                                                 | <b>7</b><br>White Optional<br><br>St Raymond of Penyafort - W.                                                              | <b>8</b><br>White<br><br>Day of Penance                                                                               | <b>9</b><br>White                                                         |
| <b>10</b><br>White Feast<br><br>BAPTISM OF THE LORD         | <b>11</b><br>Green<br><br>Beginning of Ordinary Time                  | <b>12</b><br>Green                      | <b>13</b><br>Green Optional<br><br>St Hilary - W                                                                                  | <b>14</b><br>Green                                                                                                          | <b>15</b><br>Green<br><br>Day of Penance                                                                              | <b>16</b><br>Green Optional<br><br>Blessed Virgin Mary                    |
| <b>17</b><br>Green<br><br>2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME       | <b>18</b><br>Green                                                    | <b>19</b><br>Green                      | <b>20</b><br>Green Optional<br><br>St Fabian - R, St Sebastian - R                                                                | <b>21</b><br>Red Memorial<br><br>St Agnes                                                                                   | <b>22</b><br>Green Optional<br><br>St Vincent - R, Day of Penance                                                     | <b>23</b><br>Green Optional<br><br>Blessed Virgin Mary                    |
| <b>24</b><br>Green<br><br>3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME       | <b>25</b><br>White Feast<br><br>THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL THE APOSTLE | <b>26</b><br>Green<br><br>AUSTRALIA DAY | <b>27</b><br>Green Optional<br><br>St Angela Merici - W, Sts Timothy & Titus - R                                                  | <b>28</b><br>White Memorial<br><br>St Thomas Aquinas                                                                        | <b>29</b><br>Green<br><br>Day of Penance                                                                              | <b>30</b><br>Green Optional<br><br>Blessed Virgin Mary                    |

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ST COLUMBAN'S MISSION SOCIETY

# January 2016

## Madonna of the Shadows (detail of Saints John the Evangelist, Thomas Aquinas, Lawrence and Peter Martyr) by Fra Angelico (c.1450)

The observant Dominican convent of San Marco in Florence features a number of the Dominican artist Fra Angelico's most famous paintings. Now a museum, the convent, passed from the Benedictines to the Dominicans in the early fifteenth-century. The four saints depicted form part of a larger fresco known as the Madonna of the Shadows. The positions of the saints, all of whom except Saint Lawrence look to the right, are motivated by the position of the Virgin and Child who are seated on a throne in the centre of the composition (which is not included in this detail). Both Saints Lawrence and Peter Martyr (standing on Lawrence's left) suffered martyrdom, as symbolised by the palms they carry. Saint Lawrence was stoned to death as recorded in the Book of Acts, and the Dominican friar Peter Martyr (c.1205-52) was murdered by two assassins. Peter is often shown with a bloody wound to his head, a reference to the assassins' mortal sword attack upon the friar. The fresco Madonna of the Shadows occupies a prominent position in the section of the convent where the friars and novices lived. As the Dominicans left the individual cells where they slept and studied, they entered the corridor where this fresco is placed. Communal prayer featured in the daily rhythm of the friar's life. Every evening they would gather in front of this image of the Virgin and Saints to chant the office of Matins. As they prayed and gazed upon Fra Angelico's figures, the friars must surely have imagined themselves participating in a timeless worship of Christ and His mother.



The Presentation in the Temple, 1442 (fresco) by Angelico, Fra (Guido di Pietro) (c.1387-1455); 171x116cm; © Museo di San Marco dell'Angelico, Florence, Italy/ The Bridgeman Art Library

# FEBRUARY 2016

Readings: Sunday Cycle C  
Weekday Cycle 2

| SUNDAY                      | MONDAY                                             | TUESDAY                      | WEDNESDAY                                    | THURSDAY                 | FRIDAY                                                                                                                           | SATURDAY                   |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
|                             | 1<br>Green                                         | 2<br>White<br>Feast          | 3<br>Green<br>Optional                       | 4<br>Green               | 5<br>Red<br>Memorial                                                                                                             | 6<br>Red<br>Memorial       |
|                             |                                                    | THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD |                                              |                          | St Agatha<br>Day of Penance                                                                                                      | Sts Paul Miki & Companions |
| 7<br>Green                  | 8<br>Green<br>Optional                             | 9<br>Green                   | 10<br>Violet                                 | 11<br>Violet<br>Optional | 12<br>Violet                                                                                                                     | 13<br>Violet               |
| 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | St Jerome Emiliani - W<br>St Josephine Bakhita - W |                              | ASH WEDNESDAY<br>Day of Fast and Abstinence  | Our Lady of Lourdes - W  | Day of Penance                                                                                                                   |                            |
| 14<br>Violet                | 15<br>Violet                                       | 16<br>Violet                 | 17<br>Violet<br>Optional                     | 18<br>Violet             | 19<br>Violet                                                                                                                     | 20<br>Violet               |
| 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT          |                                                    |                              | The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order |                          | Day of Penance                                                                                                                   |                            |
| 21<br>Violet                | 22<br>White<br>Feast                               | 23<br>Violet<br>Optional     | 24<br>Violet                                 | 25<br>Violet             | 26<br>Violet                                                                                                                     | 27<br>Violet               |
| 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT          | THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE                  |                              | St Polycarp                                  |                          | Day of Penance                                                                                                                   |                            |
| 28<br>Violet                | 29<br>Violet                                       | NOTES:                       |                                              |                          | JANUARY 2016<br>S M T W T F S<br>31 1 2<br>3 4 5 6 7 8 9<br>10 11 12 13 14 15 16<br>17 18 19 20 21 22 23<br>24 25 26 27 28 29 30 |                            |
| 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT          |                                                    |                              |                                              |                          | MARCH 2016<br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5<br>6 7 8 9 10 11 12<br>13 14 15 16 17 18 19<br>20 21 22 23 24 25 26<br>27 28 29 30 31   |                            |

# February 2016

## The Presentation in the Temple (detail) by Fra Angelico (1442)

Fra Angelico, with the assistance of other artists, frescoed scenes from the life of Christ in the cells which made up the dormitories of the Dominican friars of San Marco. This detail of The Presentation in the Temple comes from Cell 10. The life-size figures dominate the small space of the room where the friar would spend much of the day in study and prayer. The story which appears in Luke's gospel narrates how Mary and Joseph bring the infant Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem to be 'consecrated to the Lord'. Joseph presents a basket with two turtledoves as an offering to the temple as required by Mosaic law after the birth of a first-born son. The tongues of flame flickering at the centre of the altar remind us of this sacrifice. Fra Angelico depicts the moment when Simeon, a devout old man, receives the very vision of the Messiah which God had promised him before his death. Fra Angelico shows Simeon holding Christ while gazing at the child. The old man's expression recalls the words Luke gives to Simeon: "Master now you are dismissing your servant in peace according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples". Together with Mary and Joseph, the artist includes two other figures: at left Saint Peter Martyr and opposite him Blessed Villana, a fourteenth-century holy woman of Florence. The two saints function as intermediaries between the viewer in front of the scene and the holy figures depicted. Like the friar who every day contemplated the scene, Saint Peter Martyr and the Blessed Villana dwell on this episode from the infancy narrative. Their faces radiate absorption in God's revelation of his gift of salvation to his steadfast follower Simeon and to all humanity.



Detail from the Last Supper, Ghirlandaio, Domenico (Domenico Bigordi) (1449-1494); © Museo di San Marco dell'Angelico, Florence, Italy/The Bridgeman Art Library

# MARCH 2016

Readings: Sunday Cycle C  
: Weekday Cycle 2

| SUNDAY                                                                                                                             | MONDAY                                                                                                                             | TUESDAY                                                              | WEDNESDAY                                                              | THURSDAY                                                              | FRIDAY                                                                                         | SATURDAY                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>FEBRUARY 2016</b><br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6<br>7 8 9 10 11 12 13<br>14 15 16 17 18 19 20<br>21 22 23 24 25 26 27<br>28 29 | <b>APRIL 2016</b><br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2<br>3 4 5 6 7 8 9<br>10 11 12 13 14 15 16<br>17 18 19 20 21 22 23<br>24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | <b>1</b><br>Violet                                                   | <b>2</b><br>Violet                                                     | <b>3</b><br>Violet                                                    | <b>4</b><br>Violet<br>Optional<br><br><b>EMBER DAY</b><br>St Casimir<br>Day of Penance         | <b>5</b><br>Violet                                                                        |
| <b>6</b><br>Violet or Rose<br><br><b>4TH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>                                                                        | <b>7</b><br>Violet<br>Optional<br><br><i>Sts Perpetua &amp; Felicity</i>                                                           | <b>8</b><br>Violet<br>Optional<br><br><i>St John of God</i>          | <b>9</b><br>Violet<br>Optional<br><br><i>St Frances of Rome</i>        | <b>10</b><br>Violet                                                   | <b>11</b><br>Violet<br><br><i>Day of Penance</i>                                               | <b>12</b><br>Violet                                                                       |
| <b>13</b><br>Violet<br><br><b>5TH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>                                                                               | <b>14</b><br>Violet                                                                                                                | <b>15</b><br>Violet                                                  | <b>16</b><br>Violet                                                    | <b>17</b><br>White<br>Solemnly<br><br><b>ST PATRICK</b>               | <b>18</b><br>Violet<br>Optional<br><br><i>St Cyril of Jerusalem</i><br>Day of Penance          | <b>19</b><br>White<br>Solemnly<br><br><b>ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b> |
| <b>20</b><br>Red<br><br><b>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD</b>                                                              | <b>21</b><br>Violet<br><br><b>MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK</b>                                                                              | <b>22</b><br>Violet<br><br><b>TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK</b>               | <b>23</b><br>Violet<br><br><b>WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK</b>               | <b>24</b><br>White<br><br><b>THURSDAY OF HOLY WEEK</b>                | <b>25</b><br>Red<br><br><b>FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD</b><br>Day of Fast and Abstinence | <b>26</b><br>White<br><br><b>HOLY SATURDAY</b><br>EASTER VIGIL                            |
| <b>27</b><br>White<br>Solemnly<br><br><b>EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD</b>                                         | <b>28</b><br>White<br><br><b>MONDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER</b>                                                                | <b>29</b><br>White<br><br><b>TUESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER</b> | <b>30</b><br>White<br><br><b>WEDNESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER</b> | <b>31</b><br>White<br><br><b>THURSDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER</b> | <b>NOTES:</b>                                                                                  |                                                                                           |

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# March 2016

## The Last Supper (detail of Judas, Christ and the Apostles) by Domenico Ghirlandaio (c.1486) Refectory of San Marco, Florence

The Last Supper held a prominent place in Florentine art during the Renaissance. The subject was a favourite choice to decorate the refectory of monasteries and friaries. Ghirlandaio treated the story several times, this version being commissioned by the Dominicans for their refectory at San Marco. It is not surprising that the subject of the Last Supper became a staple of refectory decorations. The drama of Christ's instruction to the apostles to remember him in the breaking of bread and the drinking of wine dramatises the centrality of the Eucharist in Christian life. The story also features the moment of Judas's betrayal, which of course sets in motion the events that lead to Christ's arrest, trial and crucifixion. Ghirlandaio locates Judas' treachery at the centre of the narrative. As we see in the detail reproduced here, Judas sits isolated across from Christ and the other apostles. By showing Judas with a sop of bread in his hand, Ghirlandaio recalls Christ's words that the one who will betray him "is he to whom I shall give this morsel when I have dipped". In contrast to Judas, the youthful sleeping figure of St John the Evangelist (the one lying close to his breast) evokes John's innocence and fidelity that will persist even after the other apostles have deserted Jesus. For the Dominicans and their lay visitors who dined in front of this fresco, the re-enactment of Judas' betrayal must surely have caused a few pangs of soul-searching.



The Annunciation, 1506 (oil on panel), Solario, Andrea (1466-1524); 76x78cms; © Louvre, Paris, France/The Bridgeman Art Library

# APRIL 2016

Readings: Sunday Cycle C  
: Weekday Cycle 2

| SUNDAY                                             | MONDAY                                | TUESDAY                              | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                             | THURSDAY                                                                                                                            | FRIDAY                                                | SATURDAY                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| NOTES:                                             |                                       |                                      | <b>MARCH 2016</b><br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5<br>6 7 8 9 10 11 12<br>13 14 15 16 17 18 19<br>20 21 22 23 24 25 26<br>27 28 29 30 31 | <b>MAY 2016</b><br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6 7<br>8 9 10 11 12 13 14<br>15 16 17 18 19 20 21<br>22 23 24 25 26 27 28<br>29 30 31 | <b>1</b><br>White                                     | <b>2</b><br>White                              |
|                                                    |                                       |                                      |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                     | FRIDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER                    | SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER           |
| <b>3</b><br>White                                  | <b>4</b><br>White<br><i>Solemnity</i> | <b>5</b><br>White<br><i>Optional</i> | <b>6</b><br>White                                                                                                                     | <b>7</b><br>White<br><i>Memorial</i>                                                                                                | <b>8</b><br>White                                     | <b>9</b><br>White                              |
| <b>2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER</b><br>DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY | <b>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</b>   | <i>St Vincent Ferrer - W</i>         |                                                                                                                                       | <i>St John Baptist de la Salle</i>                                                                                                  | <i>Day of Penance</i>                                 |                                                |
| <b>10</b><br>White                                 | <b>11</b><br>Red<br><i>Memorial</i>   | <b>12</b><br>White                   | <b>13</b><br>White<br><i>Optional</i>                                                                                                 | <b>14</b><br>White                                                                                                                  | <b>15</b><br>White                                    | <b>16</b><br>White<br><i>Optional</i>          |
| <b>3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>                        | <i>St Stanislaus</i>                  |                                      | <i>St Martin - R</i>                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                     | <i>Day of Penance</i>                                 |                                                |
| <b>17</b><br>White                                 | <b>18</b><br>White                    | <b>19</b><br>White                   | <b>20</b><br>White                                                                                                                    | <b>21</b><br>White<br><i>Optional</i>                                                                                               | <b>22</b><br>White                                    | <b>23</b><br>White<br><i>Optional</i>          |
| <b>4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>                        |                                       |                                      |                                                                                                                                       | <i>St Anselm - W</i>                                                                                                                | <i>Day of Penance</i>                                 | <i>St George - R</i><br><i>St Adalbert - R</i> |
| <b>24</b><br>White                                 | <b>25</b><br>White                    | <b>26</b><br>Red<br><i>Feast</i>     | <b>27</b><br>White<br><i>Optional</i>                                                                                                 | <b>28</b><br>Red<br><i>Memorial</i>                                                                                                 | <b>29</b><br>White<br><i>Memorial</i>                 | <b>30</b><br>White<br><i>Optional</i>          |
| <b>5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>                        | <b>ANZAC DAY</b>                      | <i>St Mark, Evangelist</i>           | <i>St Louis Grignon de Montfort - W</i>                                                                                               | <i>St Peter Chanel</i>                                                                                                              | <i>St Catherine of Siena</i><br><i>Day of Penance</i> | <i>St Pius V - W</i>                           |

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ST COLUMBAN'S MISSION SOCIETY

# April 2016

## The Annunciation (detail) by Andrea Solario (1506)

Visual images of Christ and the Virgin were a familiar part of peoples lives during the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Undoubtedly the scene of the Annunciation must rank together with that of the Crucifixion as the most popular subjects of visual art during this period. The dimensions of this panel painting suggest that this work might well have decorated a domestic interior, perhaps a bed-chamber. At the time, many moderately well-off lay people commissioned works of art for their homes. Subjects like the Annunciation were especially popular for men and women who wished to pray and meditate before devotional images. Solario locates the narrative in an interior space which resembles the domestic space of a bed-room through the rather grand curtained bed behind the Virgin. Mary sits in front of a table on which we glimpse several books. Her left hand rests on an open volume, reminding us of the legend attesting to her constant meditation on scripture. Importantly, by showing the Virgin engaged in prayerful devotion, Solario presents her as a model above all for lay women. Mary calmly accepts Gabriel's astonishing message outlining her role as Mother of the Saviour. Both her physical demeanour and her facial expression convey Mary's acknowledgement of Gabriel's message together with her acceptance of God's invitation. This north Italian artist, who spent most of his career in Milan, infuses the story of the Annunciation with an intimacy calculated to please his contemporaries. By situating the incarnation within a domestic interior Solario reminds us how often the sacred erupts into ordinary moments of life.



The Holy Trinity with St. John the Baptist, Mary Magdalene, Tobias and the Angel, (c. 1490-1495); (tempera on panel), Botticelli, Sandro (Alessandro di Mariano di Vanni Filipepi) (1444/5-1510); © Samuel Courtauld Trust, The Courtauld Gallery, London, UK /The Bridgeman Art Library

# MAY 2016

Readings: Sunday Cycle C  
Weekday Cycle 2

| SUNDAY                                                                             | MONDAY                                             | TUESDAY                                                                                      | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                     | THURSDAY                                                                            | FRIDAY                                                                                                                             | SATURDAY                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br>White<br><br>6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER                                      | <b>2</b><br>White<br>Memorial<br><br>St Athanasius | <b>3</b><br>Red<br>Feast<br><br>STS PHILIP & JAMES,<br>APOSTLES                              | <b>4</b><br>White                                                                                                             | <b>5</b><br>White                                                                   | <b>6</b><br>White<br>●                                                                                                             | <b>7</b><br>White                                                                                                                 |
| <b>8</b><br>White<br>Solemnity<br><br>THE ASCENSION OF<br>THE LORD                 | <b>9</b><br>White                                  | <b>10</b><br>White                                                                           | <b>11</b><br>White                                                                                                            | <b>12</b><br>White<br>Optional<br><br>Sts Nereus & Achilleus - R,<br>St Pancras - R | <b>13</b><br>White<br>Optional<br>☾<br><br>Our Lady of Fatima - W<br>Day of Penance                                                | <b>14</b><br>Red<br>Feast<br><br>ST MATTHIAS,<br>APOSTLE                                                                          |
| <b>15</b><br>Red<br>Solemnity<br><br>PENTECOST SUNDAY                              | <b>16</b><br>Green<br><br>Ordinary Time Resumes    | <b>17</b><br>Green                                                                           | <b>18</b><br>Green<br>Optional<br><br>St John I - R                                                                           | <b>19</b><br>Green                                                                  | <b>20</b><br>Green<br>Optional<br><br>St Bernardine of Siena - W<br>Day of Penance                                                 | <b>21</b><br>Green<br>Optional<br><br>St Christopher Magallanes<br>& Companions - R<br>Blessed Virgin Mary                        |
| ○ <b>22</b><br>White<br>Solemnity<br><br>THE MOST HOLY TRINITY                     | <b>23</b><br>Green                                 | <b>24</b><br>Red<br>Solemnity<br><br>OUR LADY, HELP OF<br>CHRISTIANS,<br>PATRON OF AUSTRALIA | <b>25</b><br>Green<br>Optional<br><br>St Bede the Venerable - W,<br>St Gregory VII - W,<br>St Mary Magdalene de'<br>Pazzi - W | <b>26</b><br>White<br>Memorial<br><br>St Philip Neri                                | <b>27</b><br>Green<br>Optional<br><br>St Augustine of Canterbury<br>- W<br>Day of Penance                                          | <b>28</b><br>Green<br>Optional<br><br>Blessed Virgin Mary                                                                         |
| ☾ <b>29</b><br>White<br>Solemnity<br><br>THE MOST HOLY BODY<br>AND BLOOD OF CHRIST | <b>30</b><br>Green                                 | <b>31</b><br>White<br>Feast<br><br>THE VISITATION OF THE<br>BLESSED VIRGIN MARY              | NOTES:                                                                                                                        |                                                                                     | <b>APRIL 2016</b><br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2<br>3 4 5 6 7 8 9<br>10 11 12 13 14 15 16<br>17 18 19 20 21 22 23<br>24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | <b>JUNE 2016</b><br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4<br>5 6 7 8 9 10 11<br>12 13 14 15 16 17 18<br>19 20 21 22 23 24 25<br>26 27 28 29 30 |

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ST COLUMBAN'S MISSION SOCIETY

# May 2016

## The Holy Trinity with Saint John the Baptist, Mary Magdalene, Tobias and the Angel (detail) by Sandro Botticelli (c.1490-95)

Botticelli painted this altarpiece featuring the Trinity to decorate the high altar of the church of a female convent dedicated to Saint Elizabeth in Florence. The convent had been founded in the fourteenth-century especially for former prostitutes (known as convertite) and also for women fleeing abusive relationships. The detail of the painting featured here depicts the upper half of the work. The Trinity appears in the centre of the composition in the form known as the Throne of Mercy. In this iconographic formula (which dates from the early twelfth century) God the Father supports the Crucified Christ, while the dove as symbol of the Holy Spirit rests between the heads of Father and his Son. Mary Magdalene appears at our left opposite John the Baptist who traditionally is identified through his costume – the tunic made of animal skin and the cross he carries. The cult of both these saints flourished in Florence during the fifteenth-century. John the Baptist did so because of his status as one of the major patrons of the city. The position of the Magdalene in the place of privilege at the right hand of God attests to the nuns' special devotion to her. Following a tradition dating back to at least the sixth-century, the church in the West believed that three different women - Mary Magdalene whom Christ delivered from demons, Mary of Bethany and the unnamed woman who anointed Christ in the house of the Pharisee were in fact the same woman. According to this interpretation, Mary Magdalene before her conversion in the house of the Pharisee had been a prostitute. According to legend after the Ascension she travelled to France (together with Martha and Lazarus) to preach. After thirty years spent evangelising, she retired to the wilderness to live as a hermit. The Magdalene appears here gesturing in adoration and covered with her own hair, a reference to her time in the wilderness. In her role as penitent prostitute the Magdalene became a powerful model of God's forgiveness. Not surprisingly, institutions established to help women escape prostitution frequently invoked the intercession of the Magdalene. Many women and men took great comfort from the fact that it was to the Magdalene, a penitent sinner, that Christ had first appeared after the Resurrection. Equally important, the Magdalene undertook to announce her Master's Resurrection to the apostles – hence her title “apostle to the apostles”.



Miracles of St. Paul at Ephesus, 1693, (oil on canvas), Restout, Jean (1663-1702); 225x293cms, © Musee des Beaux-Arts, Rouen, France/The Bridgeman Art Library

# JUNE 2016

Readings: Sunday Cycle C  
: Weekday Cycle 2

| SUNDAY                                                                                                                              | MONDAY                                                                                                                               | TUESDAY                           | WEDNESDAY                             | THURSDAY                                                     | FRIDAY                                                  | SATURDAY                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MAY 2016</b><br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6 7<br>8 9 10 11 12 13 14<br>15 16 17 18 19 20 21<br>22 23 24 25 26 27 28<br>29 30 31 | <b>JULY 2016</b><br>S M T W T F S<br>31 1 2<br>3 4 5 6 7 8 9<br>10 11 12 13 14 15 16<br>17 18 19 20 21 22 23<br>24 25 26 27 28 29 30 |                                   | <b>1</b><br>Red<br>Memorial           | <b>2</b><br>Green<br>Optional                                | <b>3</b><br>White<br>Solemnity                          | <b>4</b><br>White<br>Memorial                   |
| <b>5</b><br>Green                                                                                                                   | <b>6</b><br>Green<br>Optional                                                                                                        | <b>7</b><br>Green                 | <b>8</b><br>Green                     | <b>9</b><br>Green<br>Optional                                | <b>10</b><br>Green                                      | <b>11</b><br>Red<br>Memorial                    |
| <b>10TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>                                                                                                 | St Marcellin Champagnat - W, St Norbert - W                                                                                          |                                   | St Justin                             | Sts Marcellinus & Peter - R                                  | <b>THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS</b><br>Day of Penance | The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary |
| <b>12</b><br>Green                                                                                                                  | <b>13</b><br>White<br>Memorial                                                                                                       | <b>14</b><br>Green                | <b>15</b><br>Green                    | <b>16</b><br>Green                                           | <b>17</b><br>Green                                      | <b>18</b><br>Green<br>Optional                  |
| <b>11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>                                                                                                 | St Anthony of Padua                                                                                                                  |                                   |                                       | St Ephrem - W                                                | Day of Penance                                          | St Barnabas, Apostle                            |
| <b>19</b><br>Green                                                                                                                  | <b>20</b><br>Green                                                                                                                   | <b>21</b><br>White<br>Memorial    | <b>22</b><br>Green<br>Optional        | <b>23</b><br>Green<br>Optional                               | <b>24</b><br>White<br>Solemnity                         | <b>25</b><br>Green<br>Optional                  |
| <b>12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>                                                                                                 | St Aloysius Gonzaga                                                                                                                  | Sts John Fisher & Thomas More - R | St Paulinus of Nola - W               | <b>THE NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST</b><br>Day of Penance | Blessed Virgin Mary                                     |                                                 |
| <b>26</b><br>Green                                                                                                                  | <b>27</b><br>Green<br>Optional                                                                                                       | <b>28</b><br>Red<br>Memorial      | <b>29</b><br>Red<br>Solemnity         | <b>30</b><br>Green<br>Optional                               | <b>NOTES:</b>                                           |                                                 |
| <b>13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>                                                                                                 | St Cyril of Alexandria - W                                                                                                           | St Irenaeus                       | <b>STS PETER &amp; PAUL, APOSTLES</b> | The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church - R               |                                                         |                                                 |

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# June 2016

## Miracles of Saint Paul at Ephesus (detail) by Jean Restout (1693)

Ephesus, an ancient city located on the coast of Anatolia, must have been a bustling, cosmopolitan centre when Saint Paul visited on the last of his three missionary journeys. For centuries Ephesus had been the centre of the cult of Artemis, and according to reports in Acts 19 devotees of magic and sorcery exercised their wiles on the desperate and gullible. The French painter Jean Restout depicts Saint Paul standing in the centre of a grand building, perhaps the synagogue. Although we are familiar with Paul's activities as preacher, in this work Restout chooses to emphasise the saint's miraculous intercessory powers. A youth carrying a white cloth approaches Saint Paul. The Book of Acts narrates how the sick were healed by fabrics such as aprons or napkins which Saint Paul had touched. At the lower right, a young man confined to a litter bed implores the saint to intercede on his behalf. In contrast to the anguished gestures of those around him, Saint Paul remains somewhat detached from the emotions which roil around him. Instead of focussing his attention on those around him, he looks upward, his upturned gaze reminding us how utterly Paul depended on God.



The Apostle St. James the Greater freeing the Magician Hermogenes, c. 1427, (tempera & gold on panel), Angelico, Fra (Guido di Pietro) (c.1387-1455), © Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, Texas, USA /The Bridgeman Art Library

# JULY 2016

Readings: Sunday Cycle C  
: Weekday Cycle 2

| SUNDAY                                                 | MONDAY                                                         | TUESDAY                                                   | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                  | THURSDAY                                                                                                                        | FRIDAY                                                                           | SATURDAY                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>31</b><br>Green<br><br>18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | NOTES:                                                         |                                                           | JUNE 2016<br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4<br>5 6 7 8 9 10 11<br>12 13 14 15 16 17 18<br>19 20 21 22 23 24 25<br>26 27 28 29 30 | AUGUST 2016<br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6<br>7 8 9 10 11 12 13<br>14 15 16 17 18 19 20<br>21 22 23 24 25 26 27<br>28 29 30 31 | <b>1</b><br>Green<br><br>Day of Penance                                          | <b>2</b><br>Green Optional<br><br>Blessed Virgin Mary                                          |
| <b>3</b><br>Green<br><br>14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  | <b>4</b><br>Green Optional<br><br>St Elizabeth of Portugal - W | <b>5</b><br>Green Optional<br><br>St Anthony Zaccaria - W | <b>6</b><br>Green Optional<br><br>St Maria Goretti - R                                                                     | <b>7</b><br>Green Optional<br><br>Bl Peter To Rot - R                                                                           | <b>8</b><br>Green<br><br>Day of Penance                                          | <b>9</b><br>Green Optional<br><br>St Augustine Zhao Rong & Companions - R, Blessed Virgin Mary |
| <b>10</b><br>Green<br><br>15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | <b>11</b><br>White Memorial<br><br>St Benedict                 | <b>12</b><br>Green<br><br>St Henry - W                    | <b>13</b><br>Green Optional<br><br>St Camillus de Lellis - W                                                               | <b>14</b><br>Green Optional<br><br>St Bonaventure                                                                               | <b>15</b><br>White Memorial<br><br>Day of Penance                                | <b>16</b><br>Green Optional<br><br>Our Lady of Mount Carmel - W, Blessed Virgin Mary           |
| <b>17</b><br>Green<br><br>16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | <b>18</b><br>Green<br><br>St Mary Magdalene                    | <b>19</b><br>Green<br><br>St Apollinaris - R              | <b>20</b><br>Green Optional<br><br>St Lawrence of Brindisi - W                                                             | <b>21</b><br>Green Optional<br><br>St Mary Magdalene                                                                            | <b>22</b><br>White Memorial<br><br>Day of Penance                                | <b>23</b><br>Green Optional<br><br>St Bridget - W, Blessed Virgin Mary                         |
| <b>24</b><br>Green<br><br>17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | <b>25</b><br>Red Feast<br><br>ST JAMES, APOSTLE                | <b>26</b><br>White Memorial<br><br>Sts Joachim & Anne     | <b>27</b><br>Green<br><br>St Martha                                                                                        | <b>28</b><br>Green<br><br>Day of Penance                                                                                        | <b>29</b><br>White Memorial<br><br>St Peter Chrysologus - W, Blessed Virgin Mary | <b>30</b><br>Green Optional                                                                    |

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ST COLUMBAN'S MISSION SOCIETY

# July 2016

## The Apostle Saint James the Greater freeing the Magician Hermogenes (detail) by Fra Angelico (c.1427)

The apostle Saint James the Greater, the son of Zebedee and brother of Saint John the Evangelist, was venerated throughout Europe as the patron saint of pilgrims. Located in the cathedral of Compostela in northern Spain, his shrine attracted thousands of pilgrims who made their way from all parts of Europe on what we now call the camino or the Pilgrim's Way. During the Middle Ages the most important source for stories about the lives of the saints was a book written by a Dominican, Fra Jacobus de Voragine. This collection known as The Golden Legend survives in hundreds of copies, a testament to its immense popularity. This scene depicted by Fra Angelico closely follows the account in The Golden Legend. According to the legend, after the Ascension, Saint James travelled to Spain preaching and evangelising the local people. On his return to Jerusalem he ordered a Christian convert Philetus to free the repentant magician Hermogenes, around whom demons have wound a rope that the magicians had intended to use to ensnare Saint James. Fra Angelico places the scene of deliverance in an outdoor setting, where the central characters stand in front of an elegant loggia typical of contemporary Renaissance architecture. Saint James the Greater, whom we recognise by his large gold halo, extends his staff towards the convert Philetus. By his action Saint James empowers Philetus to perform the spiritual act which will defeat the demons and free Hermogenes. At the left behind the magician the demons recoil in frustration. Fra Angelico uses brilliant tones of red and blue to link the three central characters and to entrance our eye. The striking scarlet of the magician's cloak contrasts with the more muted crimson of the saint's mantle. Fra Angelico was renowned for his mastery of colour as both decorative and a descriptive tool.



The Madonna delle Ombre, detail of St. Dominic, 1450, (fresco), Angelico, Fra (Guido di Pietro) (c.1387-1455), © Museo di San Marco dell'Angelico, Florence, Italy/  
The Bridgeman Art Library

# AUGUST 2016

Readings: Sunday Cycle C  
Weekday Cycle 2

| SUNDAY                                                    | MONDAY                                                                              | TUESDAY                                                                                                           | WEDNESDAY                                                     | THURSDAY                                                  | FRIDAY                                                                                                                                                  | SATURDAY                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                           | <b>1</b><br>White<br>Memorial<br><br>St Alphonsus Mary Liguori                      | <b>2</b><br>Green<br>Optional<br><br>St Peter Faber<br>St Eusebius of Vercelli - W.<br>St Peter Julian Eymard - W | <b>3</b><br>White<br>Memorial<br><br>St Dominic               | <b>4</b><br>White<br>Memorial<br><br>St John Mary Vianney | <b>5</b><br>Green<br>Optional<br><br>The Dedication of the<br>Basilica of St Mary Major - W<br>Day of Penance                                           | <b>6</b><br>White<br>Feast<br><br>THE TRANSFIGURATION<br>OF THE LORD                                                                                                  |
| <b>7</b><br>Green<br><br>19TH SUNDAY IN<br>ORDINARY TIME  | <b>8</b><br>White<br>Solemnity<br><br>ST MARY OF THE<br>CROSS, VIRGIN               | <b>9</b><br>Green<br>Optional<br><br>St Teresa Benedicta of<br>the Cross (Edith Stein) - R                        | <b>10</b><br>Red<br>Feast<br><br>St Lawrence                  | <b>11</b><br>White<br>Memorial<br><br>St Clare            | <b>12</b><br>Green<br>Optional<br><br>St Jane Frances de<br>Chantal - W<br>Day of Penance                                                               | <b>13</b><br>Green<br>Optional<br><br>Sts Portian & Hippolytus - R<br>Blessed Virgin Mary                                                                             |
| <b>14</b><br>Green<br><br>20TH SUNDAY IN<br>ORDINARY TIME | <b>15</b><br>White<br>Solemnity<br><br>THE ASSUMPTION OF THE<br>BLESSED VIRGIN MARY | <b>16</b><br>Green<br>Optional<br><br>St Stephen of Hungary - W                                                   | <b>17</b><br>Green<br><br>St John Eudes - W<br>Day of Penance | <b>18</b><br>Green<br><br>St Bernard                      | <b>19</b><br>Green<br>Optional<br><br>St Louis - W.<br>St Joseph Calasanza - W<br>Day of Penance                                                        | <b>20</b><br>White<br>Memorial<br><br>St Monica                                                                                                                       |
| <b>21</b><br>Green<br><br>21ST SUNDAY IN<br>ORDINARY TIME | <b>22</b><br>White<br>Memorial<br><br>The Queenship of the<br>Blessed Virgin Mary   | <b>23</b><br>Green<br>Optional<br><br>St Rose of Lima - W                                                         | <b>24</b><br>Red<br>Feast<br><br>St Bartholomew, Apostle      | <b>25</b><br>Green<br>Optional<br><br>NOTES:              | <b>26</b><br>Green<br><br>JULY 2016<br>S M T W T F S<br>31 1 2<br>3 4 5 6 7 8 9<br>10 11 12 13 14 15 16<br>17 18 19 20 21 22 23<br>24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | <b>27</b><br>White<br>Memorial<br><br>SEPTEMBER 2016<br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3<br>4 5 6 7 8 9 10<br>11 12 13 14 15 16 17<br>18 19 20 21 22 23 24<br>25 26 27 28 29 30 |
| <b>28</b><br>Green<br><br>22ND SUNDAY IN<br>ORDINARY TIME | <b>29</b><br>Red<br>Memorial<br><br>The Passion of St John<br>the Baptist           | <b>30</b><br>Green                                                                                                | <b>31</b><br>Green                                            |                                                           |                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                       |

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# August 2016

## Madonna delle Ombre 'Madonna of the Shadows' (detail of Saint Dominic) by Fra Angelico (1450)

The figure of Saint Dominic from which this detail is taken forms part of a larger fresco known as the Madonna of the Shadows also featured in January. Appropriately, the founder of the Order of Preachers (as the Dominicans were known), Dominic stands in the place of honour on the right of the enthroned Virgin and Child, who are seated in the centre of the composition (which is not included in this detail). Dominic's gaze is directed outward towards the friars who would have gathered to pray in front of the fresco. This visual address to the viewer establishes a psychological and spiritual bond in which the painted and real world momentarily intersect. This sense of shared space and time gets reinforced by the way Fra Angelico suggests the movement of light (and thus passage of time) through the play of light and shadows on Saint Dominic's youthful face. Our gaze responds to his penetrating gaze as if he is inviting us to join him and the friars in prayer. Thus our meditation on this image becomes one with that of all those who have gone before us.



The Three Archangels and Tobias, by Filippino Lippi (c. 1457-1504); (tempera on wood); 100x127cms; © De Agostini Picture Library / G. Dagli Orti / Turin, Galleria Sabauda/The Bridgeman Art Library

# SEPTEMBER 2016

Readings: Sunday Cycle C  
Weekday Cycle 2

| SUNDAY                          | MONDAY                                                        | TUESDAY                                                                                                                         | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                        | THURSDAY                                        | FRIDAY                                                  | SATURDAY                                         |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| NOTES:                          |                                                               | AUGUST 2016<br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6<br>7 8 9 10 11 12 13<br>14 15 16 17 18 19 20<br>21 22 23 24 25 26 27<br>28 29 30 31 | OCTOBER 2016<br>S M T W T F S<br>30 31 1<br>2 3 4 5 6 7 8<br>9 10 11 12 13 14 15<br>16 17 18 19 20 21 22<br>23 24 25 26 27 28 29 | 1<br>Green                                      | 2<br>Green                                              | 3<br>White<br>Memorial                           |
| 4<br>Green                      | 5<br>Green                                                    | 6<br>Green                                                                                                                      | 7<br>Green                                                                                                                       | 8<br>White<br>Feast                             | 9<br>Green<br>Optional                                  | 10<br>Green<br>Optional                          |
| 23RD SUNDAY IN<br>ORDINARY TIME |                                                               |                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                  | THE NATIVITY OF THE<br>BLESSED VIRGIN MARY      | St Peter Claver - W<br>Day of Penance                   | Blessed Virgin Mary                              |
| 11<br>Green                     | 12<br>Green<br>Optional                                       | 13<br>White<br>Memorial                                                                                                         | 14<br>Red<br>Feast                                                                                                               | 15<br>White<br>Memorial                         | 16<br>Red<br>Memorial                                   | 17<br>Green<br>Optional                          |
| 24TH SUNDAY IN<br>ORDINARY TIME | The Most Holy Name of<br>Mary - W                             | St John Chrysostom                                                                                                              | THE EXALTATION OF<br>THE HOLY CROSS                                                                                              | Our Lady of Sorrows                             | Sts Cornelius & Cyprian<br>Day of Penance               | St Robert Bellarmine - W,<br>Blessed Virgin Mary |
| 18<br>Green                     | 19<br>Green<br>Optional                                       | 20<br>Red<br>Memorial                                                                                                           | 21<br>Red<br>Feast                                                                                                               | 22<br>Green                                     | 23<br>White<br>Memorial                                 | 24<br>Green<br>Optional                          |
| 25TH SUNDAY IN<br>ORDINARY TIME | Sts Andrew Kim<br>Tae-gon, Paul Chong<br>Ha-sang & Companions | ST MATTHEW, APOSTLE<br>& EVANGELIST                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                  |                                                 | St Pius of Pietrelcina<br>(Padre Pio)<br>Day of Penance | Blessed Virgin Mary                              |
| 25<br>Green                     | 26<br>Green<br>Optional                                       | 27<br>White<br>Memorial                                                                                                         | 28<br>Green<br>Optional                                                                                                          | 29<br>White<br>Feast                            | 30<br>White<br>Memorial                                 |                                                  |
| 26TH SUNDAY IN<br>ORDINARY TIME | Sts Cosmas & Damian - R                                       | St Vincent de Paul                                                                                                              | St Wenceslaus - R,<br>St Laurence Ruiz &<br>Companions - R                                                                       | ST MICHAEL,<br>GABRIEL & RAPHAEL,<br>ARCHANGELS | St Jerome<br>Day of Penance                             |                                                  |

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ST COLUMBAN'S MISSION SOCIETY

# September 2016

## The Three Archangels and Tobias (detail) by Filippino Lippi (c.1457-1504)

Throughout the late Middle Ages and Renaissance, devotion to the archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael occupied a special place in the lives of many people. As this painting by the Florentine artist Filippino Lippi shows, such a devotion often found expression in visual form. In Lippi's work it is the archangel Raphael who takes centre stage. This emphasis on Raphael and his youthful companion Tobias alludes to an apocryphal book of the Old Testament – the Book of Tobit. The story narrates the adventures of Tobias, the son of a devout Jew Tobit. Instructed by his father who has mysteriously lost his sight, Tobias travels to Medina in order to redeem loans owed to Tobit. Tobias finds a travelling companion in Raphael, who has disguised himself as a mortal. Throughout the often difficult and dangerous journey, Raphael protects the young Tobias in his quest to fulfil his father's instructions. Tobias' attribute of a fish alludes to an episode on the journey: when the young man is bathing in the river Tigris, he is suddenly attacked by a giant fish. Miraculously Tobias is saved, and following Raphael's instructions he removes the heart, liver and gall of the fish. Raphael carries them in the box in his right hand. Thanks to the healing properties of the fish, Tobit's eyesight will be restored. Lippi focuses the painting on the close relationship between the young Tobias and his supernatural companion. As the angel leads the inexperienced traveller, Raphael's attentive pose evokes his mission as divine protector. At the left Michael holds his saintly attributes of a sword and orb, while on the right Gabriel holds the lily which identifies him as a participant in the Annunciation. The story resonated especially with merchants, who in the course of business were forced to travel far from home. Families often invoked Tobias and the Archangel Raphael in order to protect husbands, fathers and sons who had embarked upon arduous travels. Paintings like Lippi's and those of other artists testify to the faith such families placed in these divine protectors and messengers.



The vision of St Bruno, 1647, by Giovanni Francesco Barbieri, known as Guercino (1591-1666); (oil on canvas). 392x233cms. Detail/Bologna, Pinacoteca Nazionale Di Bologna / © De Agostini Picture Library / G. Dagli Orti / The Bridgeman Art Library

# OCTOBER 2016

Readings: Sunday Cycle C  
Weekday Cycle 2

| SUNDAY                                                                   | MONDAY                                                           | TUESDAY                                                                                                                                   | WEDNESDAY                      | THURSDAY                                                                                                                        | FRIDAY                                                                                                                         | SATURDAY                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>30</b><br>Green<br><br>31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME                   | <b>31</b><br>Green                                               | NOTES:                                                                                                                                    |                                | SEPTEMBER 2016<br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3<br>4 5 6 7 8 9 10<br>11 12 13 14 15 16 17<br>18 19 20 21 22 23 24<br>25 26 27 28 29 30 | NOVEMBER 2016<br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5<br>6 7 8 9 10 11 12<br>13 14 15 16 17 18 19<br>20 21 22 23 24 25 26<br>27 28 29 30 | <b>1</b><br>White<br>Memorial<br><br>St Thérèse of the Child Jesus               |
| <b>2</b><br>Green<br><br>27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME                    | <b>3</b><br>Green                                                | <b>4</b><br>White<br>Memorial<br><br>St Francis of Assisi                                                                                 | <b>5</b><br>Green              | <b>6</b><br>Green<br>Optional<br><br>St Bruno - W                                                                               | <b>7</b><br>White<br>Memorial<br><br>Our Lady of the Rosary<br>Day of Penance                                                  | <b>8</b><br>Green<br>Optional<br><br>Blessed Virgin Mary                         |
| <b>9</b><br>Green<br><br>28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME                    | <b>10</b><br>Green                                               | <b>11</b><br>Green<br>Optional<br><br>St John XXIII - W                                                                                   | <b>12</b><br>Green             | <b>13</b><br>Green                                                                                                              | <b>14</b><br>Green<br>Optional<br><br>St Callistus I - R<br>Day of Penance                                                     | <b>15</b><br>White<br>Memorial<br><br>St Teresa of Jesus                         |
| <b>16</b><br>Green<br><br>29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME<br>Mission Sunday | <b>17</b><br>Red<br>Memorial<br><br>St Ignatius of Antioch       | <b>18</b><br>Red<br>Feast<br><br>ST LUKE, EVANGELIST<br><br>Sts John Brebeuf & Isaac Jogues & Companions - R,<br>St Paul of the Cross - W | <b>19</b><br>Green<br>Optional | <b>20</b><br>Green                                                                                                              | <b>21</b><br>Green<br><br>Day of Penance                                                                                       | <b>22</b><br>Green<br>Optional<br><br>St John Paul II - W<br>Blessed Virgin Mary |
| <b>23</b><br>Green<br><br>30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME                   | <b>24</b><br>Green<br>Optional<br><br>St Anthony Mary Claret - W | <b>25</b><br>Green                                                                                                                        | <b>26</b><br>Green             | <b>27</b><br>Green<br><br>STS SIMON & JUDE, APOSTLES<br>Day of Penance                                                          | <b>28</b><br>Red<br>Feast                                                                                                      | <b>29</b><br>Green<br>Optional<br><br>Blessed Virgin Mary                        |

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# October 2016

## The Vision of Saint Bruno (detail) by Giovanni Francesco Barbieri, known as Guercino (1647)

Guercino painted this work for the Charterhouse of the Carthusians in Bologna. Saint Bruno, the founder of the Order of Carthusians, lived circa 1033 – 1101. Renowned for their asceticism, the Carthusians usually founded their houses in remote locations, in imitation of the first Carthusian foundation the Grande Chartreuse situated in the mountains above Grenoble. As a result, the landscape of the wilderness became a central motif in Carthusian writing and spirituality. Guercino alludes to this theme by situating the saint's vision in a rugged mountain setting. Gesture and expression capture the mood of intense spiritual engagement. Bruno's hands rest against his chest, a gesture which traditionally alluded to the heart as the centre of religious devotion. His upturned face conveys an expression of yearning, even spiritual longing. A vision of the Virgin and Child, which has triggered Bruno's ecstatic behaviour, appears in the upper half of the painting which is not included in the detail reproduced here. Guercino inserts various traditional aides to meditation like the Crucifix, book and the skull. The theme of the Passion together with an emphasis on the transience of human life, as confirmed by the presence of the skull, dominated the spirituality of this period.



St. Catherine of Alexandria, 1507-8, (oil on panel); Raphael (Raffaello Sanzio di Urbino) (1483-1520); 71.5x55.7cms; © National Gallery, London, UK/The Bridgeman Art Library

# NOVEMBER 2016

(until 26/11) Readings : Sunday Cycle C  
 : Weekday Cycle 2  
 (from 27/11) Readings : Sunday Cycle A  
 : Weekday Cycle 1

| SUNDAY                                            | MONDAY                                                                       | TUESDAY                        | WEDNESDAY                                                               | THURSDAY                           | FRIDAY                                                                                                                           | SATURDAY                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NOTES:                                            |                                                                              | <b>1</b><br>White<br>Solemnity | <b>2</b><br>Violet                                                      | <b>3</b><br>Green<br>Optional      | <b>4</b><br>White<br>Memorial                                                                                                    | <b>5</b><br>Green<br>Optional                                                                                                     |
|                                                   |                                                                              | ALL SAINTS                     | THE COMMEMORATION<br>of ALL the FAITHFUL<br>DEPARTED<br>(ALL SOULS DAY) | St Martin de Porres - W            | St Charles Borromeo<br>Day of Penance                                                                                            | Blessed Virgin Mary                                                                                                               |
| <b>6</b><br>Green                                 | <b>7</b><br>Green                                                            | <b>8</b><br>Green              | <b>9</b><br>White<br>Feast                                              | <b>10</b><br>White<br>Memorial     | <b>11</b><br>White<br>Memorial                                                                                                   | <b>12</b><br>Red<br>Memorial                                                                                                      |
| 32ND SUNDAY IN<br>ORDINARY TIME                   |                                                                              |                                | THE DEDICATION OF<br>THE LATERAN BASILICA                               | St Leo the Great                   | St Martin of Tours<br>Day of Penance                                                                                             | St Joseph                                                                                                                         |
| <b>13</b><br>Green                                | <b>14</b><br>Green                                                           | <b>15</b><br>Green<br>Optional | <b>16</b><br>Green<br>Optional                                          | <b>17</b><br>White<br>Memorial     | <b>18</b><br>Green<br>Optional                                                                                                   | <b>19</b><br>Green<br>Optional                                                                                                    |
| 33RD SUNDAY IN<br>ORDINARY TIME                   |                                                                              | St Albert the Great - W        | St Margaret of Scotland - W<br>St Gertrude - W                          | St Elizabeth of Hungary            | The Dedication of the<br>Basilicas of Sts Peter &<br>Paul, Apostles - W<br>Day of Penance                                        | Blessed Virgin Mary                                                                                                               |
| <b>20</b><br>White<br>Solemnity                   | <b>21</b><br>White<br>Memorial                                               | <b>22</b><br>Red<br>Memorial   | <b>23</b><br>Green<br>Optional                                          | <b>24</b><br>Red<br>Memorial       | <b>25</b><br>Green<br>Optional                                                                                                   | <b>26</b><br>Green<br>Optional                                                                                                    |
| OUR LORD JESUS<br>CHRIST, KING OF THE<br>UNIVERSE | The Presentation of the<br>Blessed Virgin Mary<br>Last Week in Ordinary Time | St Cecilia                     | St Columban - W<br>St Clement I - R                                     | St Andrew Dũng-Lạc &<br>Companions | St Catherine of Alexandria - R<br>Day of Penance                                                                                 | Blessed Virgin Mary                                                                                                               |
| <b>27</b><br>Violet                               | <b>28</b><br>Violet                                                          | <b>29</b><br>Violet            | <b>30</b><br>Red<br>Feast                                               |                                    | OCTOBER 2016<br>S M T W T F S<br>30 31 1<br>2 3 4 5 6 7 8<br>9 10 11 12 13 14 15<br>16 17 18 19 20 21 22<br>23 24 25 26 27 28 29 | DECEMBER 2016<br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3<br>4 5 6 7 8 9 10<br>11 12 13 14 15 16 17<br>18 19 20 21 22 23 24<br>25 26 27 28 29 30 31 |
| 1ST SUNDAY OF<br>ADVENT                           |                                                                              |                                | St Andrew, Apostle                                                      |                                    |                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                   |

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# November 2016

## Saint Catherine of Alexandria (detail) by Raphael (1507-8)

Raphael's painting of Saint Catherine of Alexandria dates from the end of the period when he was working in Florence before he moved to Rome. To place a standing female saint in a landscape marks a significant departure from earlier depictions of saints and holy figures. Raphael expresses Saint Catherine's yearning for union with Christ in a visual language immersed in the beauty of the natural world. Saint Catherine whose cult was popular throughout Europe achieved sanctity as a virgin martyr during the reign of the Roman Emperor Maxentius in the early fourth century. Believed to be of royal birth, Catherine secretly converted to the Christian faith. Suitors, including the Emperor, were attracted to her great beauty and learning. Catherine steadfastly rejected their proposals of marriage, instead vowing herself to a heavenly bridegroom Christ. Catherine resisted the Emperor's efforts to undermine her faith; her determination and fidelity to Christ so infuriated Maxentius that he sentenced her to death. Although she miraculously survived a series of grisly torments she was eventually beheaded. Raphael imagines Saint Catherine in a moment of intimate mystical engagement with her divine spouse. In keeping with Renaissance principles, the painter insists on locating this supernatural event in this world, the realm of human experience. The saint turns her head so that her gaze is directed towards light that streams from the sky above. She is illuminated by light, which symbolises the divine presence in the world. Thus both Catherine and by extension the physical world receive the gift of God's love, epitomised by the light which illumines her face.



Adoration of the Shepherds (oil on panel), Bronzino, Agnolo (1503-1572); © Hungarian National Gallery, Budapest, Hungary / Interfoto/The Bridgeman Art Library

# DECEMBER 2016

Readings: Sunday Cycle A  
: Weekday Cycle 1

| SUNDAY                                                  | MONDAY                          | TUESDAY                                                                                                                               | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                               | THURSDAY                                                    | FRIDAY                                                             | SATURDAY                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| NOTES:                                                  |                                 | <b>NOVEMBER 2016</b><br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5<br>6 7 8 9 10 11 12<br>13 14 15 16 17 18 19<br>20 21 22 23 24 25 26<br>27 28 29 30 | <b>JANUARY 2017</b><br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6 7<br>8 9 10 11 12 13 14<br>15 16 17 18 19 20 21<br>22 23 24 25 26 27 28<br>29 30 31 | <b>1</b><br>Violet                                          | <b>2</b><br>Violet                                                 | <b>3</b><br>White<br>Memorial  |
|                                                         | <b>4</b><br>Violet              | <b>5</b><br>Violet                                                                                                                    | <b>6</b><br>Violet<br>Optional                                                                                                          | <b>7</b><br>White<br>Memorial                               | <b>8</b><br>White<br>Solemnly                                      | <b>9</b><br>Violet<br>Optional |
| <b>2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>                             |                                 | St Nicholas - W                                                                                                                       | St Ambrose                                                                                                                              | <b>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b> | St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin - W<br>Day of Penance                | <b>10</b><br>Violet            |
| <b>11</b><br>Violet or Rose                             | <b>12</b><br>Violet<br>Optional | <b>13</b><br>Red<br>Memorial                                                                                                          | <b>14</b><br>White<br>Memorial                                                                                                          | <b>15</b><br>Violet                                         | <b>16</b><br>Violet                                                | <b>17</b><br>Violet            |
| <b>3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>                             | Our Lady of Guadalupe - W       | St Lucy                                                                                                                               | St John of the Cross                                                                                                                    |                                                             | Day of Penance                                                     |                                |
| <b>18</b><br>Violet                                     | <b>19</b><br>Violet             | <b>20</b><br>Violet                                                                                                                   | <b>21</b><br>Violet<br>Optional                                                                                                         | <b>22</b><br>Violet                                         | <b>23</b><br>Violet<br>Optional                                    | <b>24</b><br>Violet            |
| <b>4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>                             |                                 |                                                                                                                                       | St Peter Canisius - W                                                                                                                   |                                                             | St John of Kanty - W<br>Day of Penance                             |                                |
| <b>25</b><br>White<br>Solemnly                          | <b>26</b><br>Red<br>Feast       | <b>27</b><br>Red<br>Feast                                                                                                             | <b>28</b><br>Red<br>Feast                                                                                                               | <b>29</b><br>White<br>Optional                              | <b>30</b><br>White<br>Feast                                        | <b>31</b><br>White<br>Optional |
| <b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)</b><br>Holy Day | ST STEPHEN,<br>THE FIRST MARTYR | ST JOHN, APOSTLE &<br>EVANGELIST                                                                                                      | THE HOLY INNOCENTS                                                                                                                      | St Thomas Becket - R                                        | <b>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH</b><br>Day of Penance | St Sylvester I - W             |

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# December 2016

## Adoration of the Shepherds (detail of Mary and the Christ-child) by Agnolo Bronzino (1539-47)

Sixteenth-century art in Florence was shaped by the taste of the Medici rulers. Agnolo Bronzino became a favourite artist of this elegant and sophisticated court. His oil painting on panel depicts the scene of the Nativity with a refinement and taste for luxury that finds expression in gem-like colours and impossibly elegant, idealised figures, whose poses seem almost frozen. Despite this rather crowded composition, our attention is drawn to the Christ-child and his mother. Adoring figures including shepherds and angels direct our gaze to the centre where we find the tiny figure of the Christ-child. Through poses that range from Mary's prayerful gesture to the rapt attention of the shepherd at our right, all those present acknowledge the mystery of the birth of Jesus as a sign of God's gift to humanity. Even the shepherds conversing amongst themselves seem subdued by the event. The bag-pipe that the shepherd holds was traditionally associated with the rough-and-tumble world of those on the margins of society such as shepherds. For as we know from the accounts in the gospels, the message of Christ's birth and saving mission was announced equally to those at the edge of society as well as the educated and well-connected.



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