Saint Anthony of Padua Saturday 13 June 2020



Saint Anthony of Padua

Saint Anthony was born in Lisbon, Portugal in 1195 and died in Padua on 13 June 1231. He joined the Augustinian Order and became a priest and scholar. He then became a Franciscan so that he could do missionary work in North Africa. His work in North Africa was prevented by illness, and a storm then drove his ship to Sicily, so that he found himself taking part in the General Chapter of the Franciscans in 1221, where he met Saint Francis of Assisi himself. He then became a teacher of theology and a very eloquent and popular preacher in southern France and Italy. His preaching lead to the conversion of many from heresy, earning him the title "the Hammer of the Heretics."

Saint Anthony is also the patron of lost objects (and people). This is so because he once could not find his Psalter but prayed very hard that it would be found. A young novice had taken Anthony's Psalter, but returned it in a hurry when Anthony appeared to him in a vision.

What can we learn from Saint Anthony's life?

There are three concrete things we can learn from Saint Anthony's life.

Firstly, he was open to where God would lead him and needed to be. Anthony didn't get all upset about his plans being changed or ruined. As the saying goes if you get given a lemon make lemonade and Saint Anthony surely did that!

Secondly, He was not afraid of speaking or preaching the truth. What we need in this day and age are effective (and eloquent) preachers like Saint Anthony was. Not all of us are called to give an oral sermon, but perhaps our best form of preaching can be the way we live our lives (faith in action).

Thirdly, Saint Anthony is the patron of lost of objects (and people). People are included here because so many people have lost their way, so often through no fault of their own. Our approach to them and their situation could make all the difference to them finding purpose and meaning in their life and coming back to the God who loves them just as just as they are.

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Collect (13 June 2020)

Almighty ever-living God,
who gave Saint Anthony of Padua to your people
as an outstanding preacher
and an intercessor in their need,
grant that, with his assistance,
as we follow the teachings of the Christian life,
we may know your help in every trial.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Gospel Luke 10: 1-9

The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them out ahead of him, in pairs, to all the towns and places he himself was to visit. He said to them, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest. Start off now, but remember, I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Carry no purse, no haversack, no sandals. Salute no one on the road. Whatever house you go into, let your first words be, "Peace to this house!" And if a man of peace lives there, your peace will go and rest on him; if not, it will come back to you. Stay in the same house, taking what food and drink they have to offer, for the labourer deserves his wages; do not move from house to house. Whenever you go into a town where they make you welcome, eat what is set before you. Cure those in it who are sick, and say, "The kingdom of God is very near to you."

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Antiphon

Amen I say to you, that you who have left all and followed me will receive a hundredfold and possess eternal life.

A Hymn for the Feast of Saint Anthony of Padua

Saint Anthony of Padua, We also pray to you for those preacher of the Lord's Holy Word. confused and who have lost their way You taught God's people here on earth by what they saw and what they heard. so that they might return to Christ and sing His praises every day.

Saint Anthony of Padua to you we pray lost things be found so peace of mind may be restored and the Lord's praises e'er resound.

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Music links to the Scripture Readings

Amazing Grace

O God, You Search Me - Bernadette Farrell, Published by OCP- www.ocp.org

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