

Saint
Catherine of Siena
29 April



Saint Catherine of Siena

Saint Catherine of Siena was born at Siena (Italy) in 1347 and died in Rome on 29 April 1380. She was committed to the practice of prayer and penance from an early age, and entered the Dominican Third Order while in her teens. At the age of sixteen she withdrew from her family to lead this life of intense prayer. In time, she emerged from this life of prayer and began to dedicate herself to caring for the sick and the poor. She became an influential spiritual leader and made strenuous efforts to reconcile Church and state and to reform the Roman papacy. Remembered for her holiness and determination and, though she never learned to write, for the quality of her teachings. Remembered also as a mystic and a reformer of religious life. (Daily Mass Book, © 2019 Liturgy Brisbane).

What lesson can we learn from Saint Catherine of Siena's life?

Saint Catherine was the twenty-fourth of twenty-five children. There must have been a lot of sharing and taking turns in her house. Perhaps the fact that she never learned to write and yet she **did God's work teaches us that limitations on our time and resources should not prevent us from preaching the Gospel in our world.**

Saint Catherine of Siena was clearly a woman ahead of her time. Prayer was the foundational pillar of her life and through her prayer she gained the strength and courage to make a difference in the world. Like Catherine, we are all called to turn our hearts to the Lord in prayer and listen to what is being asked of us. For this to happen we, like Catherine, need to find the space in each day to pray and listen to the movement of our hearts as we go about our daily lives.

The world is still in the grip of the pandemic and people are worried about their families, their **friends and their future. On aspect of Catherine's life was to care for the sick and vulnerable. Her strength and hope came from knowing the person of Jesus and spending time communicating with a loving God.**

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Collect

O God, who set Saint Catherine of Siena
on fire with divine love
in her contemplation of the Lord's Passion
and her service of your Church,
grant through her intercession, that your people
will grow in the love of God and each other.

Gospel Matthew 11:25-30

Jesus exclaimed,

'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth,
for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children.
Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do.
Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father;
and no one knows the Son except the Father,
just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal
him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened,
and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

Antiphon 1 John 1:7

If we walk in the light, as God is in the light, then we have communion with each other.

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A Hymn for the Feast of Saint Catherine of Siena

Saint Cath'rine of Siena
we celebrate today:
a life of prayer and penance
became her chosen way.
Her mystical experience
guided her throughout life,
she worked to bring reform to
a time of worldly strife.

Saint Cath'rine of Siena,
with courage may we rise
like you to conquer those things
that we should all despise.
So that we may be faithful
to what the Lord has planned
for us his chosen people
in our time and our land.

Saint Catherine of Siena,
you could not read or write,
but this did not prevent you
pointing out wrong and right.
Evangelising people
to follow Christ each day,
even though you were hindered
upon your chosen way.

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono,
revised April 2021.

Tune: 76.76D, Aurelia

Music Link to Scripture Readings

[The Servant Song](#) - David Haas

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