

About Saint Philip Neri

Saint Philip Neri was born in Florence (Italy) in 1515. He died in Rome on 26 May 1595. He was an outstanding proponent of Church reform after the Council of Trent. Starting as a layman, he worked among the young and the poor in Rome, but was advised he could do more good as a priest and was ordained in 1551. He founded the Congregation of the Oratory. He is remembered as a spiritual director, for his pastoral initiatives, and for his humour, simplicity, and charity.

Saint Philip Neri

(Priest)
26 May



What lesson can we learn from Saint Philip Neri's life?

We are not all called to go overseas and be missionaries or begin new projects to help the poor, sick or vulnerable in our society.

There are enough people in need in our own neighbourhoods. Like Saint Philip Neri we can share our charity with those in need not so far away from us.

The Collect

O God, who never cease to bestow the glory of holiness on the faithful servants you raise up for yourself, graciously grant that the Holy Spirit may kindle in us that fire with which he wonderfully filled the heart of Saint Philip Neri. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Reading John 17:20-26

Father, may they be completely one
Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:
'Holy Father,
I pray not only for these,
but for those also
who through their words will believe in me.
May they all be one.
Father, may they be one in us,
as you are in me and I am in you,
so that the world may believe it was you who sent me.
I have given them the glory you gave to me,
that they may be one as we are one.
With me in them and you in me,
may they be so completely one
that the world will realise that it was you who sent me
and that I have loved them as much as you loved me.
Father, I want those you have given me
to be with me where I am,
so that they may always see the glory you have given me
because you loved me before the foundation of the world.
Father, Righteous One,
the world has not known you,

but I have known you,
and these have known that you have sent me.
I have made your name known to them
and will continue to make it known,
so that the love with which you loved me may be in them,
and so that I may be in them.'

Antiphon

As the Father loves me, so I also love you;
remain in my love.

Hymn for the Feast of Saint Philip Neri

Your work, Saint Philip Neri,
did open wide the door
of Christ's love and concern for
the Roman youth and poor.
You worked as a reformer,
you knew the work of Trent
would help God's holy people
and guide where'er they went.

O great Saint Philip Neri
you heard what the Lord taught:
that those who give all they have
will not be left with naught.
May we be an example
of virtue, full of joy;
so that in Christ we'll labour
to build up, not destroy.

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono 2020