

St Francis of Assisi



St. Francis of Assisi, born in Italy in 1181 or 1182, was a wealthy young man who chose to live a life of poverty and service to others.

His life changed when he fought in a war between Assisi and Perugia, where he was captured and imprisoned. After his release from prison, Francis experienced a series of visions and encounters that changed the way he looked at his life. Due to these experiences, Francis renounced his family's wealth and possessions, choosing to live a life of poverty and service. He founded the Franciscan Order and dedicated himself to caring for the poor, the sick, and lepers. Saint Francis is known for his deep love and respect for all of God's creation. He is known for preaching to birds and taming wild animals.

Saint Francis died on October 3, 1226, and was canonised as a saint by the Catholic Church in 1228. He is the patron saint of animals, ecology, and merchants. His feast day is the 4th October.

His life and teachings continue to inspire people around the world to live a life of love, compassion, and service. He particularly inspired Pope Francis, who took his name, and he wrote his encyclical, *Laudate Si (Care for Creation)*, to encourage us to look after the world God created.

Prayer of Saint Francis

Lord make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred let me sow love.
Where there is injury, pardon.
Where there is doubt, faith.
Where there is despair, hope.
Where there is darkness, light.
And where there is sadness, joy.

O divine master grant that I may
not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love
For it is in giving that we receive-
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned.
And it's in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen