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The Parish Office is staffed on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.00am to 13.00pm.

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Saint of the Week St. Martin of Tours (Friday 11th November)

Born in 316 in Hungary, Martin began as a soldier, but then received baptism and founded a monastery in France under the direction of Saint Hilary. Later, made Bishop of Tours, he worked hard to visit his flock, and preach against paganism. He died in 397, and was honoured as a saint - one of the first non-martyrs so to be honoured. His shrine in France became a famous stopping-point for pilgrims on the road to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. He spent much of his childhood in Italy and most of his adult life in France, thus he is considered a spiritual bridge across Europe.

Tradition has it that he gave his cloak to a beggar at the side of the road, who happened to be Jesus, leading to his conversion to Christianity.



Reflection

Last week Pope Francis participated in a joint liturgy in a Lutheran Cathedral in Sweden which commemorated the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's revolt. Focussing on re-building unity amongst Christians rather than historical wrongs and errors, the pope continued his theme of reconciliation at an interreligious audience last Thursday:

Pope Francis urged representatives of different religions to foster a peaceful encounter of believers and genuine religious freedom. Pope Francis reflected on the soon-to-end Year of Mercy saying that mercy extends also to the world around us, "to our common home, which we are called to protect and preserve from unbridled and rapacious consumption."

He pointed out that in today's hectic and forgetful world we need the oxygen of life-giving love: "We thirst for mercy and no technology can quench that thirst. We seek a love that endures beyond momentary pleasures, a safe harbour where we can end our restless wanderings, an infinite embrace that forgives and reconciles".

He told those present that commitment is needed "for an education to sobriety and to respect, to a more simple and orderly way of life".

Above all, the Pope urged all religions to join in embarking on a path of dialogue, rejecting the aimless paths of disagreement and closed-mindedness.

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Children's Corner

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