

Saints club 19th Sunday ordinary time

This week, we have the feast of St Dominic on Monday, St Teresa Benedicta on Tuesday, St Lawrence on Wednesday and St Clare on Thursday. Since the story of St Teresa was told last week on this page, and St Lawrence is quite well-known, here is some information about St Dominic and St Clare.



Saint Dominic was born in Caleruega, Spain in 1170. He studied very hard as a young man and his teachers considered him a very good student. He was noted for prayer, penance and an exemplary life. In the time of violent crusades, he brought heretics back to the church through instruction and prayer. He established the Order of Preachers, known as the Dominicans, which still exists today, and he is remembered as a preacher, organiser and patron of learning. He died in 1221. He is often shown with a dog carrying a torch in its mouth, which is a reference to his name (*Dog* in Latin is *Canis*, which sounds like Dominic's name in Latin).

St Clare was born in Assisi in 1193 and died there in 1253. She embraced her way of life after hearing the preaching of St Francis of Assisi. She founded the order of the Poor Clares, writing a set of rules for them which was the first time rules for nuns had been written down, and she is remembered for her life of extreme poverty, austerity, contemplation and charity. On one occasion she is said to have driven back soldiers trying to break into the convent by holding up the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance. In paintings of her, she is usually dressed in her nun's habit and carrying a chalice or a monstrance.

