

**MONDAY, 1ST MARCH, IS THE FEAST OF
ST DAVID OF WALES
a.k.a.: DEWI SANT:**

who, along with **TWO OTHER GREAT LENTEN SPIRITUAL WARRIOR Saints** (*the other two are St Patrick c. AD 390-461? and Great St Joseph himself*), shows us how to live and love **"UNDER GOD"**, before Whom we should **"TAKE THE KNEE"**, throughout this Holy Season. Prayer and Penance: Spiritual Exercises of **PRAYING** seriously and more, **FASTING** from all that keeps us from God and others, and especially from **THE WORLD, THE FLESH** and **THE DEVIL**, and **GIVING** to all those who need of our time, talent and treasure

The modern image of Dewi Sant is based on a statue in the Church at LlanddewiBrefi, Carmarthenshire:

Dewi / David is portrayed with the Celtic Tonsure (Haircut), Simple Staff in one hand, while the other carries the Beloved Bell that summoned the Faithful for Instruction and Prayer and Worship, when he approached their villages, walking humbly and bare foot. The Dove descended on his shoulder at the Synod, or Meeting, held at Brefi to expel the Pelagian Heresy from the Land. *[Pelagius held the view that Original Sin did not taint Human Nature and free will, and that humans may attain perfection without the help of Divine Grace - a view that still held by many humanists today.]*

His style of Monastery was 'Celtic', like many of the ancient Irish Monasteries, very similar to those of the Egyptian "Desert" Fathers and Mothers ... and probably less like the Monks of the Roman tradition as was Augustine of Canterbury, who arrived here in Kent in AD 597.

The Picture came from:

https://www.welshsaints.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/LlanddewiBrefi_DSC2524A.jpg



St David was probably born in Cardigan about the year AD 520, according to legend, in the midst of a great storm.

His early learning was with St Illtyd. He drew many to join the monasteries that he founded, all of which were remarkable for their austerity: ploughing their fields themselves, not using animals; drinking only water, they ate only bread and vegetables.

David devoted himself to works of mercy and practised frequent genuflections and total immersion in cold water as austerities. He was ordained Bishop by the Patriarch of Jerusalem.

He died in the year AD 588 and is the principal patron of Wales. His last words to his companions were: ***"Be Joyful, and keep the faith and DO THE LITTLE THINGS you have seen and learned together with me."***

**ST MARY OF THE CRAYS NEWSLETTER SUPPLEMENT
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 28th February 2021**

In the Year of St Joseph: 8th Dec. 2020 - 8th Dec. 2021

SAINT JOSEPH:

**Comfort of the Afflicted: Pray for us! Hope of the Sick: Pray for us!
Patron of the Dying: Pray for us! Terror of Demons: Pray for us!**

**Lent has begun: ASHES ARE STILL AVAILABLE
for those who wish to**

**"REPENT, AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL", and to
"REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE DUST,
AND TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN!"**

**and for all Active, Practising and Faithful Catholics,
it is the beginning of the Time for fulfilling
the Easter Duties / Precepts:**

**from ASH WEDNESDAY 17th February 2021
to HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY 30th May 2021.**

- **THE SECOND PRECEPT ("YOU SHALL CONFESS YOUR SINS AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR.")** ensures preparation for the Eucharist by the reception of the sacrament of reconciliation, which continues Baptism's work of conversion and forgiveness.⁸³

- **THE THIRD PRECEPT ("YOU SHALL HUMBLY RECEIVE YOUR CREATOR IN HOLY COMMUNION AT LEAST DURING THE EASTER SEASON.")** guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and centre of the Christian liturgy.⁸⁴

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church No: 2042

**N.B.: Even though the Bishops have waived the Church's
Obligation to attend Holy Mass during this time of Pandemic,
as Christians we must still:**

"REMEMBER TO KEEP HOLY THE LORD'S DAY"

(Sabbath / Sunday):

i.e.: worship God and rest from servile work - it is

**the THIRD OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF GOD HIMSELF,
and also:**

- **THE FIRST PRECEPT ("YOU SHALL ATTEND MASS ON SUNDAYS AND HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION.")** requires the faithful to participate in the Eucharistic celebration when the Christian community gathers together on the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord.

SOME REFLECTIONS ON PRAYER AND PRAYERFULNESS FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ... FOR YOUR REFLECTIONS AND PRAYERFULNESS THIS LENT:

THE BATTLE OF PRAYER

2725 Prayer is both a gift of grace and a determined response on our part. It always presupposes effort. The great figures of prayer of the Old Covenant before Christ, as well as the Mother of God, the saints, and he himself, all teach us this: prayer is a battle. Against whom? Against ourselves and against the wiles of the tempter who does all he can to turn man away from prayer, away from union with God. We pray as we live, because we live as we pray. If we do not want to act habitually according to the Spirit of Christ, neither can we pray habitually in his name. The "spiritual battle" of the Christian's new life is inseparable from the battle of prayer.

I. OBJECTIONS TO PRAYER

2726 In the battle of prayer, we must face in ourselves and around us *erroneous notions of prayer*. Some people view prayer as a simple psychological activity, others as an effort of concentration to reach a mental void. Still others reduce prayer to ritual words and postures. Many Christians unconsciously regard prayer as an occupation that is incompatible with all the other things they have to do: they "don't have the time." Those who seek God by prayer are quickly discouraged because they do not know that prayer comes also from the Holy Spirit and not from themselves alone.

2727 We must also face the fact that certain attitudes deriving from the *mentality* of "this present world" can

penetrate our lives if we are not vigilant. For example, some would have it that only that is true which can be verified by reason and science; yet prayer is a mystery that overflows both our conscious and unconscious lives. Others overly prize production and profit; thus prayer, being unproductive, is useless. Still others exalt sensuality and comfort as the criteria of the true, the good, and the beautiful; whereas prayer, the "love of beauty" (*philokalía*), is caught up in the glory of the living and true God. Finally, some see prayer as a flight from the world in reaction against activism; but in fact, Christian prayer is neither an escape from reality nor a divorce from life.

2728 Finally, our battle has to confront what we experience as *failure in prayer*: discouragement during periods of dryness; sadness that, because we have "great possessions,"¹⁵ we have not given all to the Lord; disappointment over not being heard according to our own will; wounded pride, stiffened by the indignity that is ours as sinners; our resistance to the idea that prayer is a free and unmerited gift; and so forth. The conclusion is always the same: what good does it do to pray? To overcome these obstacles, we must battle to gain humility, trust, and perseverance.



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: FRIDAY 5TH MARCH 2021

The Women's World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. The movement aims to bring together women of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.

This year's host country is Vanuatu and the theme is "Build on a Strong Foundation".

The Vanuatu women invite us to focus on the Bible story in

Matthew 7:24-27 :

The Wise and Foolish Builders:

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash".

IF YOU WISH TO JOIN A SERVICE ON FRIDAY THE 5TH MARCH PLEASE VISIT THE WEBSITE BELOW TO FIND A SERVICE NEAR YOU:

[Homepage | World Day Of Prayer \(wwdp.org.uk\)](http://www.wwdp.org.uk)

Please use this link: **virtual services** for details about some of the services that will be livestreamed or available on YouTube or telephone – we will be updating this list throughout February.

You can donate by text:

TEXT 2021WDP 5 TO 70085 TO DONATE £5

Any amount can be donated up to £40 just add the sum after 2021WDP and your text will cost the amount plus one standard rate message.

Or you can donate by transferring monies into:

'The Churches Together in Crayford';

Account No. **30294063**

at Barclays Bank Plc; Sort code: **20-06-72**

and include **WDP/SMC** as a reference Thank you.