

SUNDAY

Plus Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe **Divine Office Week II** Year C**England & Wales: Youth Day**

"Long live Christ the King!"

*Fr Miguel Pro SJ died, aged thirty-six, on 23 November 1927, one of twenty-five beatified martyrs of Mexico's Cristero War.*

Lord, you know that I am innocent. With all my heart I forgive my enemies." As the gendarmes took aim, in a firm, clear voice, he spoke his last words: "¡Viva Cristo Rey!" – "Long live Christ the King!"

The guns were fired: Fr Pro met his martyrdom calmly and heroically...

The photographers, who had been invited by the fanatic Calles, kept the shutters clicking during the whole process, and for that reason, we have a good photographic record of the martyrdom. However, the stock photographic display of serenity and heroism soon made the possession of the photographs a crime.

Ann Ball, Blessed Miguel Pro: 20th-century Mexican martyr

At 10:00 that morning, the sweater-clad Fr Pro was the first to be led out of the cells. No due process had been accorded him; he had not even received a trial. Nor was he told of his impending death, though it seems that


he sensed something was about to happen...

Fr Pro walked across the compound with a steady, measured tread, holding his little crucifix in his right hand and his rosary in his left... little knots of

photographers, reporters and distinguished guests stood around, waiting...

As his last request, Miguel asked to be allowed to pray. He knelt in front of the bullet-pocked walls and fervently prayed for two

minutes. After his prayer he kissed his crucifix and stood with his arms outstretched in the form of a cross, rejecting the offered blindfold. Facing the firing squad, Miguel said, "May God have mercy on you. May God bless you.

Lord Jesus, king and centre of my heart, make my heart like yours: big enough to hold the world and all its peoples.  Amen.

Role models

By being in the world, through our choices and actions, we change the world each day, for better or for worse.

My day is regularly brightened by the smile and cheery "Good morning" of a student walking into school. I was touched by the thoughtful mother writing more than twenty years after I had taught her son to tell me what the boy – now man – is now doing. I am constantly encouraged by the faith of a young child interpreting and sharing her

understanding of scripture with great clarity and simplicity.

These different people are role models because they change the world for the better and through their actions inspire others like me to do the same. They share a humility and a consciousness that goes beyond themselves. Surely, one day, it is role models such as these to whom Jesus will say, "You will be with me in paradise".

Michael George has worked in Catholic schools in the south of England for twenty-five years, as a teacher, headteacher and chaplain.

Christ goes before us. The world needs his light. Humanity needs him as the bridge that can lead us to God and his love.

Pope Leo XIV

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope
Young hope

Signs of hope are also needed by those who are the very embodiment of hope, namely, the young. Sadly, they often see their dreams and aspirations frustrated. We must not disappoint them, for the future depends on their enthusiasm. It is gratifying to see the energy they demonstrate, for example, by rolling up their sleeves and volunteering to help when disasters strike and people are in need. Yet it is sad to see young people who are without hope, who face an uncertain and unpromising future, who lack employment or job security, or realistic prospects after finishing school. Without the hope that their dreams can come true, they will inevitably grow discouraged and listless... For this reason, the Jubilee should inspire the Church to make greater efforts to reach out to them. With renewed passion, let us demonstrate care and concern for adolescents, students and young couples, the rising generation. Let us draw close to the young, for they are the joy and hope of the Church and of the world!

Pope Francis, Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the year 2025:12

READINGS

Today:
2 Samuel 5:1-3
Colossians 1:12-20
Luke 23:35-43

Monday:
Daniel 1:1-6. 8-20
Luke 21:1-4

Tuesday:
Daniel 2:31-45
Luke 21:5-11

Wednesday:
Daniel 5:1-6. 13-14.
16-17. 23-28
Luke 21:12-19

Thursday:
Daniel 6:12-28
Luke 21:20-28

Friday:
Daniel 7:2-14
Luke 21:29-33

Saturday:
Daniel 7:15-27
Luke 21:34-36

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:37-44