

Saint Mary's Newsletter: October 2025

Vicar: David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

Peoples Warden: Sally-Ann Riddell 022 107562

Vicars Warden: John Heaton 021 702871



SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

Sunday 5th:

10am Pet Blessing Service

Refreshments & Intercessions: Majella

Sunday 12th:

10am Holy Communion Service

Refreshments & Intercessions: Trish

Sunday 19th:

10am Holy Communion Service

Refreshments & Intercessions: Melanie

Sunday 26th:

NO SERVICE – LABOUR WEEKEND



Who was Saint Francis?



Saint Francis was born in Assisi, Italy, in 1181 into a wealthy family. His brush with battles and captivity lead him to query his frivolous lifestyle. He searched for God, who answered Francis' cry, asking him to spiritually rebuild the Church which had fallen into spiritual decay. Francis loved God's Creation and animals. He passed away 4th Oct 1226 aged 44 years. Francis had a huge following of friars and to this day, they are found throughout the world, often working with the poor.



Pet Blessing Service In honour of St Francis (whose day is on the 4th Oct) we are having our Annual Pet Blessing Service Sun 5th Oct. Bring along your cat, dog, fish, bird...!

Why Blood Sacrifice?

The whole of the Old Testament, every book, points toward the Great Sacrifice that was to come—that of Jesus' sacrificial giving of His own life on our behalf. Leviticus 17:11 is the Old Testament's central statement about the significance of blood in the sacrificial system. God, speaking to Moses, declares: "For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life."

A "sacrifice" is defined as the offering up of something precious for a cause or a reason. Making atonement is satisfying someone or something for an offense committed. The Leviticus verse can be read more clearly now: God said, "I have given it to you (the creature's life, which is in its blood) to make atonement for yourselves (covering the offense you have committed against Me)." In other words, those who are covered by the blood sacrifice are set free from the consequences of sin.

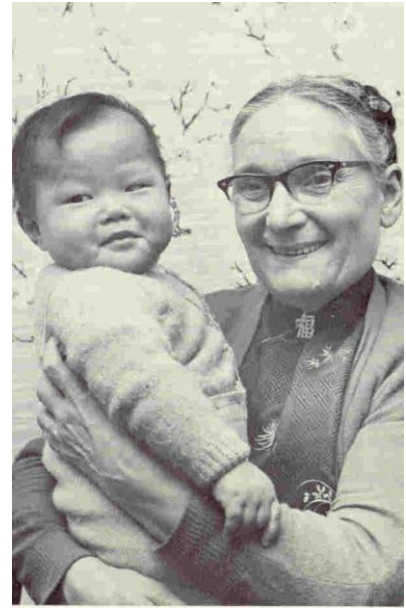
Of course, the Israelites did not know of Jesus per se, or how He would die on their behalf and then rise again, but they did believe God would be sending them a Savior. All of the many, many blood sacrifices seen throughout the Old Testament were foreshadowing the true, once-for-all-time sacrifice to come so that the Israelites would never forget that, without the blood, there is no forgiveness. This shedding of blood is a substitutionary act. Therefore, the last clause of Leviticus 17:11 could be read either "the blood 'makes atonement' at the cost of the life" (i.e., the animal's life) or "makes atonement in the place of the life" (i.e., the sinner's life, with Jesus Christ being the One giving life through His shed blood).

Hebrews 9:11-18 confirms the symbolism of blood as life and applies Leviticus 17:11 to the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ. Verse 12 states clearly that the Old Testament blood sacrifices were temporary and only atoned for sin partially and for a short time, hence the need to repeat the sacrifices yearly. But when Christ entered the Most Holy Place, He did so to offer His own blood once for all time, making future sacrifices unnecessary. This is what Jesus meant by His dying words on the cross: "It is finished" (John 19:30). Never again would the blood of bulls and goats cleanse men from their sin. Only by accepting Jesus' blood, shed on the cross for the remission of sins, can we stand before God covered in the righteousness of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21).



This Month in Christian History:

15th Oct 1932: Gladys Aylward sails from Liverpool, England, for Asia in an effort to bring the gospel to China. In 1958 her biography, *The Small Woman*, was made into an award winning film: *Inn of the Sixth Happiness*.



Parish Giving

Please consider giving to the parish via Automatic Payment. St Mary's has to pay for our Vicar and all other costs of running a Parish, as well as giving a proportion to the Diocese. Please help us to be sustainable by giving via Automatic Payment. It is an easy way to give and is useful for the parish in running its budget. The Parish Bank Account is:

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