

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

In Catholic tradition, each day of the week has some particular devotional subject. These entered popular piety over time with the rise of votive Masses in the early Church. Votive Masses, offered for a special intention and not a fixed feast, led to texts being assigned to different days of the week to commemorate certain mysteries or persons.

The traditional mysteries or persons assigned to different days of the week are the following: Monday (Holy Trinity); Tuesday (Angels); Wednesday (Apostles, also St. Joseph); Thursday (Holy Spirit, also the Eucharist); Friday (The Cross and the Passion); Saturday (Mary); and Sunday (The Resurrection).

Fridays, of course, have a distinct character because of the crucifixion. These are days of penance and sacrifice in which we give up eating meat, although, since the Second Vatican Council, we may replace this with some other penitential practice. On Fridays, we remember the passion and death of Jesus all year, and not only on Good Friday.

With the passion and death of Jesus in mind, we might spend some time this week meditating on the words of St. Paul from this Sunday's Second Reading: "None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living" (Romans 14:7-9).

Father Frei