



Faithfulness

Friday 6th December 2024 - St Nicholas



700 lire Act of Charity by St. Nicholas single (Vatican City Stamp),
US National Postal Museum.

Scripture: Psalm 27.1-4, 13-14

¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold* of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

² When evildoers assail me
to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes—
they shall stumble and fall.

³ Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.

⁴ One thing I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in his temple.

¹³ I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.

¹⁴ Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!

To reflect

Today's word for reflection is 'Faithfulness', taken from Psalm 25.7-9 'Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore he teaches sinners in his way. He guides the humble in doing right and teaches his way to the lowly. All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.' Today is also the day where the Church remembers St Nicholas of Myrna.

The stamp shows St Nicholas gifting purses of gold to the daughters of a man who had fallen into poverty so they would have a dowry and were not dishonoured. This was one of the ways St Nicholas showed his faithfulness, in the words of the Psalmist making sure people saw the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. St Nicholas is the patron of children, with stories of him saving children (as on depicted on the Diocesan crest). He was bishop of Myra (Asia minor), and came from a wealthy family and participated in the Council of Nicea.

To Pray

ETERNAL GOD,
in your great love
you gave your servant NICHOLAS
a perpetual name for deeds of kindness on land and sea.
Grant that your Church may never cease to work
for the happiness of children,
the safety of sailors,
the relief of the poor
and the help of those who are tossed
by tempests of doubt or grief;
through JESUS CHRIST our LORD,
who lives and reigns with you and the HOLY SPIRIT,
one GOD, now and for ever.
Amen

*Anglican collect from For All the Saints: Prayers and Readings for Saints' Days,
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To Listen (these and other suggestions can be found on a Spotify playlist at

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0F5bU2sf4OiOtQY3q78Rf2?si=a99cbbf61e7d4587>)

- 'Great is Thy Faithfulness' by Thomas Chisholm and William M. Runyan, one version is by The Celebration Choir and Salvation Army Citadel Band. The poem (by Chisholm) is about God's faithfulness over a lifetime.
- 'St Nicholas' by Anúna and Michael McGlynn. This is one of many hymns to St Nicholas.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.