

## Prayers for 10<sup>th</sup> October 2021 Jan Teale

October 4<sup>th</sup> is the festival day of one of our most famous and well-loved saints – Francis of Assisi. He is known best, I think, for his care and interest in animals but there is much more to him than that. He took to caring for disused churches and for the poor – even more so for those suffering from leprosy.

His friends and followers grew in number and Francis prepared a simple, gospel-based Rule for them all to live by. He became a Friar, a Deacon and founder of the Franciscan Order of Friars. Through all of this ran the gospel of repentance and emphasising the poverty of Christ which he wanted his followers to take on board. He wrote many prayers, some of which we still use today, though not all of them were necessarily written by him.

We often sing the hymn ‘Make me a channel of your peace’, which we sometimes call the St Francis Peace Prayer, although we cannot be absolutely sure he wrote it. The ‘Vocation Prayer’ seems more likely to be his and here it is for us to pray today:

Most High, Glorious God,  
enlighten the darkness of our minds.  
Give us a right faith,  
a firm hope  
and a perfect charity,  
so that we may always  
and in all things  
Act according to Your Holy Will.      Amen

Two years before he died in 1226 he received the stigmata – the marks of the wounds of Christ on his body. It was said this was because his life was so closely linked to that of his crucified Saviour. By the time of his death the Order had spread throughout Western Christendom.

We remember and pray for Shirley Ann Hunt, Ellie Louise Frances Hunt and Oscar Hunt who lost their lives in a road traffic accident and for the rest of their family as they try to come to terms with their tragic loss. We also remember and pray for the recently departed Tina Marie Dunn and Brenda O’Malley and for all who may feel sad and lonely, especially those who have lost family and friends recently and for whom life will never be the same again.

We pray for all those who are ill, whether at home, in a care home or in hospital, remembering and praying also for those people who care and comfort them in their time of need.

And we pray also for those whose anniversaries are commemorated in our memorial book this week: Peter Albert Terena King, Bernard George Ward, Annie Pretoria Griffiths and George James Hutson.      Amen