

9 January

SAINT ANDREW CORSINI

Bishop

Feast

Andrew was born into nobility, a member of the powerful Corsini family of Florence, and was one of 12 children. He joined the Carmelite community at the Carmine on the southern bank of the Arno sometime before the year 1338. This community was known for its sanctity and regular observance amidst a more tumultuous environment of religious life in the early Renaissance period. After completing his studies in Florence he was teacher of the younger students in the community.

During the 1348 general chapter at Metz, he was made Tuscan provincial and briefly lead the province through the ravages of the Black Death that was to claim over 100 Carmelites. This election was short-lived because in October 1349 Pope Clement VI nominated him to be bishop of Fiesole, a town about 5 miles north-east of Florence. Taking up his episcopal duties in March of the following year, Andrew was faced not only with the consequences of the Black Death, but also with a diocese that had been neglected by his predecessors. The diocesan bishops of Fiesole had not lived in the diocese for over a century leaving the cathedral and diocese to fall into ruin. Andrew moved swiftly to repair the material and spiritual damage to his diocese, working tirelessly to rebuild the cathedral, restore parish churches, and improve the moral life of his priests. Andrew went about establishing a small religious community around him, disbanding the large Episcopal entourage and reducing the number of house servants to six. He also invited two friars from the Carmine to live with him in community. He considered himself the “father and helper of the poor” and devoted special care to the sick in the wake of the devastation brought about by the plague. He was also an eloquent preacher of reconciliation, and a successful peacemaker in Fiesole, Florence, Prato and Pistoia.

After his death in January 1374, Andrew was venerated in Fiesole and Florence as a devout religious and an outstanding bishop whose life demonstrated the pattern for a true shepherd of the Christ’s people.

St Andrew Corsini

Invitatory

Christ, our High Priest, suffered for us; come, let us adore him.

Office of Readings

HYMN

12.12.12.8., *Andreae meritis pangite gloriam*

Sing out with thankfulness Saint Andrew's mighty deeds,
Trust in his fervent prayer for you are all his kin,
You who in faith and hope, hearts all with love aflame,
Seek fulfillment of endless life.

The saint was resolute, steadfast about his quest,
Knowing that earthly joy never could fill his heart;
Wealth, honours and high rank, compared with life in
Christ,
Seemed mover vanishing than the wind.

Like strongly growing tree planted in Carmel's soil,
He persevered in prayer, fruitful in kindly deeds;
God gave him light to see how he could mirror Christ,
Serving others with constancy.

Adhering to the Cross, God's servant soon became
Exemplary in life, wise, calm, mature in grace;
Set over other men, their profit was his care,
Their perfection his quest and aim.

Most Holy Trinity, hear his appeal for us,
That we may come to you when our life's task is done;
There silence is your praise, there praise is melody,
Soaring, swelling while ages run.

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PSALMODY

Ant. 1 I will raise up for myself a faithful priest: he will do whatever I desire.

Psalm 20 (21):2-8, 14

“He accepted human life, so that he could rise from the dead and live for ever and ever” (St Irenaeus).

O Lórd, your stréngth gives jóy to the kíng; *
hów your sáving hélp makes him glád!
You have gránted hím his héart’s desíre; *
you háve not refúsed the práyer of his líps.

You cáme to méet him with the bléssings of succéss,*
you have sét on his héad a crówn of pure góld.
He ásked you for lífe and thís you have gíven, *
dáys that will lást from áge to áge.

Your sáving hélp has gíven him glóry. *
You have láid upón him majésty and spléndour,
you have gránted your bléssings to him for éver. *
You have máde him rejóice with the jóy of your
présence.

The kíng has pút his trúst in the Lórd: *
through the mércy of the Most Hígh hé shall stand
fírm.

O Lórd, aríse in your stréngth; *
we shall síng and práise your pówer.

Ant. 1 I will raise up for myself a faithful priest: he will do whatever I desire.

Ant. 2 The Lord chose him as his servant, to care for his heritage.

I

It is good to give thanks to the Lórd, *
to make músic to your náme, O Most Hígh,
to procláim your lóve in the mórning *
and your trúth in the wátches of the níght,
on the tén-stringed lýre and the lúte, *
with the múrmuring sóund of the hárp.

Your déeds, O Lórd, have made me glád; *
for the wórk of your hánds I shout with jóy.
O Lórd, how gréat are your wórk! *
How déep are yóur desígns!
The fóolish man cánnót knów this *
and the fóol cánnót understánd.

Though the wícked spring úp like gráss *
and áll who do évil thríve,
they are dóomed to be etérnally destróyed. *
But yóu, Lord, are etérnally on hígh.

Ant. 2 The Lord chose him as his servant, to care for his heritage.

Ant. 3 The Lord gave him a glorious throne and overthrew his powerful foes.

II

Sée how your énemies pérish; *
all dóers of évil are scátted.

To mé you give the wíld ox's stréngth; *
you anóint me with the púrest óil.
My éyes looked in tríumph on my fóes; * —

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my éars heard gládly of their fáll.—
The júst will flóurish like the pálm-tree *
and grów like a Lébanon cédar.

Plánted in the hóuse of the Lórd *
they will flóurish in the cóurts of our Gód,
stíll bearing frúit when they are óld, *
stíll full of sáp, stíll gréen,
to procláim that the Lórd is júst. *
In hím, my róck, there is no wróng

Ant. 3 The Lord gave him a glorious throne and overthrew his powerful foes.

☩ You will hear my words from my own mouth.

☩ And proclaim them in my name.

THE FIRST READING

James 2:1-9, 14-24

A reading from the Letter of St James

Faith without works is dead

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest'. Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

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Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him. In spite of this, you have no respect for anybody who is poor. Isn't it always the rich who are against you? Isn't it always their doing when you are dragged before the court? Aren't they the ones who insult the honourable name to which you have been dedicated? Well, the right thing to do is to keep the supreme law of scripture: you must love your neighbour as yourself; but as soon as you make distinctions between classes of people, you are committing sin, and under condemnation for breaking the Law.

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty', without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead.

This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds – now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show. You believe in the one God – that is creditable enough, but the demons have the same belief, and they tremble with fear. Do realise, you senseless man, that faith without good deeds is useless. You surely know that Abraham our father was justified by his deed, because he offered his son Isaac on the altar? There you see it: faith and deeds were working together; his faith became perfect by what he did. This is what

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scripture really means when it says: Abraham put his faith in God, and this was counted as making him justified; and that is why he was called ‘the friend of God’.

You see now that it is by doing something good, and not only by believing, that a man is justified.

RESPONSORY

℞ Pure, unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: * you must come to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping yourself uncontaminated by the world.

℣ Quick to be generous, he gave to the poor; his righteousness remains forever. * You must come to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping yourself uncontaminated by the world.

THE SECOND READING

From the *Life of Saint Andrew* by Bishop Francesco Venturi

The good and faithful servant whom the Lord places over his household

Andrew was chosen to rule the church of Fiesole by the evident call of God. He so dedicated himself to the worship of God, looked after the salvation of souls with such vigilance, faithfully persevered in the task entrusted to him with such holiness of life, that in all justice he can be for the pastors of the Church a perfect exemplar of what a bishop should be.

Though he was already advanced in age and afflicted by various illnesses, he increased rather than abated the rigours by which he was accustomed to control his senses. The holy bishop was moved by such kindness and pity towards the

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needy and afflicted that the very thought of them moved him to tears. It is well known that no poor person left his presence uncomforted. He often sat at the door of his residence and personally distributed bread to the needy. But this holy man's kindness was not restricted to this place; it spread far and wide. He showed himself especially generous with those whom he knew to be in straitened conditions, and yet could not approach him personally because of age, circumstances or social standing. His was a spontaneous open-handedness which foresaw needs; to some he even gave large quantities of grain. His goodness was not reserved for those of his own diocese but over flowed to the citizens of Florence and other places. To all these people he distributed not only alms but also clothing.

The holy bishop expended large sums of money for the construction and restoration of churches. He restored much of the cathedral, which was close to complete ruin, and embellished the facade with cut stone. He had residences built for the canons. He restored and enlarged the bishop's house, where he himself took up residence, so that he might furnish an apt and appropriate dwelling for his successors.

Among his own Carmelite brethren, he showed himself to be a splendid father of his household, providing inspired leadership in the living of religious life. As bishop he provided for the Christian lifestyle of the members of his household. He was constantly vigilant and attentive in safeguarding Church patrimony. At home he was frugal, but generous and even extravagant in what concerned the worship of God and help to the needy.

The holy bishop dedicated much time to settling quar-

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rels among the citizens of Florence. Privately he eliminated hatred by means of friendly conversations; publicly he preached Christian charity and civic harmony. Since he preached well and was held in veneration because of his fame for holiness, many came to hear him, not only from nearby villages but from Florence itself.

This wise leader knew how to temper the rigour of a judge with the gentleness of a pastor. He never tired, year after year, of decreeing that priests reside in their parishes. In the first place, most priests were ignorant of the doctrine of the Church and of their proper duties. Understandably, they were of no benefit to the people; on the contrary, because of their ignorance they were a negative factor, especially in the case of those who by their scandalous lives gave bad example. Consequently, on his canonical visitations of the diocese, the saintly bishop was obliged to examine his clergy as to their knowledge of doctrine. Those whom he found to be little suited for Church offices and for working for the salvation of souls—and their number was great—he removed from their benefices, which he granted to others who were more suited.

We are aware that much of what we have said has frequently been practiced by other pastors of the Church. Some might say that these things are not especially worthy of recall. However, we are of the opinion that whatever the saints have said or done for the increase of divine worship and the good of the people should be proclaimed.

RESPONSORY

℟ The Lord speaks of peace to his people, and to his holy ones; * and peace will be the fruit of justice.

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∩ Lord, give us peace, for all our works are in your hand

* And peace will be the fruit of justice.

TE DEUM

PRAYER as at Morning prayer.

Morning Prayer

HYMN

Let all unite in joyous song
To celebrate Saint Andrew's praise;
His glory, like a flaming star
Lights Carmel with undying rays.

His cell of blessed solitude
For love of souls he sacrificed,
The Spirit having nourished him
That he might feed the flock of Christ.

Devoted to his bishopric
Both priests and flock his precepts heard;
He made them shape their lives anew,
Example speaking more than word.

Still poor in spirit, he could make
The poor man's suffering his own,
Thus in each place where he held sway
The seeds of peace and love were sown.

Now high in heav'n, fulfilment found,
He prays that Mary may obtain
The grace of Christ for
this poor world,
The Holy Spirit's gentle reign.

Then through Saint Andrew's pow'rful prayer—

May we attain to endless bliss,
 And venerate the Trinity
 With adoration like to his.

8.8.8.8, Margarita of Jesus, O.C.D.

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 I will call my servant and give authority to him, and
 he will be exalted on high.

Psalms and canticle of Sunday I.

Ant. 2 The Lord will cherish his almsgiving as his treasure,
 and will look upon his generosity as the apple of his
 eye.

Ant. 3 Truth and justice were his achievements and his
 praise will be sung forever.

SCRIPTURE READING

Is 25:3-4c

A mighty people gives you glory,
 the city of pitiless nations holds you in awe;
 for you are a refuge for the poor,
 a refuge for the needy in distress,
 a shelter from the storm,
 a shade from the heat.

SHORT RESPONSORY

℟ I was hungry * and you gave me to eat. **Repeat ℟**

℣ Whatever you did to one of these brothers and sis-
 ters of mine, you did to me, * and you gave me to eat.

℟ Glory be. **℟**

Benedictus ant. I was an eye for the blind and feet for the
 lame; I was a father to the poor, and the stranger's case had
 a hearing before me.

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INTERCESSIONS

Jesus Christ our Lord listens attentively to the prayers of the needy, and fills the hungry with good things. Let us pray to him then with faith and confidence:

℞ Lord, show us your mercy.

In your loving kindness you have gathered your flock together in your name; — let none be lost whom the Father has given you. ℞

You offer conversion to the sinner and strength to the fallen; — give repentance and salvation to all. ℞

You loved all humankind with an unquenchable love; — may all who follow you be joined in unity of spirit by the bond of peace. ℞

You left your gift of peace for all to share; — help us today to live in peace with all. ℞

In your love you consoled the little ones of the world; — have pity on the tears of the poor. ℞

Our Father

PRAYER

God our Father,
you reveal that those who work for peace
will be called your children.
Through the prayers of St Andrew Corsini,
who excelled as a peacemaker,
help us to work without ceasing
for that justice which brings true and lasting peace.
We ask this through our Lord.

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Prayer during the Day

Antiphons and psalms from the weekday.

Before Noon

SCRIPTURE READING

Rom 12:13, 17-18

If any of the saints are in need, you must share with them, and you should make hospitality your special care. Let everyone see that you are interested only in the highest ideals. Do all you can to live at peace with everyone.

☩ The Lord chose his servant,

☩ To pasture his inheritance.

Midday

SCRIPTURE READING

Is 49:13

Shout for joy, you heavens! Exult, you earth!
You mountains, break into happy cries!
For the Lord consoles his people
and takes pity on those who are afflicted.

☩ Do not forget kindness and generosity;

☩ For these are sacrifices which please God.

Afternoon

SCRIPTURE READING

Num 18:7

You and your sons will undertake the priestly duties in all that concerns the altar and all that lies behind the veil. You will perform the liturgy, the duties of which I entrust to your priesthood.

☩ Here is a great priest, who in his lifetime restored God's house.

☩ In his days he adorned the sanctuary.

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Evening Prayer

HYMN as at Morning Prayer.

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 He did what was good and true before the Lord,
seeking God with all his heart.

Psalm 14 (15)

Lord, who shall be admitted to your tent *
and dwell on your holy mountain?

Hé who wáalks without fáult; *
hé who ácts with jústice
and spéaks the trúth from his héart; *
hé who does not slándér with his tóngue;

hé who does no wróng to his bróther, *
who cásts no slúr on his néighbour,
who hólds the gódlless in disdáin, *
but hónours those who féar the Lórd;

hé who keeps his plédge, come what máy; *
who tákes no ínterest on a lóan
and accépts no bríbes against the ínnocent. *
Such a mán will stand fírm for éver.

Ant. 1 He did what was good and true before the Lord,
seeking God with all his heart.

Ant. 2 He was found perfect in all things, and in the time
of wrath he became reconciliation.

Psalm 111 (112)

Happy the mán who féars the Lórd, *
who tákes delíght in all his commánds. —

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His sóns will be pówerful on éarth; *
the children of the úpright are bléssed.

Ríches and wéalth are in his hóuse; *
his jústice stands fírm for éver.
He is a líght in the dárkness for the úpright: *
he is génerous, mérciful and júst.

The góod man takes píty and lénds, *
he condúcts his affáirs with hónour.
The júst man will néver wáver: *
hé will be remémbered for éver.

He has no féar of évil néws; *
with a fírm heart he trústs in the Lórd.
With a stéadfast héart he will not féar; *
he will sée the dównfall of his fóes.

Open-hánded, he gíves to the póor; †
his jústice stands fírm for éver. *
His héad will be ráised in glóry.

The wícked man sées and is ángry, †
grinds his téeth and fádes awáy; *
the desíre of the wícked leads to dóom.

Ant. 2 He was found perfect in all things, and in the time
of wrath he became reconciliation.

Ant. 3 I will lead my sheep to pasture and I will show them
where to rest.

Canticle: Rev 15:3-4

Great and wonderful are your deeds, *
O Lord God the Almighty!

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Just and true are your ways, *
O King of the ages!

Who shall not fear and glorify your name, O Lord? *
For you alone are holy.

All nations shall come and worship you, *
for your judgements have been revealed.

Ant. 3 I will lead my sheep to pasture and I will show them
where to rest.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Pt 5:1-4

Now I have something to tell your elders: I am an elder myself, and a witness to the sufferings of Christ, and with you I have a share in the glory that is to be revealed. Be the shepherds of the flock of God entrusted to you: watch over it, not simply as a duty, but gladly, because God wants it; not for sordid money, but because you are eager to do it. Never be a dictator over any group that is put in your charge, but be an example the whole flock can follow. When the chief shepherd appears, you will be given the crown of unfading glory.

SHORT RESPONSORY

℞ Here is a man who loves his brethren * and intercedes for his people. Repeat ℞

℣ He laid down his life for his friends * and intercedes for his people. ℞ Glory be. ℞

Magnificat ant. Here was a great priest, who in his lifetime restored God's house and in his days adorned the sanctuary.

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INTERCESSIONS

Christ our brother wished to be like us in all things, so that he might be our compassionate and faithful high priest before God. Let us praise him and say:

℞ Lord, pour out upon us the treasures of your love.

Strengthen the priests and ministers of your Church; — so that in preaching to others they too may grow more faithful in your service. ℞

Make them the salt of the earth and the light of the world; — that by their efforts the Church may be renewed in spirit. ℞

Teach us to recognise your Spirit today in those who are around us; — and to find you especially in the sorrowful and the poor. ℞

We pray for the suffering members of your Church; — free the oppressed, give sight to the blind, care for widows and orphans. ℞

Be merciful to our brothers and sisters who have died; — may they be with those who sleep in Christ. ℞

Our Father

PRAYER

God our Father,
you reveal that those who work for peace
will be called your children.
Through the prayers of St Andrew Corsini,
who excelled as a peacemaker,
help us to work without ceasing
for that justice which brings true and lasting peace.
We ask this through our Lord.