

Friday 4 October

Bar 1:15-22, Ps 79:1-5,8,9, Lk 10:13-16

Memorial of St Francis of Assisi

From Baptised and Sent

The journey of conversion, which should be characterised by the recognition of personal and structural sin, is certainly always a gift from the Lord, but risks being dissipated in a hasty self-assertion, or in a merely formal and fundamentalist recovery of gestures, rites, formulas, and phrases that will never have the strength of an evangelising mission. (p. 95)

From Pope Francis

We know that in our heart there are many inclinations towards sin, towards greed, jealousy, hate and gossip. What of the notion of gossip? We despair when we hear news of wars, but to gossip is a form of war; it is a war of the heart to destroy the other. When “the Lord tells us: ‘no, do not gossip, keep quiet, we do not listen and simply do as we please.’ⁱ

From the Good Samaritan Benedictine Story



The St Francis Fresco at Subiaco Monastery is considered to be the most accurate depiction of St Francis. Thought to have been painted during a visit to Subiaco in 13th century, the image has no halo, indicating it was painted before Francis' death, and no stigmata, indicating it was before he received these holy wounds later in life.

Today, St Francis of Assisi is the patron saint for ecologists — a title honouring his boundless love for animals and nature. In 2013, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergogli chose to honor Saint Francis by taking his name, becoming Pope Francis.

St Francis Fresco at Subiaco Monasteryⁱⁱ

ⁱ Morning meditation in the Chapel of the *Domus Sanctae Marthae*, “The grace of penitence,” Friday, October 6, 2017

ⁱⁱ <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/originals/09/30/22/0930226d34c7d1f75bfc69886a8ba992.jpg>