

8 January

SAINT PETER THOMAS

Bishop

Feast

Peter Thomas was born into a poor peasant family in the southern Périgord region in France. His piety and skill as a teacher attracted the attention of the Carmelite prior of Bergérac, who invited him to join the Carmelite community there at age twenty-one. He taught in various houses of study until he was sent to University in Paris for advanced scholarship. While his studies were still in progress he was elected by the Order as its procurator general to the Papal Court at Avignon in 1345.

Peter Thomas proved to be a brilliant diplomat, all the while committed to an austere, simple and prayerful life of a Carmelite friar. He was known to have a disarming humility that enabled him to converse with peasants, soldiers and sailors just as easily as high government officials. After being made Bishop of Patti and Lipari in 1354, he was entrusted with many papal missions to promote peace and unity with the Eastern Churches. He held positions of Papal Legate for the East, Archbishop of Crete and Latin Patriarch of Constantinople, all the while working for peace and unity between churches of East and West. His work ended in 1366 when he died of a fever at Famagosta on Cyprus, where his body was then buried in the Carmelite church there.

St Peter Thomas lived as a devout Carmelite and was a diplomatic healer and reconciler, reminding us that finding common ground and bringing reconciliation are always possible with God's help.

Invitatory

Christ is the apostle and high priest of our faith; come, let us adore him.

Office of Readings

HYMN

Peter, from your height of glory,
Look on all our brethren dear.
Listen in your kind compassion
As we sound your praises here.

St Peter Thomas

Faithful to the rule of Carmel
You made progress day by day;
Called from thence to higher office
Love still lighted all your way.

Mary, Virgin ever-blessed,
Guided you with mother's care;
You repaid her sweet affection
With your constant loving prayer.

Deeply you have pondered scripture,
Ever following truth's call,
Thence have drawn with zeal unwearied
Food of doctrine for us all.

Since we have your good example
Shining as a lamp to guide,
Pray for us that we may follow,
Putting selfish aims aside.

May we praise you, heavenly Father,
Praise your Son and Spirit blest,
When together with Saint Peter
At your throne we come to rest.

87.87. *Magarita of Jesus, OCD*

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 Your leaders are watchful, for they must render an account of the way they look after your souls.

Psalm 20 (21):2-8, 14

O Lórd, your stréngth gives jóy to the kíng; *
hów your sáving hélp makes him glád!
You have gránted hím his héart's desíre; * —

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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 Your leaders are watchful, for they must render an account of the way they look after your souls.

Ant. 2 To sing your name, Lord, is my joy, the delight of my heart.

Psalm 91 (92)

I

It is góod to give thánks 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; * —

St Peter Thomas

for the wórk of your hánds I shout with jóy.
O Lórd, how gréat are your wórk! *
How déep are yóur desígn! *
The fóolish man cánnót knów this *
and the fóol cánnót understánd.

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

Ant. 2 To sing your name, Lord, is my joy, the delight of my heart.

Ant. 3 Good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord.

II

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

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

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Ant. 3 Good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord.

✠ The Lord loved him and honoured him.

✠ He clothed him in a robe of glory.

THE FIRST READING

1 Tim 1:1-7, 15-19; 2:1-8

A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to Timothy

The calling of a pastor

From Paul, apostle of Christ Jesus appointed by the command of God our saviour and of Christ Jesus our hope, to Timothy, true child of mine in the faith; wishing you grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Christ Jesus our Lord.

As I asked you when I was leaving for Macedonia, please stay at Ephesus, to insist that certain people stop teaching strange doctrines and taking notice of myths and endless genealogies; these things are only likely to raise irrelevant doubts instead of furthering the designs of God which are revealed in faith. The only purpose of this instruction is that there should be love, coming out of a pure heart, a clear conscience and a sincere faith. There are some people who have gone off the straight course and taken a road that leads to empty speculation; they claim to be doctors of the Law but they understand neither the arguments they are using nor the opinions they are upholding.

Here is a saying that you can rely on and nobody should doubt: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I myself am the greatest of them; and if mercy has been

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shown to me, it is because Jesus Christ meant to make me the greatest evidence of his inexhaustible patience for all the other people who would later have to trust in him to come to eternal life. To the eternal King, the undying, invisible and only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Timothy, my son, these are the instructions that I am giving you: I ask you to remember the words once spoken over you by the prophets, and taking them to heart to fight like a good soldier with faith and a good conscience for your weapons. Some people have put conscience aside and wrecked their faith in consequence.

My advice is that, first of all, there should be prayers offered for everyone—petitions, intercessions and thanksgiving—and especially for kings and others in authority, so that we may be able to live religious and reverent lives in peace and quiet. To do this is right, and will please God our saviour: he wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth. For there is only one God, and there is only one mediator between God and mankind, himself a man, Christ Jesus, who sacrificed himself as a ransom for them all. He is the evidence of this, sent at the appointed time, and I have been named a herald and apostle of it and—I am telling the truth and no lie—a teacher of the faith and the truth to the pagans.

In every place, then, I want the men to lift their hands up reverently in prayer, with no anger or argument.

RESPONSORY

R Bear with one another in love; do all that you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together; there is one body and one Spirit, * just as you

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were all called into one and the same hope when you were called.

✠ A servant of the Lord is to aim for holiness and faith, love and peace, in union with all those who call on the Lord with pure minds; * just as you were called into one and the same hope when you were called.

THE SECOND READING

A reading from the Life of St Peter Thomas by his secretary,
Philip of Mézières Ch. 6

The patriarch's last day on earth

As the feast of Christmas drew near, my father presided in person at the divine services. In the middle of the night which ushered in the feast he made his way from the Carmelite monastery where he was staying to the cathedral of Famagosta for the solemn celebration of Matins. He celebrated with full solemnity the three Masses of Christmas, but was affected by the cold and caught an infection in the throat, for he was weakened by fasting and vigils and wore only light clothing, following the example of the holy fathers of the desert.

During the following days he offered Mass daily but was evidently trying to conceal his illness. On the Tuesday the fever became critical. He made a general and particular confession, and spoke affectionately with his household. Then turning to the cross he adored and kissed it, and with joined hands fervently asked forgiveness of all his confreres, a gesture which moved them to tears. "My brothers and friends," he said, "what toils and dangers you have met with in my service - hunger and thirst, cold and unexpected trials. I

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have never given you the recognition or the recompense you deserve, and yet you were kind enough to bear with me and my shortcomings. How often for me you faced real risk of your lives! How can I repay you? Forgive me; I beg you to forgive me.”

Then he asked that the sacred Body of the Lord be brought to him, and he received communion with reverence and unfeigned faith. At the end of that day, at the sixth hour of the night, he asked that the bishop of Laodicea, who was vicar of the diocese of Famagosta, should come in his pontifical vestments accompanied by the clergy of the cathedral to anoint him with the oil of the sick. Meanwhile he summoned his own household and put on the symbols of his episcopal office. Despite his weakness he sought out the office of anointing with his own hand and, having found the right place, followed attentively the preliminary prayers. After this he lay down on some sackcloth spread on the ground and waited calmly for the arrival of the bishop.

When they heard the bishop coming with all his clergy he began to recite the penitential psalms in a loud clear voice suggestive of a man in full health: “Lord, rebuke me not in your anger.” With those around him making the responses he continued till about half way through the seven psalms. At last, however, his strength gave out, though his mind remained clear, and he signalled to his vicar-bishop to join in and support him, and thus the whole seven psalms were completed. As the vicar anointed him with the holy oil he managed to make all the responses of the ritual, striving to keep from the eyes of others the threadbare tunic and scapular he always wore.

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When the anointing was finished, my father devoutly recited the Confiteor and received absolution from the bishop. He humbly asked forgiveness of him, his household and all the assisting clergy if he had in any way offended them in the exercise of his office; and at the same time he requested them to ask on his behalf the same pardon of all the inhabitants of Cyprus and elsewhere. Finally, he gave up his soul to the God who made him. It was the sixth day of January in the year of our salvation thirteen hundred and sixty-six.

RESPONSORY

℞. I have no need of earthly doctors, because with me is my spiritual doctor, Jesus Christ, who has already healed me. * Him I desire and with him I am well.

℣. He is my ruler who upholds me; in him is my confidence. I want nothing else but him. * Him I desire and with him I am well.

TE DEUM

Morning Prayer

HYMN

Peace-maker prudent, hear our humble voices
Singing your praises, bringing our petition;
Plead with the Father that with you for patron,
Peace be our portion.

Leader impassioned, all on fire with fervour,
Making long journeys to the eastern places,
Herald peace-laden, bearing love to soften
Hearts filled with hatred.

St Peter Thomas

Dauntless and watchful, ready for all dangers,
Where the Pope called you, there he found you
waiting:

Your sole ambition that the Church grow closer
To Christ her bridegroom.

Driven by ardour for the gospel precepts,
Kings you awakened, battle-lines united;
These were your weapons: sign of Cross redeeming
And Name of Jesus.

Singing the glory of the Three eternal,
Peter, we pray you, guide us on our journey.
Hopeful, unwearied, may we reach the haven;
Heaven, our homeland!

11.11.11.5 *Pacis o prudens operator*

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 My soul clings to you, your right hand holds me
fast.

Psalms and canticle of Sunday I.

Ant. 2 Give praise to God, all you his servants.

Ant. 3 The Lord will honour the gentle and deliver them.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mal 2:6-7

True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity. For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and men should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the Lord of Hosts.

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SHORT RESPONSORY

℞ I will give you shepherds * after my own heart. Repeat ℞

℣ They will feed you on wisdom and true doctrine, * after my own heart. ℞ Glory be. ℞

Benedictus ant. Let us serve the Lord in holiness and justice all our days.

INTERCESSIONS

Jesus Christ, who is our peace and reconciliation, strengthened and comforted his Church through the work and preaching of St Peter Thomas. Let us pray to him:

℞ Holy God, holy and strong, you are our Saviour.

Christ Jesus, in you many people form one body and all are members of one another; — help us to live in peace with all people. ℞

King of peace, you turn swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks; — turn our envy to love and our hurt to forgiveness. ℞

Lord Jesus, you are the perfect praise of the Father's glory; — teach us to be happy in praising you every day of our lives. ℞

Only Son of the Father, from the cross you gave your Mother to us as our own; — under the patronage of so great a Mother, may we ponder in our hearts your marvellous deeds, and may our lives speak of you. ℞

Our Father

St Peter Thomas

PRAYER

Lord,
you inspired in your bishop St Peter Thomas
an intense desire to promote peace and Christian unity.
Following his example
may we live steadfast in the faith
and work perseveringly for peace.
We ask this through our Lord.

Prayer during the Day

Antiphons and psalms of the weekday.

Before Noon

SCRIPTURE READING

Cf. 2 Cor 5:19-20

God has entrusted to us the news that men are reconciled.
So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were
appealing through us, and the appeal we make in Christ's
name is: be reconciled with God.

☩ Show us, Lord, your saving power.

℟ Come, O Lord, and set us free.

Midday

SCRIPTURE READING

Cf. Tit 1:7-9

A bishop, as God's steward, must be blameless: hospita-
ble, a lover of goodness, master of himself, upright, holy
and self-controlled; he must hold firm to the sure word as
taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound
doctrine and also to confute those who contradict it.

☩ Be on your guard for all the flock.

℟ Of which the Holy Spirit made you bishop, to rule the
Church of God.

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Afternoon

SCRIPTURE READING

Sir 39:6b-7, 9

He pleads in the presence of the Most High,
he opens his mouth in prayer
and makes entreaty for his sins.

He will show forth words of wisdom,
and in prayer give thanks to the Lord.

✠ God glorified him in the sight of kings.

✠ And gave him commandments for the people.

Evening Prayer

HYMN as at Office of readings.

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 Relying on the power of God, I bear hardships for
the sake of the Gospel, for I have been appointed its
herald and teacher.

Psalm 14 (15)

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

Hé who walks without fault; *
hé who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart; *
hé who does not slander with his tongue;

hé who does no wrong to his brother, *
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain, *
but honours those who fear the Lord;

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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 Relying on the power of God, I bear hardships for
the sake of the Gospel, for I have been appointed its
herald and teacher.

Ant. 2 He was a faithful and wise servant whom the
Master placed over his household.

Psalm 111 (112)

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

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

Ant. 2 He was a faithful and wise servant whom the Master placed over his household.

Ant. 3 How marvellous the glory of God! His mercy endures for ever.

Canticle: Rev 15:3-4

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

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 How marvellous the glory of God! His mercy endures for ever.

SCRIPTURE READING

Is 52:7, 10

How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of one who brings good news,
who herals peace, brings happiness,
proclaims salvation,
and tells Zion, “Your God is kign!”
The Lord bares his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

St Peter Thomas

SHORT RESPONSORY

℞ Behold a great priest, who in his days pleased God * and was found righteous. Repeat ℞

℣ In the time of wrath he became reconciliation, * and was found righteous. ℞ Glory be. ℞

Magnificat ant. Today he returned home, a glorious son of the Church and a tiller in the field of faith; today he entered God's mystery, this preacher of the Cross and of the truth; today this soldier of the faith, strong in word and deed, is filled with the eternal mercy.

INTERCESSIONS

Jesus Christ, our high priest, has entered into heaven and today has rewarded Peter Thomas with the crown of life for all his labours. Let us praise him and say:

℞ Lord Jesus, make us whole.

Through your pastors you strengthen and comfort the Church, — grant that Christians everywhere may work generously for the building up of your people. ℞

You have given us preachers whose words are full of genuine love; — inspire the priests and ministers of your people with enthusiasm and perseverance. ℞

Lord, you are the healer of souls, renewing body and spirit; — strengthen the weak, restore the hurt and wounded, heal the sick. ℞

You commend your Mother to our love; — strengthened by the example of Peter Thomas, may we be refreshed by her maternal care. ℞

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Through the pastors of your Church you wish to lead your people to eternal life, so that not one is lost; — grant eternal salvation to those who have died, for whom you laid down your life. **R** Lord Jesus, make us whole.

Our Father

PRAYER

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you inspired in your bishop St Peter Thomas
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