



An invitation to take time and join in spirit with many others in
Personal Prayer
April is the month we celebrate in prayer the grace of our Baptism
and the particular calling of those who are single.



Slipper Chapel at the Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham.

From the Rule of St Benedict

Let us prefer nothing to the love of Christ,
and may he bring us all together to
everlasting life. Chapter 72

St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)

An organisation run by groups of lay people who aim to tackle poverty and loneliness in all its forms through the provision of practical assistance. There is likely to be a group for you to join in your parish or town.

A HAPPY AND BLESSED EASTER

The saint to accompany us in April is

St Frances of Rome 1384-1436

St Frances was married for forty years but her husband was away for much of the time in intercity wars and she became a single parent. She took responsibility for running the family estates. Additional tragedy came when two sons died of the plague. She opened her own house to the poor and sick and led other wealthy ladies of Rome in prayer and nursing the needy.

Two other inspiring single people who embraced the grace of their baptism were Charlotte Pearson Boyd 1837-1906 of Norfolk and the American Dorothy Day who founded the Catholic Workers Movement.

Shortly after Charlotte Pearson Boyed became a Catholic she purchased the semi-ruined medieval Slipper Chapel at Walsingham which was being used as a barn and presented it to the Church where it became the centre of the National Shrine of Our Lady. Walsingham was then in Northampton Diocese which extended to include East Anglia.

All three were Oblates of St Benedict.

Diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham 9th June

This month it is suggested we set aside time to pray at the beginning and end of the day. In the morning, my prayer might be for the gift of grace, so all I do in the course of a busy day will be for the service and glory of God. In the evening, I might review each section of the day to reflect on times God was noticeably present. This may not be only when things went smoothly but also in difficult times. I might also thank God for giving me this day and if there were times when grace was shunned now would be the time to acknowledge it and ask for God's mercy and forgiveness. Lastly, I might ask God for grace and help to meet whatever comes tomorrow. Maybe God will ask me to commit to more active service?

