



# INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

## ST. ANTHONY MARY CLARET

**Bishop & Confessor – 1807-1870**



St. Anthony Mary Claret was born at Sallent, near Barcelona, 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec., 1807 and died at Fontfroide, Narbonne, France, on 24<sup>th</sup> Oct., 1870. Son of a small woolen manufacturer, he received an elementary education in his native village, and at the age of twelve became a weaver. A little later he went to Barcelona to specialize in his trade, and remained there till he was twenty. Meanwhile he devoted his spare time to study and became proficient in Latin, French, and engraving; in addition he enlisted in the army as a volunteer. Recognizing a call to a higher life, he left Barcelona, entered the seminary at Vich in 1829, and was ordained on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 1835. He received a benefice in his native parish, where he continued to study theology till 1839. He now wished to become a Carthusian; missionary work, however, appealing strongly to him he proceeded to Rome. There he entered the Jesuit novitiate but finding himself unsuited for that manner of life, he returned shortly to Spain and exercised his ministry at Valadrau and Gerona, attracting notice by his efforts on behalf of the poor. Recalled by his superiors to Vich, he was engaged in missionary work throughout Catalonia. In 1848 he was sent to the Canary Islands where he gave retreats for fifteen months. Returning to Vich he established the Congregation of the Missionary Sons of

the Immaculate Heart of Mary (16<sup>th</sup> July, 1849), and founded the great religious library at Barcelona which bears his name, and which has issued several million cheap copies of the best ancient and modern Catholic works.

Such had been the fruit of his zealous labors and so great the wonders he had worked, that Pius IX at the request of the Spanish sovereign appointed him Archbishop of Santiago de Cuba in 1851. He was consecrated at Vich and embarked at Barcelona on 28<sup>th</sup> Dec. Having arrived at his destination he began at once a work of thorough reform. The seminary was reorganized, clerical discipline strengthened, and over nine thousand marriages validated within the first two years. He erected a hospital and numerous schools. Three times he made a visitation of the entire diocese, giving local missions incessantly. Naturally his zeal stirred up the enmity and calumnies of the irreligious, as had happened previously in Spain. No less than fifteen attempts were made on his life, and at Holguin his cheek was laid open from ear to chin by a would-be assassin's knife. In February, 1857, he was recalled to Spain by Isabella II, who made him her confessor. He obtained permission to resign his see and was appointed to the titular see of Trajanopolis.

His influence was now directed solely to help the poor and to propagate learning; he lived frugally and took up his residence in an Italian hospice. For nine years he was rector of the Escorial monastery where he established an excellent scientific laboratory, a museum of natural history, a library, college, and schools of music and languages. His further plans were frustrated by the revolution of 1868. He continued his popular missions and distribution of good books wherever he went in accompanying the Spanish Court. When Isabella recognized the new Government of United Italy he left the Court and hastened to take his place by the side of the pope; at the latter's command, however, he returned to Madrid with faculties for absolving the queen from the censures she had incurred. In 1869 he went to Rome to prepare for the Vatican Council. Owing to failing health he withdrew to Prades in France, where he was still harassed by his calumnious Spanish enemies; shortly afterwards he retired to the Cistercian abbey at Fontfroide where he expired.

His zealous life and the wonders he wrought both before and after his death testified to his sanctity. He was declared Venerable by Leo XIII in 1899. His relics were transferred to the mission house at Vich in 1897, at which time his heart was found incorrupt, and his grave is constantly visited by many pilgrims. In addition to the Congregation of the Missionary Sons of the Heart of Mary (approved definitively by Pius IX, 11 Feb., 1870) which has now over 110 houses and 2000 members, with missions in W. Africa, and in Chocó (Columbia), Archbishop Claret founded or drew up the rules of several communities of nuns.

St. Anthony is the patron of textile merchants, weavers, Savings (taught the poor the importance of savings), Catholic Press, Claretians, Dioceses of the Canary Islands, Claretian students, Claretian educators and Claretian educational institutions.

*Excerpts from Catholic Encyclopedia*

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

**Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup> 2021**  
**Feast of Christ the King**

On the feast of Christ the King, titular feast of our Institute, a group of children in our community will receive the Eucharistic Lord for the first time. We all join the families of these young faithful in their joy and gratefulness. **Please pray for our children, especially in preparation of this important day in their lives.**

If you wish your child to participate in this year's First Holy Communion, please contact Canon Wiener. (Contact details are at the bottom of this page.)

First Communicants will meet with Canon Wiener in the presence of their mothers and/or fathers to answer fundamental but simple questions regarding the Church's teaching about the Eucharist. Please make an appointment with Canon for the week of October 25<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>.

First Confessions are possible daily (30 minutes before each Mass) or upon appointment.



### SHREWSBURY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	TIME	MASS OF THE DAY	INTENTIONS
Sun	17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	12:30 pm	Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost	PI
Mon	18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	10:00 am	St. Luke, Evangelist & Martyr	Sister Josephine
Tue	19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	6:30 pm	St. Peter of Alcantara, Confessor	Karl Evans
Wed	20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	10:00 am	St. John Cantius, Confessor	Ken & Dorothy Dolman
Thu	21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	6:30 pm	Commemoration of St. Hilarion, Abbot	Teresa & Gavin Jordan
Fri	22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	10:00 am	Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart	Dr. Catherine Mangham
Sat	23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	10:00 am	St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop & Confessor	Daniella Solis
Sun	24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	12:30 pm	Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost	St. Raphael Archangel

**All Masses (also Adoration and Benediction on Tuesday and Thursday) are at St. Winefride's Church, 187 Crowmere Rd, Shrewsbury SY2 5LA.**

**Note: Adoration and Benediction on Tuesdays and Thursdays start at 5.30pm before the 6.30pm Mass.**