

**24 January**

**Francis de Sales  
Bishop of Geneva,  
Teacher of the Faith  
1622**

Holy God, who called your Bishop Francis de Sales to bring many to Christ through his devout life and to renew your Church with patience and understanding: grant that we may, by word and example, reflect your gentleness and love to all we meet; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

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**24 January**

**Francis de Sales  
Bishop of Geneva,  
Teacher of the Faith**

Francis de Sales was born in 1567 in the castle at Sales in Savoy. He was educated in Paris and Padua, first as a legal advocate and then as a priest. His preaching against Calvinism began in 1593 to win back the Chablais to Roman Catholicism, and in 1599 he was appointed Bishop-Coadjutor of Geneva. He moved to Annecy, from where he administered his diocese when he became the diocesan Bishop in 1602. In his preaching and writings, particularly his book *Introduction to the Devout Life*, Francis concentrated on putting prayer and meditation within the reach of all Christians. He died at Lyons on 28 December 1622 and his body was translated to Annecy on this day in 1623.

*Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'*

**25 January**

## **The Conversion of Paul**

Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul: grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your truth: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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**25 January**

## **The Conversion of Paul**

The conversion of the anti-Christian zealot (in Hebrew known as *Saul*) to the apostle of Christ (called *Paul* in Greek), is clearly related in the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, but it has to be remembered that this was a beginning: it took some time for him to begin to understand that his call to preach – to Jew and to Gentile – the saving power of Jesus, the Son of God, was something that was a whole life's journey for him. Paul says in his Letter to the Church in Galatia, 'God set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace ... Three years after [the Damascus Road conversion], I went up to Jerusalem.' The preparation for this moment of his conversion was his whole life. This feast has been celebrated in the Church since the sixth century but became universal in the twelfth century.

*Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'*

**26 January**

**Timothy and Titus,  
Companions of Paul**

Heavenly Father, who sent your apostle Paul to preach the gospel, and gave him Timothy and Titus to be his companions in faith: grant that our fellowship in the Holy Spirit may bear witness to the name of Jesus, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

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**26 January**

**Timothy and Titus  
Companions of Paul**

On the day following the Conversion of St Paul, the Church remembers his two companions, 'partners and fellow-workers in God's service'. Timothy, we are told, had a Jewish mother and a Greek father, whilst Titus was wholly Greek. It was because of Titus that Paul stood out against compulsory circumcision but, to avoid suspicion from other Jews, Timothy was circumcised. They are honoured in the Church for their devotion and faithfulness to the gospel.

*Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'*