**27 September**

**Vincent de Paul**

**Founder of the Congregation of the Mission (Lazarists) 1660**

Merciful God, whose servant Vincent de Paul,

by his ministry of preaching and pastoral care,

brought your love to the sick and the poor:

give to all your people a heart of compassion

that by word and action they may serve you in

serving others in their need; through Jesus Christ

our Lord.

Amen.

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Church of England

**27 September**

**Founder of the Congregation of the Mission (Lazarists)**

Born in 1581 at Ranquine in Gascony, Vincent was educated by the Franciscans and was ordained at the age of nineteen. He was something of a token priest until his conversion in 1609, when he resolved to devote himself and all he owned to works of charity. He founded communities for men and with Louise de Marillac, helped to begin the Sisters of Charity, the first community of women not to be enclosed and which was devoted to caring for the poor and sick. Vincent worked for the relief of galley slaves, victims of war, convicts and many other groups of needy people. He became a legend in his own lifetime and died on this day in the year 1660.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**29 September**

**Michael and All Angels**

The Lord commanded his angels to keep you

in all your ways.

There was silence in heaven while the dragon

waged war; and Michael and his angels fought

against him, and won the victory.

Then I saw an angel, soaring in the heavens,

with an eternal gospel to proclaim to all who

live on the earth.

Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted

the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order: grant that as your holy angels always serve

you in heaven, so, at your command, they may help

and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord 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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**29 September**

**Michael and All Angels**

Michael, Gabriel, Raphael and Uriel are the four named biblical angels, depicted as the beloved messengers of God. Michael, which means ‘who is like God?’ is described as protector of Israel and leader of the armies of God and is perhaps best known for his victory over the dragon, which is told in the Revelation of John. He is thus regarded as the protector of Christians from the devil, particularly those at the hour of death. Gabriel, means, ‘the strength of God’, is the one who, in the Gospel according to Luke, is sent by God to Mary to announce the birth of Christ. Raphael, which means, ‘the healing of God’, is depicted in the Book of Tobit as the one who restores sight to Tobit’s eyes. Uriel (‘the light of God’) appears in a vision to Ezra in 2 Esdras.

A basilica near Rome was dedicated in the 5th century in honour of Michael on 30 September, beginning with celebrations on the eve of that day and 29 September is now kept in honour of Michael throughout the western Church.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*