

## The FRIENDS of the HOLY FATHER

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### New Apostolic Nuncio for Great Britain.



Pope Francis has named **Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti** as Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, in place of Archbishop Edward Adams, who retired in January 2020.

**Claudio Gugerotti** was born in Verona, Italy, in 1955 and ordained a priest of the Diocese of Verona in 1982. He studied Eastern Languages and Sacred Liturgy and was a professor of Patristics and Eastern Liturgy at the Institute of Ecumenical Studies in Verona from 1981 to 1985. He served previously as the Pope's representative to Georgia and Armenia, as well as Azerbaijan (2001-2011), and later as Nuncio to Belarus (2011-2015). Abp Gugerotti has been the Apostolic Nuncio to Ukraine since November 2015.

### SOME ANNIVERSARIES

#### 1600<sup>th</sup> - Saint Jerome died September 30<sup>th</sup> 420.



St. Jerome was buried in Bethlehem but was later translated to the Basilica of St Mary Major in Rome. He was brought up a Christian and received a good education, learning to write a pure and vigorous Latin. In 374 Jerome joined a group of friends and went to live as a hermit in the desert of Calcis. He suffered from ill health and temptations. In order to control his imagination he learned Hebrew and began his life's work as a scholar devoted to the interpretation of the scriptures. In 378 he went to Constantinople to study the scriptures under the great Greek theologian, St Gregory Nazianzen. Four years later he went to Rome and became secretary to Pope Damasus. He translated the Bible from Greek to the Latin Vulgate version, since adopted by the Catholic Church as the official text.

In a legend, St Jerome was reported to be giving a lecture to his students when an injured lion appeared. St Jerome welcomed the lion but his students fled. He examined the lion's injured paw and extracted the thorn he found there. This cured the paw and the lion remained with St Jerome until his death. In a decree in 1298, Pope Boniface VIII proclaimed the Four Doctors of the Western Church as: St Gregory the Great, St Ambrose, St Augustine and St Jerome.

#### 850<sup>th</sup> - St Thomas Becket was murdered on December 29<sup>th</sup> 1170

Thomas Becket (1118-70) became one of the most popular saints in Europe following his martyrdom in Canterbury Cathedral. Thomas was the son of a prosperous merchant in London and was educated at the Augustinian priory at Merton, Surrey, then at London and Paris. He had a penchant for magnificent display. When Henry II succeeded to the throne in 1154, Thomas became his best friend and was