

St. Martin de Porres was born in Lima in Peru in 1579. He lived with his mother in a very poor house and did not have new toys or clothes but he was happy and generous. It made him sad to see beggars in the street who were even poorer than him, so he gave them what little money he did have. When Martin was older he learned that Jesus loved sick and poor people and he wanted to do the same. He trained as a 'barber-surgeon' - what we would now call a doctor. He wanted to give all his time to being a friend of Jesus so he became a brother in the Dominican Friary and worked in the friary hospital, caring for the sick.

St Martin de Porres

Feast: November 3rd



Reflection: “Everything, even sweeping, scraping vegetables, weeding a garden and waiting on the sick could be a prayer, if it were offered to God.” What can I do today as a prayer to God?

Martin was gentle and kind and everyone loved him. People often asked for his advice, and as he walked through the city visiting the sick, he would pray the prayers of the rosary which hung from his belt. Martin was very worried about the children in his city who had no parents and were sleeping on the streets. Martin asked the friar in charge if he could help them. He was delighted and thanked God when he was given a house where the children could live and be looked after. Martin was well known and loved by lots of people who donated money to help the children. It was easy to see how much Martin loved God and wanted to follow him.