Building	Saint and bio.
Science	Blessed Nicolas Steno (Niels Stenson) (1638-1686) was a convert to
'S' block	Catholicism, a bishop, a pioneer in anatomy and geology, and the father of palaeontology because he discovered what fossils were. His laws of stratigraphy are still in use. And he managed all this before dying at the age of 48!
	Saint Servulus of Rome Saint Servulus was a perfect model of submission to the divine Will; it would be difficult to offer a more consoling example to persons afflicted by poverty, illnesses and the other miseries of life. He was deprived of all the goods of this world: a long illness had reduced him to a pitiful state. From his youth he was

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#### **Saint Simon:**

In St. Matthew's Gospel, we read of St. Simon or Simeon who is described as one of our Lord's brethren or kinsmen. His father was Cleophas, St. Joseph's brother, and his mother, according to some writers, was our Lady's sister. He would therefore be our Lord's first cousin and is supposed to have been about eight years older than He. No doubt he is one of those brothers of Christ who are mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles as having received the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. St. Epiphanius says that when the Jews massacred St. James the Lesser, his brother Simeon upbraided them for their cruelty. The apostles and disciples afterwards met together to appoint a successor to James as bishop of Jerusalem, and they unanimously chose Simeon, who had probably assisted his brother in the government of that church. In the year 66, civil war broke out in Palestine, as a consequence of Jewish opposition to the Romans. The Christians in Jerusalem were warned of the impending destruction of the city and appear to have been divinely ordered to leave it.

#### St. Simon de Rojas

The very first words that Simon de Rojas uttered as a child were "Ave Maria." Years later, as a priest of the Trinitarian Order, Simon, a native of Valladolid, Spain, would come to be known as "Father Ave Maria" for his extraordinary devotion to the Blessed Mother. He was an early advocate of total consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary and of the feast of the Holy Name of Mary. Zealous in fulfilling his duties of preaching and hearing confessions, he sustained himself by spending much time in prayer during the day and late at night. He also served as confessor to the Spanish queen, Margaret of Austria. When in 1611 she fell gravely ill following childbirth, becoming comatose, her

husband King Philip III feared that she would be unable to receive the sacraments before dying. Father Rojas then came to her bedside. After he had greeted her with the words, "Ave Maria, Senora" ("Hail Mary, my lady"), she instantly became conscious and answered him, "Gratia plena, Padre Rojas" ("Full of grace, Father Rojas"). Father Rojas was thereupon able to administer to her the anointing of the sick and Viaticum before she died.

# Performing Arts. 'P.A' Block

## St. Peter. (DIED AROUND A.D. 64)

The brother of Andrew and the son of Jona, St. Peter was originally called Simon. He was a fisherman by trade. Biblical scholars believe that Peter was married because the Gospel speaks of the cure of his mother-in-law (Matthew 8:14; Luke 4:38). But whether he was a widower at the time he met Jesus, no one knows for sure. Scholars believe it's likely that his wife was no longer alive because after the Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension of Christ, Peter became head of the Church (the first pope) and had a busy schedule and itinerary. He also never mentioned his wife in his epistle.

According to the Bible, Andrew introduced Peter to Jesus and told his brother, "We have found the Messiah!" (John 1:41). When Peter hesitated to follow Jesus full time, Jesus came after him and said, "I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19).

#### St. Paul of Tarsus (10-67 A.D.)

Saul of Tarsus was a zealous Jew who also had Roman citizenship because of the place of his birth. A member of the Pharisees, Saul considered Christians to be an extreme danger to Judaism. He saw them as more than heretics; they were blasphemers for considering Jesus to be the Son of God.

He was commissioned by the Sanhedrin (the religious authority in Jerusalem) to hunt down, expose, and when necessary eliminate Christians to preserve the Hebrew religion. Things changed dramatically, however, and the world has never been the same since.

One day on the road to Damascus, he was thrown down to the ground, and a voice called out, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" (Acts 9:4). The voice belonged to Jesus of Nazareth, who had already died, risen, and ascended to heaven. Saul realized he had been persecuting Christ by persecuting those who believed in Christ. Opposing the followers of Jesus was in essence opposing Jesus himself.

Blinded by the event, Saul continued from Jerusalem to Damascus, but not to persecute the Christians — rather to join them. God turned an enemy into His greatest ally. He now called himself Paul and began to preach the Gospel widely in the ancient world. He made three journeys throughout Greece and Asia Minor before his final journey to Rome as a prisoner of Caesar.

Being a Roman citizen, he was exempt from death by crucifixion (unlike St. Peter, who was crucified upside-down in Rome around a.d. 64). The Emperor had him executed by the sword (beheading) around a.d. 67 Both St. Peter and St. Paul are considered co-patron saints of the city of Rome where they were both martyred.

## ST. Patrick (387-481)

There are many stories surrounding the origin of St. Patrick. The most credible says that he was born in Britain during Roman occupation and was a Roman citizen. His father was a deacon, and his grandfather was a priest in the Catholic Church. Much of what we know about Patrick we get from his autobiography, The Confessions. At 16 years of age, he was abducted by pirates and taken to Ireland as a slave. The Celtic pagan tribes who lived in Ireland were Druids. After several years he escaped and returned to Britain, but with a love for the people of Ireland.

Patrick did not follow in his dad's footsteps and become a Roman soldier. He felt called to serve the Lord and His Church by being ordained a priest. He went back to Ireland to convert the people who had originally kidnapped him. While there, he became a bishop and was very successful in replacing paganism with Christianity.

Legend has it that he explained the mystery of the Holy Trinity (Three Persons in One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit) to the Irish king by using a shamrock. Folklore also has him driving out all the snakes from Ireland.

# St. Philip Howard

One of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales. Philip was the earl of Arundel and Surrey and, although a Catholic, led a religiously apathetic life until his personal conversion, after which he was a zealous Catholic in the midst of Elizabethan England. Arrested by authorities, he was placed in the Tower of London in 1585 and condemned to death in 1589. The sentence was never carried out, and Philip languished in the Tower until his death at the age of thirty-eight. Beatified in 1929, he was included among the English martyrs canonized in 1970 by Pope Paul VI.

# Technology 'A' or 'Tech' block

# St. Thomas Aquinas. (1225-1274)

The greatest intellect the Catholic Church has ever known was born of a wealthy aristocratic family, the son of Landulph, Count of Aquino, and Theodora, Countess of Teano. Thomas's parents sent him at the age of five, which was customary, to the Benedictine Abbey of Monte Cassino. It was hoped that if he didn't show talents suited for becoming a knight or nobleman, he could at least rise to the rank of abbot or bishop and thus add to his family's prestige and influence.

However, ten years later, Thomas wanted to join a new mendicant order, which was similar to the Franciscans in that it didn't go to distant monasteries but worked in urban areas instead. The new order was the Order of Preachers (O.P.), known as Dominicans.

Thomas Aquinas is best known for two things:

His monumental theological and philosophical work, the Summa Theologica, covers almost every principal doctrine and dogma of his era. What St. Augustine and St. Bonaventure were able to do with the philosophy of Plato regarding Catholic Theology, St. Thomas Aquinas was able to do with Aristotle. (Philosophy has been called the handmaiden of theology because you need a solid philosophical foundation in order to understand the theological teachings

connected to it.) The Catechism of the Catholic Church has numerous references to the Summa some 800 years later.

He composed hymns and prayers for Corpus Christi at the request of the pope, and he wrote Pange Lingua, Adoro te Devote, O Salutaris Hostia, and Tantum Ergo, which is often sung at Benediction.

He died while on the way to the Second Council of Lyons, where he was to appear as a peritus (expert).

# St. Anthony of Padua. (1195-1231)

St. Anthony was born as Ferdinand, son of Martin Bouillon and Theresa Tavejra. At the age of 15 he joined an order of priests called the Canons Regular of St. Augustine. Later he transferred to the newly formed Order of Friars Minor (OFM), or Franciscans, where he took the religious name of Anthony.

He is famous for being an effective orator. Anthony's sermons were so powerful that many Catholics who strayed from the faith and embraced false doctrines of other religions would repent after hearing him. This skill led to his nickname, "Hammer of Heretics."

St. Anthony is invoked as the patron saint of lost items. On one occasion, a little boy appeared in the town square, apparently lost. Anthony picked him up and carried him around town looking for the boy's family. They went to house after house, but no one claimed him. At the end of the day, Anthony approached the friary chapel. The boy said, "I live there." Once in the oratory, the child disappeared. It was later discerned that the child was in fact Jesus. Since then, Catholics invoke St. Anthony whenever they lose something, even car keys or eyeglasses.

# St. Agnes

St. Agnes of Rome was born in 291 AD and raised in a Christian family. Agnes was very beautiful and belonged to a wealthy family. Her hand in marriage was highly sought after, and she had many high ranking men chasing after her. However, Agnes made a promise to God never to stain her purity. Her love for the Lord was great and she hated sin even more than death!

Whenever a man wished to marry Agnes, she would always say, "Jesus Christ is my only Spouse."

According to legend, the young men she turned away became so angry and insulted by her devotion to God and purity that they began to submit her name to authorities as a Christian follower.

In one incident, Procop, the Governor's son, became very angry when she refused him. He tried to win her for his wife with rich gifts and promises, but the beautiful young girl kept saying, "I am already promised to the Lord of the Universe. He is more splendid than the sun and the stars, and He has said He will never leave me!"

In great anger, Procop accused her of being a Christian and brought her to his father, the Governor. The Governor promised Agnes wonderful gifts if she

would only deny God, but Agnes refused. He tried to change her mind by putting her in chains, but her lovely face shone with joy.

# St. Teresa of Calcutta

The remarkable woman who would be known as Mother Theresa began life named Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu. Born on August 26, 1910 in Skopje, she was the youngest child born to Nikola and Drane Bojaxhiu. Receiving her First Communion at the age of five, she was confirmed in November 1916. Her father died while she was only eight years old leaving her family in financial straits.

Gonxha's religious formation was assisted by the vibrant Jesuit parish of the Sacred Heart in which she was very involved as a youth.

Subsequently moved to pursue missionary work, Gonxha left her home in September 1928 at the age of 18 to join the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, known as the Sisters of Loreto, in Ireland. She received the name Sister Mary Teresa after St. Therese of Lisieux. In December of 1929, she departed for her first trip to India, arriving in Calcutta. After making her First Profession of Vows in May 1931, Sister Teresa was assigned to the Loreto Entally community in Calcutta and taught at St. Mary's School for girls.

Sister Teresa made her Final Profession of Vows, On May 24, 1937, becoming, as she said, the "spouse of Jesus" for "all eternity." From that time on she was called Mother Teresa.

# Blessed Cyprian Tansi (1903-1964)

A local saint. Cyprian Tansi was a Monk at Mount St Bernard Abbey in Leicestershire. He was born in Nigeria and baptised at the age of 10 when his family converted to Christianity. He went on to train for the priesthood. Having felt the call to become a monk he journeyed to Mount Saint Bernard Abbey to become Nigeria's first Trappist Monk. The intention was that he would train as a monk in England, and then return to found the first monastery in Nigeria, however ill heath prevented him from returning and he died in Leicestershire where he had lived and prayed for the past 14 years. He was Nigeria's first Blessed, and is also venerated in the Diocese of Nottingham where he lived. There is a rally each year at Mount Saint Bernard Abbey to pray for his Canonisation.

# Main building? 'M' Block

## St. Michael the Archangel

Saint Michael the Archangel isn't a saint, but rather he is an angel, and the leader of all angels and of the army of God. This is what the title "Archangel" means, that he is above all the others in rank.

St. Michael has four main responsibilities or offices, as we know from scripture and Christian tradition.

- The first is to combat Satan.
- The second is to escort the faithful to heaven at their hour of death.
- The third is to be a champion of all Christians, and the Church itself.
- And the fourth is to call men from life on Earth to their heavenly judgment.

Very little is known about St Michael other than what we know from scriptures, which themselves are sparse.

In Daniel, St. Michael is mentioned twice. The first time as one who helped Daniel, and the second time he is mentioned with regard to the end times of the world when he will stand for the "children of thy people."

# Saint Maximilian Kolbe (1894-1941)

A great polish saint. He was a Franciscan Friar and priest. He was imprisoned in Auschwitz in 1941 for repeated refusal to comply with the authorities and for sheltering some 2000 Jews. Whilst in Auschwitz 10 men were picked for starvation to death after the attempted escape of one prisoner. Maximilian offered to go in the place of one of those men who had a wife and children. After two weeks without food or water Maximilian remained alive, and was finally killed by lethal injection. He is venerated as a martyr, though not in the traditional sense. He is, I believe, the only saint to hold the title 'martyr of charity.'

#### **Blessed Mariam Vattalil (1954-1995)**

A very new saint, only declared Blessed in 2017. Mariam was a religious sister in Southern India, she was known for her work among the poorest of society. She worked particularly to help people to break free of money lending schemes and debt. This earned her enemies, among those who had a vested interest in the status quo. On 25 February 1995 she was stabbed to death on the back of a local bus. The man who killed her has since been baptised into the faith and is a champion of her cause for sainthood.

### St. Martha

"Jesus loved Martha and Mary and Lazarus." This unique statement in John's gospel tells us of the special relationship Jesus had with Martha, her sister, and her brother.

Apparently Jesus was a frequent guest at Martha's home in Bethany, a small village two miles from Jerusalem. We read of three visits in Luke 10:38-42, John 11:1-53, and John 12:1-9.

Many of us find it easy to identify with Martha in the story Luke tells. Martha welcomes Jesus and his disciples into her home and immediately goes to work to serve them.

Hospitality is paramount in the Middle East and Martha believed in its importance. Imagine her frustration when her sister Mary ignores the rule of hospitality and Martha's work in order to sit and listen to Jesus. Instead of speaking to her sister, she asks Jesus to intervene.

Jesus' response is not unkind, which gives us an idea of his affection for her. He observes that Martha is worried about many things that distract her from really being present to him. He reminds her that there is only one thing that is truly important -- listening to him. And that is what Mary has done. In Martha we see ourselves -- worried and distracted by all we have to do in the world and forgetting to spend time with Jesus. It is, however, comforting to note that Jesus loved her just the same.

Martha is the patron saint of servants and cooks.

# **Venerable Mary Potter** (1847-1913)

Mary Potter is not yet a saint, but is well on her way. She lived and worked in our diocese, founding an order of Sisters known as 'The Little Company of Mary' - named after the women who stood with Mary at the foot of the Cross. Mother Potter and her Sisters dedicated their lives to caring for the poor and disadvantaged in the Hyson Green area of Nottingham, and particularly dedicated themselves to praying for, and being with, the sick and the dying. Mary Potter is buried in Nottingham Cathedral and her Order, now spread throughout the world, are still active in Nottingham today. Every year there is a Blessed Sacrament Procession through Nottingham to pray that she's declared a Saint and there is an annual Mass celebrated by Bishop Patrick to further her cause. I believe several miracles attributed to her are currently under investigation, and her cause for sainthood should progress and Bishop Patrick is a driving force in that. There was an article about her, and others, in the Catholic Herald not too long ago: https://catholicherald.co.uk/issues/aug-3rd-2018/whos-next-saint/