

## **St. John Bosco**

*Feast Day: 31<sup>st</sup> January*

John Bosco was born on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1815, the son of a poor farmer, in a little village in Italy. From a very early age, John wanted to become a priest. Although he faced many obstacles during his studies, he was finally ordained on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1841. He was called Don Bosco, which means Father Bosco in Italian. After his ordination to the priesthood, he began working in the city of Turin. He was shocked when he saw how many children had no homes.

When he offered to help one young boy, six friends came with him. Gradually, numbers grew and more and more homeless children arrived. Don Bosco played football with them, and cooked for them. He taught them skills such as carpentry and tailoring, and gave them hope for the future. Later he built orphanages. He soon realised he could not do this by himself. In 1859 he founded a religious order, which is now known as the Salesians of Don Bosco.

Don Bosco died on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1888. Today his work has spread and members of the Salesian Order continue to educate and care for young people around the world.

### **Prayer**

Lord, I thank you for the care John Bosco showed to the poorer, uneducated young people.

May I grow up sharing my gifts and talents for the benefit of others.

**Response:** May the way I live, behave and speak be an example to others.

**All:** May the way I live, behave and speak be an example to others.