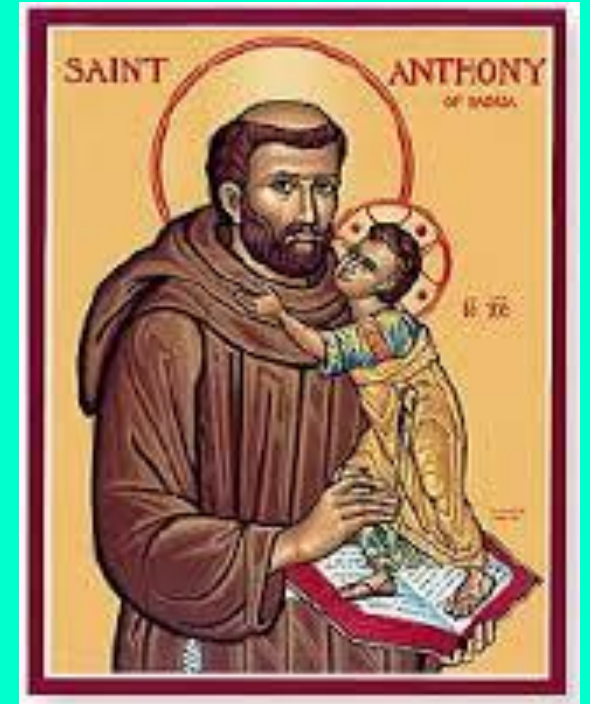




St Antony of
Padua –
13th June

Who was St Antony?

Anthony of Padua was born on the 15th August 1195. He was born in Lisbon, Portugal into a rich and noble family who arranged for him to be instructed at the local cathedral school. He began training for the priesthood at 15 years of age and after he was ordained he became a Franciscan friar and made his way to Morocco. He suffered illness in Morocco, however, and set sail to return to Portugal. On the journey the ship was blown off course and landed in Sicily.



It was at this stage that St Antony decided to remain in Italy and he became known as an excellent preacher, coming to the attention of the famous Saint, St Francis of Assisi, who encouraged Antony to help instruct new and young members of the priesthood. Antony became ill in 1231. He went to a woodland retreat with two other friars for rest. On his return to journey to Padua he died at the age of 35.

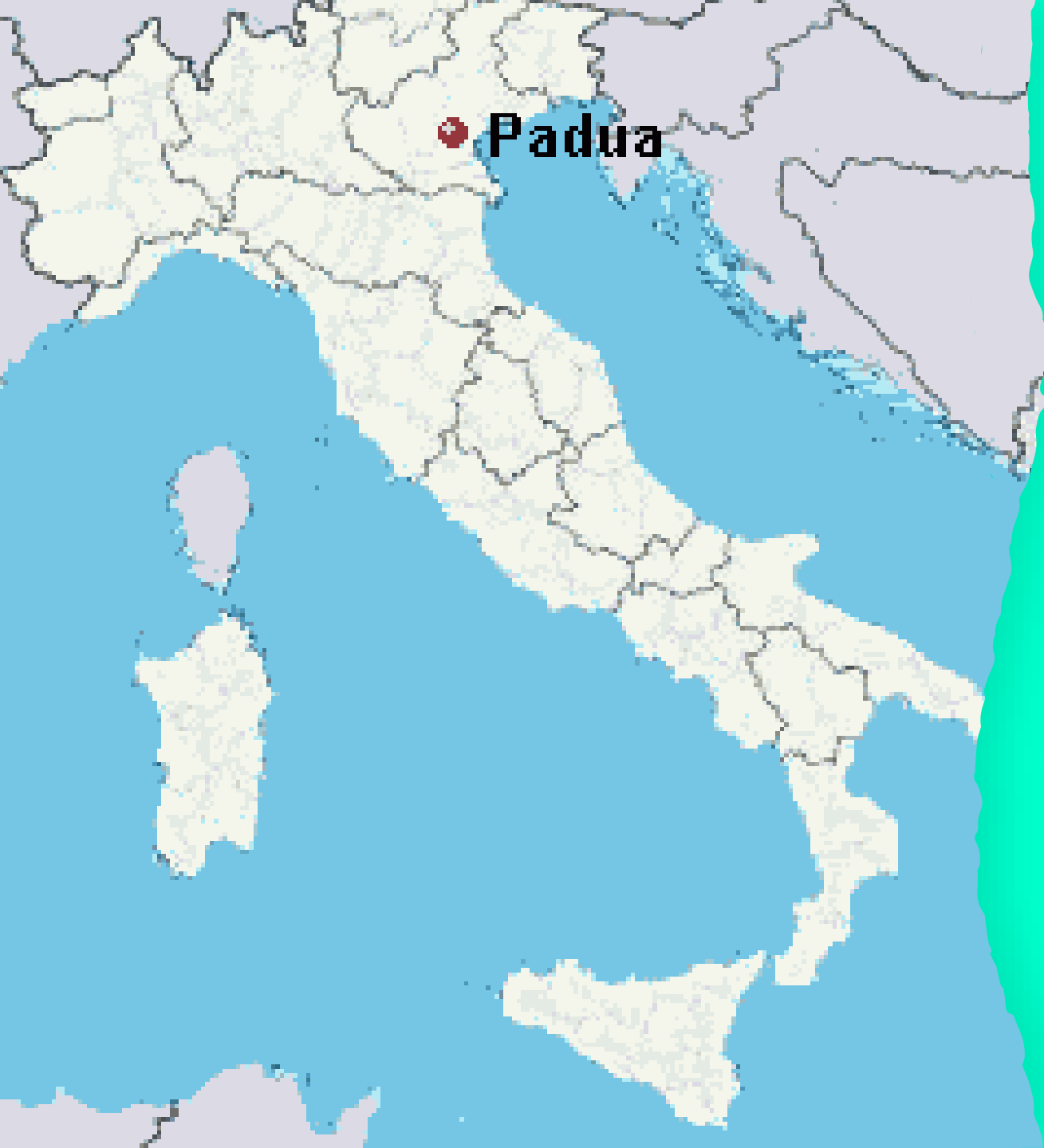


Sainthood

Antony was canonized by Pope Gregory IX on 30 May 1232, at Spoleto, Italy, less than one year after his death.

His fame spread afterwards, and he has become known as the most celebrated of the followers of Saint Francis of Assisi. He is the patron saint of Padua and many places in Portugal and in the countries of the former Portuguese Empire.





Where is
Padua?

Why is St Antony the Patron Saint of Lost Items?



The reason St. Antony's help is required for finding things lost or stolen is traced to an incident that occurred in Bologna. According to the story, Antony had a book of psalms that was of some importance to him as it contained the notes and comments he had made to use in teaching his students. A novice who had decided to leave took the book of Psalms with him. This was at a time when books were very valuable and rare. Upon noticing it was missing, Anthony prayed it would be found or returned. The thief felt bad about taking the Psalms and he returned it to Antony.

St Anthony is venerated all over the world as the Patron Saint for lost articles, and is credited with many miracles involving lost people, lost things and even lost spiritual goods.



Who is the child that St Antony is often shown carrying?

According to one version of the legend—and there are many—there was a Count Tiso who had a castle about 11 miles from Padua, Italy. On the grounds of the castle the count had provided a chapel for the friars.

Antony often went there toward the end of his life and spent time praying in one of the cells. One night, his little cell suddenly filled up with light. Jesus appeared to Antony in the form of a tiny child. Passing by, the count saw the light shining from the room and St. Antony holding and communicating with the infant.

The count fell to his knees upon seeing this wondrous sight. And when the vision ended, Antony saw the count kneeling at the open door. Antony begged Count Tiso not to reveal what he had seen until after his death.

Prayer to St Antony

Saint Antony of Padua, you endured much discouragement in your life before finding your calling. help us to find patience in our own lives, and to trust God to lead us where we need to go. You preached by example; help us show others through example the truth of our faith.

Amen.