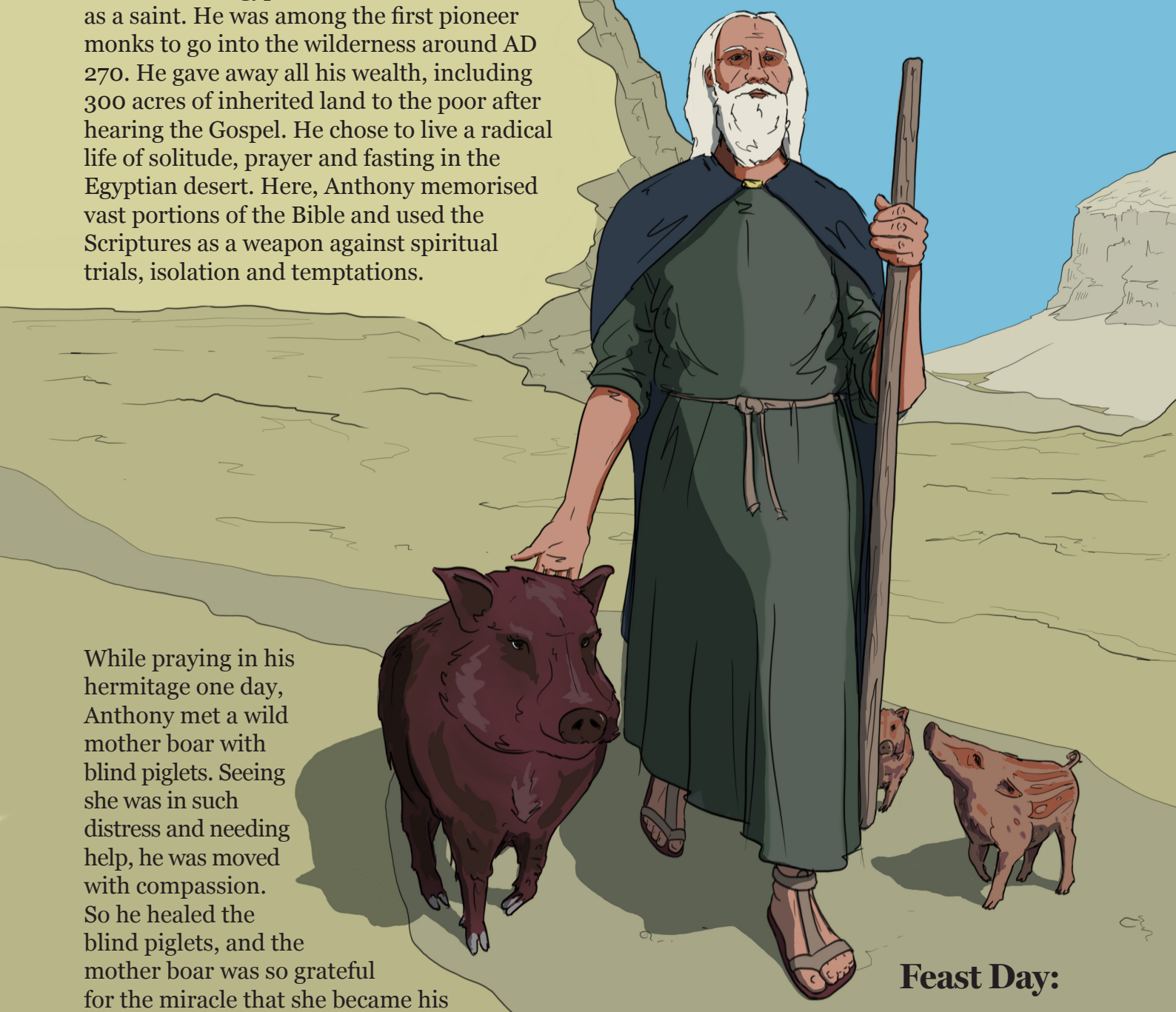
St. Anthony the Abbot.

251-356.

"God made the wild animals according to their kinds..."
Genesis 1:25.

"... Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness..."
Ephesians 6:10-12

St. Anthony (also known as 'the Great') was a monk from Egypt, revered since his death as a saint. He was among the first pioneer monks to go into the wilderness around AD 270. He gave away all his wealth, including 300 acres of inherited land to the poor after hearing the Gospel. He chose to live a radical life of solitude, prayer and fasting in the Egyptian desert. Here, Anthony memorised vast portions of the Bible and used the Scriptures as a weapon against spiritual trials, isolation and temptations.



While praying in his hermitage one day, Anthony met a wild mother boar with blind piglets. Seeing she was in such distress and needing help, he was moved with compassion. So he healed the blind piglets, and the mother boar was so grateful for the miracle that she became his faithful guardian, never leaving his side. St. Athanasius wrote the Life of Anthony showing him as a model of virtue and spiritual combat, the pattern for all monks.

Feast Day:
17th January