

Reflection for Wednesday 7th Week of Easter – St Augustine of Canterbury

St Augustine of Canterbury came to England in 597 but was so frightened by the English he wanted to return to Rome. Gregory VII insisted that he persevere and gradually Augustine and the Gospel became accepted and Christianity spread throughout England. He said.

“God’s works are not regulated by our plans and wishes.”

God, in his promise to hear our prayers, desires to bestow himself upon us; if you find anything better than him, ask it; but if you ask anything beneath Him, you not only insult Him but you hurt yourself by preferring to Him some other creature which God made in the first place. Pray in the spirit and sentiment of love, in which the royal prophet said to God, ‘You, O Lord, are my portion and cup.’ Let others choose for themselves portions among creatures if they wish. For my part, you, Lord, are my portion. You alone I have chosen for my whole inheritance.

His Prayer for the Sick

Watch O Lord, with those who cannot sleep or weep tonight.

Tend your sick ones.

Rest your weary ones.

Bless your dying ones.

Soothe your suffering ones.

Pity your afflicted ones.

Shield your joyous ones. Amen.

His Prayer to the Holy Spirit as we approach Pentecost

Breathe in me O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.

Act in me O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.

Draw my heart O Holy Spirit, that I love only but what is holy.

Strengthen me O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.

Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen.

St Augustine of Canterbury: (Sonnet by Malcolm Guite)

‘Oh loving Lord don’t send me to the English,
Boorish and brutal pagans that they are’
You prayed, you wrote to Gregory in anguish
But he replied ‘since you have come so far,
Your hand is on the plough, you must continue,
And reach them on their rain-drenched island shore
There’s something in the English that will win you
And Christ himself will open up the door.’

And so, the gospel came to Canterbury,
The very gospel book we still possess,
Weathering the storms of history
In all its splendour and its hiddenness.
We bless you for that gospel you proclaim,
Bless your successors as they do the same .

Three chaps were asked what they would like people to say about them when they were looking at them as they lay in their coffins after they had died.

The 1st chap said he would like people to say he was a good chap and a great mate The 2nd chap said he would like people to say he always did the right thing and he was a great chap, after a bit of thought the 3rd chap said, **He would like people to say..... HE's MOVING!!**