

Reflection Monday Week 19 – St Laurence 2020

Laurence was one of the seven deacons of the Church of Rome and was executed on 10th August 258, four days after Pope Sixtus II and his companions. Little of his life is known for certain: he was possibly a Spaniard from Toledo. A basilica was built over Laurence's tomb 50 years after his death, by Emperor Constantine. The anniversary of his martyrdom was kept as a solemn feast. By the 6th century, it was one of the most important feasts throughout Roman Church. However St Ambrose of Milan tells the story that, when St. Laurence was asked for the treasures of the Church, he brought forward the poor, among whom he had divided the treasure, in place of alms; also that when Pope Sixtus II was led away to his death he comforted Lawrence, who wished to share his martyrdom, by saying that he would follow him in three days. Ambrose added that St. Laurence was burned to death on a gridiron. Laurence speaks to us of dedicated service to the poor, the marginalised, the forgotten. Fulfilling the words of Paul (2 Cor 9:9), *"He was free in almsgiving, and gave to the poor: his good deeds will never be forgotten."* And Laurence reflects the truth of the psalmist (Ps 111) that *The good man takes pity and lends, he conducts his affairs with honour. The just man will never waver: he will be remembered for ever.* And because of this he has been an inspiration and encouragement for us down through the ages.

Quotes attributed to St Laurence:

"At last I am finished; you may now take from me and eat!"

"I thank You, O Lord; that I am permitted to enter Your portals."

And on a lighter note: *"My body is well done. Turn it over; it is roasted enough on that side."*

Showing the humorous side of the Church: he is also the **patron saints of Cooks!!!**

A chef joke *You need to read this aloud especially the last line ????????*

A famous French chef was found dead, victim of poisoning, and searching for answers they called Inspector Poirot...

The man had no enemies, owed no one money, there was no motive at all... After a long and fruitless search, the Inspector noticed that a single bottle was missing from the kitchen. He took a quick inventory, then concluded that this was the result of a suicide. How did he know?

Poirot: *"Of course, don't you see! The chef had lost the ***huile d'olive*!**"*