

Reflection Friday Week 22 – St Cuthbert 2020

Like Aiden, St Cuthbert is another of the saints who nurtured the Christian faith in the north of England. According to tradition, he was a shepherd boy who became a monk, and later prior at Melrose Abbey. After the Synod of Whitby in 664, he became prior of Lindisfarne and gradually won over the community to Roman ecclesiastical customs. He was zealous in preaching the Gospel but wished to live the life of a hermit. In 676 he left the monastery and lived in solitude on the nearby island of Inner Farne. For the last two years of his life he served as bishop of Lindisfarne, but returned to his island to die, on 20th March 687. His remains were later removed from Lindisfarne to escape Viking raiders and enshrined in Durham Cathedral. Cuthbert obviously made the words of the psalmist his own, *“If you trust in the Lord and do good, then you will live in the land and be secure. If you find your delight in the Lord, he will grant your heart’s desire.”* He so wanted to give his life to the Lord that he chose to live a solitary life having served the church faithfully. He was a man of great faith, of enlightening spirituality, who trusted completely in God, fully committed to the Gospel, and an inspiration to all who knew him. There is a pilgrim path from Lindisfarne to Durham that many walk, wishing to follow in the footsteps of Cuthbert and be inspired by his faith and loyalty. It is a walk through some outstanding countryside that reminds us of the beauty and wonder of creation. Reflect on this prayer from Iona: *There is no plant in the ground but tells of your beauty, O Christ. There is no life in the sea but proclaims your goodness. There is no bird on the wing, there is no star in the sky, there is nothing beneath the sun but is full of your blessing. Lighten my understanding of your presence all around, O Christ. Kindle my will to be caring for Creation. . . You are above me O God; You are beneath; You are in air; You are in earth; You are beside me; You are within. O God of heaven, you have made your home on earth in the broken body of Creation. Kindle within me a love for you in all things.”*

Whenever I’m sad I just read my blood donor ID.

It always says **“B positive”**.