

Reflection Saturday Week 24 – St Theodore of Tarsus 2020

St Theodore of Tarsus (601 - 690) was born in Tarsus, in modern Turkey. A Greek by birth, he became a monk in Italy and was not ordained priest until at the age of 65 he was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury by Pope Vitalian. He arrived in England in 669 and spent the rest of his life reorganising and reforming the life of the Church throughout the country, holding visitations and synods, establishing new dioceses and a great school at Canterbury, and reconciling divisions between the Celtic and Roman ecclesiastical traditions. He died at Canterbury on 19 September 690. He is remembered for his scholarship and for bringing unity and organisation to a divided church.

This year the wheat harvest has not been good because of the extreme weather conditions and would seem to add a new dimension to the Parable of the Sower. The seed needs nurturing and care for it to grow properly and bear fruit. It also brings home to us in no uncertain terms that the misuse we have made of our world has made it difficult if not impossible for the earth to care for us. In maltreating creation, we maltreat ourselves!!!

From heedless misuse and dishonouring the wonders of your hand, good Lord deliver us.

From squandering resources, abusing our companion species, and polluting the habitat we all share, good Lord deliver us.

From the folly of imagining ourselves free from the fate of your whole creation, good Lord deliver us.

For the courage and wisdom to confess how little we have cared for your gifts, strengthen us, O Spirit.

For the conviction that you have called us to love and restore the Earth, strengthen us, O Spirit.

For repentance and the determination to begin our stewardship anew, strengthen us, O Spirit.

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A little boy was overheard praying:

"Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time just as I am."