

## Reflection Tuesday Week 22 – 2020

St Paul says very clearly that we, as followers of Christ, *have the mind of Christ*. Someone who certainly had the mind of Christ was St Aidan of Lindisfarne whose feast was yesterday. He was a native of Ireland and a monk at Iona. After being consecrated bishop, Aidan was sent with a group of Irish monks to found a monastery on Lindisfarne which became the centre of a major missionary effort in Northern England. The monastery was a valuable centre of learning and an important training ground for English boys who would continue the work of evangelisation. From Lindisfarne, Aidan journeyed throughout Northumberland, usually on foot, and worked closely with King Oswald who found in him a wise adviser and a good friend. After Oswald's death in 642, Aidan continued this work under his successor, Oswin. Aidan died in 651. According to Bede, Aidan was a man of great gentleness and moderation, outstanding for his energetic missionary work. His influence on the North of England was enormous, and his wise promotion of Christian education among the native English laid the solid foundation for the spread of the Gospel in the centuries which followed his death. **Do you believe** you have the mind of Christ? Not an easy question to answer. Some people use the letters WWJD *What would Jesus do*, before making a decision or taking any action or being charitable. The answer is not always forthcoming. Jesus never knew what the day would bring. He went to Capernaum but did not know what would happen. He encountered a man possessed and responded because he wanted to set him free, which is exactly what we would do in the circumstance. Jesus trusted in the Father in all his actions which is why he went off to pray alone; to check things out with the Father. Having the mind of Christ does not mean knowing what Jesus would do in a situation but placing our complete trust in him and therefore in the Holy Spirit just as Jesus trusted in his Father. You could say that we only know when we have acted with the mind of Christ after the event. What we do need to do is to trust in Jesus and be gentle and moderate in all things like St Aidan.

### Window problems . . . .

A wife texts her husband one very cold winter's morning: "*Windows frozen, won't open.*"

Husband texts back: "*Gently pour some lukewarm water over it and gently tap edges with hammer.*"

Wife texts back 5 minutes later: "*Computer really messed up now!!!*"