

Reflection Tuesday Week 28 St Edward the Confessor- 2020

St Edward the Confessor (1003 - 1066) became King of England in 1042. He was regarded as a saint during his lifetime, renowned for his generosity to the Church and to the poor and for his readiness to listen to his subjects' grievances. He died on 5th January 1066, the last of the old Anglo-Saxon line, and his death precipitated the dynastic quarrels that led to the conquest of England by William of Normandy later the same year. On 13th October 1163 his relics were translated to a new shrine in Westminster Abbey.

Edward clearly took a leaf out of the Jesus manual. He used his office to serve the people, especially the poorest among them. The psalm could well have been written for him. *O Lord, my heart is not proud nor haughty my eyes. I have not gone after things too great nor marvels beyond me.* (Ps 130)

Edward became known as "the Confessor" because of his spiritual nature. A gentle man, he was easily accessible to his subjects. Edward ended taxes introduced by the Danes and gave the already-collected funds to the poor. He also used his own wealth to help the needy. In his youth, Edward vowed to make a pilgrimage to Rome if God ended his family's suffering, and Edward wanted to go. But his advisors said he needed to stay in England to ensure peace. To solve Edward's dilemma, Pope Leo IX told him to use the money he would have spent on his pilgrimage to help the poor and to endow a monastery. So, Edward rebuilt an abbey just outside London - the first Westminster Abbey.

The Beatitudes were Edward's guide book which is why he became a blessing particularly to the poor, and possibly why he had a peaceful reign free of wars and invasions. St. Josemaria Escriva was right when he wrote: *"When you decide firmly to live a clean life, chastity will not be a burden on you: it will be a crown of triumph."*

Ronald Knox wrote: *our Confessor was a successful man because in his simple piety, in the unaffected generosity of his nature, he set himself to serve the people about him by easing their burdens, by relieving their necessities, by confirming them in their allegiance to the faith... he might have altered the dynastic history of England, have left us different manners and a different political constitution, if he had been other than he was. Instead, he left all these things to God's Providence; and God's Providence, using the ambitions of human agents as its puppets, moulded our history beyond man's expectation. The Confessor, whose ambitions could be satisfied by finding a poor man his dinner, saw no corruption in death, and lives the patron of his fellow countrymen.*

Stephen King named his son Joe.

No, I'm not joking...!!!

The King of Spain has sequestered himself on his private jet until his Covid-19 results come back.

The reign in Spain stays mainly on the plane!!!!

