

Reflection Saturday Week 31 St Willibrord 2020

Willibrord was born in Yorkshire in 658. After being a pupil of St Wilfrid, he studied for 12 years at Rathmelsige in Ireland, where he was ordained priest. After returning to England he went to evangelize Frisia in 690. He was ordained bishop by Pope Sergius in 695 and founded the metropolitan see of Utrecht in the Netherlands. He preached the Gospel in Denmark and North Germany and founded several dioceses and monasteries in the Netherlands and Luxembourg. He died at Echternach in Luxembourg in 739. He was the first of the great Anglo-Saxon missionaries to Europe and is remembered not just for his devotion in preaching the Gospel but also for his joyfulness of character and holiness of life.

Not sure that many Governments would be happy with the gospel today as their debts are increasing exponentially, not out of love or desire for wealth, but in order to help their people. But, like St Paul, we are learning to live more simply, create less waste, and spend less. At the same time, we are beginning to value more what we have, becoming less of what Pope Francis warns us against, becoming a throwaway society.

On the question of money, it seems that over 1.5 billion dollars has been spent by both sides on their presidential campaigning. Just think how many people starving to death, destitute and homeless could have been helped??

We squander health in search of wealth;
we scheme and toil and save;
then squander wealth in search of health,
but only find a grave.
We live, and boast of what we own;
we die, and only receive a stone.

- Why did the little boy eat his cash? Because it was his dinner money!
- One Sunday a preacher announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."